### February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td>31/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>School working bee</td>
<td>Kinders commence 9.00am Welcome Liturgy 2.40pm Assembly</td>
<td>Library Sport</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>8/2</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>UH Regional Swimming Carnival Singleton 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly P&amp;F meeting 4.30pm</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday Called to Serve Mass</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY Mass 9.15am Library Sport Canteen</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly Opening School Mass Parent Info Social BBQ</td>
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<td>PUPIL FREE DAY Staff Development</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
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<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
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<td>Library - Sport Canteen NRL Visit</td>
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**Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter - there are the 40 days of Lent and the six Sundays of Lent. The Sundays of Lent are not counted as days of Lent, because each Sunday of the year is a day on which the joy of the resurrection is remembered and celebrated.

At Masses and prayer services on Ash Wednesday, ashes, traditionally made from burning the palms from Palm Sunday the previous year, are placed on the foreheads of the congregation, in the shape of a cross. This cross is, traditionally, not washed off until after sunset that day.

The symbolism of the cross made from ashes echoes the Eastern tradition of throwing ashes over one’s head to signify our asking of God for forgiveness. It was a sign of willingness to repent. In this way, the penitent expresses sorrow for their faults and a desire to repair their relationship with God.

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**REFLECTION**

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Welcome back to another fabulous year of learning at St Joseph’s Primary School. We are very pleased to see everyone’s happy faces here again with a great many exciting holiday adventures and no mishaps to report.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new kindergarten students and their families. We wish you many happy years of education within the St Joseph’s school community. Welcome to Jye, Annabelle, Sammi, Ivaana, Chad, Wills and Freya into Kindergarten and Alister into Year 4. The welcome for new Kinders and their families was well received on Monday. Thanks to the Year One parents who supplied morning tea for our special guests.

We keep in our prayers this week Nola – my mum, and Hamish Peebles who are both ill at present. We also offer our condolences to Richard and Jodie Magner and John, Tia and Patrick on the recent death of Richard’s grandmother. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord!

Opening School Mass, Parent Information evening and P&F social BBQ will be held Monday 15th February. We urge all parents to attend this evening and celebrate the new school year and learn all about your child’s learning environment for the 2016 school year. The teachers will explain the course of learning to be embarked upon and explain the ways the classroom will operate this year.

Learning focus at school this year will be on developing the students’ writing skills and Maths knowledge. To this end there will be a great deal of Professional Development undertaken by the teachers to enable them to give the best opportunities for learning to your child. Tomorrow we will participate in “Choose Maths” workshops which are presented by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute.

Seven Steps to Writing is a program being studied by all teachers this year aimed at raising the student’s writing skills at all levels. We are excited to see great results and we expect parents to start seeing greater enthusiasm and skill in their child’s writing soon too. The first workshop will be held on February 17th at Muswellbrook and there will be no school on that day.

Future Schools Conference in Sydney will be attended by Mrs Samantha Kerr and Mrs Helen Whale in March. This conference will give us the opportunity to investigate further ways to ensure our student’s education being enhanced and strengthened by technology.

Parents in partnership with the school is a very important value at St Joseph’s. Teachers will be working with you and your child to set learning goals for the term and the year. These goals will be realistic targets to achieve over time. This is an exciting opportunity to really work in collaboration with your child and their teacher. There will be a parent in partnership time at each Parents and Friends meeting to focus on areas of need as they arise.

The Best Start program has been used by the Infants teachers last week to formally assess each new Kindergarten child. The results of this assessment enable teachers to identify exactly what Literacy and Numeracy skills each of the children already have as they enter school and what skills they are yet to learn. With this vital information the teachers are able to cluster children together according to need and ensure the teaching is targeted at the appropriate level. This really does give all children the BEST START!! Teachers will be in touch with parents shortly with information relating to this assessment.

Working Bee Wonder!! Last Sunday was our first working bee for the year and what a great rollup. There were 42 participants in all including 18 students. Thank you to the Wightman, Patterson, Taaffe, Collins, Peebles, Whale, Shannon (including Lotta), Hagley, Morgan, Redgate, Luke, Brazier, Magner,
McLaren families for all your hard work and cooperation that was needed to complete all the jobs on the very long list. It was a great to have ex-students James Hagley and John Magner helping out also. Thanks also to Samantha Kerr and Elizabeth Foran who worked with the team. We stuck to our 2 hour time frame and enjoyed a social sausage sizzle afterwards. The grounds again look spectacular and what is even more important is that all hazards identified after the break have been fixed up. THANK YOU one and all!!

Christmas Day saw many of our students and their families celebrating the birth of Jesus together at Mass. The students performed a nativity play which was absolutely beautiful. Many students played the parts of the Holy Family as well as angels and shepherds and sheep. Christmas Mass was a wonderful experience for all who attended.

Belonging Day was held again in January. On this day the teachers invited students to come into school to help personalise their new learning spaces. This day provided a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know their new teachers and to reconnect with their classmates after the long break.

Library time was offered on 3 occasions during the holidays to encourage students to continue reading. Your wonderful staff gave up their own time to make this possible.

Helen Whale

Welcome to our new Kindergarten students:

Chad, Wills, Jye
Freya, Annabelle, Sammi, Ivaana
AWARDS

Congratulations to the following recipients of awards:

Principal’s Awards
For their wonderful assistance at our first working bee:-

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<tr>
<td>Roy Lawler</td>
<td>Patrick Magner</td>
<td>Peter Hagley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darcy Taaffe</td>
<td>Tia Magner</td>
<td>Lula Peebles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jorji Taaffe</td>
<td>Nicholas Morgan</td>
<td>Ben Patterson</td>
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<td>Charles Brazier</td>
<td>Patrick McLaren</td>
<td>Bethany Wightman</td>
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<td>Olivia Collins</td>
<td>Emma McLaren</td>
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REMINDERS ....

⇒ If your child is prone to asthma, please ensure you provide an updated Asthma Action Plan to the school as soon as possible. Standardised forms are available from the office if your doctor does not provide one.

⇒ Please remember to complete and return your Contact & Emergency Care Form to the school as a matter of urgency. Thank you to those families who have attended to this promptly.

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club catalogues were sent home yesterday. You may notice a new look with all ages combined in the one catalogue, giving you a greater range. There is a wonderful range of books suitable for all ages.

Orders and payment are due in by this Friday 5th February or you can place your order online using the LOOP system - instructions are on the catalogues.

Thank you for continuing to support our school and encouraging your children to enhance their literacy through the wonderful world of books.

Melissa & Sally Coordinators.

Mrs Kerr
Rhianna Smith
Jack Shannon
Thomas Hunt

Best wishes to all the members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming weeks ......
**Year of Mercy**

The Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. It is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. The Year of Mercy began in December last year and will continue throughout this year. Pope Francis encourages us to think of others who need our mercy, he asks us to forgive people and be there for people who are hurting and need of our help. For more information, go to the CathFamily Monthly emagazine: [http://cathfamily.org/?wysija-page=1&controller=email&action=view&email_id=24&wysijap=subscriptions&user_id=38](http://cathfamily.org/?wysija-page=1&controller=email&action=view&email_id=24&wysijap=subscriptions&user_id=38).

**Monday afternoon Liturgy**

Each Monday afternoon at 2:40 we hold a liturgy in the Joey’s room. The liturgy focuses on the Gospel reading of the week and unpacks it for the students (and parents) giving them practical ways of living the Gospel messages. Parents are very welcome to attend the liturgy which is followed by our weekly awards ceremony.

**The “Called to Serve Mass”** will be celebrated at the Cathedral in Newcastle next Tuesday night. Our teachers join all other school staff across the Diocese on this night to celebrate Catholic education and thank God for the blessings our school communities enjoy and to ask for continued blessings. At this Mass employees in the Diocese are acknowledged for their contribution to Catholic Schools and a number of Monsignor Frank Coolahan Awards are awarded.

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Samantha Kerr has been nominated for Excellence in the First Five Years of Teaching and Mrs Helen Whale for Excellence in Leadership. We wish them well.

Next Tuesday is **Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday)**. This is an old tradition and people used it to prepare for Lent’s fasting; some people cooked all the meat they had. Another custom on this day is to ‘feast’ on pancakes to use up all the supplies of flour and eggs. It is a day of happiness and rejoicing with food.

The following day is **Ash Wednesday** - the beginning of Lent and lasts for forty days. Year K-6 will be attending the parish Mass at 9:15am on Wednesday and you are very welcome to join us.

**Anne Marie Peebles**  
Religious Education Coordinator
Next P&F meeting:
Monday 8th February
4.30pm in the MacKillop Room

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

Good things happen when teachers and parents work together for students. Please come to the P&F meeting on Monday 8 February at 4.30pm. The P&F meeting is a place to discuss the education of our children, the school community and how best to support the school. There is babysitting available in a classroom by one of our lovely teachers. Meetings end at 5.30. Come along. Everyone is Welcome.

Thank you to all that participated in the survey about the P&F meeting’s day and time. The results are in! We will continue to have P&F meetings on the second Monday of each month throughout the school terms at 4.30pm.

Thank you . . .
to the Wightman & Towell families who gave up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus recently.

CANTEEN ROSTER
3 Feb  No canteen - ice blocks for sale
10 Feb  TBA
17 Feb  Pupil Free Day

Please see attached note and consider assisting in our canteen during Term 1

BUS ROSTER
6/7 Feb  Wong family
13/14 Feb  Constable family
20/21 Feb  Hopkins family
27/28 Feb  Hopkins family

The P&F Uniform Shop will be open each Tuesday morning between 8.30 and 9.00am for your uniform needs.

If you have any queries regarding school uniform, please contact De Patterson on 0416 194 501.
P&F Meeting Agenda
Monday 8 February 2016
St Joseph’s Mackillop Room
4.30pm - 5.30pm

- Open Meeting/Prayer
- Attendance
- Apologies
- Confirmation of previous minutes
- Business arising from the previous minutes
- President’s Address
- General business
  - Supper for Opening School Mass and Parent Information Night
  - Working Bee feedback
  - Plans for St Joseph’s garden and grounds in 2016
- Reports:
  Principal’s Report
  Treasurer’s Report
  Canteen Report
  Uniform Shop Report
ST JOSEPH’S Canteen Information...

**WELCOME to Term 1 2016!**

- Our canteen operates each Wednesday of term (unless we are having a special event on another day e.g. Grandparents Day).

- We run a healthy canteen and our menu choices are made up using these guidelines. Our school has a very strict - No Nuts policy.

- Children are able to purchase ice blocks at lunchtime on Wednesday after lunch. Please see the attached price list for ice blocks and drinks. There is no snack food sold at the canteen. All of our new students will have their buddy and/or teacher to help them make their purchases; we would like all students to have a positive canteen experience!

**Here is the procedure:**

- Menus are sent home - please fill these in and attach to a lunch bag (we are trying to reduce waste so a lunchbox / lunch pack or a paper bag is a good option – please no envelopes or zip lock bags as this makes extra work for the volunteers) and return to school on **TUESDAY**. The orders are tallied on Tuesday afternoon and the ingredients are ordered. (If anyone forgets to send their orders in on Tuesday, send them in Wednesday morning and the canteen will endeavor to help out. Sometimes it may not be possible to supply exactly what your child may have ordered).

- On Wednesday the volunteers arrive around 9am. All of the ingredients needed for the day’s menus will have already been delivered. Check through any late orders and start prep and/or cooking. The lunches need to go out at 11.15am, so there is no rush and plenty of time to enjoy a coffee and chat. When the lunches are ready they are put into the classroom baskets and the children will come to collect them.

- Once the lunch baskets have gone, there is a bit of cleaning up and then the kids come to buy (ice blocks). Then we finish off, mop floor and count money etc.

- On most days the great canteen helpers are leaving school around 12 noon. So it’s a great morning out and the children love to see parents at school.

- Mums, Dads and grandparents have helped out in the canteen over the years and really enjoyed their time at our great school. Some volunteers also opt to stay on and help with reading or activities in the afternoon if they have the time.

*We would love for you to join our happy helpful group of wonderful canteen helpers!*

Mel Bates  
Canteen Coordinator  
Ph: 0417 060 381
ST JOSEPH’S Canteen Information...

WELCOME to Term 1 2016!

More ice creams will be available due to change of supplier.

Ice Creams will be sold at lunchtime this Wednesday 3rd Feb

Please fill out and return the form below to school tomorrow indicating when you can help us out on canteen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Varieties</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice Mony freeze pops</td>
<td>Various flavours</td>
<td>$0.60 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice cream tubs</td>
<td>Vanilla</td>
<td>$1.00 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macquarie Valley Juice</td>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>$2.00 each</td>
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<td>Apple &amp; Blackcurrant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moove Milk</td>
<td>Chocolate, Strawberry</td>
<td>$2.00 each</td>
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Dates for Term 1 2016

Wednesday 10th February | Wednesday 16th March
Pupil Free Day 17th February | Wednesday 23rd March
Wednesday 24th February | Wednesday 30th March
Wednesday 2nd March | Wednesday 6th April
Wednesday 9th March

Name: ....................................................................................................

Phone: ....................................................................................................