August / September 2016

**Week 6**
- **21/8**
  - 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly
  - 3.30pm Sacrament Mtg
  - Upper Hunter Maths Bee Muswellbrook
  - Choose Maths for Parents 6.30-8.30

- **22/8**
  - Middle Schools Day Years 5-6 Aberdeen

**Week 7**
- **28/8**
  - Mass 8.30am Aberdeen
  - 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly
  - 3.30pm Sacrament Mtg

**Week 8**
- **4/9**
  - 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly
  - 9.30-11.30 Create & Grow Playgroup
  - 3.30pm Sacrament Mtg
  - 6pm Campdraft & Fete wrap-up mtg

**Week 9**
- **11/9**
  - Mass 8.30am
  - 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly
  - 3.30pm Sacrament Mtg
  - 4.30pm P&F Meeting

- **12/9**
  - Library - Sport Canteen
  - 9.30 Book Week Parade
  - Back Yard League Yrs 3-6

- **13/9**
  - Library - Sport Canteen

**Week 10**
- **18/9**
  - Library - Sport Canteen
  - NAIDOC activities

**Reflection**

Trust in the Lord because the Lord will not disappoint you!
He never disappoints:
He is a good friend, always at our side.
Dear families, always live life with faith and simplicity like the Holy Family of Nazareth.
May the joy and peace of the Lord be always with you.

Pope Francis
From the Principal . . .

The past few weeks has seen some significant highs and lows for members of our school community. It is very important that we give our children the opportunity to witness how we process the highs and lows of life because they learn from our real life example. Several years ago I discussed with a parent her view that children should be sheltered from the concept of death, because she believed it would cause children to lose their childish innocence. Having experienced death in our school community recently I have been very heartened by the response of the school community and the role modelling that all our children have received. We cannot promise our children that they will never experience the death of a loved one, but we can show them how to reach out to support and comfort those who do experience it. This gives us all a sense of hope and optimism for a future over which we cannot have complete control. God’s love is demonstrated through the actions of each of us. We have indeed seen the compassionate and generous face of God, as people have quietly assisted in so many wonderful ways.

Please remember Tim Lawler in your prayers as he has been very ill lately. We pray that Tim’s health is restored and his family enjoys the love and laughter that they are accustomed to soon. We continue to keep Tim’s dad Peter, in our prayers also. We also continue to pray for Jodie Magner’s dad who is in hospital at present.

Remember to celebrate the good things in life and there are plenty. On a personal note, I celebrated the birth of my first grandchild last week. This has certainly brought a new perspective and a great joy to our life. We are also delighted to see Marie Scott back at school after her recent illness. We have missed you and hope your recovery continues.

2016 NAPLAN results are very pleasing. There was very strong growth from Year 3 to Year 5 and also from Year 5 to Year 7. The greatest results this year were in the area of Numeracy. We are so pleased to see that Numeracy in both Years 3 and 5 has increased dramatically and that in Year 3 it has surpassed both State and diocesan averages. Trend data gathered from NAPLAN shows improvement in almost all areas. We can attribute this to focussed teaching and learning in partnership with parents to achieve greater learning outcomes for all of our children. The one area that we did not record improvement was spelling and this will be given a priority in the classroom.

Choose Maths parent sessions will be held tonight. Parents will begin the evening with an information session in the Library presented by the Choose Maths mentors Marcus and Michael. Miss Farrow, our Maths Champion, and the Year 6 students have been preparing Maths activities for the students to do during this time and are keen to teach you after your information session.

The Curriculum Focus Day for Maths and English - The evaluation of Maths and English teaching at St Joseph’s was conducted through the COSI program last week. Mrs Peebles and Mrs Whale were very pleased with this learning process and are proud to say that our processes were deemed to be of high quality. The teaching staff was commended for its thorough planning in both of these areas and has also received some critical feedback to continue the improvement process.

The annual Upper Hunter Regional Schools Maths Bee was held last night. Congratulations to all students for their efforts at school level and in particular to Annabelle Hunt and Wills Mulligan from Early Stage 1, Nate Brown and Grace Booth from Stage 1, Braeden Halse and Cody Bates from Stage 2 and Korey Halse and Amy Redgate from Stage 3 who went on to compete in the finals. The competition was tough and we are thrilled to see the numeracy skills of all our students improving. Miss Farrow and I, along with our very large group of parents and siblings, were astounded by the talent of our students and so proud of their efforts. Of
special note was Braeden Halse’s nail biting finish as he fought for the champion position. His efforts were thwarted in the end by a very clever student from St Joseph’s Denman. We look forward to competing again next year.

**Wills Mulligan and Patrick Magner** were invited with Mrs Whale to attend afternoon tea and presentation for the “**Mayor for a Day**” writing competition at the Upper Hunter Shire Council Chambers in Scone yesterday. This experience has given the students a real and relevant opportunity to strengthen their writing skills. Patrick was honoured as Deputy Mayor for the day with his suggestions of community gardens to enhance the daily life of the elderly, longer shopping hours, a water part in Merriwa and more pupil free days from school! Wills was named a winner of the drawing competition which focussed on special places in the Upper Hunter Shire.

**Year 5/6 experienced a Leadership Day** last Friday with Diocesan Parish-school liaison person and friend of St Joseph’s – Sam Hill. Feedback from Miss Foran and the students was very positive. The students began the day defining leadership and the qualities that make a great leader. Following this, the day was spent learning how to work better as a team, consider the feelings of others and working on leadership qualities. The students particularly enjoyed a challenge where they had to work as a team and create a balloon tower using only masking tape. Thank you to Mrs Peebles and Sam for coordinating the day.

**Our Book Week Parade** will be held tomorrow at 9.30am and students have been preparing for this by reading excerpts from the books nominated for the Children’s Book of the Year Awards in their Library lessons. All students are invited to dress as a character from any of the shortlisted books which tie in with the Book Week theme – Australia! Story Country. Family and friends are most welcome to join us in the MacKillop Room.

**The absolute magic of the ASPIRE program** is well known to the many students and parents who travelled to Newcastle to see *There’s something strange about Marvin McRae*. ASPIRE audiences will appreciate the tremendous talent our dance and drama teachers Lauren and Anna possess and what an absolute privilege it is for our school to have them here each year to help us prepare for our play night. This week students will enjoy working again with both these artists. Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming school play evening to be held at the School of Arts on Wednesday night 7th of September.

**Merriwa Horse Sports** was again an opportunity for students to display their horsemanship skills in healthy competition with riders from many schools across the region. Congratulations to the Merriwa Central Schools’ Horse Sports committee for organising another fantastic day. Thanks to Mrs Kerr for managing the team so competently. Sam has asked me to pass on her thanks to all the parents who helped on the day and the riders for showing great sportsmanship. All the riders performed very well. Special Reserve Champion Ribbons were awarded to Justin Alley for the Led class, Ava Peel for 8 Years Girls, Roy Lawler for 9 Year Boys and Nicholas Morgan for 11 Years Boy.

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**Father's Day Stall**

On Thursday 1st September, children will have the opportunity to purchase a special gift for their wonderful dads at our Father’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 children so that they may find a special gift to express their love and thanks to their special dad. Extra gifts will be available if they would also like to buy a gift for their grandfathers.
Congratulations to our award winners of Weeks 4 & 5:

Kindergarten
Wills Mulligan - for showing great understanding of mass concepts in Maths
Chad Booth - for taking pride and care in his work in Geography
Jye Bates – working well in length activities
Sammi Patterson – for great participation in play practice

1/2
Alana Telfer – for having the enthusiasm to extend herself in mathematical activities
Ellie Holland - for demonstrating enthusiasm and pride in her written work
Archie Constable - for good results during length activities
Emma McLaren - for good work during MiniLit

3/4
Jack Shannon - for demonstrating an excellent understanding of how communion bread is made
Fiona Tomy - for consistently working well in Maths
Darcy Taaffe - for a great understanding of how to multiply a two-digit number by a one-digit number
Ava Peel - for her great understanding of visual literacy techniques

5/6
Axul Hourn - for being a friendly and enthusiastic Year 5 buddy on transition day
Korey Halse - for consistently wonderful work in drama and visual arts
Tia Magner - for her great understanding of natural, managed and constructed environments in Geography
Madeleine Thrift - for her commitment to rehearse and execute refined dance movements to ensure a quality performance in Creative Arts
Olivia Collins - for excellent research and composition of informative texts
Dylan Turner - for his great understanding of the Order of Operations in Mathematics

Playground Champion:
Jeremy Hopkins - for always including others and showing sportsmanship in soccer
Pat Magner - for always demonstrating good sportsmanship

Principal’s Awards:
Patrick Magner - for writing success as demonstrated in the Mayor for a Day competition
Wills Mulligan - for a fantastic illustration of a significant place in Merriwa in the Mayor for a Day competition

Best wishes to the members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the next two weeks …..

Olivia Collins
Below is a link to the August Edition of CathFamily. The focus for this month is Mary MacKillop and how her life and experiences are still relevant today. The magazine contains lots of quotes from her life as well as her life story and how it has been important to people today.

http://cathfamily.org/seasons/mary-the-saints/e-magazine/

Save the date - Fathers Day celebration Friday 2nd September.
As usual the day with commence with a BBQ followed by a liturgy before moving into activities to celebrate ‘Literacy and Numeracy Week.’ More information to follow.

5/6 Leadership Day
Last Friday, 19th August the Year 5/6 class participated in a leadership day at school with Sam Hill, Diocesan Family Community Faith Coordinator from the Catholic Schools Office. The students began the day defining leadership and the qualities that make a great leader. Following this, the day was spent learning how to work better as a team, consider the feelings of others and working on leadership qualities. The students particularly enjoyed a challenge where they had to work as a team and create a balloon tower using only masking tape.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC
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 4870 1303 E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au
FAMILY NIGHT

You are invited to the CHOOSEMATHS Family Night at St Joseph’s Primary School, Merriwa.

What you can do at home to help your child succeed in Mathematics:

Why come? Because:

• As parents you are our key partners to ensure the academic success of your children; and

• Studies show that children who participate in maths at home gain a significant advantage in the classroom!

We'd love to see you there!

To RSVP by 17th August or for any questions please contact Mrs Helen Whale on 6548 2119.

Date: Tuesday 23rd August
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Tonight!
St. Joseph's P&F Association

Next P&F meeting:  
Monday 12th September 2016  
4.30pm in the MacKillop Room

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

St. Joseph's Campdraft & Fete  
Wrap Up Meeting

Monday 5th September  
6pm at Merriwa RSL

All event, activity and stall coordinators and other interested parties are asked to attend a wrap up meeting for this year’s Campdraft & Fete event to look at profits and losses and discuss strategies for next year. All welcome.

Peter Holland  
Coordinator

CANTEEN ROSTER

24 Aug  Bernadita Gabriel & Mel Bates
31 Aug  Melissa Collins & Bronwyn Redgate

BUS ROSTER

27-28 Aug  Bridge/Madden family
3-4 Sep  Morgan family
10-11 Sep  Parker family
17-18 Sep  G Patterson family

A new issue of book club was sent home last Friday.

Please return your orders and payment to school by this Friday 26th August or order online using the LOOP system.

Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa & Sally  
Coordinators

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
…to get kids in the kitchen.

Involving children in preparing meals is a great way to get them eating more fruit and veg. Kids are more likely to eat something they’ve helped create!

To inspire budding chefs, let your children help you shop for fruit and veg and then add the produce to meals. You can even plant some herbs or veg at home for go-to ingredients.

For more information visit  
www.eatittobeatit.com.au  
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Image: enapophoto.com.au

Eat It To Beat It

NEALS