### May / June 2016

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**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:

*Transform me, O God,*
*That my ears may be merciful,*
*That I may be attentive to those in need.*

*Transform me, O God,*
*That my tongue may be merciful,*
*That all I proclaim is in love and peace.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.
Catholic schools are ‘Vivid Everyday’!
‘Vivid’ very much captures the nature of our schools: authentic, bold and spirited, and yet, every day, dependable and consistent. Catholic schools are at once vibrant and dynamic, yet strong and grounded communities.

Catholic schools offer a place where passionate teachers inspire confidence and facilitate academic excellence, where faith in God is lived in community, where partnerships with parents are nourished and where contemporary learning opens minds to a vivid future.

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2017 now due
The staffing levels for 2017 are being planned now. It is really important that we give the CSO accurate numbers of our new Kinder enrolments as soon as possible. If you know anyone who may be interested in quality education at St Joseph’s - our wonderful community school in Merriwa, please let me know so that I can send an information pack.

I would do anything to keep your children safe! Would you do the same?
Keeping our children safe at all times is of critical importance to us all. Thank you for doing your part by filling in the Working with Children Check paper work which was sent home last Thursday. You will not be required to do this again for 5 years. If you have other family members who would like to volunteer at school or attend school excursions please ask us and we will send a note home for them as well.

Teachers and teacher assistants as well as clerical staff undergo regular Child protection courses. Half of our staff had their refresher training last week and the other half will do theirs in August. It is great to know that as a school we have very good procedures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and the staff.

Congratulations to all our Year 3 and Year 5 students who sat NAPLAN last week.
The teachers and I were most impressed with the maturity shown by the students during the sessions and how hard they worked. We all understand that the test measures one aspect of the child’s whole learning at school and is not the measure of the person but their competence at that particular strand of learning on that particular day.

PD/H/PE News
Bullying continues to be a problem affecting both children and adults all over the world. It is not something limited to a particular school or a particular socio-economic class or a particular race of people. At St Joseph’s school we work hard each and every day to develop the students’ self-esteem and resilience skills, as well as tolerance and acceptance of differences, so that they are able to develop positive social relationships. On Tuesday in Week 5 we will once again host an anti-bullying day where the students will attend a live performance targeting the evils of bullying and highlighting some strategies to prevent becoming a victim to bullying.

Sport is high on the agenda at St Joseph’s. Our guest athletics coach visiting on Wednesdays this term has been providing advanced training to all children in the techniques necessary for Athletics Track and Field. The students have particularly enjoyed discus and shot put skill sessions so far. The St Joseph’s Athletics Carnival will be held on the 3rd June. The students are keenly looking forward to this competitive day where they can demonstrate their burgeoning skills. Students who qualify will then go on to regional level where they will compete against the best athletes from St Mary’s Scone, St Catherine’s Singleton, St James Muswellbrook and St Joseph’s Denman.

19 Cross country champions from our school will be competing against the best in the diocese of Maitland Newcastle this week at Tarro. We wish them all the best and hope their training pays dividends. We will give a report on this in the next newsletter.

This Friday will be an engaging one for the students in Years 3-6 as they participate once again in the Rugby League clinic. All our girls and boys enjoy this opportunity to practise good ball handling skills and learn a few tricks of the trade from the coaches present.
National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is on Friday 20 May 2016. Now in its 17th year, it is a campaign and annual event when all primary school children, their parents and carers are encouraged to walk and commute regularly and safely to school. It is a community event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

Australian children are becoming less active. One substantial contributor is the decline in walking and/or taking public transport to school. Children who are regularly physically active are healthier, perform better academically and less likely to be obese or overweight, which can lead to the long-term and costly risks of heart disease and diabetes etc.. Walking regularly is the best exercise because you can build it into your daily routine.

The Objectives of National Walk Safely to School Day are:
• To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children
• To promote the health benefits of walking and create regular walking habits
• To help children develop vital road crossing skills and ensure children up to the age of 10 years hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road
• To help children develop the vital road crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians
• To reduce car dependency and traffic congestion
• To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.

For the sake of our health and the health of our world, let’s all make an effort to walk to school on Friday!

The Creative Arts News

The Creative Arts Curriculum is being supported beautifully at St Joseph’s with a number of very exciting events coming up.

• An excursion to Dubbo will keep the Infants Class (K-2) bright eyed and very excited as they attend a live performance of the 52 Storey Treehouse. The children have been reading this series in class over the past 12 months and are very excited to see the play. Whilst in Dubbo the students will also visit the Western Plains cultural centre. This excursion will complement the Creative Arts Curriculum very well.
• Anna and Lauren, our two Performing Arts instructors will return next week to recommence our preparations for this year’s School Performance. During this two day visit, the teachers and students will work with Anna to complete the script and choose music to suit and Lauren will then work with us to choreograph the dance routines. Anna and Lauren are very involved with the Diocesan ASPIRE program which provides the opportunity for students in our Diocesan schools to take part in a major performance each year at the Civic Theatre in Newcastle. Students Dance, act, sing, create, play musical instruments, stage manage etc in this production. We have one ex-student from our school (Eliza Peebles), participating in the ASPIRE program this year and St Joseph’s at Aberdeen has 15 students taking part. This is a very exciting future opportunity for our students.

Our big fundraising day is just 7 weeks away and we are excited. Please mark the St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete Day in your diaries - Saturday 2nd July. See the joint School and P&F letter attached to this newsletter for more details.

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.
2016
19th Annual
Special Needs Mass

Come to the Table

St James’ Primary School Muswellbrook
together with Catholic schools of the Upper Hunter region and
the Federation of P & F Associations, Special Needs Working Party
Warmly welcome all to join with
principals, teachers, school staff and families and parishioners to
celebrate our Annual Special Needs Mass.

Tuesday 30 August, 2016 at 7pm
St James’ Catholic Church
65 Brook Street
MUSWELLBROOK

No RSVP required, however for further details, please contact:
Cath Garrett-Jones, Parent Liaison and Resource Officer.
P 4970 1303 E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au
Last Saturday night we celebrated Pentecost. It was a wonderful celebration and thank you to the students who attended and helped with the reflection. Many great comments were received and it was wonderful to see your excitement as you participated. Thank you also to the parents who came along. What a great way to celebrate the birthday of the Church with cake at the conclusion!

This Friday 20th May the Parish will be holding a Street Stall - donations of saleable goods and assistance on the day would be welcome and very much appreciated. Please contact Kay Burgess if you are able to assist.

Included are some of our prayers we say at school

**St Joseph's School Morning Prayer**

**St Joseph's School Afternoon Prayer**
Dear Lord, We thank you for this day And for all the things you have given us. Please help us have a safe trip home. Amen.

**Our Father**
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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**RE NEWS**

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### PARENTS

Has your child’s private tutor or coach had a Working With Children Check?


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### People who work with my kids

Anyone who works face-to-face with your child must have a Working With Children Check clearance (or a completed application in progress), unless they qualify for an exemption. It does not matter whether they are paid, volunteering or self-employed.

This includes people that you may personally engage to work directly with your children, such as:

- au pairs and nannies (except privately arranged babysitting)
- tutors
- sporting coaches
- music teachers

### Verify clearances online

If you directly engage a person in child-related work, you need to verify their Working With Children Check number online before they commence work.

The process to verify a person online is quick and simple:

- Visit the verification page for individuals
- Enter your details in the form
- Enter in the workers family name, birth date, Working With Children Check number or Application number.
- Click the Submit button at the bottom-right of the page
- You will receive an email (or a letter if you do not provide an email address) with the status of that person’s Working With Children Check (e.g., “Cleared”, “Barred” or “Not found”).
- Visit the Employer Verification page to see what each possible status means

Please note if a person is barred, interim barred or not found then you cannot engage them in child-related work.
Once again we have booked seats for the ASPIRE production titled 'Marvin McRae' written and produced by Anna Kerrigan who also writes and produces our school production. This year’s production is reported to be the best ever. The main character Marvin struggles to fit in, he has an imaginary friend Gus who causes all types of mischief. The story is woven together with a collection of upbeat songs from across the decades, colour, outstanding dancers, actors, singers and musicians who are all students from the Diocese. St Joseph’s Merriwa students from Years 3-6 will be attending the performance on Friday 5th August and we also have tickets for parents to join us. So save the date and more information will follow shortly.

Anne Marie Peebles
Dear Parents

Each year our school has one major fundraiser – the St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete day. The primary purpose of this day is to raise as much money as we can to support the educational program of our school over the next 12 months. The Parents and Friends Association donates much needed funds and resources each year to ensure our children are gaining the very best school experiences possible.

You may ask why we do a campdraft. It is simple…it is the best way we have seen to get a lot of money from outside the community. We do not have to participate in the campdraft, we just have to organise it for others to pay to participate in! The fete side is another way of raising funds which has a more social side to it. Many parents prefer to help out with this side as they do not wish to work with horses. There truly is somewhere for everyone to be involved.

Every parent is asked to make a very special effort to contribute to this one event each year. Many, many parents have volunteered their help in the past and we thank you most sincerely. Your contribution this year can be in the following areas:

- Cook for the cake stall,
- work on the campdraft (experience essential)
- work in Ring 2 horse events (experience essential)
- work in canteen
- face painting
- work in cake stall
- Work in the kiddies corner, entertaining our helpers’ kids
- Assist with fete activities
- Help with setting up on Friday
- Help with packing up Saturday afternoon/Sunday morning

If other commitments mean you can’t make it on the day, there are options for you to assist:

- cook for the cake stall
- donate raffle prizes
- make a financial donation
- sponsor the event
- donate potted plants
- donate to book stall
- help with setting up on the Friday

If you are aware of any potential sponsors for the event please contact Tash Taaffe with details on 0458579015.

Please think about your contribution to this great fundraiser. Our kids will be the winners! The Campdraft and Fete committee will be in touch with you soon.

Kind regards
Helen Whale
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
Chad Booth – for his dedication to spelling activities
Annabelle Hunt – for her mathematical description of 3D objects
Ivanna Gaur – for identifying numbers from 1-10 successfully
Wills Mulligan – for successfully identifying rhyming words

1/2
Ellie Holland – for demonstrating great leadership skills when working in collaboration groups
Jack Patterson – for his inquiring questions asked during History lessons
Arlia Parker – for great work on identifying the way that we celebrate special occasions
Alana Telfer – for confidence in sounding out words when writing
William Collins – for using similes in his writing when building the tension

3/4
Ella Beaven – for confidently using mental strategies to solve 2-digit addition and subtraction problems
Roy Lawler – for excellent identification of hazards around the home
Pia Henderson – for confidence in sounding out unfamiliar words
Helena Parker – for great strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems

5/6
Madelaine Thrift – for wonderful characterisation work in English
Chloe Towell – for demonstrating a great understanding of the healthy eating guidelines in PDHPE
Thomas Hunt – for excellent touch football skills in Sport
Dylan Turner – for beginning the term with a wonderful work ethic
William Henderson – for a great work ethic
Jorji Taaffe – for excellent work across all facets of English

Playground Champion:
Claudia Paterson – for always including others on the playground
Wills Mulligan – for being a thoughtful member of our school community

Principal’s Awards:
Olivia Collins: For making a quiet but immensely positive contribution to the culture and life of her class and our school.
Brion Booth: For fixing our flag.
Alana Telfer – for sharing her learning with others
William Collins – for trying so hard to write very descriptive stories.

Scholastic Book Fair
Open before & after school until next Wednesday 25th May in the MacKillop Room. Huge assortment of books, posters and stationery items. Come in and browse for some great gifts!

Fiona Tomy
Arlia Parker
William Henderson
Lula Peebles
Mrs Peebles
St. Joseph's P&F Association

Next P&F meeting is a Campdraft/Fete Meeting
Monday 1st June 2016
6.00pm at the Merriwa RSL

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

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

St. Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete - July 2, 2016

It is that time of year again where we all get together for the school's major fundraiser of the year. This year is no different. This event raises around $200.00 per child, which for a small school and town is amazing.

An event like this takes a lot of time and effort to organise, and without the help of teachers, parents and friends would be a huge struggle. Already there are dedicated people preparing the paperwork and the events for the day. But what we do need is help on the day. Whether it is in the canteen, helping at the fete or just doing what you can.

We aren't asking for you to give up the whole day in helping. We are after people to donate a few hours of their time to help us have an awesome day and raise funds for projects for our great little school.

The Campdraft, fete and market stall is being held on the 2nd of July at the Merriwa Showground. If you can help on the day please contact the school with your details and what you can help with, and the coordinator for that section will get back to you.

This is a fun day for everyone, and with many hands comes light work. This way we all enjoy the event. As I said earlier, many have already donated time to make this a worthwhile day. So please help us. Currently the Campdraft committee is going through all the registrations. The Fete is well and truly in the advance stages of being organised and the market stalls are coming together as well. We also have some great prizes kindly donated for the raffle. We will be sending tickets home soon. After the success of the pig kissing last year, it's back along with other competitions for all children to be a part of. We are hoping this will be bigger and better than last year, which was the best so far.

So keep the 2nd July in your calendar, and think - ‘where can I help on the day?’

On behalf of all organisers. Thank you.

Peter Holland
Coordinator
DEAR PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES,

This weekend, the Catholic Schools Office in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is, for the first time, embarking on a promotional campaign to celebrate what our schools offer: Catholic schools are ‘Vivid Everyday’!

The promotion is built around Catholic schools as being ‘Vivid Everyday’. ‘Vivid’ very much captures the nature of our schools: authentic, bold and spirited, and yet, every day, dependable and consistent. Catholic schools are at once vibrant and dynamic, yet strong and grounded communities.

Catholic schools offer a place where passionate teachers inspire confidence and facilitate academic excellence, where faith in God is lived in community, where partnerships with parents are nourished and where contemporary learning opens minds to a vivid future.

The campaign will run across all areas of the diocese and will feature some of our students, teachers, staff, parents, principals, parishioners and Bishop Bill across a variety of media including TV, radio, digital advertisements, print advertisements, buses, billboards and more. The main part of the campaign will run for approximately 2 months.

The aim of this campaign is to showcase what Catholic schools stand for and celebrate what we nurture and achieve in students. We want to have you and the thousands of families and staff currently within Catholic schools confirmed in their choice of schooling. We want to promote the qualities and values of Catholic education to families considering their choices in education and, more broadly, to highlight why more families are choosing a Catholic education for their children.

The leadership team at the Catholic Schools Office is very excited to share what Catholic schools stand for within the local community. This is a very exciting time for Catholic schools as the system is also moving through a phase of significant development and expansion.

Last year we announced that two new high schools would be built in Chisholm and Medowie (to open in 2018 and 2020 respectively) and expansion would also take place from 2018 at St Joseph’s Lochinvar and St Mary’s Gateshead (from years 7-10, to 7-12).
The ‘Vivid Everyday’ campaign is just the beginning of our celebrating the very exciting and imminent ‘Vivid Future’ of Catholic education in the Hunter and Manning regions.

I invite you to look out for the advertisements (starting on Sunday evening’s NBN news) and meet just some of the faces of Catholic education in our region, which represent our larger Catholic community and capture the essence of Catholic schools – ‘Vivid Everyday’.

For more information, please visit mn.catholic.edu.au/vivid

RAY COLLINS
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND–NEWCASTLE
Diocesan Redevelopment Project
Cathedral Street
Maitland

If you receive an email copy of the newsletter, you will notice attached two documents:

- A letter from Bishop William Wright regarding the redevelopment of St John’s Chapel and Cathedral Street precinct in Maitland
- Historical Snapshot - St John’s Cathedral precinct

A brochure outlining this project has also been sent home to all families today.

If you only receive a paper copy of the newsletter, the above two documents are available for viewing on the P&F noticeboard outside the school library.