This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
Knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

Excerpt from The Pray of Oscar Romero
I have included an updated copy of the Restorative Justice Triangle used at St Joseph’s for your information. It is important to remember that the students and the teachers are on a journey of lifelong learning. Every experience at school is viewed as an opportunity for learning. Mistakes are often our best teaching opportunity. We look forward to working with you as your child continues on this journey.

Thank you to all the parents who have made calls to us, visited us or have been called by us to discuss progress or issues with your child’s education. This partnership between school and home, for education’s sake is valued greatly. If you have not had the chance to visit the classrooms yet please ensure you come along to our open day next Thursday.

Again I emphasise if you have any questions or concerns about the teaching and learning at St Joseph’s you are very warmly encouraged to speak with your class teachers or to me.

Clean Up Australia School day was held at St Joseph’s school last Friday.

We had a difficult time finding rubbish around our school grounds, the convent and the presbytery. The children were very proud of the fact that they are already caring for their environment every day. We turned our environmental attention to watering our trees which were really very thirsty. Thanks to the Upper Hunter Shire for providing the sausage sizzle for the children and also the bags to collect rubbish. Thank you to Fiona Wightman for supplying the gloves, Mr Magner for providing beautiful watermelons for the children afterwards and thanks to ex-students from the St Joseph’s class of 2004 – Jacob Bailey and Josh Whale for coming down to cook the BBQ for us all.

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated next week. Dioceses across NSW and the ACT are joining together to celebrate the theme for CSW 2015 which is ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’.

We would love to see as many of our parents and friends at any/all of the events organised as listed below:

- Sunday 8th March at 8.30am we will be celebrating Mass at St Anne’s Church and commissioning our Year 6 leaders and our teachers to their role of service for 2015.
- All week see our vibrant Catholic Schools week displays in the main street.
- Monday 9th March at the special time of 2.30pm there will be an extended CSW Liturgy and assembly in the “old Library”
- Wednesday 11th March at 7pm join us at the RSL Club, to celebrate CSW at the annual Parish – School Dinner.
- Thursday 11th March at 9.30 - 11.15 we will have open classrooms for parents and friends to spend time viewing our creative learning spaces. An opportunity to see how the literacy sessions run.
- Thursday 11.15am shared lunch with the children and teachers. BYO picnic lunch, cuppa provided.

This week the children will enjoy a visit from the Hunter Life Education Van. The Life Education program aims to empower children to make the best choices possible when faced with a range of issues so that they can be safe and healthy. We are very grateful to Mt Arthur Coal for their continued financial support of this program. Mt Arthur provides 70% of the student cost reducing the school’s bill to $3.00 per student. An order form for Healthy Harold merchandise is attached to this newsletter if you wish for your child to purchase any goods.

Reading helpers are welcome and needed in all classrooms at St Joseph’s. If you are able to assist in this very important service at our school, please come along to a workshop at 2.30pm this Thursday in the MacKillop Room. Mrs Sally Hagley will be explaining to parent helpers how the system works at St Joseph’s and will give you lots of helpful hints about how to actively listen to children reading, when to correct and when to encourage, what feedback to give to the child and teacher and so on. Even if you cannot be a regular parent helper at school, this is great training for helping your child to read at home.

Next Monday afternoon will be our next P&F meeting. I look forward to seeing many parents there. The previous meetings have been very pleasant events with much participation from parents and teachers alike.

Surplus school furniture for sale mentioned in the last newsletter has started to find good homes. There is a photo ad attached to this newsletter listing items for sale. Please contact the school asap if you are interested in anything.

Save the date: Ecumenical Way of the Cross – Palm Sunday 29th March 2015 at St Joseph’s Church and school grounds Kilaben Bay. The entire school community including parishioners from St Anne’s Catholic Church, St David’s Uniting Church, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church are warmly welcomed to join us on this special occasion.

School members will be taking a role in re-enacting the Passion of Christ through the Stations of the Cross. Some school members participated last year and were very moved by the experience. This is a wonderful way to teach children about the Easter story.

The Catholic Schools Office has made the Aberdeen bus available to us for this day. Dermot Shannon has kindly offered to drive the bus for us. We will take picnic lunches to have upon arrival and make the day a very social event.

Please remember that education is a partnership between home and school – please make an appointment to talk to your child’s teacher or me if you have any concerns. “It takes a village to raise a child!”

Thank you to all parents who have made prompt payment with school fees. This is very much appreciated. Those not paying by direct debit are reminded that Term 1 fees are due by Friday 13th March.

Please remember that any person entering the school buildings must do so via the front office. Once in the office, the visitor is required to sign in and take a visitors pass. This simple process allows us to monitor who enters the learning spaces and also allows us to keep track of visitors in case of emergency and/or evacuation. This includes all Monday assembly visitors.

Chicken hospitality on weekends continues to be an issue. As I have only had one offer of one weekend for tending the chooks this year, the chickens will not be returning to school.

Kind regards
Helen Whale

Parent: I think the way of teaching is really good because the Kinder children now know the older children so much better and can make more friends. It also benefits my older child as they enjoy helping out with the younger ones.
Sacramental Program
Families who would like information regarding the preparation and process of their children receiving the Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and First Holy Communion as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2015, please contact Anne Marie Peebles. Children in year 3 and upwards are eligible.

http://cathfamily.org/

Please visit a web site which has great suggestions of how to make the home the living heart of the church. As a church, we have benefited over the centuries from simple home-based rituals to provide practical faith experiences for our children. This site aims to provide innovative and contemporary resources to continue this tradition—by collecting both traditional and contemporary rituals that Catholic families can adapt into their own family rituals.

This month’s emagazine discusses sibling rivalry. Take some time to have a look.
http://cathfamily.org/2015-march/

Anne Marie Peebles
Religious Education Coordinator

It’s the end of summer and that means it is time to hand in your completed Summer Bookblitz log sheet.

Thankyou to all those students who participated in the Summer Book Blitz by blogging. Hopefully lots of other students have participated by keeping their log sheet on the books they have been reading over the summer.

Students have until Monday 9th March to hand their completed log sheets into their teachers so we can see who has been reading over the summer and therefore is eligible for the Summer Bookblitz prizes.

Tanya Ninness
Learning Support Teacher
Helpful hints to help your children to love reading!

- Let your children see you reading - for enjoyment, for the news, checking that favourite recipe and instructions manuals on how to fix an item.
- Read to your child - choose a special time like bedtime.
- Take time to talk about books, showing how reading generates ideas and questions.
- Build your child’s personal collection of books.
- Visit your local Library on a regular basis.
- Write shopping list clearly and ask your child to help read it when out shopping.
- Consider a subscription to a children’s magazine - reading for pleasure or information.
- Reading is what makes better readers.
- Reading helps to develop letter and word recognition.
- Encourage your child to read books on topics that grab their attention.

Jackie French - Senior Australian of the Year 2015 and author, once said, “Books aren’t like broccoli. You don’t have to eat it because it’s good for you. Books drag you in because they are fascinating.”

Happy reading
Colleen Oldman, Teacher/Librarian and
Sally Gilbey, Library Assistant

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 2 catalogues have been sent home today. Book Club is a great way of encouraging and developing your child’s literacy skills – and they make great gifts! Plus each dollar you spend earns points for the school to use on new books for our Library!

Scholastic has implemented two major changes this year:

1. The Book Club catalogues have been redesigned so that there is one catalogue per child based on their current class. The catalogues have a better selection for the each year level and an extended range to cater for reading choices beyond the core level and for gift and sibling purchases.

2. Online ordering and payments – Scholastic LOOP allows parents to order and pay for their child’s Book Club order online in one simple process. Visit http://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/

If you would like to place an order from Book Club, please return your order forms and payment to the school no later than Tuesday 10th March, or place your order online.

Extra copies of all Scholastic Book Club catalogues for all reading levels are available in the school foyer.

Melissa Collins & Sally Gilbey
Coordinators
**Restorative Justice Triangle**

**Response Strategies**

**High**
- Violent behaviour, endangering the safety and well-being of others, malicious damage, unwillingness to change.

**Medium/High**
- Abusive behaviour, bullying/intimidation, defiant behaviour, physical assault, destruction of property, inappropriate reading material, breaking the internet agreement, endangering others’ safety, repetition of Medium Behaviours.

**Medium**
- Hurting others: pushing/shoving, spitting, biting, kicking, stealing, offensive language, teasing/name calling, antagonising, bad sportsmanship on the playground, damaging school property or property of others, refusal to follow request or repetition of Low Behaviours.

**Low**
- Disruptive in class, impolite, misuse of school property, interrupting others’ games, being out of designated area, unsafe behaviour and rough play.

**Positive Behaviours**
- Teacher, students involved, Reflective Thinking Sheet
- Whole school Community

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**Conference**
- Principal, parents, teacher (where appropriate), CSO personnel
- Date base entry on Gate 21

**Suspension**
- Principal, Parents, LST, Special Needs Advisor, Counsellor (as needed)
- Reflective Thinking Sheet
- Data base entry on Gate 21

**Expulsion**
- Principal, teacher, parents
- Reflective Thinking Sheet
- Data base entry on Gate 21
- Parent notification
- Playground report
- Work report

**Restorative Justice Meetings**
- Planned consequences
- E.g. Time-out, Loss of privileges, Suspension from school, Community service activities.

**Repair Conference and Planned consequences**
- E.g. Time-out, loss of privileges, in-school suspension, Community service activities,
- Work Report: Filled in by teacher and sent home to be signed by parents,
- Playground Report: Filled in by teacher and sent home to be signed by parents.

**Affective questioning and/or Choice language and/or Reflective Thinking sheet**

**Celebration Activities**
- School assemblies, award systems, special privileges, Buzz Bucks, Spirit of St Joseph’s Award, class party, Birthday celebrations, Special achievements acknowledgement.
AWARDS

K
Arlia Parker - for working well with addition and subtraction
Emma McLaren - for a great retell of our story
Alana Telfer - for being a caring class member
Mollie Beaven - for always having a great smile

1/2
Ava Peel - for great efforts in all aspects of school
Emily Barwick - for taking pride in her work and always using beautiful handwriting
Braeden Halse - for his participation in sport (dancing)
Bethany Wightman - for always being ready to learn

3/4
Paddy Wong - for a great understanding and ability to identify living and non-living things
Jack Shannon - for a great understanding of how to add three digit numbers
Korey Halse - for pleasing effort in his attitude to all aspects of school work
Roy Lawler - for his enthusiasm and effort in measuring length

5/6
Gaby Nicholls - for a fabulous effort when comparing the identity of Australia to Vietnam
Ha Giang Nguyen – for sharing her stories

from Vietnam with the class
Rhys Turner – for putting in an excellent effort in writing his narrative
Emily Ninness – for writing some amazing and astounding alliterations

Principal’s Awards:
Chloe Towell - for showing maturity and compassion in caring for her class mates
John Magner - for displaying great leadership in the manner in which he works through problems and works collaboratively to find solutions
Jemma Grady – for her patience and kindness when mentoring and welcoming new students
Ava Peel – for her increasing confidence and great efforts to learn new work

Playground Champion
Ben Patterson – being cooperative and playing fairly on the playground
Arlia Parker – always including others in her games

Congratulations!

Best wishes to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming weeks ......
Items for SALE

All items are surplus to our school needs.

2 week window of opportunity to purchase.

See Sally in the office to make your purchase. First in first served.

13 x chairs suitable for infants. $5 ea

2 x large Office Desk $60 ea

3 x 3 shelving assemblies. $15 ea

Timber book return trolley on casters. $15 ea

1 x Student desk $30

3 x tables $15 ea

1 caster broken. $30
1 x cupboard $30
1 x cupboard $80
1 x Computer table $30
1 x old BBQ for spare parts $10
1 x old BBQ in working order but has inconsistent heat on plates. $50
8 x Fly Screens – brand new. $5 ea
P&F Meeting – Minutes
2nd February 2015 St Joseph’s Merriwa

Open time: 1640
Opening prayer: read by Dermot Shannon
Attendance: De Patterson, Dermot Shannon, Tash Taaffe, Peta Luke, Helen Whale, Bronwyn Redgate,
Paige Farrow, Sally Hagley, Mel Bates, Kim Holland, Clare Martin, Pauline Lawler, Sarah and Brian
Booth, Jane and Gavin Clarke, Megan Moore, Berna and Tim Hopkins, Natalie Hourn, Anne Maree
Peebles, Inga Keegan
Apologies: Peter Holland, Tanya Ninness, Cassandra McLaren and Victoria Shannon
Minutes of last meeting: Presented & Moved Kim Holland Seconded: Mel Bates.

Business Arising
Skoolbag App Feedback. Those who are using this have given positive feedback. A quick discussion on
P&F having area to place meeting minutes on in the future or any P&F items

Correspondence in: Letter from Council waving the fees for Campdraft
Correspondence Out: Nil
Principal’s report:
Helen Whale – Welcomed New parents to the school and to first P&F meeting
Discussed events from late 2014
Update on new library, painted and in use, not fully complete with shelving for all books
Welcomed Sally Hagley to her role as Infants Teacher
Great outcome from working bee. An increase in family helpers
Treasurer’s report: Bronwyn Redgate – December 2014 $34,574.64 in main account
$19,000 in term deposit account. Bronwyn Suggested rolling over $15,000 and transfer balance into
maximizer account.

SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS
Canteen Report: Mel Bates presented a follow up from Dec meeting on good for kid’s idea for St Joseph
children. Proposed a fruit break each Wednesday supplied by the canteen. This will be trialled for one
month and discussed at March P&F Meeting. A cup of fruit salad for each child to be organised by the
canteen helper on a Wednesday and delivered to each class room. Mel will send out a note to families
Campdraft Report: Meeting to be held 12th Feb. Helen read out the roles that need to be filled at the up-
coming meeting and what items will be organised at this meeting

General Business
• Opening school mass/Parent information evening will go ahead on the 19th February. P&F agreed to
  provide and cook food for families on the night
• Grounds person: agreed to increase hours as identified not enough hours to complete Moved Dermot:
  Seconded Peta Luke. 5 hours Cost to P& F extra $45.00 per week
• Cleaner: Hours increased each week at the cost to the school
• Lockable gates: Helen asked P&F to have locks or gate latches on all gates around the school. Moved :
  Dermot Second : Mel Bates. Helen will discuss with Karen
• Discussed a coverage notice board for P&F items to be placed on the wall outside old library. All pre-
  sent were happy to go ahead Moved Dermot Second Inga
• Parent Helpers discussion: Helen suggested an information session to be held to support Parents who
  wish to volunteer. Anne Marie to organise after a Monday assembly
• Bus Cleaning: Helen discussed the importance of this continuing and families doing their rostered
weekend to keep it remaining fair. If family are unable to do the clean they are to contact Dermot if unable to swap with another.

- Future meeting dates. 2nd Monday of the month, Executive meeting the 1st Monday of Month
- Kim discussed the possibility of including an action plan section into the minutes. This may support those who took on tasks to see exactly what, when, how etc. Kim will attempt to have this organised by next meeting.
- Date of next meeting: 9th March 2015
- Executive Meeting: Monday 2nd March 2015
- Close meeting: 1730

Agenda P&F Meeting 9th March 2015

- Sports equipment
- Way of the Cross
- Dry river bed
- Parent Liaison
- CSW
- Open day
- School crossing
- BBQ sale

Parent: The school is a very peaceful place. The students are very settled and learning well.

St Joseph's PS Merriwa

Junior Campdraft and Fete Day

Saturday 27th June 2015

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th March 2015

Merriwa RSL Club 6:00pm

Children are welcome, however must be actively supervised by parents.

We still need a fete coordinator and a market stall coordinator! If you are interested please contact De Patterson.

Thankyou to the following people who have taken on positions for the 2015 year!

**Overall coordinator** - De Patterson

**Campdraft**

- Campdraft Coordinator - Stephen Ninness
- Assistant Campdraft Co-ordinator - Pauline Lawler
- ABCRA Secretary - Tanya Ninness
- ABCRA Assistant Secretary - Kristen Peel
- Ring 2 Coordinator - Clare Martin

**Treasurer** - Fiona Morgan

**Assistant Treasurer** - Megan Moore

**Publicist** - Tash Taffe

**Sponsorship** - Tash Taffe

**Canteen Coordinator** - Mel Bates

**Raffle Coordinator** - Dermot Shannon

**Fete Coordinator**

- Organise activities, helpers, equipment
- Coordinate set up and pack up on the day

**Market Stall Coordinator**

- Canvas for market stalls
- Ensure appropriate insurance etc.
- Organise market stalls on the day

**Coffee Stall** - Helen Whale

We once again welcome Paul Marchese of Merriwa Engineering as our major sponsor this year. We thank Paul very much for his generosity.

If you know of anyone who would be willing to sponsor our event or if you would like to sponsor our event yourself, please contact Tash Taffe.
CANTENE ROSTER

Canteen volunteers urgently required!

4 Mar Sharee Baber, Jane Clark
11 Mar HELP!!!

BUS ROSTER

7/8 Mar Pepper/Thompson family
14/15 Mar Baber family
21/22 Mar Bates family

Thank you . . .

to the Holland & Peel families who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recently.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Scott Beaven, Peter Holland, Kylie Telfer, Mel Parker

Expressions of Interest

First Aid Course

We will be hosting a First Aid Course conducted by T.A.K. Training at the school in the near future. Parents and friends are invited to join us for this important training.

Cost will be $110 and the 5 hour course will be held either one evening or a weekend, depending on majority preference.

Please contact Sally Gilbey or Cassandra McLaren to register your interest.

Parent: I think it is fantastic. I spend a lot of time in the classroom and I know they (the students) would never have had in the past as much individual attention by teachers as they are experiencing now.

P & F meetings for 2015 will be held on the second Monday of each month at 4.30pm in the MacKillop Room.

Next meeting - Monday 9th March 2015

If you would like to add an item to the agenda to be discussed at the meeting, please contact Kim Holland on 0422 035576 or email kimholland1869@gmail.com by the Monday of the week preceding the meeting.

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks ...

Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like: mango, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, rockmelon, kiwifruit, drained canned peaches, apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp.

Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid — at least 4 hours, or overnight.

Enjoy watching your kids eat fruit!

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
Dear Parents,

Life Education NSW is a not for profit community-based organisation that relies heavily on fundraising within the community to assist in meeting the shortfall left after receiving minimal assistance from Government funding.

The sale of Harold merchandise to the children whilst the program is visiting each school supports the fundraising activities of local committees and all proceeds support Life Education within each local area. These products help to remind children about the messages delivered to them during their Life Education session and have either a picture of Harold or the Life Education logo on them.

The educator will provide the opportunity for children to purchase these products during the school visit. Please provide the correct money in an envelope with the item written on the face of the envelope along with your child’s name and class. This allows the educator to process orders efficiently and accurately. Orders will be returned by the conclusion of the visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product description</th>
<th>Price Incl. GST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Sticky Note Pad</td>
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<td>Harold Activity Bag</td>
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<td>Harold Keyring</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product description</th>
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<td>Harold Stationery Set</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Large Harold Soft Toy</td>
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NB Harold Products are subject to availability
Life Education NSW thanks you for your support.

☐ I would like to donate _______ to Life Education NSW.
Gifts of $2.00 or over are tax deductible.

Name: ___________________________ Phone (optional): ___________________________
Address: _________________________
Suburb: _________________________ Postcode: _________________________
Email (optional) ___________________________ Child’s Class: ______________________

Visit Life Education at www.lifeeducation.org.au or www.healthyharold.org.au