# St Joseph’s Primary School

**School News**

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Tuesday 28th April 2015

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## April/May 2015

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**NAPLAN YEARS - YRS 3 & 5**  
**SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR**

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**REFLECTION**

“The heart grows hard when it does not love. Lord give us a heart that knows how to love”
From the Principal . . .

“Do not fear ...I will help you” Isaiah 41:13
For all those in distress at this time – we pray!

What a week! I am sure you have all taken time out to reflect on the tragedies that have surrounded us in the past week. This week’s storm event along the east coast of NSW has caused suffering and mayhem to many of our close friends, family and broader family of neighbours. The response in prayer and deed has been a true reflection of the Easter people we are called to be. We have seen many examples of people coming to the aid of their “neighbour” often unknown to them and often putting their own lives at risk. We pray for the safety and well-being of all.

The devastating loss of so many asylum seekers’ lives on the weekend previous, is part of an ongoing tragedy that continues to haunt and challenge the world community. We pray that the same Easter message enables the concept of “neighbour” to encompass all people so that we can help in our own small ways to bring hope to those whose situations seem hopeless. This last weekend Nepal has suffered the devastation of earthquakes and thousands of people have lost their lives. My nephew and his wife are volunteers in an orphanage in the devastated city. They are safe thank God but they have relayed the fear, loss and heartache of the people.

In the words of Pope Francis – “Lord give us a heart that knows how to love”.

Thank you to all parents for sending your children to school last week despite the media messages that we had closed due to the weather. Rest assured, if there is a change to routine you will be notified through the Skoolbag app.

ANZAC Day was celebrated with great respect over the past couple of days. On Friday, Merriwa Central School and St Joseph’s school students took part in a 60 year old tradition of marching to the cenotaph from their school sites and combining to pay homage to all men and women who have fought for Australia. It was a very moving experience as both schools, led by the Light Horse Brigade, marched from opposite ends of Marquet Street meeting at the cenotaph. The students looked resplendent in their respective school uniforms, worn with great pride. The attentiveness and respectful silence of all students gathered together indicated that they fully understood the significance of the day. The speeches by Mr Noonan and the representative students from each school were very thought provoking. Mr Bob Bain gave some very engaging background to the aspects of the ceremony. A special thank you to the RSL sub-branch, Upper Hunter Shire Council, The Light Horse Brigade, Mrs Gwen Myer and Mr Peter Davidson for making this great event a reality in 2015.

There were many students and staff who attended the dawn service and the morning march on ANZAC Day also. As is the tradition we had a full contingent of teachers joining many of our St Joseph’s Merriwa and Aberdeen students, ex-students and families in the community commemoration service. Students and families marched representing St Joseph’s at Merriwa, The Entrance, Kangaroo Valley, Scone and Denman.

This was a beautiful way to remember the sacrifices many before us have made so that we may live such a good life in Australia.

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1st each year. As St Joseph is the Patron Saint of our school we will be celebrating this day on Friday. Our celebrations will begin with a Liturgy in the church at 12 noon. This will not be a Mass, as previously advertised, as Father John will be attending a funeral at this time. Following Mass the students will be engaged in a craft activity and then will have a shared afternoon tea with their families. A tabloid sports afternoon will commence at 2pm Please feel very welcome to join us on Friday afternoon for this great celebration.

Cyber Safety parent session will be held next Monday afternoon from 3.15 – 4.15. Many parents have asked for information about how to keep their children safe on their computer devices. This is a very important session for ALL parents. The reality is that today, your children will be using the internet increasingly at school and/or at home and/or in the community and we all have an obligation to ensure their safety when using this form of communication.

Spirit of St Joseph: Congratulations to Gaby Nicholls who was awarded the Term 1 Spirit of St Joseph Award sponsored by the Merriwa Newsagency. Gaby Nicholls is always helpful, friendly and positive about every aspect of school life. She is willing and very eager to assist staff and fellow students. She is especially renowned for her care of the younger children. Gaby has dealt with some big challenges over the past few months and has faced them with resilience and confidence and has grown into a valued member of our school community and student leadership team.

Gaby is a regular attendee at community gatherings such as ANZAC Day (representing our school at the Cassilis service) and carol singing.

The Diocesan Schools Building Fund (DSBF) is a term used in your school fee statement, it has a price attached to it. You may wonder what it is. The DSBF is a reporting structure for all income and expenditure related to building capital works and land acquisitions for diocesan school purposes. The Diocesan Family & Schools Building Levy (DF&SBL) is collected from families of students attending catholic schools of the Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle. The levy contributes to the total income of the DSBF and to the funding of
diocesan pastoral activities. Other sources of income for the DSBF include government capital grants, the NSW state government interest subsidy scheme, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), parishes, school communities and Catholic Development Fund (CDF) loans.

The DSBF, which is managed and administered by the CSO (commenced January 2013) exists to ensure the diocese is able to meet past, present and future commitments. The CSO provides financial reports, and proposes school facilities plans and budgets to the Diocesan Finance Council and the Catholic Schools Council, which are advisory councils to Bishop William Wright. The 2013 annual DSBF report is available on the Catholic Schools Office website www.mn.catholic.edu.au (under current links on the home page). There is also a copy in the school foyer if you would like to learn more about the way our collective monies are being expended.

The Term Two Working Bee was very well attended on Sunday with 30 members of 13 families in attendance and others helping with the donation of soil etc. We managed to get a great number of jobs completed and all the excess materials taken to the tip. A special thank you to parishioners Tony and Jo O’Brien for their help at the Bee and the use of their tip truck for the removal of rubbish. The grounds and buildings look beautiful.

The vegetable gardens are now in place and ready for action. Thank you to Karin Brazier for all her help cutting the planters and relocating them. If there are any parents who would like to help the children with veggie gardening please let us know. Your experience and expertise would be very welcomed. Perhaps this could be a lunch time activity every fortnight or so. If you are planting out seedlings and find you have too many, the school will gratefully accept the donation of your excess.

Calling on all fit and energetic fathers, grandfathers and other significant males. We would like to start up a lunchtime activity program where fathers play with the children. This may be football, chess, gardening or anything at all that interests you and some of the children. Please fill in the expression of interest form at the end of the newsletter. All you need is time, working with children clearance and a will to spend time engaging with students. There will always be teachers present during your activity. This term there have been numerous occasions where fathers, brothers and others have spontaneously played a game with the children. The students have loved this interaction and have had so much fun. Thank you to those who have offered already. We will be in touch with you soon.

The Annual Cross Country Carnival held on the last day of term was a great success. The students had a terrific time demonstrating their running skills and participated with great display of sportsmanship and willingness to have a go. Thank you to the parents and staff who made the day so enjoyable for everyone. Thank you to Cowans Bus Company for donating the transport back to school, thanks Scott Beaver for the donation of oranges for the children..."It takes a village to educate a child". The following qualifying students will be travelling to the Diocesan Cross Country carnival on Tuesday 5th May.

| Toby     | Jamieson
| Darcy    | Taaffe  | Damian | Jamieson
| Emily    | Barwick | Charles | Brazier
| Axul     | Hourn   | Patrick | Magner
| Thomas   | Hunt    | Tia     | Magner
| Amy      | Redgate | Emily   | Ninness
| Korey    | Halse   | Chloe   | Towell
| Nicholas | Morgan  | Darcy   | Moore
| Camdyn   | Constable | Jonathan | Keegan
| Jorji    | Taaffe  | John    | Magner
| Madelaine | Thrift  | Lauren  | Redgate
| Olivia   | Collins | Nicole  | Martin

We wish them all the best.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who took time out last term to meet and discuss the students’ learning needs. We need to remain focussed on learning so that ALL students achieve high levels of success.

Are you doing your homework?
We need all parents to be supporting us in the education of your child by providing a regular homework routine for them.

♦ Is there a regular uninterrupted time where your child can sit and concentrate on their homework?
♦ Is this a quiet place and time?
♦ Is there an expectation in the home that homework is completed to a good standard and in a timely manner?
♦ Is there a special organised space (table/desk) for the student to put the homework books down to work?
♦ Is there an opportunity where the student can seek and get some assistance if needed from an adult?
♦ Do you offer your child the opportunity to practise their tables, spelling words and reading? Despite what you may have heard in the past these things DO matter. Students who know their multiplication facts and spelling words off by heart and can read with fluency are much more able to meet the ever increasing learning demands of school than those who don’t.

♦ Do you encourage your child to view learning as a great gift that will help them live a life of increased opportunity.

PLEASE DO YOUR CHILDREN A FAVOUR AND HELP THEM AT HOME TO BE GREAT LEARNERS

Helen Whale
**RE NEWS**

**Project Compassion Boxes**- please return by Friday 1st May so that we can send the much needed funds to the people in need.

**St Joseph the Worker**’s Feast day is celebrated on Friday 1st May. As St Joseph is the patron saint of our school we will celebrate with a liturgy in the Church at 12 o’clock. Following this the students will be making a St Joseph’s Day Cross out of a variety of materials - this is to symbolise St Joseph who was a carpenter and made things with his hands.

We will have special cake at recess and finish the day with tabloid activities. Parents are most welcome to join us at any part of the day.

**Mothers’ Day Liturgy and Breakfast** will be held on Friday 8th May. Please keep this morning free and come and celebrate the special people mothers are.

*Save the date: Sunday 24th May* at 8:30am - As in recent years we have joined the parish community to celebrate Pentecost - the birthday of the Church. This year again we invite everyone to join us on this special Sunday. We encourage everyone to come wearing something red and stay for a piece of birthday cake.

**Anne Marie Peebles**

**LIBRARY LINKS**

**Scholastic Book Club**

Issue 3 catalogues were sent home yesterday. Book Club is a great way of encouraging and developing your child’s literacy skills-and they make great gifts! Each dollar you spend earns points for the school to use on new books for the library.

A reminder:

- Orders and payments can be made online—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/](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 5th May 2015, or place your order online.

Melissa Collins & Sally Gilbey

Coordinators.
The 2014/2015 Summer Book Blitz has come to an end. Thankyou to all those students and staff who contributed to the Book Blitz Blog. I really enjoyed reading about the books being read and the activities students were doing during the holidays.

Many thanks and congratulations to the students who participated in the Book Blitz Blog: Aidan Hunt, Thomas Hunt, Olivia Collins, William Collins, Clancy Moore, Darcy Moore, Peter Hagley, Patrick Magner, Tia Magner, John Magner, Amy Redgate, Lauren Redgate and Emily Ninness.

It is really important that students continue to read on a regular basis. Prizes will be awarded at next Monday’s assembly.

Well done!

Mrs Ninness

Enrolments for the 2016 school year are being taken now. Please tell your friends and relatives!!

EXPRESSON OF INTEREST

“LUNCHTIMES WITH DADS”

I ___________________________ would love to be involved in lunchtime activities with the children of St Joseph’s.

I have a particular interest in ___________________________ (type of activity).

☐ I am available on ________________ (day of week)
☐ The day of week will vary depending on shifts/availability.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ________________
CyberSafety Workshop

What is CyberSafety and what does my child learn about this at school?

What resources are available for parents to access if they need some advice?

Come along to the workshop presented by
Shannon Hall – Education Officer (Learning Technologies) at the Catholic Schools Office

Event Details

Event Date: Monday 4th May, 2015

Time: 3.15pm

Where: St Joseph’s Primary School, Merriwa

Parents and carers of students at St Joseph’s Primary School are invited to attend a parent workshop on Monday 4th May at 3.15pm.

Come along and learn about Cyber Safety and resources that are available.
WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

Kinder
Mollie Beaven - for great work with area of surfaces.
Emma McLaren – for fantastic work identifying numbers before and after.
Tilly Clark – for her amazing handwriting.

1/2
Matilda Cronin - for great effort in collaboration groups.
Levi Hourn - for retelling the Easter story very well.
Rhianna Smith - for great work in Literacy groups.
Rhianna Smith - for great work reading and writing three digit numbers.
Toby Jamieson - for great work reading and writing four digit numbers.

3/4
Jock Grady - for his fantastic effort in writing an ANZAC narrative.
Mia Morgan - for a great effort in collaboration groups.
Thomas Hunt - for showing a keen interest in learning more about ANZAC day.
Darcy Taffe - for always having a friendly and positive attitude towards every aspect of school life.

5/6
Darcy Moore – for demonstrating excellent leadership skills throughout Term 1.
Patrick Magner – for asking questions to find out more information about a subject.
Charles Brazier - for bringing a positive attitude to start Term 2.
Nicole Martin - for enthusiastically organising and encouraging infants students during sports activities.

Principal’s Awards:
William Henderson: for being an enthusiastic and active participant in the Cool and Friendly program.
Tia Magner: Being the fastest female Cross Country runner for St Joseph’s Merriwa in 2015.
Jack Patterson for participating so respectfully in the ANZAC march and ceremony.
Charles Brazier for his fabulous effort in classroom learning.

Playground Champion
Darcy Moore – for including younger students in games.
Jonathan Keegan - for including younger students in games.
Tilly Clark – for participating enthusiastically in tabloid sports.

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

Alana Telfer & Ben Patterson
P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Fiona Wightman & Scott Beaven

Thank you . . .
to the Taaffe, Beaven & Booth families who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus recently.

St Joseph’s Campdraft & Fete

Save the date
Saturday 27th June 2015

Next meeting
5.00pm Wednesday 6th May 2015
at Merriwa RSL Club

If you are a parent or carer, don’t be shy! Please come along and offer your assistance.

We need helpers and ideas to run fun activities for the children. You will receive a lot of support!!

De Patterson, Overall Coordinator

Canteen rosters

Friday 1 May — Fiona Morgan & Tash Taaffe
Please return your Term 2 canteen volunteer roster this week!

Canteen Volunteers Desperately Needed!

BUS ROSTER

9/10 May  — Brazier family
16/17 May  — Brown/Redman family
23/24 May  — Collins Family
30/31 May  — Constable (Camdyn) family

Thank you to all the families represented at our working bee…..many hands make light work!

MOTHERS’ DAY STALL

The Mother’s Day gift stall will be held Friday 8th May at 11.15am.

The P&F runs this stall as a service to offer children the opportunity to purchase a gift to present to their mums on Mother’s Day. It is not a fundraiser. Presents range in price from a $1 to $5. A small number of gifts will be available for other significant ladies in your childrens’ lives (eg grandmothers).

Please send money with your child on Friday 8th May. Parent helpers would be much appreciated.

Please contact Megan Towell on 6376 1228 if you are available.

Megan Towell, Coordinator.