# St Joseph’s Primary School School News

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<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
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<td>Week 8 4/9</td>
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<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>Polding Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
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<td>9.30-11.30 Create &amp; Grow Playgroup</td>
<td>6.30pm School Play School of Arts Hall</td>
<td>Local Government Election</td>
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<td>6pm Campdraft &amp; Fete wrap-up mtg</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>NAIDOC activities</td>
<td>Mass 6pm Merriwa Show</td>
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<td>3.30 Sacrament Mtg</td>
<td>4.30 P&amp;F Meeting</td>
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<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Library - Sport Canteen</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM 3 Mission Day</td>
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<td>Mass 8.30am</td>
<td>2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly</td>
<td>Kinder Transition 9.00-12.00</td>
<td>School photos</td>
<td>Casillis Sports Workshop</td>
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<td>3.30 Sacrament Mtg</td>
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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 26/9/16 - 7/10/16**

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Along with St Francis of Assisi, St Kateri Tekakwitha is the patron saint of the environment and ecology. Spring is a great time to give thanks...

**Thanksgiving**

We return thanks to our mother, the Earth, which sustains us.

We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.

We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.

We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who directs all things for the good of Her children.

~ Iroquois ~
From the Principal...

Greetings to all our school community!

The last few weeks have seemed a blur for me moving between sick leave and The State Action Plan presentations in Newcastle. I am so proud of how well the school has functioned in my absence. Thank you to all staff members for your competence and dedication. Mrs Peebles and I spent Thursday and Friday in Newcastle as part of the State Action Plan Showcase. Our school has received substantial government funding to help raise the Literacy and Numeracy levels of our infants students. This funding has allowed us to employ an extra teacher in the Infants classroom for 2 days per week. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to present to others what we have been doing and what results this work has achieved. It was also very beneficial to see the wonderful work being done in other schools. We have all left the event with many ideas to try out in our own settings.

We keep in our prayers all those who need comforting at the present. We particularly pray for God’s comfort to be felt by Korey and Braeden Halse this week as they remember their mother Sheryl on her birthday. The children in the Primary classes will attend Mass on Friday which will be offered for Sheryl. We also keep Karin Brazier’s mum in our prayers as she is sick in hospital.

There are a number of exciting events coming up within the SJM school community.

- Mrs Kerr is on the countdown for the birth of Baby Kerr. Mrs Kerr will commence maternity leave at the end of this term. We wish her continued good health and happiness.
- The annual School play will be held this Thursday night at 6.30pm in the School of Arts. The performance promises to be fantastic. Please remember to bring a plate to share for supper.
- Our gymnastics program will be held in Week 9. Students will need to bring their sports clothes (or a pair of shorts and t-shirt) every day.
- Darcy Taaffe and Thomas Hunt will compete at Polding Athletics carnival. It is rare for one of our students to reach this elite level. This year we have 2 students. Congratulations and good luck Thomas and Darcy!
- Dolly will return to SJM next week to conduct belated NAIDOC week activities with our students. Dolly was ill at the beginning of the term so we are looking forward to her rescheduled visit.

The last few weeks have been very busy at the school. Many events I have not been present for, but have had such positive feedback from students and teachers.

The Merriwa Create & Grow Playgroup had a wonderful time at our school on Monday morning. We enjoyed story time followed by active play, two crucial activities for bubs and toddlers.

Monday night saw the wrap up meeting of the St Joseph’s 2016 Campdraft and Fete event. Thank you to all who attended. The event proved to be very successful once again and some evaluation done this year will ensure an even smoother event for 2017. Many thanks to Pauline, Bronwyn, Peter and all their helpers for all their hard work and dedication to this event.

Father’s Day Breakfast last Friday was again a wonderful way to acknowledge our fathers and thank them for their love and positive parenting. The flooding rain and sickness made it impossible for some fathers to join us but you were in our thoughts and prayers. The Literacy and Numeracy Week activities held in each classroom were enjoyed by all and served the dual purpose of being a fun activity to share with our dads and improving our Maths and English skills at the same time.

Last Wednesday was a very busy day with the 2016 return of JD and Friends to St Joseph’s
school. This magic show again confounded and entertained our students along with our guests from Merriwa Pre-school in two intriguing shows. The overall message was that reading opens many doors for us all. The magic of books can never be underestimated!

The Primary classes took full advantage of the **Farm Safety workshops** at the Showground on Wednesday afternoon. We would like to thank the Merriwa PAH&I committee for their invitation to be a part of such a purposeful event. Farm safety is a crucial educational objective for our students. Even if you don’t live on a farm the awareness needed to visit a friend on a farm is vital.

*Helen Whale*

**Father’s Day fun...**
*(see this week’s Ringer for more!)*
Dear Parishioners of the Diocese,

As many of you would already know, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - Case Study #43 begins today in Newcastle, and will focus on the Diocese and Marist Brothers Order.

This case study has set out to investigate:
- The experience of survivors of child sexual abuse by Catholic clergy and religious in the Maitland-Newcastle region.
- The response of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to allegations of child sexual abuse made against Father Vincent Ryan.
- The response of the Marist Brothers to allegations of child sexual abuse made against Marist Brothers including Francis Cable (Brother Romuald) and Thomas Butler (Brother Patrick).
- The impacts of child sexual abuse on survivors, families, and the community in the Maitland-Newcastle region.

The Diocese will likely be severely criticised on the handling of matters related to Vincent Ryan. The inescapable facts are that reports of Ryan’s abuse were received in the early 1970s, but he remained in ministry until charged by police in 1995 and continued to abuse children during those two decades.

The Commission will also look at the Diocese’s more recent and present ways of responding to such issues, but I realise that the information heard in the case study related to historical child sexual abuse will still be very disturbing to hear. This will again be a difficult and confronting time and will cause dismay and scandal in local communities here in our Diocese and beyond.

The Diocese supports the work of the Royal Commission and the processes that give survivors the opportunity to tell their stories, and we admire those who have chosen to do so. We also fully appreciate the life-long effects this abuse has had on those who were abused, on their families and friends and indeed on whole communities. I also recognise the continued effect our sad history may have on Catholic community and the community of the region generally.

I want to assure you that the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an absolute and abiding commitment to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children. All persons associated with the Diocese undertake an appropriate level of child protection training and we continue to refine our systems for assuring the safety of children and responding compassionately to those who have suffered in the past.

As a faith community, we must come together to support each other, and those who may be struggling as we work to move forward. I encourage all who wish, to contact Zimmerman Service’s Healing and Support Team on (02) 4979 1390.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Most Reverend William Wright
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle
As part of the Sacramental Program, the students receive a copy of the Creed which we say every time we attend Mass. It is said after the Homily - where Father John unpacks the Gospel message. There are two Creeds which may be used. The Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Why do Catholics Pray The Creed?
The Creed is a summary of the Christian faith and expresses the central truths that the members of the Catholic Church believe. When you pray the Creed, you say 'I believe in One God,' 'I believe in One Lord Jesus Christ,' 'I believe in the Holy Spirit.' It describes you and what you believe. It is a summary of the central truths of your faith. You profess it as something individually important to you, something that tells others about you. However, it is also something that you share in common with the rest of the faithful in the Church. All of the members of the Catholic Church personally profess the same beliefs within the Creed and are therefore connected. The Creed unites the faithful as One Church.

Taken from: http://lifeteen.com/blog/why-do-catholics-pray-the-creed/

Seasons for Growth Parent Session
We are very fortunate to be able to offer families in our school community a free parent session on dealing with grief and your child. Grief can come in many forms and is the result of a major change. A death of someone close, moving house, changing schools. Please take up the offer and do not hesitate to speak to me if you need more information.
If your child would like to audition for the 2017 Aspire production please audition forms are on the Aspire website [http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/students/performing-arts/aspire](http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/students/performing-arts/aspire) or please see Anne Marie for further information.
ASPIRE Holiday Workshops
September 2016

ASPIRE holiday workshops are all about skills development in a fun and safe environment with likeminded performers.

All ASPIRE holiday workshops are open to students from Year 5 to Year 12 and material used will be age appropriate. Your child doesn’t need to have any prior experience with the ASPIRE program.

Payment for these holiday workshops is via the new Qkr APP. If you require assistance in using this app please contact us. The cost for each workshop is $80.00.

Please note participation in holiday workshops does not guarantee acceptance into the ASPIRE program for 2017.

To register your child’s booking or for further enquiries please contact Anne Atkins on (02) 4979-1331 or email anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Singing: The Confident Performer
Wednesday 28 September 2016 – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Factory, St Pius X High School, Adamstown

This fun workshop focuses on performance technique and how to ooz confidence on stage. You’ll look at what to do with your body when performing and discuss how to deal with nerves. Participants will be encouraged to try out a few different styles of song as well as working on a piece they bring to the workshop.

Dance: The Story of Dance
Wednesday 28 September 2016 – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Factory, St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Working with dancer and choreographer Angie Diaz young dancers will gain insight into how we can tell stories and create an emotional response from an audience through movement. As well as being put through your paces with new choreography and partner work, you will be challenged to create your own pieces.

Music: The Singer-Songwriter
Thursday 29 September 2016 – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Factory, St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Bring along your instrument of choice and work alongside Professional muso Mike McCarthy for the day as you write your own songs. Musicians will look at everything from lyrics and finding inspiration to finding the right riffs and musical patterns. This is a great opportunity to hone your skills and work in your preferred style.

Acting: Scripts and Scenes
Thursday 29 September 2016 – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at the Factory, St Pius X High School, Adamstown

This engaging workshop will take young performers through techniques for approaching scripted work, including first read-through and how we take information from a script for our character, basic blocking and delivery of text and performance tips. It’s a great way to develop your acting skills. Script will be age appropriate and from a variety of theatre styles.
Congratulations to our award winners of Weeks 6 & 7:

Kindergarten
Freya Tomy – developing skills to assist in reading
Annabelle Hunt – her cooperative approach to all learning tasks

1/2
Ruby Bridges - her eagerness to improve her reading
Justin Alley - participation in all liturgy discussions
Jack Patterson – his understanding of dividing a collection into halves and quarters
Lula Peebles – taking pride in the presentation of her work at all times

3/4
Braedan Halse - his fantastic understanding of multiplying multi-digit numbers
Pia Henderson - her wonderful contributions to class discussions
Ella Beaven - her persistence with the core word challenge
Emily Wright - her fantastic understanding of mixed numerals

5/6
Jorji Taaffe - consistently completing her homework
Rebecca Keegan - her knowledge of the Christian Scriptures in Religion
Patrick McLaren - consistently completing his homework
Thomas Hunt - his great work adding mixed numerals in Mathematics
Nicholas Morgan - his great work adding mixed numerals in Mathematics

Playground Champion:
Grace Booth - always showing resilience on the playground

Principal’s Awards:
Bethany Wightman - conscientious and effective practice for the play both at home and at school
Archie Constable - delightful manners and impeccable social graces

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

Sammi Patterson
Cody Bates
Miss Foran
Next P&F meeting:
Monday 12th September 2016
4.30pm in the MacKillop Room

All families and friends most welcome and encouraged to attend!

THANK YOU . . .
to Morgan family who have given up some valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in last week. We received a message saying how lovely and clean it was on Monday - great job!

CANTEEN ROSTER
7 Sep  De Patterson & Pauline Lawler
14 Sep  Lisa Smith & Jade Brown
21 Sep  Lara Madden & Mel Bates

BUS ROSTER
10-11 Sep  Parker family
17-18 Sep  G Patterson family
24-25 Sep  R Patterson family
15-16 Oct  Peebles family

Enrol now in our fun, interactive early childhood music classes.
Available in Muswellbrook, Singleton and Scone. Fully qualified teachers, safe environment, classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

For information and to enrol:
Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music
Ph: (02) 6541 4888
Email: admin@uhcm.com.au

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
...to serve spring salads.
Spring brings sunshine ... and salads!
A salad is a great way to enjoy a light and lovely meal packed full of veg. Enjoy as a side dish or add some lean meat, fish, cheese or hard-boiled egg and make a meal of it.

Here are five of our spring salad favourites (for full recipes go to eatittoBeatit.com.au):

- Tabbouleh.
- Thai beef salad.
- Asian chicken salad.
- Basic garden salad.
- Mixed bean salad.

For more information visit
www.eatittoBeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittoBeatit
Dear Committee

To report on our 2016 School Draft.

A very successful draft was held again this year, we were handed over the reins by Tanya & Steve Ninness who have worked tirelessly to make it a success, they were never far away and I hope we have done it justice.

Entries were down this year for what ever reason, however this did not matter as we ran a Jackpot Draft to soak up the gap. This was very popular and the 20 available spots were filled very quickly.

The silent auction was once again organised by Tanya which has proved to be a great fund raiser and once again went very well. Tanya has also secured the Service Fee again for next year which is extremely good news.

The draft ran very smoothly with great helpers in the backyards and on the front gates. Time and skill donated by our Judges, Pat Gillis and Arthur Martin helped make the day a success.

I want to thank my committee, De Patterson who stepped up to do the secretaries job with no experience and did a excellent job, and to Tanya for her ever willing help were ever needed and words of wisdom.

Thank you to Clare Martin and her band of helpers in Ring 2 which was well supported, from our tiny tots, all the way through to our senior riders.

Bronwyn Redgate for her treasurers job also her first time at doing a draft and handled it with ease.

Huge thankyou to Steve who remained cattle captain and organised transport and a driver.

Wal Martin for organising Judges and attending to the surface in the ring.

To both men for also been there for me to bounce queries off and help with decisions that needed to be made.

Tash who always does such a fantastic job behind the scenes as our sponsorship and publicity lady.

Thankyou to Helen for the beautiful sandwiches that were enjoyed by many.

Thankyou to Merriwa Campdraft and Merriwa Pony Club for the use of their equipment.

Thankyou to those that turned up to help with putting up the panels and the marking out of Ring 2.
To those that worked tirelessly in the back yards and front gates.
Thankyou to those that helped with the clean up.
Thankyou to all those that helped or contributed in some way.

Without all these people it would not be possible to run such a huge event.

I have enjoyed my first year as Campdraft Coordinator and how could I not with such a great group of people to work with.

I look forward to 2017 and hope everyone else does as well.

Pauline Lawler
Campdraft Coordinator