

St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 6

11th November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today we commemorated Remembrance Day, which commemorates the end of the hostilities for the Great War (World War I), on November 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We remember the sacrifices and hardships people endured in wars past and pray for peace in our world today.

There Will Be Peace

There will be peace:

when attitudes change;

when self-interest is seen as part of common interest;

when old wrongs, old scores, old mistakes

are deleted from the account;

when the aim becomes co-operation and mutual benefit

rather than revenge or seizing maximum personal or group gain;

when justice and equality before the law

become the basis of government;

when basic freedoms exist;

when leaders - political, religious, educational - and the police and media wholeheartedly embrace the concepts of justice, equality, freedom, tolerance,

and reconciliation as a basis for renewal;

when parents teach their children new ways to think about people.

There will be peace:

when enemies become fellow human beings.



David Roberts

1999.



Congratulations to two of our mums who have recently completed their university degrees, alongside working and being a mum. What a wonderful example you are to your children.....learning is a lifelong journey!

Thank you to all of you who have helped us throughout the year with Fun Food Days, excursions, sporting events, discos, fundraising and the many other events held at school. We value your support and invite you to a Thank You Supper on Monday 30th November at 7pm. An invitation will be sent home and child minding will be available at Joey's. All welcome!



Love and peace,
Fran Jackson
Principal



Learning without Limits

94 Joseph Street, Kingswood NSW 2747

Phone: 4732 3999 Fax: 4731 1432

Website: stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au Email: stjosephskwood@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Culture News

Dear Parents,

I am very proud to announce that our generous donations for the 'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink' appeal for Madagascar have reached a grand total of \$900. This is well over the target we set and we can now say our donations will be able to install a water pump to provide clean drinking water in one of the schools in Madagascar. Thank you to all our students, families and staff that donated to this important cause.



Sacramental Preparation Program 2016:

Registration 14th February 2016

Sacrament of Reconciliation: TBA

First Communion: TBA

Confirmation: TBA

As dates are released from the parish we will forward those on to you.



This week raffle tickets will be sent home to help offset the cost of the Pilgrimage for young people going to WYD in Krakow Poland.

Booklet of 10 tickets \$20. Please return all sold & unsold tickets & money to school by Friday Week 10 Term 4 2015.



Mrs Monique Boyer

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

General News



School Fees – Now OVERDUE

Thank you to the families who have finalised their school fees for the year. Thank you also to the families who are maintaining their approved payment arrangements. Most of these payment arrangements should now be coming to an end. **Please finalise all other school fees accounts ASAP.**

Please note Swim School for Kindergarten to Year 4 is included in your school fees account. Reminder, if you indicated your Year 5/6 child will be attending Swim School payment of \$120 (cash or eftpos NOT BPay) **must be** paid to the school office by this Friday 14th November.

If you have any questions regarding your child's school fees account or if your child will not be participating in Swim School please contact Jenny Pendleton on 4732 3999.

2016 BYODD - (Bring Your Own Designated Device) for Years 4 & 5

To promote and support technology assisted learning, students may bring their own iPad to school next year. Mrs McGannon has been appointed as our eLearning Lead Teacher and will support teachers to provide rich eLearning experiences. We have purchased a further 19 iPads in addition to the 10 purchased from the Parent Association, however, it benefits the student to have their own device to continue their learning projects at home. We will have details of an education priced deal with Apple, next week. This information will be sent home to parents.



Skoolbag

In 2016 we will distribute all school notes through Skoolbag. Our final two newsletters this year will be printed as usual as well as sent out through the Skoolbag app to allow parents to check that we have the correct contact details for them. Information for parents to download the app will be sent out next week.

2016 Enrolments

We are accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2016. Enrolment Forms are available at the school office and the school website. If you know of anyone considering a Catholic school education for their child here at St Joseph's from 2016, in any grade, please encourage them to contact us as soon as possible to assist us with our planning for 2016. **If a younger sibling will be attending Kindergarten at St Joseph's next year please return your enrolment form and documents ASAP.** Please contact Karen Sprycha on 4732 3999 to arrange an interview.





Will you be leaving St Joseph's at the end of 2015?

We understand that family circumstances change and children sometimes need to change schools. If you know that you will not be attending St Joseph's in 2016, please advise Mrs Jackson and complete an Exit Form, available from the school office.

Please note, that concerns regarding financial difficulties **are not** a reason for seeking another school, as the Catholic Education Office and St Joseph's can and will assist families with meeting these costs when genuine financial difficulties arise.

School Uniforms

Lowes at Penrith has kindly given the school vouchers for 15% off all school uniforms, valid until 15th November 2015. Vouchers are available from the front office. Alternatively, please call the school on 4732 3999 so we can send a voucher home.



Year 2 Student Bus Passes for 2016

All students in Year 2 progressing to Year 3 in 2016, who currently have a Bus Pass, are required to complete a new application form. These now need to be completed online at www.transport.info/school-students

Traffic around the school and Road Safety

There have been many phone calls and reports to the school office regarding road rules being broken around the school. Unfortunately we are unable to control traffic and the movements of others. If you have any concerns please contact the local police station to make a complaint. We appreciate all who obey the road rules around the school. Please drive carefully, obey all the road rules and keep our children safe!



Fun Food Day

Fun Food Day is being held every Friday. Zoooper Doopers are on sale for 50c.

Please note Friday 20th November Fun Food Day will be Ice Blocks and Ice Creams, priced between 50c and \$3.



Your guide to the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

We all know the importance of reading for literacy development and the impact a prolonged break, like the Christmas holidays, can have on this advancement, particularly for vulnerable readers.

These summer holidays, I will once again be launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

How to enter:

It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

[Enter online](#)

Entries open on 2 November 2015 and close at 5pm on 5 February 2016. Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).

Excursion News

Big Dig at the Rocks

I liked that we could dig up artefacts in the sand pit. I also liked the part when we heard about the different stories. I liked the story about George Cribb who was a butcher.

Luca 4AA

Year 4 Excursion

Year 4 went on an excursion to the city. We really enjoyed it. We didn't know about Anne Armsden, George Cribb and Margaret Byrne but now we know a lot about these convicts.

Jessica 4AA

My Favourite part!

My favourite part of the excursion was when we dug in the sand pit to look for buried things that the convicts were using.

Kuer 4JM



AFL News

Year's 3 and 4 are currently participating in AFL for sport.



Disco News

A big thank you to all the parent helpers who attended the school Halloween Disco:

Elisha Mitchell
Lonni McLean
Belinda Klassen
Jemma Feruzi
Greg Diehm
Anthony Ryan
Joanne Trunzo-Moore

Andrew Moore
Racheal Vella
Michelle McAuley
Serey Sou
Stacey Rowe
Jim Bunfield
Maggy Alfred

Marianne Wilson
Nandika
Edna Weldon
Jenny Wylie
Kylie Barron
Kylie Dennis
Sarah Page

Mel Bannon
Dave Bannon
Kathryn De Vries
Tanya Bunfield



Parent Questionnaire News

Though we received only 16 responses, the feedback was valuable. A summary of the responses and discussion at the Parent Association meeting last Monday is attached.

Number of surveys distributed - 304

Number of responses received - 16

Number of parents at PA meeting on Monday 2nd November to discuss survey response - 6

Student Semester 1 Report – this year we did not include any comments to encourage parent attendance at the Parent/Teacher interview. Semester 2 Reports will have comments provided for Religious Education, English, Mathematics and a General Comment.

Response:

Comments on report:

- drive parent / teacher conversation
- give purpose to meeting with the teacher
- provide overview of how child is progressing
- need to focus on child's learning – sometimes too vague
- interview important with or without comments on report

General:

- 15 mins too short for interview
- Report format needs to be explained
- Working parents have difficulty attending – consider implications of phone interviews as an alternative

Action:

- Comments to be included in both Semester 1 and Semester 2 Student Reports
- Use of technology for parent/teacher interviews to be explored
- School to be more proactive in ensuring parents are aware of option to have interview with teacher, by appointment, whenever needed.

Parent Teacher Interviews were not well attended this year. We included attendance by students to change the focus from reporting to setting goals for student learning based on the Student Report. [How can we improve this process? Was it helpful to have the student at the interview? Were available times enough?](#)

Response:

There was a mixed response to having students present for the interview

- Goal setting a positive initiative
- Child at interview important / useful / involved in process
- Reports not informative – nothing to discuss
- Children didn't know why they were at the interview – not prepared for goal setting
- Goal setting would be better earlier in the year
- Conflict of suitable time – working hours / child's bedtime
- Time with teacher first, then include student
- Interview with / without child work well

Action:

- School to explore Goal setting meetings early Term 1
- Students to be prepared to be engaged in "learning conference"
- School to set out and promote procedures for parent teacher meetings other than set Parent/Teacher interview times.

Meet the Teacher Night Term 1 – We have noticed a decline in parent attendance. [How else can we connect parents and teachers in a meaningful way early in Term 1? How else can we communicate the direction of the school to parents?](#)

Response:

- Prefer one-on-one to general meeting
- Difficult to attend for working parents
- More explicit written information as an alternative to large meeting
- Publish teacher profiles with photos
- More opportunities throughout the year to meet with teacher

Action:

- School to liaise with Parent Association to hold social 'meet and greet' function early in Term 1 – target Kinder parents?
- Staffing / school direction to be communicated electronically using Skoolbag
- School to explore Goal setting meetings early Term 1

Homework – Our homework policy focuses on daily reading and unit based activities as described on the Term Overview for each class. [What works well with this model? What are the challenges?](#)

Response

- Inconsistency across school re homework expectations
- Homework provides parents insight into what children are learning
- More structured homework – provide opportunity for parents to help children with their learning

Action

- School to revisit Homework Policy
 - consistent expectations
 - frequency of communication
 - resources e.g. readers
 - use of technology for homework
- Revision to be communicated to parents early 2016

Newsletter/Communication – We are looking at using the [Skoolbag App](#) to publish our newsletter and general communication for parents.

Response

- Positive response to *Skoolbag App*
- Already used by local secondary school, primary schools
- Paper copy of Term@ A Glance preferred

Action

- School subscribe to *Skoolbag* and implement asap
- *Skoolbag* to run parallel to current paper communication until end of 2015.
- Parents to be sent information on accessing *Skoolbag App*
- Skoolbag to be used for all school communication in 2016. Paper copies of Newsletter available in school foyer for visitors and parents who require paper format.

Parent Meetings/Parent Workshops – [How can we increase parent participation? How can we make these more relevant/valued? Is there another way to collaborate?](#)

Response

- Workshops fantastic
- Difficult for working parents to attend
- Schedule some workshops for evenings
- Provide more notice of upcoming events
- Restrictions on bringing toddlers make it difficult to attend
- Allow students to attend workshop with their parents
- Use technology

Action

- School to explore creating video clips to teach parents specific strategies used at school for e.g. maths, reading, writing
- Plan workshops for year and promote to increase parent attendance

Open Classrooms / Sporting events / Performances – It is important for parents to engage with our learning agenda and experience the work of the school. [How can we expand this agenda from what we already offer?](#)

Response

- Increase opportunities for 'open classrooms' so parents can see what is happening at school
- What is happening now, works well
- Organise more family excursions outside of school day e.g. UWS Observatory; Joan Sutherland Centre
- Remind parents more frequently of what school has to offer and age children can access different activities
- More promotion of sporting activities
- Use technology to share the learning

Action

- Promote 'open classroom' events at beginning of year
- Promote local family learning events – Parent Association / parents to coordinate???
- Acknowledge student participation in school events more publicly
- Explore use of technology to communicate learning

Parent Association – We need more participation than the quorum of seven (7) at our meetings. While parents are generous in giving their time for fundraising events, meetings are poorly attended. [Is having a Parent Association still relevant?](#) [How does a PA reflect the work of the Parramatta Parent Representative Council?](#)

Response

- Family / work commitments / lack of childcare prevent attendance
- Communication required around
 - Role Parent Association
 - How does PA benefit the school
 - Role of Parramatta Parent Representative Council
 - Advance notice of meeting dates
 - Inclusion / welcome of all

Action

- Constitution of Parent Association to be sent out to all parents prior to AGM in Term 1 2016
- President's report outlining achievements of 2015 to be published
- Role and activities of PPRC to be included in newsletter 2016
- Date for AGM to be advertised beginning of Term 1 2016

Community Engagement – To promote building of our community as a Catholic school, we invite parents to our Monday morning assemblies, Sunday Mass once each term, liturgies for special Feast Days, Family Fun Day and other celebrations. [What other ideas could we explore to bring our school community together?](#)

Response

- More advance notice of upcoming events
- More social / family activities
- Communication re assemblies
 - Which class is leading
 - Time
 - Special celebrations

Action

- Publish school calendar beginning of Term 1 for whole of year
- Explore possible social / family events with Parent Association

Community News



Sacrament Of Penance - Saturday after morning mass

St Joseph's Catholic Church Kingswood—Mass Times

Cnr Joseph Street & Richmond Road, Kingswood Phone 4721 4080

Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am—1:30pm Friday

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 6pm
Sunday - 8.30am and 10.00am
Polish Mass - Saturday 4pm

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 8am
Saturday 8.30am



Eucharistic Adoration - Before all masses

WHITE RIBBON DAY

TWILIGHT RIVER WALK

Wednesday 25
November 2015
5.30PM - 7.30PM

3.5KM WALK FROM WEIR RESERVE
TO TENCH RESERVE, PENRITH

SPEECHES & WHITE RIBBON OATH
READING COMMENCE 6.30PM AT
TENCH RESERVE

Penrith Council is proud to support White Ribbon Day to help bring an end to violence against women in our community. Join us and show your support at this free community event.

Current statistics show that nearly three women are killed every week by a former or current partner. Too many Australian women live with fear and violence. It could be your mother, wife, sister, daughter, friend, partner, colleague...Stopping the violence is everyone's responsibility.

Food stalls and live music at Tench Reserve until 7.30pm.

FREE SHUTTLE BUS BACK TO WEIR RESERVE FROM 6.30PM. WHITE RIBBON MERCHANDISE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EVENT WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE WHITE RIBBON FOUNDATION.

For more information contact Erin on 4732 8028.

In support of

Australia's campaign to
Stop violence against women

White Ribbon



White Ribbon Day, 25 November

Do your bit to help stop the violence against women

penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

LOWES
BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL
13% OFF*
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE
ONLINE ONLY
1 DAY ONLY FRI 13 NOV
SIMPLY ENTER THE CODE **13FRI2015** AT CHECKOUT
*Offer does not apply to items already on sale. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.



SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

A Reflection Day – to celebrate the lives of loved ones

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

A day to honour and celebrate those loved ones who have taken their lives. There will be some information sessions, small group sharing, quiet reflection time and celebration of the Eucharist.

Facilitators:
Fr Stan Lim SJ, Sr Eileen Quade RSM, Philippa Ford, Ann O'Brien

Saturday 14th November 2015, 10am to 4pm
St Joseph's Centre, 64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills

Morning tea and Lunch will be provided.
Registrations essential.

For bookings and enquiries phone CatholicCare Social Services on (02) 9933 0222 or email enquiries@ccss.org.au

"The reality is that we don't forget, move on, and have closure, but rather we honour, we remember, and incorporate our deceased children and family members into our lives in a new way. In fact, keeping memories of your loved one alive in your mind and heart is an important part of your healing journey."
Harriet Schiff author of *The Bereaved Parent*



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Dates for your Diary

Week 6

Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 12 th November	2:30pm Kindergarten 2016 Story time
Friday 13 th November	Stage 2 Auskick Fun Food Day - Ice Blocks

Week 7

Monday 16 th November	9am Whole School Assembly
Thursday 19 th November	10am CWL Christmas Concert 2:30pm Kindergarten 2016 Story time
Friday 20 th November	Stage 2 Auskick Fun Food Day - Ice Blocks & Ice Creams

Week 8

Monday 23 rd November	Swim School 9am Advent 1 Assembly 10am Kindergarten 2016 Orientation
Tuesday 24 th November	Swim School 10am Kindergarten 2016 Orientation
Wednesday 25 th November	Swim School

Parent Social Event

Parents and staff of St Joseph's

Please join us for a fun night out to thank and farewell our long serving parent helpers that will be leaving us this year

When: Saturday 21st November 2015

Where: Three Junction Thai Restaurant, 375 High Street Penrith

Time: 7pm

Cost: Approx \$30 per head (banquet) plus drinks (payment to be made on the night)
BYO Alcohol

Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to Lonni 0413 086 741 by Thursday 19th November