**June / July 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>13/6</td>
<td>14/6</td>
<td>15/6</td>
<td>16/6</td>
<td>17/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>Regional Spelling Bee (Merriwa) 6PM</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>Fruit &amp; Veg workshop 1:30-3:00pm</td>
<td>3:30pm Sacramental Meeting</td>
<td>School disco (more info soon!)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm UHCM Concert</td>
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<td>NSWCPS Cross Country C'ships</td>
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<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>19/6</td>
<td>20/6</td>
<td>21/6</td>
<td>22/6</td>
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<td>24/6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>Reports home</td>
<td>3/4 Excursion Dubbo Zoo</td>
<td>25/6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.30pm Sacramental Meeting</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>26/6</td>
<td>27/6</td>
<td>28/6</td>
<td>29/6</td>
<td>30/6</td>
<td>1/7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Vinnies Day</td>
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<td>Campdraft &amp; Fete</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mass 6.00pm</td>
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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 4/7/16 - 15/7/16.** Students return Tuesday 19th July 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>17/7</td>
<td>18/7</td>
<td>19/7</td>
<td>20/7</td>
<td>21/7</td>
<td>22/7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>23/7</td>
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</tbody>
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**Reflection**

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 heart may be merciful,*
> *Ever open to the joy of your presence.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

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

Just 3 weeks to go….. The Annual St Joseph’s Campdraft and Fete day, Saturday 2nd July at the Merriwa Showground. We need all the parents in our school community to show their great support for the school and make this one fundraiser a year a great success. This event attracts people from all over the state to ride in the much acclaimed Junior Campdraft and for everyone in Merriwa to enjoy a good old fashioned fetes day. This year there are sadly so many other events clashing, including election day, so we need all our community to help it work. Making cakes, buying cakes, books, nik naks, working on the canteen or the fun activities, spreading the publicity around your friends and acquaintances…it is all there for you, multiple opportunities for you to help our school. See you there!

A very warm invitation is extended to all the community to join us on Saturday 2nd July for a family fun day out at St Joseph’s Campdraft and fete. There truly is something for everyone!

Congratulations to our wonderful teachers, students and parents at St Joseph’s Primary school Merriwa. We have so much to celebrate. If you ever wonder what difference our school makes in the lives of your child keep reading!

“Best School Group Ever”: comments from bus drivers, camp coordinators and venue operators alike at recent excursions our children have been on. I accompanied Miss Foran on the Stage 3 excursion for 3 days in Dubbo. What an absolutely delightful time I had. The students were, without exception, a great credit to their school and their families. Thank you to Mr Richard Magner for accompanying us on the excursion. Your company and assistance was invaluable.

The Festival Parade was again wonderfully supported by our students, teachers and families. I felt very proud marching along Bettington Street with all our little “sheep.” The excitement of the children was palpable and the tradition of school involvement in this way will be engraved on their memories forever. Congratulations to all involved, as “Josie” led us to first place in the float section of the parade!

Neville and Leanne Hook continue to be proud sponsors of our school and we thank them for allowing us to dress their window with our award winning display - “Where are the green sheep?” Thanks to Melissa Collins and Tanya Ninness for the coordination of this great display. Thanks to Vic Shannon for your help setting the display up. It was wonderful to see the display incorporate some of the fabulous colonial model huts made by Stage 3 students in their studies of Australian Colonial History.

Curiosity and excitement peaked as all children at St Joseph’s participated in The Questacon Science Show last week. The Shell Questacon Science Circus is a major outreach programme from Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra. This Science Circus experience is designed to stimulate and challenge students to explore science and technology for themselves. It included an exciting and interactive presentation covering aspects of science in everyday life.

It is very important to our future world that students have a keen interest in studying Science and this experience goes towards stimulating this interest.

The creative talents of many were evident in our Festival of Fleeces Window display in the Merriwa Newsagency window.
St Joseph’s Merriwa will host the Upper Hunter Regional Catholic Schools Spelling Bee this Tuesday evening. Students from Catholic Schools in Denman, Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton will compete for the Regional Spelling Champion honours. St Joseph’s School Merriwa will be ably represented by Pater Hagley, Jack Shannon and Jorji Taaffe. On the same evening many of our students will perform in the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music concert. Year 6 Student - Jorji Taaffe will be busy at both events. Well done to all the students involved in each event. We are very proud of the effort you have put into preparing yourselves.

The teachers are in the process of preparing student data to report to parents on the achievements of their children. These reports will be sent home with your child by Monday the 20th June. There will be formal interviews with parents, students and teachers on the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of the last week of term. Please fill in a timeslot on the form attached to this newsletter. When parents and teachers work together to assist students to reach their goals, maximum learning can be achieved by all students.

The Taronga Park Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo will be visited by a large group of Homo sapiens from St Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa, on Friday 24th June. The Stage 2 group will be accompanied by Miss Farrow and many parents. We look forward to hearing these students’ reports afterwards. This particular excursion is all about Maths.

Congratulations to all students who took part in the school Athletics Carnival and to all the parents and grandparents who assisted the teachers on the day. It was a wonderful day where students participated to the best of their ability to display their athletic prowess. We were pleased with the skills gained over the 6 weeks of training that had preceded the carnival, with athletics coach - Nikky Western.

Congratulations to St Anne’s Team members for their victory on the day!!!

The following students were determined School Age Champions for 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chad Booth</td>
<td>Ivaana Gaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Archie Constable</td>
<td>Annabelle Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ben Patterson</td>
<td>Alana Telfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aidan Hunt</td>
<td>Grace Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cody Bates</td>
<td>Darcy Taaffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas Hunt</td>
<td>Amy Redgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nicholas Morgan</td>
<td>Jorji Taaffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Charles Brazier</td>
<td>Tia Magner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A group of athletes will compete at Regional level on Friday 24th June. These students will have received their forms and need to return these to Miss Foran as soon as possible.

THANK YOU: Our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs Christine Bridge (Grandmother of Emily and Madelaine for her donation to the school of a Kindergarten walking rope. This is a great idea for keeping infants students all together and safe when walking especially in their early school days.
Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop

Date: Thursday 16th June, 2016
Time: 1:30pm until 3:00pm
Venue: St. Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This **free workshop** run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

- Save time and money making healthy meals
- Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters
- Get a free recipe book simply by attending

**Don’t miss out** – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than 10/06/16 by:

- putting your name on the registration list at playgroup
- emailing eatittobeatit@nswcc.org.au
- or phoning (02) 4923 0704

Eat It To Beat It
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.

AWARDS

Congratulations to our award winners of Weeks 6 & 7:

Kindergarten
Wills Mulligan - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Annabelle Hunt - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Chad Booth – for identifying his favourite part of the Creation Story
Ivanna Gaur – for recognising that dots on dice represent numbers

1/2
Peter Hagley - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Archie Constable - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Claudia Patterson - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Rhianna Smith - for an outstanding effort in the Spelling Bee
Bethany Wightman – her consistent approach to handwriting lessons
Grace Booth – for continually demonstrating independent skills in all areas of learning

3/4
Toby Jamieson - for his sound understanding of direct and indirect speech
Darcy Taaffe - for her great poster about the Sacrament of Confirmation
Cody Bates- for working hard on his narrative
Ava Peel- For her knowledge of her multiplication facts

5/6
Charles Brazier - for an excellent early settler’s hut
Jacob Bridges - for a great speech on the early settlers
Nicholas Morgan - for a fantastic early settler’s hut

Playground Champion:
Lula Peebles - for always including others in handball

Principal’s Awards:
Tia Magner - displaying a commendable effort to increase skills in all areas
Jorji Taaffe - very well developed spelling strategies
Patrick Magner: For being a super helper on Camp.
Charles Brazier: For being a super helper on Camp.
Jacob Bridges: For being a super helper on Camp.
The process of reporting and providing meaningful feedback to students and parents is an integral part of teaching and learning. Reporting opportunities provide information, both formally and informally, about the process of student learning and achievement. The reporting process should seek to meet the reporting requirements of parents and teachers whilst maintaining the dignity and respect for the child and the integrity of the curriculum. Schools use a variety of ways to report to parents about student achievement during the year including parent/teacher meetings, discussion about work samples and interviews, as well as written student reports.

In addition to the written report from the school, parents also receive reports on their child’s achievement in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 through the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

Since 2006, Student Reports have complied with Commonwealth and State Government requirements as part of funding regulations. This Requirement was carried over and restated in the Education Act 2013. In response to Government requirements, a Report for primary schools, from Years 1-6, has been developed by the Catholic Schools Office and is used by all diocesan primary schools. The Report contains a common grade scale A-E as detailed below and also includes information about learning habits and social development.

Students in Kindergarten classes receive a report without an A – E grade. A Report has been developed by the Catholic Schools Office in relation to a student’s progress, learning habits and social development.

Diocesan secondary schools 7-10 have developed their own reports to address these requirements which contain A - E grades.

As part of Commonwealth requirements about student reporting, a written Report is provided by schools twice a year that summarises student progress. The Report includes comments in plain English about a student’s achievements and identify some areas where she/he may need help, and how she/he can improve. The Report also provides information about a student’s work and learning habits and social development. A Report about a student’s progress is confidential.

The written Report includes an overall achievement level for all of the Key Learning Areas or courses against state-wide syllabus standards based on the expected learning outcomes for students using a common grade scale A to E (see below). This common grade scale is used in all schools in NSW, and the descriptions of the grades are consistent with all schools in NSW from Year 1 to Year 10. At any time in a stage teachers can compare student achievement with the standards represented by each grade; make an on-balance professional judgement and give the appropriate grade. When reporting grades before the end of a stage, teachers need to consider the knowledge and skills covered up to that point in time, give the grade that best matches the standard achieved so far. The full range of grades (A-E) can be awarded at any point in the course or stage. The allocation of a grade is based on a collection of a student’s work that takes into account what has been covered to date. Teachers weigh up the assessment information they have collected for each student up to that point in time. This information will come from both formal assessment activities and informal observations, and will be built up over time and in different situations. Teachers can then compare their students’ achievements with the standards represented by each grade, and make an on-balance professional judgement about the grade (A-E) that is most appropriate to summarise each student’s achievement. An on-balance judgement does not just focus on a single piece of work. BOS Assessment Resource Centre (ARC)

A comparison of a student’s achievement with that of other students in the same Year group is available from the school on request.
The written Report is followed by an interview opportunity for parents to discuss their child’s progress. Schools should provide parents with an interview schedule mid-year and at the end of year for both primary and secondary schools.

Students with special learning needs have the opportunity to receive this Report with A-E grades, or this Report with the addition of information through the Individual Plan (IP) which indicates progress against specific learning goals, or receiving a Report based on the IP without A-E grades. Parents are invited to speak to their child’s teacher about which Report they would like to receive regarding their child’s progress.

From 2014, new NSW Syllabuses incorporating the Australian Curriculum in Years K-10 have been progressively implemented. The diocesan Reports will reflect the necessary changes to KLAs as per new Syllabuses.

**Common Grade Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The student has extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.</td>
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</table>
Best wishes to all the members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming weeks …..

St. Joseph's P&F Association

Next P&F meeting is a Campdraft/Fete Meeting

Monday 20th June 2016

6.00pm at the Merriwa RSL

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

P & F would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who helped at the athletics carnival and in the canteen recently.

CANTEEN ROSTER

Volunteers are desperately needed for the remaining weeks of term. Please contact Mel Bates 0417 060381 if you can assist.

BUS ROSTER

18/19 June  
Hunt family

25/26 June  
Isam/Shamsuzzaman family

2/3 July  
Jamieson family

23/24 Jul  
Keegan family
A Blokes Only BBQ with

BRENDAN FEVOLA

From the lush, pampered lawns of the MCG, to the scruffy tangle of the African bush, Brendan Fevola seems to thrive in a variety of environments. Indeed, the Coleman Medal Winner has not only carved out a successful AFL career, but was this year’s winner of, ‘I’m a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here’. Blokes are invited to have a barbecue with Fevola and to hear him speak about the highs and lows of his life, both on and off the field.

He will share his plans for the future and how he has turned his life around after being involved in a number of controversial off-field incidents, predominantly involving alcohol and gambling, which eventually led to the end of his AFL career, the breakdown of his marriage, the loss of his family and long periods of depression.

EVENT DETAILS

What: A Blokes Only Barbecue with Brendan Fevola
Where: Singleton Diggers, York Street, Singleton
Time: 12 noon - 2pm
Date: Sunday 19 June 2016
Cost: FREE
RSVP: Spaces are limited and RSVP is essential. To secure your attendance you must RSVP to esnedden@catholiccare.org.au on or before Monday 13 June 2016.

For more information visit www.catholiccare.org.au or call 4979 1120
Facebook/CatholicCareHM Twitter/@CatholicCareHM