## May 2016

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<td>Mother's Day Stall</td>
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### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

As Australian pilgrims we travel as one people to celebrate God’s love and mercy at World Youth Day in Krakow.

We pray for our own personal transformation:

**God of mercy, transform me,**

**That my eyes may be merciful,**

**That I may marvel at the beauty of my neighbour’s heart.**

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.
From the Principal . . .

Listening to the rain on the roof as I write this article, I thank God for the happiness and optimism this brings and pray there is enough rain for the farmers to breathe easier again.

**Working Bee**
The working bee scheduled has been postponed . . . one of the priority jobs listed was to water the trees! Thank you to Dermot Shannon, Will Mulligan, Michael Hagley and Mark Whale who came for the indoor component and installed our new computer cabinets.

**In our prayers**
We remember in our prayers the friends and families of our school community who are sick, especially Helen Tindall and Verlie Whale and those who have died recently - Sylvia Cottle, great grandmother of Chloe Towell as well as Ella and Mollie Beaver’s great uncle.

**Good bye and good luck** to the Melmeth family who are leaving our school community to join the Tottenham community. Thank you for the contribution you have made to our school.

**Celebrations**
The **Feast of St Joseph the Worker** was celebrated by our school last Friday. St Joseph obviously is the Patron of our school but also the patron of all workers. Fr John spoke beautifully to the children at Mass on Friday about the great role model Joseph is for us all to work hard, work honestly and to work for the betterment of others.
A shared afternoon tea was enjoyed by all before a sizzling Literacy session. The infants class astounded classroom visitors with their wonderful writing skills. Here is a snapshot:-

Tabloid sports were enjoyed by all the school and the parent visitors. A huge “thank you” goes to all the Stage 3 students for their organisation of the tabloid sports. The sports were well planned for, and the equipment was put out and away in a most responsible manner. Well done.

**Spirit of St Joseph’s**

**Congratulations to Rebecca Keegan** for being awarded the Spirit of St Joseph’s award for Term 1. This award, sponsored by Merriwa Newsagency, recognises Rebecca as a very mature, friendly and caring student who is always happy to be here at school. She has embraced her role as a leader with enthusiasm and dedication, always being ready to lend a helping hand and support others in need. Rebecca works hard in class and gets along well with other students and staff. Rebecca also proudly represents our school at community events such as ANZAC Day and working bees. Congratulations and thank you Rebecca!

**Mother’s Day**
On behalf of the school staff I wish all mothers a very happy day on Sunday. I hope to see many mums and dads at the Mother’s Day breakfast and Liturgy on Friday.

**Sports News**
Sport has always been an important aspect of the curriculum at St Joseph’s and we are proud of the quality opportunities our students have available to them. As well as regular weekly sport lessons the students are able to compete in a vast number of sports at representative level. Annually we have qualified instructors to provide swimming, gymnastics and athletics instruction.

Next week we will commence a six week program of **Athletics** instruction sponsored by the Sporting Schools initiative of the Australian
Government. This series of workshops will be enjoyed by all students and will be just in time for the School Athletics Carnival on the 3rd June.

Damian Jamieson represented our school and the Upper Hunter Region in the Diocesan Touch Football trials last week. Congratulations Damian on your great skill and sportsmanship.

More than 20 students will travel to Tarro next week to compete in the Diocesan Cross Country competition. We wish them all the best.

Here is the promised update on Ava Peel’s competition at the Royal Easter Show last Month. Ava had another very successful event taking out the following awards:-
* 4th open girl rider 6 & under 9
* 3rd led Australian pony gelding under 12.2hh
* 1st ridden Australian pony under 12hh
* 6th pony club pair of riders under 13yrs

Congratulations Ava!

Goal Setting
These are exciting times at St Joseph’s as we all work together to achieve greater levels of achievement for all students. Parent-Student-Teacher goal setting meetings went very well last term with a huge number of parents and students letting me know how useful they found them to be. By next week there will be feedback to you on how we have all performed at assisting the students reach their goals and then new ones will be set.

Professional Development
The Choose Maths program is progressing very well at the moment, assisting our teachers through targeted professional development to provide effective Maths teaching to our students. Professional reading provided at http://calculate.org.au/2016/04/13/problem-problem-solving/ was very worthwhile and parts of it were pertinent to parents as well as teachers as we all work together to raise the learning levels of the students. I have taken strategies in the problem solving article on page 4 directly from this site.

St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete – 2nd July
There will be an information and planning session at the RSL Club next Monday night to start the momentum for our one day of the year fundraising extravaganza. Please come along and enjoy the fun as we plan together for a great day out. Every one has a role to play in helping our school. Please see P&F News for more detail.

Thank You
We are very grateful to Muswellbrook Forest Nursery for the donation of a Lone Pine seedling to plant in our school grounds. These young trees are grown from seed collected from the tree at the Australian War Memorial which itself was grown from original seeds from the Lone Pine sent from Gallipoli. Our school library has a beautiful book about the original lone pine which is a very touching story - well worth the read. We are hoping our tree will grow into a lasting reminder of the lives that were lost in Gallipoli.

Helen Whale

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.

In your newsletter this week:

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Parent – School Partnership in Learning

How can you help your child become better a problem solver in Mathematics?

Visual and Mental Mnemonics
Students often and easily become ‘lost in the detail’ and so many mathematical educators have developed guides and processes to assist students with the ‘unpacking’ of maths problems as well as their solutions, proofs and checks.

1. The CUBES strategy requires students to systematically read, interpret and solve worded questions carefully by:
   - Circling numbers in the text;
   - Underlining the question (i.e., what is being asked of the student);
   - Boxing key maths words (to identify required operation/s);
   - Evaluating the mathematical strategy (by writing a number sentence, equation or mathematical strategy); and
   - Solving and Checking the answer (for example, by applying inverse operations).

A quick Google search on ‘CUBES Problem Solving’ will yield a plethora of posters, online explanations and YouTube guides on applying the CUBES strategy at primary level.

2. ‘Newman’s Prompts’
   *Please read the question to me. If you don’t know a word, leave it out.
   Tell me what the question is asking you to do.
   Tell me how you are going to find the answer.
   Show me what to do to get the answer. “Talk aloud” as you do it, so that I can understand how you are thinking.
   Now, write down your answer to the question.*

Asking these questions to prompt your child can also help parents to diagnose where it is in the problem-solving process that they are ‘coming unstuck’ or making mistakes with written mathematics questions.

3. Multiplicity of Methods
Finally, teaching students to try out a range of methods in attacking a maths problem will enrich their repertoire, encourage resilience, develop all-important logical reasoning skills and demonstrate that there may be more than one way to attack a problem. Problem solving methods in maths can include:
   - Making a list;
   - Simplifying instructions;
   - Looking for a pattern;
   - Drawing a picture;
   - Making a chart or table;
   - Writing an equation;
   - Working backwards;
   - Looking at simpler examples to review the method;
   - Making models;
   - Guessing and checking (‘trial and error’);
   - Collaborating with others…

For each of the above, try working through an example of a maths problem with your students in which each method might be implemented to help derive a solution – then ask them to see whether they can apply a different method to tackle the same problem.
Pentecost

Saturday 14th May we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost which is often called the birthday of the Church. It is the day that the Holy Spirit came amongst the disciples of Jesus and empowered them to go and do the will of God. It is often symbolised by tongues of fire. The disciples were challenged to go out and spread the Good News of Jesus and with the Holy Spirit’s help and guidance, they were able to do this. This is also a challenge for us. Everyone is very welcome to attend Mass at St Anne’s Church at 6pm.

Sacraments

If anyone is interested in being part of the sacramental program this year, please contact Mrs Anne Marie Peebles or call the school office. The program involves guiding children and their families through the Sacraments of Initiation - Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

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

AWARDS

Congratulations to our award winners of Weeks 10, 11 & 1:

Kindergarten
Wills Mulligan - for great work reading his sight words
Dakotah Chin - for trying hard in writing activities
Chad Booth - for excellent marching at the ANZAC day ceremony
Jye Bates - for wonderful expression reciting poetry
Sammi Patterson - for great efforts in forming letters correctly

1/2
Emma McLaren - for a beautiful Easter Artwork
William Luke - for great effort during handwriting lessons
Nate Brown - for good effort writing his song about his favourite things
Jack Patterson - for a great written reflection on ANZAC Day
Rhianna Smith - for a great written reflection on ANZAC Day
Ellie Holland - for a great written reflection on ANZAC Day
Jeremy Hopkins - for a great written reflection on ANZAC Day
Ben Patterson - for great enthusiasm in writing activities
Levi Hourn - for great enthusiasm in writing activities

3/4
Bobby Keegan - for a great effort in his book review
Pia Henderson - for her sound knowledge of the language of chance
Ella Beaven - for representing our school at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Roy Lawler - for representing our school at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Cody Bates - for representing our school at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Bobby Keegan - for representing our school at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Pia Henderson - for representing our school at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Isabelle Davison – for settling beautifully into our classroom
Paddy Wong – for his excellent attitude towards learning

5/6
Amy Redgate - for writing and presenting an excellent informative speech
Jorji Taaffe - for writing and presenting an excellent informative speech
Patrick McLaren - for leading our school with pride at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Rebecca Keegan - for leading our school with pride at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Amy Redgate - for laying a wreath with reverence at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Thomas Hunt - for laying a wreath with reverence at the ANZAC Day ceremony
Will Henderson - for excellent marching at the ANZAC Day ceremony

Playground Champion:
Jack Shannon - for demonstrating great sportsmanship during lunchtime football
Amy Redgate, Olivia Collins, Madelaine Thrift - for getting along well with all students on the playground

Principal’s Awards:
Arfan Isam - for being a very responsible member of the school community
Jack Patterson - for working so hard in the classroom and enjoying learning
Mollie Beaven – Resilience - for looking for and finding solutions to problems
Riley Melmeth – for his contribution to school life at St Joseph’s

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

William Henderson
Ben Patterson
Nicholas Morgan
Arlia Parker
15 April 2016

St Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa
Marquet Street
Merriwa NSW 2329

Dear St Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa

Service NSW Merriwa Agency

Service NSW is committed to making it simpler and easier for the residents of NSW, especially in remote and regional areas, to access more NSW Government services through a single shop front.

As part of this commitment, Service NSW and Upper Hunter Shire Council are working together to provide more government services at the Service NSW Merriwa Agency.

Your Merriwa Agency will allow you to complete transactions including:
- Driver licences
- Vehicle registration renewals
- Driver testing
- Boating licences and registrations
- Applications for Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates
- Applications for contractor licences
- Seniors Cards
- with more to come.

The Merriwa Agency is located at Upper Hunter Shire Council, 34 – 40 Vennacher Street, Merriwa and is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

For more information about Service NSW or the Merriwa Agency, visit service.nsw.gov.au, call 13 77 88 or download the mobile app.

Yours sincerely

Service NSW

How account holders can apply
It takes just two minutes to apply online and once submitted the rebate application begins processing. Applying online can also be done from mobile, internet-enabled devices including smart phones and tablets.

The application submission deadline is 11pm, Thursday 16 June 2016.

More information is available from the Family Energy Rebate website, including eligibility criteria, application forms and frequently asked questions.

Other energy rebates
DHS Health Care Card holders (issued by the Department of Human Services) may also be eligible for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Visit the Rebates webpage for more information.

NSW families with dependent children who may be eligible to apply for the 2015-16 Family Energy Rebate of up to $150.

The Family Energy Rebate is one of a number of NSW Government energy assistance programs to help eligible households reduce the impact of energy costs.
St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete - July 2, 2016

We are really excited about running this day again in 2016. There are a few things to bring to your attention.

- We will have a **BIG raffle** as part of this event.
  - some great prizes have already been donated by wonderful families. Thank you very much to everyone that has already donated.
  - we would love some additional donations. If you have any prize worthy items to donate please drop them off at the school within the next week. Items to be donated could include:-
    - Gift Cards
    - Toys
    - New house hold items

- All P&F meetings scheduled this term will be cancelled and P&F focus will be on this valuable fundraising event, through dedicated St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete meetings until the big day, ensuring we are running it the very best we can.
  - This means less meeting time for you
  - Each meeting will have a strict agenda and will run for 1 x hour only
  - The next meeting is **Monday 9th May** at 6pm in the RSL club. The room will be divided into Campdraft meeting and fete meeting with a short overall meeting at some point.

We would love to have your support and thoughts at these meetings. Please feel free to contact the committee with any questions.

Peter Holland is the Overall Campdraft and Fete Coordinator and De Patterson is the Campdraft Coordinator. Your P&F executive is also contactable.
A reminder that if you have second hand uniforms that your children have outgrown, we would love your donations for the uniform shop. (Please do not send them in to Trinity Markets as they do not stock them).

We would particularly love donations of 2nd hand sports uniforms as these are always a highly sought after item.

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.

Mother’s Day Stall

This Thursday 5th May, your children will have the opportunity to purchase a special gift for their wonderful mums at our Mother’s Day stall.

Kylie and Vic have organised a lovely assortment of gifts, ranging in price from $1 to $5.

Please send in some money with your child/ren so that they may find a special gift to express their love and thanks to the special mums. Extra gifts will be available if they would also like to buy something for grandma.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 3 of Book Club was sent home yesterday. As always, there is a wonderful range of books suitable for all ages.

Orders and payment are due in by next Monday 9th May 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.
Keeping Faith through Difficult Times

Tinah De Luca-Tohi is a mother of eleven children.

She knows how hard it is to “keep the faith” during difficult times. Three years ago she was told her son had an incurable brain disease and for the following eighteen months watched his slow decline.

Tinah has been called to share her journey. Her story will inspire you and touch your hearts.

Please join us for this very special evening.

WHEN: Wednesday, 11th May
WHERE: Victor Peters Suite - Adjacent to Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle
TIME: 6.30pm
RSVP: Cath Garrett-Jones - 4979 1303

Delicious supper provided.
Donations gratefully accepted at the door for charity.