## September 2015

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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>30/8</td>
<td>Library - Sport - Canteen</td>
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<td>Father's Day Breakfast &amp; activities</td>
<td>Polding Athletics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Regional Spelling Bee Denman</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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**LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK**

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<tr>
<td>FATHER'S DAY</td>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>School Performance Evening 6.30 School of Arts</td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>13/9</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport - Canteen</td>
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<td>TERM 3 ENDS Mission Day</td>
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<td>13/9</td>
<td>4.30 P&amp;F Meeting</td>
<td>15/9</td>
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<td>18/9</td>
<td>Merriwa Show</td>
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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 21/9/15 - 2/10/15**

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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>4/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>TERM 4 COMMENCES</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Cassilis Sports Workshop</td>
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### Reflection

Start children off on the way they should go, And even when they are old they will not turn from it.  

*Proverbs 22:6*
This week is National Literacy and Numeracy Week. It is a great event to raise awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all Australian students. Below is a small but vitally important excerpt from the National Literacy and Numeracy Website.

Throughout this week we recognise and celebrate the achievements of parents, teachers, principals, and members of the community who are doing amazing things to help kids develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

You can make a difference

Parents and carers can have a big impact on their children’s education. Over 40 years of research from around the world shows that when parents are involved in their child’s learning, it really can have a positive impact.

You are the first and most important influence on your child’s values and attitudes toward school and learning. Creating a home environment that encourages a love of learning from an early age can help your child to do better at school. Top Literacy and Numeracy Tips for Parents are provided in this newsletter as a guide.

Taking part in National Literacy and Numeracy Week’s activities is a great opportunity to show your interest and share the love of learning with your child.

How you can get involved

Look in the literacy and numeracy sections on this website to find out about the activities your child may be participating in. [http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/parents](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/parents)

At St Joseph’s Merriwa Bookweek and Literacy and Numeracy Week are combined at present to enable schools to enjoy a fortnight of focus on the importance of being literate and numerate. There have been a number of special events organised to engage the students in great levels of learning.

On Monday afternoon last week Darcy Moore was invited to present his speech to the councillors of the Upper Hunter Shire expressing his ideas on what he would do if he was “Mayor for a Day”. Darcy was our school winner of this writing competition and he spoke with representatives from Catholic and Public Schools in our region. I was very proud of Darcy’s effort in writing the piece and his delivery in such a formal forum.

The class and school Spelling Bees were held last week and students really worked hard to use mental strategies to spell lots of words. Our stage 1, 2 & 3 winners will go to Denman this week to compete against all stage winners from the Catholic schools in the region. Congratulations to the following Stage Winners:

- Early Stage 1 - Emma McLaren
- Stage 1 – Braeden Halse
- Stage 2 – Amy Redgate
- Stage 3 – Jemma Grady

On Thursday, the students enjoyed learning about the “Magic of Books” with JD and Friends magic show. We were thrilled to share the time with Merriwa Preschool and our transition Kinders for 2016. Magician Joel entertained the children and adults alike with his amazing magic. Never far from focus was the message that books are filled with magic and we need to practise developing our skills to unlock it. Reading skills are the key.

Friday was again another real highlight for the schools and the town alike. The Little Sprouts Day event by engaging the participation of community members highlights how important Literacy and reading is to the future wellbeing and success of all our young people and our town. The day was a huge success and once again Merriwa streets were filled with fancy dress representing countries around the world.

The annual Father’s Day Breakfast will be enjoyed this Friday, followed by a special liturgy and then an engaging Maths session for dads and kids in primary classes (mums can
join in too), and a fabulous book “Banjo and Ruby Red” and activity session with the Infants. We look forward to seeing many of you there with us. These celebrations and activities will run from 7.30 am to 10am.

Mums and dads, grandparents and friends – it’s not too late to take up a book and read with a young person today and tomorrow ....

Primary students joined with other students from nearby schools to participate in the Merriwa Community Farm Safety sessions organised by the Merriwa Show committee. The students appreciated learning about the activities that take place on farms and identifying the dangers that can present with many of these activities if proper care and precaution is not afforded. They learned about the necessity to use suitable safety equipment and protective clothing to minimise the risks. The VRA, Rural Bush Fire service and the Police all showed the students their rescue equipment and then described their role in the community. This series of workshops is very much appreciated by our school and helps us to recognise what a wonderful community we belong to.

NAPLAN results were sent home last week to parents of children in Years 3 and 5. I will be holding an information meeting explaining the NAPLAN process on Monday in Week 10 at the P&F meeting. Please feel free to join us at this time. Parents in previous years have found this meeting very useful in learning about the assessment and what they can do to support their child further.

The following people are sent our best wishes and prayers:
Tash Taaffe who is recovering from a nasty accident
The Magner family whose grandfather is still very ill.
The Wong family whose grandmother is unwell.
The Clark family whose grandmother is unwell.
Patrick McLaren who is struggling with a foot injury.

Helen Whale

AWARDS

Congratulations to our weeks 6 & 7 award winners:

**Kindergarten**
- **Mollie Beaven** – for directly comparing and explaining the length of two objects
- **Lula Peebles** – for her contributions to all class discussions
- **Jeremy Hopkins** - For enthusiasm in learning about Fractions
- **Arlia Parker** - great efforts in writing activities

**1/2**
- **Grace Booth** – for developing awesome questions for our local environment interview
- **Rhianna Smith** – for her explanation of Fractions using mathematical language
- **Justin Alley**- For a fantastic effort during dance practice for our play
- **Levi Hourn**-- Great questions about changes in our environment

**3/4**
- **Mikayla Telfer** : an excellent ability to multiply a one digit number by a multiple by 10
- **Thomas Hunt**: for extending his range of skills, strategies and knowledge to fluently read, view and comprehend texts
- **Madelaine Thrift**: for representing our school beautifully at Little Sprouts Day
- **Axul Hourn**- for his great effort in fraction work

**5/6**
- **Charles Brazier**- for fantastic division work in Mathematics
- **Lauren Redgate**- for an excellent effort writing a letter to Clancy of The Overflow during our text focus.
- **Nicholas Morgan** - for a fantastic effort with poetry tasks
- **John Magner**- for terrific enthusiasm during our HSIE unit on Global Connections

**Playground Champion**
- **William Luke**- for always being a great friend
- **Thomas Hunt**- for displaying good sportsmanship on the playground

**Principal’s Awards**
- **Peter Hagley** and **Rhianna Smith** for being confident and accurate spellers.
- **Emma McLaren, Braeden Halse, Amy Redgate, Jemma Grady** - for developing great strategies to make them awesome spellers.
- **Jo Edwards, Peter Holland, Bernadita Gabriel, Vic Shannon, Carol Brinckley, Lucy Wong** - For being fabulous parent helpers at Little Sprouts Day
This coming week we celebrate **Father’s Day**. During our liturgy on Friday we will celebrate all that we love and appreciate about our Fathers. During this liturgy we will also ask St Joseph to be a role model to our fathers. Lyrics from our special Father’s day song sums up how special our dads are:

“I know you’re always there, reaching out, the strength in me I get, from you”

Join us on Friday morning in the Joey’s room at 9 am after our special Father’s Day liturgy following the breakfast.

**Mission Day** will be held on the last day of Term 3, 18th September. The funds raised this year will go towards water pumps in schools in Madagascar. Each pump costs $90 and we are hoping to raise enough funds on the day to get at least two pumps. Stayed tuned for more information from Stage 3.

Thank you to the students who have already brought in gifts and essential items for our **Samaritan Boxes**. As mentioned in our previous newsletter all gifts need to be brought into school by the end of the term so we can send them off in time for Christmas.

**Anne Marie Peebles**
**REC**

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**Child Protection Sunday**
**13th September 2015**

Pope Francis, in a letter wrote on 2 February 2015 to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and Superiors of Religious Institutes that “Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home.”

What part do we play in this ‘shared responsibility’ of working to ensure the Church is a safe and secure community? In the Australian context through Child Protection Week and in particular this Sunday we are asked to be someone who listens to children, someone who will start a conversation with children and if needed, be that someone whom children will turn to when in need.

Here at St Joseph’s School and St Anne’s Parish we can see evidence of our church being a safe and secure home through the care we take of our children through our Safe and Supportive schools policies and procedures, the education programs we provide to students and parents that aim to build self confidence so that each student knows they have the right to be safe and secure and that they know who they can go to if they feel this is threatened in any way.
Top Literacy and Numeracy Tips for Parents

Early Years

Literacy

- It is never too early to read to your child. Just 10 minutes a day reading will make a difference and this can include incidental reading such as traffic signs, shopping signs, and recipes.
- Point out letters and words to your child in everyday life – on food packages, signs, clothing, etc. When your child recognises letters or words tell them you are proud of their reading.
- Try to make reading time a happy part of your daily routine – reading books is a great way to help children settle for bedtime.
- Have a range of books available around the home and within reach for your child to choose at any time. Board and cloth books are sturdy and easily managed for the very young.
- Telling stories nursery rhymes and singing songs are a great way to improve a child’s vocabulary, memory and rhythm for reading. Try making up simple actions with your child.
- Visit your local library and let your child choose books they like. Many libraries have story-time sessions for young children.

Tips for reading with young children

- Choose a quiet place to read with your child to avoid distractions such as the television, computer, phones and radio, or other people not participating in the reading activity.
- Read a range of books and stories and be prepared to read your child’s favourite stories again and again!
- Make reading fun – try using a range of voices styles and sound effects.
- Follow each word with your finger, and when they can, let your child turn the pages and repeat familiar words and phrases.
- Point to pictures and encourage your child to talk about them. As your child gets older, you can ask questions for example: ‘what do you think is happening here?’; ‘what do you think might happen next?’; or ‘what would you do?’
- Let your child pretend to read. You can use picture books that don’t have words and make up the story together.
- If your child isn’t interested in a book, don’t push them. Try a different book, or try again later.

Adapted from:
Numeracy

- Talk about numbers and count things with your child every day. Try counting things as you go about your daily routine – e.g. when you’re getting your child dressed, you can say: ‘Let’s see how many buttons are on your shirt…one…two…three…’ you can also count steps, stairs, or fruit pieces on a plate etc. When setting the table you can ask your child, ‘how many plates do we need?’ “how many glasses?’
- Point out shapes and numbers to your child in everyday life – on food packages, signs, clothing, etc. When your child recognises shapes and numbers tell them you are proud of them.
- Talk to your child about shapes, sizes and quantities while they watch or help you cook. For example, ‘I need one large carrot and one small potato’ or ‘I am cutting our sandwiches in triangles today.’
- Bath time is a great way to explore and learn about measuring. Your child can use different-sized plastic cups, tubs and containers in the bath or sandpit (old clean margarine or yoghurt tubs, plastic bottles and take away containers make great measuring toys for little kids). Encourage your child to guess how many little cups it will take to fill the largest container.
- Talk about the size, shape and position of things – e.g. “Let’s put the big, square book next to the little toy car.”
- Have children weigh themselves and other objects like toys and books. Talk about the weight of things – e.g. “This box is heavy. That teddy is light.”
- Play ‘shops’ with things from around the house, using shopping bags, old purses or wallets and real or play money.
- Encourage your child to sort different things by size, shape or colour, like blocks, clothing, toys and pegs.
- Fold or cut paper to make different shapes like a circle, triangle, square or rectangle. They can use these shapes to make different pictures. As they get older you can also cut into fractions, like halves, quarters and thirds. Talk about the shapes/fractions you are making together.
- Playing with puzzles or pretend shops are other great activities that can help your child develop their maths skills.
- Talk about the time, days of the week and months of the year. Mark special events on a calendar, like birthdays and holidays – talk about how many days until the event and which day of the week the event will be on.

Adapted from:
Top Literacy and Numeracy Tips for Parents

Primary School

Literacy

- Try to spend at least 10 minutes a day reading with your child. It is important to keep reading to your child even when they are able to read for themselves.
- Try to listen to your child read out loud every day, and encourage them to read to visitors or younger siblings. Reading out loud, even for a short time, can help build your child’s confidence in reading. Try asking your child to read notes, signs and menus out loud regularly.
- Try to have a range of different reading material available for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction – this can include newspapers, magazines, instructions manuals, and comics, etc.
- Let your child see that you enjoy reading. Let them hear you discussing books with friends. Or if you don’t read for pleasure, look up information with your child in cook books, instruction manuals, phone books, atlases, the dictionary or on the internet.
- Try playing word games such as I Spy, Scrabble, Pictionary, Boggle and crosswords with your child – these are great for improving spelling and vocabulary.
- Visit your local library and let your child choose books they like. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child and borrow audio books you can listen to together, great for long car trips.

Tips for reading with children in primary school

- Let your child choose a book to read or share one you enjoyed at their age.
- Talk about the book before you or your child start reading – discuss the cover, the title, the pictures, and talk about what the story may be about.
- Take turns reading as your child is able, a sentence, paragraph, page or chapter each.
- Talk to your child about the books you read together. Ask your child what they thought about what happened in the story, which parts they liked best, what was exciting, funny or sad. Talk about the meaning of the story and different words.
- Talk to your child’s teacher about strategies you can use to help if your child ‘gets stuck’ on a word or uses an incorrect word. You can also try the Pause, Prompt, Praise method to help them:
  - Pause
    - Give your child time to work out the word (try not to jump in with the correct word straight away).
  - Prompt
- Suggest going back to the beginning of the sentence, or encourage your child to read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
- Suggest looking at the pictures or the sound the word begins with for a clue about what the word could be.
- If prompts are not working, tell your child the word and briefly explain the meaning of the word but then quickly prompt them to continue reading.

- **Praise**
  - Give your child praise for trying, even if mistakes are made. For example you might say: “Well done, that was great reading. I thought it was fantastic how you went back to the start of the sentence to try and work out that tricky word for yourself.”

**Adapted from:**
  rwc_english.pdf

**Numeracy**
- Talk positively about maths with your child – even if you struggled with it at school yourself. Staying positive about maths will help your child. Saying "I was bad at maths" can lower a child’s own expectations of themselves at maths and can give your child an excuse not to try.
- Talk to your child about how you use maths in everyday life – while shopping, banking, budgeting, cooking, driving, and keeping score in sports games, telling the time etc.
- Help your child to see the real-life purpose for the maths they are learning at school e.g. when your child is learning fractions you could ask them:
  - “How many slices will I need to cut the pizza into so that everyone has two slices?”
  - “What fraction of the glass is filled with water?”
  - “Can you cut up the apple to make six equal pieces?”
- Play games with cards, dominoes or dice to help your child with maths. Try asking your child to tell you the number of dots on the dice each time they are thrown during a board game. Eventually they will be able to do ‘see’ the number without having to count the dots.
- When you are helping your child with their maths homework and they get stuck, try to help your child solve the problem themselves by asking:
  - "What is the problem asking you to do?"
  - "How do you think we can work this out?"
  - "Do you think you will need to use addition or subtraction, or do you need to use multiplication or division?"
• Ask your child to explain how they work things out – e.g. “What is the question asking you to do?” and “How did you get that answer?”

• With maths problems there is always more than one way to get the right answer. When you child thinks about how they figured out a problem, it can help concepts make more sense to them and build their confidence.

• Encourage your child to practise the times tables and ‘mental computation’ skills – working out answers to arithmetic questions in their head. Give your child little problems to solve in their head. Try asking them to:
  – estimate the total cost of a small basket of groceries before reaching the checkout
  – work out the actual cost of discounted items (e.g. 25% off $20)
  – figure out when you will arrive at a destination (e.g. “It is 4:15 pm now. It will take us 30 minutes to get home – what time will we arrive?”).

• Talk with your child about how they feel about maths. They may not always be willing to discuss problems they’re having, but it is important to show your support and that you are interested in what they are learning.

• If your child is having difficulties with maths, speak to your child’s teacher or write them an email or short note. Once problems are identified, learning patterns can be better understood and a solution can be developed.

• If you are finding it difficult to explain how to solve a maths homework problem, ask your child’s teacher for advice and examples. Teachers understand that maths problems are sometimes taught differently from when you were at school. Some schools offer maths information sessions for parents.

• Encourage them to practise, practise, practise! Maths is a learned skill that improves with practise. Encourage your child to get their hands on as much practise material as possible – and do it as part of a regular routine.

Adapted from:

Best wishes to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming weeks …..
**ST. JOSEPH'S P&F ASSOCIATION**

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 14th September 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.

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**Canteen Roster**

- **2 Sep**  Karin Brazier & Scott Beaven
- **9 Sep**  Helpers needed

Please contact Mel Bates on 0417 060381 if you are able to help with canteen this term.

**Bus Roster**

- **5/6 Sep**  Melmeth family
- **12/13 Sep**  Morgan family
- **19/20 Sep**  Nicholls family
- **10/11 Oct**  Ninness family

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**Thank You...**

to the Patterson (Rob & De) & McLaren families who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus recently.

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**Community Noticeboard**

**Emergency Services Open Day**

Incorporating all emergency services:
- Rural Fire Service
- Volunteer Rescue Association
- State Emergency Service
- Police
- Ambulance
- Fire & Rescue NSW

**Saturday 5th September**

10am—2pm

Cnr Bettington & Marquet Sts
Merriwa

- Barbecue lunch available
- Ambulances to explore
- Fire trucks to climb
- Photo opportunities for the kids

**Have you ever had thoughts of joining the emergency services?**

Come along and find out what volunteering can mean for you and your community.

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**Father’s Day Stall**

The P&F will again be offering the children the chance to purchase gifts from the Father’s Day stall at lunchtime this Friday.

A lovely selection of gifts will be available ranging in price from $1 to $5. Children also have the option of purchasing gifts for other significant males in their lives – granddads, uncles, step dads etc.

Mums, please send some money in with your child on Friday so they have the chance to present dad with a special gift they have selected themselves.

Megan Towell