

# St Joseph's Parish Primary School Newsletter



## Coming Events

[www.balranald.catholic.edu.au](http://www.balranald.catholic.edu.au)

**TOMORROW:** Whole School  
Mass – K/1 are our hosts.

### NEXT WEEK:

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April:** K/1  
Whole School Assembly @ 2.15  
pm.

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April:** 2017  
Athletics Carnival. 9.00 am start  
with running events at BCS back  
oval.

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Interim  
Reports to go home  
Last day of school for Term 1.

## Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Dear Parents and community members,

Welcome to the second last week of term 1. We have had a very busy and productive term at St Joseph's and I am sure that the children are looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our St Joseph's Day celebrations last week.

The book fair was a great success, with many families taking up the opportunity to purchase books for their children. Special thanks to Mrs Gaston, Mrs Bruton and Miss Lister for your hard work in organising and setting up for the book fair.

Special thanks are extended to the wonderful mums for cooking and serving the delicious sausage sizzle that formed part of the celebrations.

The dental clinic visits took place last week. Each child who attended was given a note outlining whether or not further treatment is required. The children were very well behaved walking to and from the medical centre and while waiting for their turn.

We had our first school committee meeting last Tuesday evening. Congratulations to Lisa Papa who is the incoming chairperson of the committee. Special thanks to outgoing member, Jayne Farnsworth for her three years of service. We are very grateful for your dedication and valuable input. Further information from the meeting is contained later in the newsletter.

It is with great sadness that I inform the school community that Mrs Fiona Scott will be leaving our school family at the end of the 2017 school year. Mr Scott has been transferred to a school in Newcastle, and while he will be leaving at the end of this term, Mrs Scott will be with us until the end of the year. This is a great opportunity for the Scott family and we wish them all the very best.

The final interim report for the term will be going home next Friday. A reminder that we would like all of the reports returned to school so that we can copy and file them prior to sending them home for you to keep. I would like to thank those parents who make comments as they are very insightful and highlight the partnership between home and school to achieve the best educational outcomes for our children.

The children participated in a fire drill today to ensure that they are aware of safe practices in case of a fire emergency.

Have a fantastic week,

*Natalie Gay*

## Our Mission

St Joseph's is a centre  
of achievement and  
learning where the  
Gospel is lived and  
where people are  
treated with  
respect and  
dignity.

*Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.*

*~Marian Wright*

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# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS



WHOLE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR FOCUS: *Speak to please*

## 25 night's home reading



**Max Drenovski**

**Philipa Gaston**

**Rory Hillerman**

**Glen Gillbee**

## Proud Principal Moments....



Thank you to **Blair Manning** and **Lilian Matarazzo** for being a great help to Mrs Gaston by packing away all of the gear at the sandpit without being asked. Well done!

Once again, **Bree Hodgson** has done herself, her family and our school proud with an outstanding effort in 4 events at the Polding swimming trials last Wednesday. Bree has attended these trials for the past 5 years – an outstanding effort!

I was speaking to Mr Flagg, the Principal at Balranald Central School who was speaking about the **Year 7 students** from St Joseph's in very glowing terms. While they are no longer with us, it is lovely to hear positive comments about our ex-students.



## St Joseph's Day Coloring competition winners

Congratulations to **Melody Cimino** (K/1), **Jett Militto** (Year 2 / 3) and **Amy Gillbee** (4/5/6) for your fantastic efforts in the St Joseph's Day colouring in competition. The children are pictured with our judge, Father Shane. Well done and congratulations!

## Good Luck!

Our very best wishes are extended to **Liam Farnsworth**, **Toby Lay**, **Sebastian Papa** and **Glen Gillbee** as they make their way to Newcastle to participate in the Polding AFL trials. I am very proud to say that St Joseph's has the highest number of representatives in the team – well done to our boys and good luck on Thursday.



# Religious Education News

Children in Kinder and Year 1 will be our leaders at Mass tomorrow. Everyone is welcome. Mass starts at 12.30pm. Thanks to all who came along last week. We had a lovely celebration for St. Joseph's Day. The Book Fair was very popular and we earned \$375 in commission for our school.

## Project Compassion

This year our students are raising money to support the people of the Philippines. For every \$75 raised villagers are able to buy one piglet. We are hoping to raise enough money to buy two pigs. Project Compassion boxes are in all classrooms, the office and staffroom to encourage our school community to donate some money throughout Lent. So if you have any spare loose change, send it in, it would be greatly appreciated. We are also planning a fund raiser on the last day of term.



## Gospel Reflection

It is a good idea to read and discuss Sunday's gospel with your children before they go to Mass. That way they will have a better understanding when Father is reading.

Next Sunday's Gospel is John 11:1-45. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

The gospel tells the story of Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus. Martha and Mary sent for Jesus, because their brother Lazarus was dying. By the time Jesus arrived Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days and many had come to comfort them. Jesus wept as he loved Lazarus. Then Jesus told them to open the tomb. He said in a loud clear voice, 'Lazarus, come out!', and the dead man appeared with the grave cloths still on his body.

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel on Sunday invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

## Parish News

### MASS ON SUNDAY

Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2017	A cartoon illustration of three children in white and red vestments standing in front of a large rainbow. The children are smiling and appear to be holding something. The rainbow is vibrant and arches over them.
MC	Trish Gaston	
Lector	Natalie Lay Margaret Butler	
Collectors	Lay Family	
Gifts	Gillbee Family	
Eucharist	John & Cath Manning	
Altar Servers	Liam Farnsworth Glen Gillbee Cruz Jolliffe	

## Easter Celebrations dates

Father Shane is looking for lots of help and involvement from our parents and families in the various Easter Liturgies and Celebrations. Please consider being part of this very important Season in the Church year. Some of the roles that need to be filled include:

- Acolyte to assist Father Shane
- Washing of the feet. Ideally there are 12 people who are willing to have their feet washed.
- Readers
- Offertory procession – family groups
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Collectors

Please consider helping, as we all have something to offer. If you are available and willing to help, please let us know at school or contact Father Shane directly.

A timetable of services will be included in next week's newsletter

If you would like to contact Father Shane about any matter please call the presbytery on 50201645 or

email [shanereade@icloud.com](mailto:shanereade@icloud.com)

*Trish Gaston*

## General News



The Council of Catholic School Parents is the peak representative body for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW. The most recent CCSP newsletter is going home with our school newsletter. It contains interesting information aimed at parents. The 2017 Parent Conference will be held in Manly on 9 & 10 September. The theme of the conference is 'Future Ready: Preparing our Children for a Changing World'. If any parents are interest in attending, please see Nat as there is funding available to assist with costs.

### Staff Professional Learning – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The focus for our professional learning on the first day of term 2 is **Writing**.

We will be analysing the NAPLAN writing marking criteria in terms of how we performed as a school, targeting areas for further development.

We will also be creating a framework for how we can incorporate the '7 Steps to Writing success' strategies into our classroom writing sessions.

All staff will undergo review or initial training in the 'First Steps: Writing' resource, determining the most valuable way to include this resource in our teaching to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students.

**A reminder that there will be no classes on this day.**

## Canteen Corner

### Red Day

*items are able to be ordered TOMORROW,*

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**MJR is all about the way we**

**Greet, Treat and Speak**

**to others**



These young people have been showing us the face of Jesus around our school. They are: Jack Duryea for helping Levi; Cohen Doyle for sharing with Harmonie and Paddy Doyle for being helpful and kind.

## St Joseph's Parish School Committee News

The School Committee is a committee of the Parish Priest and works in an advisory capacity with the Parish Priest and the school Principal for the benefit of the school and the school community by identifying and addressing local needs.

The 2017 St Joseph's Parish School Committee consists of the following members:

Father Shane Reade – Parish Priest

Natalie Lay – School Principal

Lisa Papa – Chairperson

Fiona Scott – Staff representative

Rebecca Stevens – P&F Representative

Nadine Matarazzo – Parent Representative

At our first meeting for the year, the roles and responsibilities were outlined. The election of the Chairperson took place, with special thanks to Nadine Matarazzo for fulfilling the role as Chairperson last year and to Jayne Farnsworth who is stepping off the Committee after three years of service.

The 2017 Budget was presented for approval.

The Committee examined the 2017 Maintenance plan, with Father Shane and Mrs Lay undertaking a maintenance walk to determine priorities.

The 2017 Annual School Improvement Plan was presented, with the following 4 priority areas identified:

1. **Religious Education:** Revamping our school Vision and Mission statement through reflection and consultation with all stakeholders – staff, students, parents and parishioners.
2. **English:** It is our aim to improve writing outcomes for all students. This will be achieved through analysing writing data to determine areas of strength and areas for further development, teaching staff to engage in professional learning to enhance their teaching of writing and set individualised goals for all students.
3. **Mathematics:** The target for Mathematics is to ensure that 80% of our students will be achieving 'on the way' growth points in the four domains of Number, as well as providing opportunities for our top 20% of students to be extended beyond their growth points. This will be achieved by providing specific, targeted teaching and integrating special programs such as Coding to extend students to reach their full potential.
4. **Wellbeing:** Emotional and Spiritual wellbeing are two areas that have been identified as being of concern, with anxiety levels in school children across the country becoming of increasing concern. We aim to equip the staff and students with skills and strategies to cope when things go wrong, resilience, coping with change and having a positive outlook and attitude in everything we do. Ms O'Toole will be attending the 2017 Positive Schools Conference in Melbourne in June as part of her professional learning program and will bring lots of new knowledge and ideas to this important area.

### **Sun Protection Policy – parent input needed!**

The Committee held a discussion around swimming vests or 'rashies' being made **compulsory** during school swimming sessions. At the present time, our policy states that they are 'recommended'. We are after the views of as many parents as possible and would greatly appreciate it if you could fill in the simple survey question below and return to school. We will be collating the results at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the school Committee will take place on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**.

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**SURVEY QUESTION:** Should 'rashies' be made compulsory during school sport swimming sessions?

(Please circle preferred response)

Yes

No