# March / April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>13/3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Goal Setting meetings</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen 3.30 Lenten Program</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>4.30 P&amp;F meeting</td>
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<td>Parent-Teacher Goal Setting meetings</td>
<td>KIA-ORA MUSIC CAMP</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Goal Setting meetings</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday</td>
<td>EASTER SATURDAY</td>
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<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Touch Football trials</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Goal Setting meetings</td>
<td>6pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>10.00 Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Apex Park</td>
<td>3pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>29/3</td>
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<td>EASTER SUNDAY Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY Public Holiday</td>
<td>Easter Liturgy</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>Polding Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Daylight Saving ends</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>4.30 P&amp;F meeting</td>
<td>Parent-School dinner</td>
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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 11/4/16 - 22/4/16 ~ ANZAC DAY 25/4/16 ~ SCHOOL RESUMES TUESDAY 26TH APRIL 2016**

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### Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy...

To have mercy is to be loving and kind to others. Not just being loving and kind to your family and friends but also to those who you might not know and even those you don’t like.

- Am I willing to forgive others when they have done something wrong to me?
- Am I holding any grudges against anyone right at this minute?

### Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God...

Being pure is like having a clean heart. Like the heart inside of us, it pumps blood and keeps us alive and if something is wrong with our heart we just won’t feel right. Jesus is talking about the place where we think and make decisions...why we do things...and our thoughts. God is asking us to keep our mind, thoughts and decisions positive all the time...thing about these following points for a minute...

- Do I respect myself, created in God’s image?
- Am I always as positive as I could be about the things I’m involved with?
From the Principal . . .

Catholic Schools Week
Witnessing the 2016 student leaders receive their badges at Mass on the weekend was certainly a highlight of Catholic Schools Week. Congratulations to Charles Brazier, Tia Magner, Dylan Turner, Chloe Towell, Nicholas Morgan, Jorji Taaffe, Patrick Magner, Rebeca Keegan and Damian Jamieson. Charles, Dylan, Jorji and Rebecca later travelled to Newcastle with Mrs Peebles to experience the Diocesan CSW Mass. The students loved the experience as you can read in their recount of the event.

As we entered the Cathedral, we were taken aback by the beauty of the building. This was our experience as we entered the Catholic Schools Mass. Mr Ray Collins spoke to us about “I belong, you belong, and we belong”. This is important because it brings the community together to celebrate everything which makes Catholic schools special. All schools from the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle were represented.

During the Mass some students were awarded special awards from the Bishop for practising the Catholic faith throughout their years of schooling.

The Aspire Choir sung throughout the Mass; they all sounded fabulous together.

Thank you to Mrs Peebles for taking us to Newcastle for this special occasion.

By Dylan, Charles, Jorji, and Rebecca.

Enrolments are now being accepted for Kindergarten 2017. Please pass this information on to anyone who may be interested in our school providing quality education to their children.

Creative ideas are flowing after spending Wednesday with our creative director – Anna Kerrigan. She has begun the planning with us for this year’s concert. Mark the 7th September on your calendar. We promise a great performance. The students welcomed Anna back like a long lost friend and their sessions with her were very enjoyable and productive.

Choose Maths professional development focussed on the Numeracy Continuum for teachers last week. We travelled to Denman for this and enjoyed planning strategies for developing skills to enable students to move along in their Maths learning.

Music is on the agenda for 10 of our students who will participate in the Kia-Ora music camp on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. The workshops culminate in a spectacular concert on Friday night. I look forward to being in attendance for that! Thank you to the parents who have made it possible for their students to attend this camp.

Harmony Day will be celebrated on Monday 21st March. The theme this year is We all belong. This follows beautifully from the Catholic Schools Week theme “I belong, You belong, We belong.” Thank you to all the families who have sent back a little information about their family’s ethnic background. We are all enjoying learning about all the places our students are connected to.

Escaping the heat is a priority for many students especially when there is a fun and educational activity happening in the air-conditioned library at lunchtime. The entire Stage 3 class joined Mrs Kerr on Friday to learn to do “Coding”. This was one activity Open Classrooms
Record numbers of parents and friends visited the school for Open Classrooms last week. The guests were able to experience a real lesson and see what types of learning goes on in the regular classroom. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. The students enjoyed your company.

Parish-School Dinner
Calendar clashes forced the postponement of the Parish – School dinner last week and this has now been rescheduled for Monday 4th April. We hope to see you there!
inspired by last week’s Future Schools Conference which Mrs Kerr and I attended in Sydney. Other students are welcome to attend this learning space also. If you have an activity you would like to share at lunchtime, please give us a call at school to discuss it.

**Sports News**
The annual **Cross Country Carnival** is fast approaching and we pray for a bit of a break in the heat to accommodate us on the 24th March. A note went home last Friday with details and called for volunteers to assist on the day. We all enjoy this carnival so much and look forward to sharing the time with you.

**Parents and Friends**
There will be a **campdraft meeting** tomorrow night at the RSL club for anyone interested in helping to organise the horse events at the St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete. This is not a meeting for the fete side but rather the horses only. Please feel free to attend if you think you would be able to help plan.

On behalf of the entire school community, I offer a huge vote of gratitude to Dermot Shannon and Peta Luke for travelling to Newcastle with me last Wednesday night for the Federation’s “How to for P&Fs” **workshop**. We all learned something on the night and look forward to bringing back enthusiasm and commitment as we participate in our students’ education.

A vote of thanks also to Mel Bates for travelling to Muswellbrook to learn more about **healthy canteens**. Mel returned with arms full of free goodies for the school. Yah!

**From the Infants Classroom**

Thank You

..... to **Clare Martin and Associates and the Merriwa Newsagency** for generously allowing us space for our Catholic Schools Week displays.

..... to all the **Infants Classroom families** for showing such an enthusiastic interest in our History unit this term. It has been exciting learning about family ancestries and looking at the wonderful artefacts and photos you have sent in.

Sally, Sam & Anne Marie

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

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In your newsletter this week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Ideas for Literacy</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kia Ora Music Camp</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Campdraft Meeting Notice</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kinder Enrolments 2017</td>
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<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Open Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coding Lessons</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>P&amp;F News</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country Update</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>P&amp;F Notices</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum News</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>RE News</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Service Times</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sports News</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Harmony Day</td>
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### AWARDS

**Congratulations to our award winners of Weeks 6 and 7:**

**Kindergarten**
- **Chad Booth** - great effort during our ‘Clean up Australia Day’ activities
- **Annabelle Hunt** - for great work with days of the week
- **Wills Mulligan** - for sharing great knowledge during time activities
- **Ivanna Gaur** - for great participation during history lessons

**1/2**
- **Arlia Parker** – for great expression during reading activities
- **Peter Hagley** - for outstanding effort in independent reading group activities
- **Grace Booth** - for demonstrating a good understanding of time
- **Alana Telfer** – for a fantastic fireworks artwork

**3/4**
- **Helena Parker** - for outstanding sizzling starters
- **Toby Jamieson** - for his consistent enthusiasm towards maths

**Cody Bates** - for demonstrating a good understanding of how to use the cubes strategy to solve worded maths problems.

**Roy Lawler** - for great participation in class

**5/6**
- **Madelaine Thrift** - for her mature approach to all tasks
- **Nicholas Morgan** - for being a caring and responsible Year 6 buddy
- **Thomas Hunt** - for always being a well-mannered member of our class
- **Rebecca Keegan** - for writing a great persuasive text on whether children should play sport on the weekend.

**Principal’s Awards:**
- **Peter Hagley** - for being a sensitive and well behaved student
- **Axul Hourn** - for taking initiative in lunch time sport organisation
- **Thomas Hunt** - for stepping up to informal leadership roles in the school and for putting 110% effort into his work.

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### EASTER SERVICE TIMES 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mass Centre</th>
<th>Mass/Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denman</td>
<td>Mass of The Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>9.15 AM</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa</td>
<td>Mass of The Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>6.00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa</td>
<td>Ecumenical Stations of the Cross in the Park</td>
<td>11.00 AM</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denman</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>10.00 AM</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassilis</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>10.00 AM</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa</td>
<td>Celebration of the Lord’s Passion</td>
<td>3.00 PM</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denman</td>
<td>Celebration of the Lord’s Passion</td>
<td>3.00 PM</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Denman</td>
<td>Easter Vigil Ceremonies &amp; Mass</td>
<td>6.00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>8.30 AM</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassilis</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>10.15 AM</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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This week see two special feast days: St Patrick’s Feast Day on Thursday and St. Joseph’s Feast Day on Saturday.

**St Patrick’s Day** honours St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. We celebrate St Patrick’s Day on March 17. St Patrick was born in Wales, studied religion to become a priest and then went to Ireland to teach the people about God. He is often seen using the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity - that being Father, Son and Holy Spirit - three persons in one God. There are many wonderful stories about St Patrick. The most famous legend is that he drove the snakes out of Ireland.

**St. Joseph’s Feast Day**

St Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. He was a carpenter, he wasn’t rich but he worked hard to provide for his family, loving and caring for them in all that he did. St Joseph is the patron saint of workers. He also showed great love. Joseph and Mary were not yet married when Joseph found out that Mary had been chosen to be the Mother of God, created to give birth and take care of Jesus. Mary and Jesus would need someone to care for them. That person was St Joseph.

Following these two special feast days we then move into **Holy Week.**

Holy Week is the most important week in the Church’s year. It begins on **Palm Sunday** – this is the day we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and palms were placed on the ground for him to walk over.

On **Holy Thursday** we remember the Washing of the Feet - Jesus washed the feet of the disciples to show them what he expected them to do - not just wash people’s feet but to be of service to others in all that they did. This is re-enacted during Mass on Holy Thursday.

After Jesus washed the feet of the disciples he then shared his **Last Supper**- this was the last meal Jesus shared before he was crucified and is what we re-enact during each Mass we celebrate together.

The most solemn day of Holy Week is **Good Friday** – the day that Jesus died. Three days after Jesus died he rose again. We celebrate this on **Easter Sunday** - this is a great sign of hope and new life for us.

The Easter season does not end until Pentecost - also known as the birthday of the Church – it is the day that the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire, giving them the skills to go out and spread the Good News of Jesus. We invite you to join us at the Saturday Night Mass 6pm on the 15th May for this very special day and to wear the colour red! More information next term.

Below is a great website to read through the story of Easter with your child.
http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Easter/EasterStory.aspx

**Anne Marie Peebles**

**REC**
A sk your child to weigh and measure ingredients for your recipes both in the supermarket and at home.

B anking and interest rates could be discussed; how budgets work at home and in the workplace.

C reate a special reading place in your home with your child’s favourite books within easy reach. Let your child help decorate it with patterns, shapes and designs.

D emonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

E ncourage estimating skills, such as predicting how long a journey will take; how long it takes to set the table; how long it takes to walk the length of your street.

F amily joke journals can be created by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes. Perhaps publish them in a word document.

G ive time to reading aloud to your child, no matter how proficient he or she may be.

H ave a new word each hour for a week to develop your child’s range of words. How about doing this in both your home language and English? Make a game of it.

I nvolve your child in everyday conversations. Ask his or her opinion and reasons for answers.

J oining the Premier’s Reading Challenge really encourages reading, spelling and vocabulary skills.

K eep teenagers of all ages reading and writing. Give them magazines and newspaper articles about things that interest them: sport, music, fashion, TV and computers.
Let your child count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of numeracy in everyday life whenever you can.

Measure things around the home: the difference between a towel, a hand-towel and a face cloth; the size of your dining table; the amount of food for your pet each day and calculate how much it eats in a week.

News and documentaries on TV and in the newspaper are excellent opportunities to develop talking and listening skills by discussing significant issues or events.

Organise a children's book club or board game club with friends in your neighbourhood.

Play games such as Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, dominoes or cards. Using two dice instead of one when playing board games can help with addition and subtraction.

Questions that only require a "yes" or a "no" are boring. Ask ones that need a longer answer or require your child to give reasons for a decision.

Remember that children learn by example. Think how you can set positive models of literacy and numeracy at home. Teach your child how to measure in your home language.

Port offers opportunities for exploring literacy and numeracy. Calculate scores. Write a letter of encouragement to a sportsperson. Listen to sports programs and discuss the scores, angles of shots and probable results. Discuss camera shots and effects.

Turn off the TV for a while and talk to your child in your home language about some of the issues in the TV programs or things that have recently happened in society.

Use the computer as a research and learning tool. There are many sites to help your child practise his or her skills. Use it as a dictionary, a thesaurus or to check spelling.

Viewing films and talking about any issues will greatly expand your child's thinking.

Working out how much time it takes to do things or go somewhere using a timetable will give your child opportunities to calculate.

Exercise your mind like a muscle! Let your child see you calculating things without a calculator.

You are the key to improving your child's literacy and numeracy skills. Place a high priority on them in your home.

Up to your local library with your child and borrow books, magazines and listening tapes.
Next P&F meeting:
Monday 4th April 2016
4.30pm in the MacKillop Room

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

CANTEEN ROSTER
16 Mar  Lisa Smith & Scott Beaven
23 Mar  Sharli Mulligan & Mel Bates
30 Mar  Lisa Smith & Scott Beaven
6 April  Volunteers required

BUS ROSTER
19/20 Mar  Bates family
26/27 Mar  Beaven family
2/3 Apr    Booth family
9/10 Apr   Brazier family

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Scott Beaven, Berna Gabriel, Georgie Fairfull & Mel Bates

St Joseph’s P&F Campdraft and Fete
Meeting Advice
6.30pm
Wednesday 16th March, 2016
Merriwa RSL Club

This meeting is for anyone interested in helping organise the horse section of our event (campdraft and sporting).

Enquiries – contact De Patterson
0416 194501