### October / November 2016

**SUN** | **MON** | **TUE** | **WED** | **THU** | **FRI** | **SAT**
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**Week 2** | **16/10** | **17/10** | **18/10** | **19/10** | **20/10** | **21/10** | **22/10**
Working Bee | Working Bee | 9.30 Create & Grow Playgroup session | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | Library - Sport Canteen | Sally - PD (office closed) | | |
 | | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | 3.30 Sacramental practice | | | | |
 | | 4.30 P&F Meeting | | | | | |
**Week 3** | **23/10** | **24/10** | **25/10** | **26/10** | **27/10** | **28/10** | **29/10**
Mass 8.30am Confirmation & First Communion | School Public Speaking finals | Library - Sport Canteen | | | | |
 | | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | | | | | |
**Week 4** | **30/10** | **31/10** | **1/11** | **2/11** | **3/11** | **4/11** | **5/11**
Week 4 | | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | | Library - Sport Canteen | | |
 | | Regional Public Speaking Muswellbrook | | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | | | |
 | | Kinder Transition 9.00-12.00 | | | | | |
**Week 5** | **6/11** | **7/11** | **8/11** | **9/11** | **10/11** | **11/11** | **12/11**
Week 5 | | 2.40pm Liturgy/Assembly | | Library - Sport Canteen | | |
 | | | | Sally - PD (office closed) | | | |
 | | | | Footy Colours Fundraiser for Cancer | Remembrance Day | |
 | | | | | Responsible Pet Show | |

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**BOOK FAIR - CENTRAL BOOK SUPPLIERS**

**BOOK FAIR - CENTRAL BOOKS**

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**REFLECTION**

We pray that we are a community in which positive relationships and respect for each individual is obvious and real.
We pray that we are a community that preserves the dignity of all.
We pray that we are a community which strives always to follow the teachings of Jesus, who said...

“Treat others the way you yourself want to be treated.”

“Whatsoever you do to any of my sisters and brothers, you do to me”

All of us here at St Joseph’s Primary School Merriwa have a responsibility to prevent any form of bullying because that is what Jesus teaches us to do.

Amen
Welcome back to St Joseph’s for the final term of what has been a spectacular year of learning.

Our sincere condolences to Mel Bates and family following the death of Mel’s grandmother. We are thinking of you in this difficult time.

Prayers and thoughts go to the Holy Cross school community in Glendale whose principal Mr Pat Hamilton died during the holidays. We ask that God grants eternal rest to both these people and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Our best wishes also go to Karin Brazier’s mum who continues to battle poor health.

“It takes a village to educate a child” is a mantra we live by at St Joseph’s. Each and every one of us is vitally important in the process of educating our children to become active, contributing members of the community. We help them feel a sense of self-worth by the interest we show them, we help them to have an active voice in the world by providing opportunities for them to be heard now and examples of responsible citizenship. We raise their self-esteem by creating a sense of belonging to the community and the world at large.

Infants classroom praised by educators as a “great working model of what learning today should look like”.

A group of educators visited our school yesterday to learn about our teaching styles and the transition of the staff from a group of independent teachers working in a school together to a Professional Learning Community which collaboratively plans to raise the achievement level of every student. We received tremendously positive feedback after their tour of each classroom. The most discussion and cameras clicking came however during their visit to the Infants classroom. There were 4 groups of students working with 4 teachers and there was one group doing independent work all within the same collaborative learning space. Students were all working on the same subject and theme but grouped according to their ability...not held back by their chronological class. The students and teachers were fully engaged in the learning process. We are proud of our school’s performance, and are very pleased you have chosen to entrust your child’s education to us.

Bullying – No Way. All people deserve to live a life free of bullying. Have you read the school’s anti bullying policy? In it you will find definitions of what bullying is and what it is not. You will also read what responsibilities the students have, the parents have and the staff at the school has to ensure bullying is not part of our school culture. You can find this policy on our website. A great website to look at is www.bullyingnoway.com.au
We have surveyed the students recently to check the anti-bullying health of the school. The policy and results of the survey were discussed at last night’s P&F meeting.

Staffing for 2017:
Sadly, Miss Foran has decided to move back to the Bathurst Diocese to be closer to friends and family in 2017. The staff, students and parents will miss Lizzie’s youthful exuberance and quality teaching. Lizzie’s position was a permanent one so this was recently advertised along with Mrs Kerr’s temporary Maternity Leave position. We had a record number of applicants for the position and I am very happy to announce that Mrs Sally Hagley has been appointed to the permanent position at the school and Miss Rachel Houlahan to the temporary position. Mrs Hagley and Mrs Peebles will be teaching the Infants class. At this stage we have not made firm arrangements about which teacher will teach which class in the Primary classes but be assured we will be managing the staffing to make the best learning opportunities possible for all students.

Spring is here and the St Joseph’s school community has sprung into action at the Term 4 working bee. Thank you to Dermot Shannon, our P&F president for coordinating the day and thank you to the Hopkins, Hunt, Brazier, Redgate, Beaven, McLaren, Peebles and Magner families who helped weed, sweep and clean air conditioners in readiness for the summer heat. We are all so thankful for your efforts.
Thank you to the Merriwa Welcoming Centre which donated $2500 to St Joseph’s to help us provide new furniture to better facilitate collaborative learning in the Infants learning spaces. The Welcoming Centre is a community run organisation that truly supports the wider community. Thank you to Edie Shipway, Jim Alker and your team whom we greatly admire and appreciate.

Seasons for Growth:
“Supporting your child following the death of someone they love” was the Seasons for Growth workshop held at the end of Term 3 that saw outstanding parent and teacher participation. The visiting presenter was very pleasantly surprised at the level of interest from our school community. The parents and teachers learned a great deal about childhood grief and more importantly had the opportunity to network together. A great book for children was recommended:–
Beginnings and Endings with Lifetimes in Between by Bryan Mellonie.

Cassilis Sports Day was once again a fantastic and worthwhile experience. Our students had the opportunity to participate in skill workshops for a variety of sports whilst interacting with other children their age from several other schools. It was wonderful to see the beautiful manners and sportsmanship shown by all St Joseph’s students on the day. Thank you to Cassilis Public School for hosting this yearly event.

“Talk to the mountains” was the unusual instruction I overheard the Infants teachers giving their students last week. Upon further investigation I was amused to see all the Infants students outside facing the mountains to our west and gesticulating wildly as they practised their speeches in readiness for the Public Speaking competition coming up in Week 3 (24th October). All classes will compete to select finalists for the Regional Public Speaking Competition on the 31st October. Parents are most welcome to come along and witness the incredible progress being made by all students in this important part of their English curriculum.

Transition Days have been very well attended by our 2017 Kinders. Last week’s parent session was on “Building your child’s emotional wellbeing and social skills”. The discussion which followed was very useful for parents to gain an insight into the learning students do while negotiating tricky situations with friends. It is useful for them to learn to understand their feelings and the feelings of others and to be guided to become problem solvers rather than being stuck in a blame game.

The next Transition Day will be held on Tuesday November 1st. The parent topic will be “Literacy and Numeracy at school and how parents can help prepare their children”. All parents are welcome to attend.

The Spirit of St Joseph’s Award for Term 3 was awarded to Patrick Magner. Patrick has shown great maturity at school and in the community. He is always ready to help out whenever he sees a need. Patrick has shown outstanding school spirit in his readiness to participate in the school working bees as well as the behind the scenes work at the Petting Zoo at the St Joseph’s Campdraft and fete.

Congratulations Patrick.
Celebration of Confirmation and First Communion

Next weekend Ava, Will and Pia are completing the Sacramental Program - receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. We continue to pray for God’s blessings on these children during their preparations.

To make this a really special community event we need:

- students who have already completed their sacraments to serve on the altar,
- singers to form a choir to make the celebration a special event
- people to attend
- people to make something yummy to share at our morning tea after Mass.

Please see the invitation for more information.

Samaritan Boxes

The Samaritan Boxes need to be returned by Thursday so they can be sent overseas. If you are not able to fill a box maybe you could send in a donation towards the postage of the boxes. Each box costs us $9.00 to post.

Anne Marie Peebles
REC

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

Jack Patterson
Dylan Turner
Mrs Parker
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME AND JOIN WITH BISHOP BILL AND THE PARISH OF ST ANNE’S ON SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER AT 8:30 AM TO CELEBRATE IN THE SPECIAL PARISH MASS WHERE PIA, AVA AND WILLIAM WILL RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION – CONFIRMATION AND HOLY COMMUNION. AFTERWARDS YOU ARE INVITED SHARE A SPECIAL MORNING TEA. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO BRING YOURSELF AND A PLATE TO SHARE. WE WOULD ALL LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Congratulations to our award winners of Week 1:

Kindergarten
Freya Tomy - for developing good writing skills
Wills Mulligan - for developing good writing skills

1/2
Levi Hourn - for striving to do his best work in all areas
Nate Brown - for demonstrating great knowledge in whole number activities

3/4
Sanita Turner - for settling beautifully into our classroom
Alister Fairfull - for his excellent knowledge of different money combinations

5/6
Olivia Collins - for her excellent use of proportion to create a realistic portrayal of Antarctic penguins in Visual Art.
Rebecca Keegan - for demonstrating a clear understanding of the grammar concept nominalisation in English.
Charles Brazier - for his mature approach to learning

Principal's Awards
Levi Hourn - for his fine efforts to complete his work - even the difficult bits!
Lula Peebles - for very insightful responses in class discussions
The school Public Speaking Competition will be held Monday 24th October 9-11am.

Preparation time for the whole school will be 9-10am and speeches will be delivered in classrooms from 10-11am.

Parents and friends are invited to watch the speeches in classrooms from 10-11am.

The teachers will be assessing each child’s presentation. After listening to and assessing each speaker in their class, teachers will select students from Early Stage 1, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 to represent the school at the Upper Hunter Regional Public Speaking Competition to be held at St James, Muswellbrook on Monday 31st October.

**Public Speaking Timeslot**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>1/2</th>
<th>3/4</th>
<th>5/6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Jye</td>
<td>Ellie</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Charles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>Rhianna</td>
<td>Darcy</td>
<td>Patrick Magner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sammi</td>
<td>William C</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>Tia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freya</td>
<td>William L</td>
<td>Bobby</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Pia</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wills</td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Ava</td>
<td>Nicholas</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nate</td>
<td>Cody</td>
<td>Axul</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Aidan</td>
<td>Braedan</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arlia</td>
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<td>Emma</td>
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<td>Alana</td>
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<td>Mollie</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>Roy</td>
<td>Roy</td>
<td>Jorji</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Justin</td>
<td>Mikayla</td>
<td>Mikayla</td>
<td>Rebecca</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>Korey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Levi</td>
<td>Fiona</td>
<td>Fiona</td>
<td>Will</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Claudia</td>
<td>Isam</td>
<td>Isam</td>
<td>Madeleine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Patrick McLaren</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
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<td>Lula</td>
<td>Alister</td>
<td>Alister</td>
<td>Amy</td>
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<td>Jeremy</td>
<td>Sanita</td>
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<td>Thomas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archie</td>
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**At a glance**

- Public speaking helps kids to develop confidence and build up their self-esteem.
- Create opportunities for your child to present speeches to the family.
- Show them how to use palm cards.
- Good speakers make eye contact with the audience.
- Help them develop a good pace and correct volume for the room.
- Spend time listening to your child’s speeches.

Ability Links NSW – Get Linked to your community

Ability Links NSW was launch in the Hunter and Central Coast Regions in July 2013 and has assisted over 4000 people living with disability, their family members and/or carers since that time.

Ability Links NSW supports people with disability aged 0-64 years, their family members and carers to live the life they want, as valued members of their community. It does this through a team of Ability and Early Linkers who support people to fulfil their goals, hopes and dreams and link them to their community.

Whether it’s a goal to participate in sport, education, volunteering, or other activities, Ability and Early Linkers ensure the people they assist remain at the centre of decision making about how they want to lead their life.

Our Linkers work alongside communities assisting them to be more welcoming and inclusive, and have information and knowledge of what’s available in the community they work in. Linkers know that a community that includes people with disability is one that is truly enriched. Individuals, clubs, groups and businesses can also access Ability Links for information and support on inclusion of people with disability.

To connect with a local Linker you don’t have to meet any eligibility criteria or go through an assessment process, and best of all Ability Links is a free service. We have 44 Linkers working across the Hunter and Central Coast region and have a Linker in your area.

If you would like to know more call one of our local Linkers - Debbie on 0428 169 248, Amy 0429 117 164 or Samantha on 0439 416 760

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Sport and Recreation’s
Swim and Survive lessons

Australian summers usually involve plenty of fun in and around the water, but no parent should forget how important it is to make sure children stay safe.

Sport and Recreation’s Swim and Survive classes for preschoolers and school-aged children help youngsters learn important ways to be safe and enjoy our pools, rivers, beaches and lakes.

The intensive nine-day programs provide wonderful results, and are great fun as well. Plus, family discounts make our program affordable for all the children in the family.

Sport and Recreation runs Swim and Survive classes in pools throughout regional NSW.

Our instructors are nationally qualified and screened for their suitability to work with children.

Prices for nine lessons are $70 for school-aged children and $50 for preschoolers (prices exclude pool entry fee).

For more information or to make a booking, visit sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive or phone 13 13 02
A new issue of book club was sent home yesterday.

Issue 7 is a great place for parents to give the gift of reading this Christmas. See the ad for exclusive off for LOOP orders.

Please return your orders and payment to school by next Tuesday 25th October or order online using the LOOP system.

Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa & Sally
Coordinators

Road Safety - Your child’s safety depends on you

Transport NSW has produced a very informative and helpful brochure to assist parents teach and model correct road safety behaviours. We recommend all parents read this brochure which can be found at:


Some of the topics include:
- Drop off and pick up by car
- Walking together to and from school
- In and out of the car
- Driving near school buses
- On and off the bus safely
- Hold your child’s hand
- Helmets and safety on wheels
- Driving and parking safely near schools
- Safety around school crossings
- 40kmh school zones
- Fines and demerit points
We were delighted to present Mrs Kerr and soon to be Baby Kerr a beautiful gift on behalf of the P & F, as she enters a wonderful new chapter in her life. We wish her and her family all the very best with the opportunity to spend time with her family and look forward to her return next year. Thank you to all the Infants parents who attended and brought food to share.

**Father’s Day Breakfast**

A (belated) huge thank you to the Dad’s that came and helped cook and prepare the breakfast on our Father’s Day Breakfast morning – September 2\(^{nd}\) – Dermott Shannon, Michael Hagley, David Redgate and Gordon Kerr (Dad to be!). Although wet, we thank those families who could make it in to support our breakfast celebrations.

Also a big thank you to Di & Mark Killen of Papanui Eggs who donated eggs for our breakfast. Our P&F greatly appreciate your support.

Bronwyn Redgate

**Canteen Roster**

Helpers need for this term. Please return your form or contact Mel on 0417 060381 if you are able to help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-23 Oct</td>
<td>Peel family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30 Oct</td>
<td>Redgate family</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6 Nov</td>
<td>Smith family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 Nov</td>
<td>Taaffee family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important Dates & Notes:

What: Parent and Friends Annual General Meeting
When: (please tick your preference and return to school asap)
   □ Tuesday 29th November 5:45pm – 7pm
   □ Saturday 3rd December 1:00pm – 2.15pm
Where: Mackillop Room at St Joseph’s Merriwa.
   Refreshments will be provided prior to AGM.
Name: ________________________________________________________

Expressions of Interest for Parent Working Group Multi-Function Sports Area

We are looking for interested parents who would like to join in discussions and planning towards a Multi-Function Sports Area in our School.

In an effort to allow our children to experience sports such as basketball, netball, tennis and volleyball on an all weather surface we are investigating the possibility of a Multi-Function Sports Area.

As such, we would like any parents who have a desire to see this project come to life to join us in the planning stages.

This is a chance for some of the monies we work hard to raise to go towards our children’s future.

If you are interested please let me know or drop your name into Sally in the office within the next two weeks., or indicate below and return to school.

Bronwyn Redgate
M 0427 482 469
□ Yes, I would like to join the Parents Working Group for discussion and planning of a Multi-Function Sports Area for our school

Name: ________________________________________________________

Expressions of Interest for Parent Working Group Social media strategy for school promotion

We are looking for interested parents who would like to join in discussions and planning of social media presence and options for our school.

If you are interested in this exciting project please register your interest with Helen Whale or complete the form below and return to school by Friday 21st October.

□ Yes, I would like to join the Parents Working Group for discussion and planning of the social media presence and options for our school

Name: ________________________________________________________