Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy St Joseph’s Day!

Fr Andrew celebrated Mass with us this morning as it is our school and parish Feast Day. The children participated fully, responding and singing confidently. As a Catholic school, we are very proud of our students’ increasing reverence for and responsiveness to the Mass. The new sanctuary inspires reflection and prayer, and encourages respectful participation. An inspiring start to our school day!

There is not much information about St Joseph in the gospels, except that he was a descendant of David, trusted God and was entrusted by God to protect and care for Mary and her son Jesus. Joseph is a quiet, reliable, strong, faith-filled figure in the lives of Mary and Jesus.

In his homily today, Fr Andrew urged us to live and love as Joseph did - faithfully and with trust in God.

St Joseph, patron of our school, Pray for us.

Next Tuesday, 25th March, is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord which celebrates the angel Gabriel’s appearance to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord, and Mary’s fiat—her willing acceptance of God's holy plan. This feast highlights not just Mary’s amazing trust and faithfulness to God, but that our God took on human form and lived in this world with all its joy and pain, its ups and downs. Worth thinking about!

Thank you to all parents and visitors who attended our Open Days last week. Teachers and students enjoyed sharing their learning. There were many positive comments about learning at St Joseph’s from both current and prospective parents. The work continues!

Last Monday, we launched our iLearn Anywhere project. After much discussion about the project and signing of agreements for use and care of their device, excited students took their iPad home for parents to download prescribed Apps. In class, teachers have worked with students, checking out all the buttons and slides and populating their calendar to get the ball rolling. Next week, all students should have their Apps downloaded, so much excitement ahead.

This Friday is National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. We had originally planned to celebrate this on Thursday, but have moved it to Friday which is also the School Cross Country. The Parent Association is also holding a Fun Food Day (ice creams and ice blocks) this Friday. A great combination - run off the excess energy, be calm and cool down with an icy treat!

Next Wednesday, 26th March, children may wear mufti (sun-safe play clothes and sneakers) as a reward for bringing in donations for our Easter raffle - chocolate eggs, bunnies, etc. If every child brings in just one item, we would have 287 goodies for the raffle baskets. Parent Association and helpers will make up prize baskets for the raffle which will be drawn on Friday 11th March, last day Term 2. Tickets went home on Monday. If you need more, please contact the office. Funds raised are to purchase more outdoor furniture for the playgrounds.

Blessings to you all,

Fran Jackson
Principal
General News…

Cross Country Helpers Needed
We are in need of helpers for our Cross Country on Friday from 8.45am. If you are able to assist, please contact the office on 4732 3999. Thanks.

School Photo Day – Tuesday 8th April
Please read the instructions inside the photo envelope carefully. Both the school and Advancedlife, the photo company, would prefer that payments for school photos be completed online. Online payments are far more secure than sending cash payments and can be traced through the photo company and also through your own bank. If you make your payment online no envelope is required to be returned to the school.

Please make sure you use the online code which is printed on the front of the photo envelope on the top right hand side. Keep the envelope, along with your receipt number as a record of your online payment. If cash payments are sent to the school and the envelope is lost there is no way to trace it.

If you do intend to pay by cash or cheque please send it into the school office BEFORE the 8th of April. Send correct money as no change will be issued. We require cash payments prior to photo day so they can be secured and organised for the smooth running of the day.

Sibling order envelopes are available by request from the school office. We appreciate your co-operation to ensure a smooth and successful photo day.

Kiss N Ride
If you use the Kiss N Ride facility, could you please ensure that you have your child’s first name and surname clearly displayed on your car’s dashboard or on the front passenger side visor. This will greatly assist the teachers on duty in getting your child promptly to you and will keep the line moving.

Fasting Day
As part of our school wide preparation for Easter, this Lent we will have two ‘Minimal Food Days’ – this means no junk food, no packaged food, no treats! Just the basics – a sandwich, fruit, water. It would be great to have as many children and staff as possible participating in this.

Please note that the first Minimal Food Day will now be held on Friday 28th March (not Thursday 27th March). The second day will be held on Tuesday 1st April.

On these days, any money that may have been spent on other food could be donated. This is a great opportunity for the school community to experience abstinence, fasting and almsgiving together. Please note that Friday 28th March will no longer be Ice Block Day.

2nd hand uniform
We will be holding another second hand uniform sale at the end of this term. If you have any items you wish to donate, please bring them to the school office. Thank you.

Community News…

“Melanoma March”
The Rodziewicz family (Brock, 4CM and Holli 2AA) will be taking part in the Melanoma March this Sunday. If you would like to support this great cause, or find out more information, please click on the following links:


Joey’s Before and After School Care Inc
Joey’s Before and After School Care Inc is a Child Care Benefit approved centre that is located on the school site. They have a flexible, relaxed, program catering to all ages and most interests with staff that are dedicated and caring. They value and encourage family input. Phone 4732 5771. Hours: Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays): 6.30am to 8.30am and 3.00pm to 6.30pm. Special 8.00am service is also available. Vacation Care programs run during school holidays from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

Parish Playgroup
Parish Playgroup for children not yet at school is held on Mondays at 10.00am in the Parish Hall (Lieberman Room). Parents are welcome to attend our Monday morning assembly, have a cuppa afterwards and then go over to playgroup, or you can just go to Playgroup at 10.00am. We hope to see you there.
Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park provides Catholic Education
for girls in Years 7 – 12
Enrolling now for 2015. Applications close 11 April, 2015.
For further information contact the College on 4737 5500.

St Dominic’s College Information Evening and Open Day
St Dominic’s College will be holding an Information Evening on Wednesday 2nd April, 2014, commencing at 7.30pm and an Open Day on the 30th March, 2014 between 10am and 3pm. For further information please call 4731 1933

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE - Enrolling now for 2015
Open Day: Sunday 23rd March 2014       Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
Meet the Principal, staff and students   Tours of the College facilities   Trade Training Centre information   Enrolment packages available
Enquiries: Mrs Sharon Clarke - 4735 3211       Website: www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au       75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Have you joined Penrith Progression?
Penrith Progression is inviting the local community to be part of shaping how our City will look, feel and grow in the future.
As key stakeholders and co-creators in Penrith’s future, community members will work with businesses, investors and Council to explore how to transform the heart of Penrith as a destination to live, work and invest in.
We are inviting you to make your mark in realising our collective vision for our City centre. Register now at penrithprogression.com.au.
For more information phone Erin Higgins at Penrith Council on 4732 8238 or Ben Artup at Penrith Business Alliance on 4732 5711.

Stepping Beyond: Support For Those Separated Or Divorced
On the last Tuesday of each month CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?” Date: Tuesday 25th March, Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

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
Ash Wednesday Masses
8am, 7pm
Liturgy of the Word for school
Is at 9.30am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday 8am
Saturday 8.30am
Sacrament Of Penance - Saturday after morning mass
Eucharistic Adoration - Before all masses

Community Event
You are invited to the St Marys Local Area Command Parent & Community Forum which will be held on Thursday 3rd April 2014, 6.00pm. St Marys Community Centre, located at St Marys Corner, (Cnr Great Western Highway and Mamre Road St Marys). The entry to this venue is via Swanston Street.
Topics of Interest: Cyber Safety, Road Trauma – Causes & Effects – Crash Unit, Alcohol & Violence in the Community, Safety in the Community, Graffiti – Localised Issues – Police Response
To assist with planning, if you are attending this forum could you please RSVP to Constable Kim SINDEL or Senior Constable Danielle CORLISS via one of the following:
Email: sind1kim@police.nsw.gov.au or corl1dan@police.nsw.gov.au or Phone: 9677-7527 or 9677-7528