**St Joseph’s Primary School**

**School News**

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Tuesday 15th September 2015

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**September / October 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>13/9</td>
<td>14/9</td>
<td>15/9</td>
<td>16/9</td>
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<td>18/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass 8.30AM</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>4.30 P&amp;F Meeting</td>
<td>LIBRARY - SPORT - CANTENE</td>
<td>TERM 3 ENDS</td>
<td>Mission Day</td>
<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 21/9/15 - 2/10/15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>4/10</th>
<th>5/10</th>
<th>6/10</th>
<th>7/10</th>
<th>8/10</th>
<th>9/10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.30 P&amp;F Meeting</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>TERM 4 COMMENCES</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>No Canteen</td>
<td>No sport (normal uniform)</td>
<td>Cassillis Sports Workshop (sports uniform)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>11/10</th>
<th>12/10</th>
<th>13/10</th>
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<th>15/10</th>
<th>16/10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
<td>School Public Speaking 9.00-11.00am</td>
<td>Kinder transition 9.00-12.00</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>No sport (normal uniform)</td>
<td>School netball (sports uniform)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>18/10</th>
<th>19/10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Public Speaking Muswellbrook</td>
<td>LIBRARY - SPORT - CANTENE</td>
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**REFLECTION**

Gracious God, we are creatures of flesh and spirit. We seek that which nourishes the body and we seek that which nourishes the soul. We call to mind the Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus at the well. In the noonday sun she came to draw water. In her shame she came… and was transformed by “living water” – the Spirit and Truth of Jesus. God all gift, transform us that we may transform the world. Let US be the river of your own life and love.

Make us your living water… transforming fear into hope, intolerance into acceptance, ignorance into knowledge, illness into wellness, want into sufficiency, that those who are most in need may enjoy life in all its fullness. We make our prayer through Jesus, your Son, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Term 3 has been a very memorable one with much learning taking place at St Joseph’s. A strong emphasis has been on Creative Arts this term culminating in the performance evening last Wednesday. Students had an amazing opportunity to learn new skills in drama, dance and singing throughout the term under the guidance of our ASPIRE teachers and their own classroom teachers. We thank the Catholic Schools Office once again for providing us with the wonderful resource of the ASPIRE program. Mr Collins said of the ASPIRE program “A quality learning program involves teaching, practice, problem solving, group work, friendship and fun just to name a few key ingredients.” The same is true of our program. The students have been encouraged by Anna and Lauren to create sequences themselves. The stage 3 students have overcome many obstacles in their play by developing problem solving skills. It is all part of the learning. Talented students from Years 5 through to Year 10 in our Diocesan Schools are able to audition for parts in the ASPIRE program. This year we have two students from Merriwa auditioning for ASPIRE. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to see one of our own students on stage next time we travel to ASPIRE? Good luck girls!

The play night was sensational. The students displayed great learning and entertained their audience throughout the evening. The costumes were simple and very effective and the dances were very well presented by all students. What a wonderful feat. It was so wonderful seeing all students so engaged and so genuinely happy performing in their roles. Thanks once again to all the teachers for their perseverance and dedication, parents for your help with costumes, set and supper. Thank you to the P&F for preparing the children’s supper and for all who helped pack up and clean on the night. Thank you also to the Parents and guests who have given us such positive feedback about the play night. We are buoyed by your support!

Thank God for the wonderful gifts he continues to provide. We each have so much to be thankful for. We keep those in our prayers who are suffering at present especially the many, many refugees and displaced persons around the world who are desperately seeking a home.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the Wong, Magner and Clark families who are experiencing sickness in their extended families and Patrick McLaren, William Collins and Archie Constable who have all had bouts in hospital recently. We also offer our prayers and well wishes to all those in the school community with the flu at present.

Congratulations to Darcy Taaffe who competed at the Polding Athletics carnival last week. Darcy represented the Diocese of Newcastle-Maitland in the 100m run. At Polding she competed against the best athletes from all diocese north of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We are very proud of you Darcy!

We value every opportunity we get to broaden our minds and learn about people from all different cultures and walks of life. We were thrilled and thankful to have Lotta Peedimaa spend the day with us last week and speak to the children about her country and her life. Lotta is a Long Term Rotary Exchange student living in Merriwa for 12 months. She is from Estonia. The primary classes were absolutely enthralled with the information they learned about the geography, politics, economy and culture of Estonia. They worked in collaborative groups after the presentation to complete a research project on Estonia. The infants children enjoyed learning about Estonia and about Lotta’s lifestyle and hobbies there.

Lotta assists children search the internet for interesting facts about Estonia

From the Principal...
The Parents and Friends Meeting was held yesterday and a parent session was provided on understanding the NAPLAN process and what we learn from it. Thank you to those parents in attendance. Some important take home messages –

- It takes a village to educate a child. We all need to do our part
- Attendance at school is vital to ensure learning opportunities are maximised
- High expectations are key to maximising performance – high expectations for improved learning for all students, from the teacher, the student and the parents.
- Effort must be afforded to make learning gains. Olympic athletes have to practise daily to improve their skills; so too do students need to practise their learning.

Mission Day will be celebrated this Friday and it is a very timely opportunity to thank God for the countless blessings each of us has. Part of our gratefulness is shown by the charitable works we do for others who do not have what we enjoy. The children have a real sense of this. Thank you for supporting them on Friday to raise the necessary funds to provide 2 wells in Madagascar.

The children have a display of their work at the Merriwa Show again this year. Be sure to go along and have a look.

Trees have been on the agenda for some time now and this week we will see the removal of the old, rotting pepper trees from the playground. As was discussed at the P&F meetings in June and August the proposed new trees are Silky Oaks, Chinese Elms and Chinese Pistachios. These trees are all fast growing and thrive well in our local area. They also provide good shade and are not prone to limb loss. If you have any other ideas re types of trees that would be suitable, we would love to hear from you.

There is now a huge pile of woodchip in the bottom playground. If any parents would like to take some for your gardens please feel free to load your trailers up.

Sport in Term 4 is always a mixture of events on a variety of days. It is best to check the newsletter calendar each week to see if and when the sports uniform needs to be worn. Throughout the term we will cover the required number of hours for sport and more. There is a whole day of sports coaching, 5 days of swimming lessons, 2 hours of netball as well as a swimming carnival. On some weeks there will be no sport and on others there will be a series of sessions. So as stated earlier, PLEASE check the calendar regularly.

Cassilis Sports Day will be held at the end of Week 1 in Term 4. All students will travel by bus to Cassilis to participate in a day of coaching in a variety of sports. Please ensure the permission note the canteen order form are returned to school tomorrow.

Term 4 Working Bee will be held on Sunday 11th October. Please mark this on your calendar so that our gardens can enjoy a spring clean.

The school’s annual Public Speaking Competition will be held Monday 12th October from 9-11am. Preparation time for the whole school will be 9-10am and speeches will be delivered in classrooms from 10-11am. Parents and friends are invited to watch the speeches in classrooms from 10-11am. We ask students to continue practising the skills they been learning in class over the holidays. Further details have been sent home in a separate note today.

The staff of St Joseph’s wish you all a safe and happy holiday. School resumes on Tuesday 6th October for students and staff.

Helen Whale

Merriwa Central School have invited us to participate in a League Tag Gala Day on Tuesday 27th October. There will be two divisions - Senior mixed (Yrs 5 & 6) and Junior mixed (Yrs 3 & 4) with 8 players per team. Cost of $3.00 per student covers lunch of a sausage sandwich and a bottle of water.

If your child in Stage 2 or 3 is interested in playing, please submit your expression of interest by phone or email by this Thursday morning. Our participation will be dependent on number of interested players.
**Mission Day**

Year 5/6 will once again be hosting Mission Day activities to be held at St Joseph’s on 18 September (last day of Term 3).

Funds raised will go to Catholic Mission to reach out and support the children of Madagascar in raising funds for water pumps for their schools. We have a goal of reaching $200 for two pumps.

The theme of the day will again be “Sock it to Poverty”, with many sock based games and activities organised. Year 5/6 will be running the activities.

Friday will be an out of uniform day. A cost of $5.00 per student is requested to cover unlimited activities, a bag of popcorn and a water ice block, as well as a donation to the missions.

The activities will commence at 1 o’clock.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC

A reminder that our boxes will be collected this Friday. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

If you haven’t already donated we are in need of monetary donations to cover the cost of postage. Each box costs $9 to send to the children in need.

To find out more information and to see video clips from previous years visit - [https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/](https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/)

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**Happy Birthday**

Best wishes to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming weeks .....
Congratulations to our weeks 8 & 9 award winners:

Kindergarten
Emma McLaren – for reporting on the changes in the weather for our Science experiment
Matilda Clark – for her enthusiasm towards play practice
Alana Telfer – for being able to identify 3D objects in the environment

1/2
William Luke – for noticing the seasonal changes that are occurring for our Science experiment
Ella Beaven – for illustrating the many symbols for peace in Religion
Ava Peel – for demonstrating her knowledge of informative texts in our Literacy Focus
Ben Patterson – for his great recount of preparing and performing our school play
William Collins – for sharing his interest and knowledge with others about seasonal changes
Bethany Wightman – for demonstrating her understanding of area using different informal units
Braeden Halse – for being inclusive of all students in all learning activities

3/4
Jack Shannon - for great work measuring the area of surfaces
Paddy Wong - for excellent participation in the school play practice
Bobby Keegan – for a great effort in the school play
Will Henderson – for great knowledge of 3D objects

5/6
Chloe Towell - for a super effort during play practice
Jemma Grady - for a fantastic poetry assignment
Rebecca Keegan - for a fantastic effort in our school play!
Jonathan Keegan - for the correct use of punctuation and grammar in his writing

Principal’s Awards:
Jack Patterson - for fabulous participation before and after the Father’s Day activities
Ella Beaven - for engaging great problem solving skills by seeking support and guidance from a range of trusted people
Isam Arfan - for his enthusiastic approach to school and learning
Roy Lawler - for trying very hard in writing lessons with Mrs Whale on Friday

Congratulations!
THE VALUE OF BEING INVOLVED IN PERFORMANCE

Musicals and performance are unique and dynamic educational experiences, which enable students:

An opportunity for self-expression

To develop initiative and creativity

To explore emotions and responses to life, in a healthy and appropriate environment.

To build self-confidence, and overcome ‘stage-fright’

To perform in front of a live audience, and not just mates/family.
To develop natural talents and skills

To build self motivation, and desire to explore the unknown

To grow in emotional stability

To realise gifts which might otherwise remain dormant

To push oneself beyond the comfort zone

To build friendships, and share the joy and excitement of the event

To share the highs, lows and all that goes with a challenge.

More photos will be on the school website later this week
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 12th October 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 kimholland1369@gmail.com by the Monday of the week preceding the meeting.

Thank you... to the Melmeth/Ford family who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus recently.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Scott Beaven, Sarah Booth & Mel Bates

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