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St Joseph's Primary School

Message From Mrs Reilly...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I can't believe the year is coming to an end. It's been fantastic, exciting, exhausting, fun-filled and I've learnt so much. It's this time of the year that you reflect on what you wanted to achieve and what you actually have achieved. It's a time to plan for next year and set new goals.

Some of the achievements for 2018:

Learning: There has been so much learning in the school. Both teachers and students have been given opportunities to extend their understandings, learn new things and raise their personal expectations. Evidence of this being achieved is an improvement in student learning, teacher practice, PAT-R results and Early Years Assessment results.

Behaviour: Clear expectations have been put in place to ensure a safe, friendly, caring school environment. Students know about being safe, respectful learners and this mantra is being mirrored in the playground and when they are on excursions. Our counsellor has been working with classroom teachers to build students' skills to deal with tricky situations. Evidence of this being achieved is significantly less "hands on" incidents and lots more positive and engaging play amongst the students.

School environment: The new Kindergarten space is nearly complete and the Stage 2 refurbishment will commence early next year. Shade cloth and fence replacement as well as other basketball hoops, a blackboard and toys for the playground have been purchased.

Community building: We have welcomed you into the school grounds and have encouraged improved communication between the school and families. Successful events like the movie night, bingo / games night as well as special celebrations like Grandparents' Day have been a real highlight of the year. The Year 4 Writers' Festival showed me how important it is for your child to share their learning. Kindergarten transition was another success as parents were able to share their learning with their children.

Communication: Facebook has become a vehicle to share what is happening at the school. We have been adding lots of photos, information and children's work for you to enjoy.

New goals for 2018:

Continue to improve the gains made as above through:

- More opportunities for parent learning about what their children are doing
- Use of Facebook and the school webpage to provide instructional videos for parents
- Open classrooms for each stage group each term
- Liturgies for parents to share the children's learning at the end of each unit of work
- New furniture for some of the spaces
- Painting of the Administration building
- Landscaping of gardens
- Additional air conditioners for the MPA
- Additional equipment for the playground
- Launch of PBS4L
- Additional whole school celebrations
- Creation of a school song

Thank you for all the support you have given to myself and the staff this year. I am looking forward to an exciting 2018 with lots of new learning and successes. Have a happy and safe Christmas and a relaxing holiday break.

Take care,
Trish Reilly

School Captains for 2018

Over the past 4 weeks the Year 5 students have been learning about what it means to be a leader. We have been through an election process whereby students were required to write an application letter, have an interview and finally present a speech to the Primary classes.

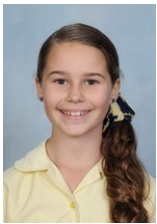
Congratulations to our 4 school captains who were voted in for 2018.



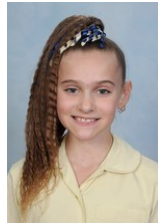
Kane Barrett



Kris Page



Jade Mitchell



Holli Rodziewicz

PBS4L

Are you ready to join the Joey's journey?

Are you being a Safe, Respectful Learner?

Look out for a special surprise visitor to Joey's next year who will help us on our way...

Hair Cuts

Only 2 more days until you can go crazy and get a holiday hair cut!!! Make sure you get it done early so that it has time to grow out before school goes back.

New School Phone Number



St Joseph's is in the process of changing to a new phone system. The new school phone number is **4726 4200**. The new school fax number is 4726 4299.

There will be 18 months of staged redirections and messages for calls to the 'old' school phone number.

For the first 6 months calls to the old number will be automatically redirected to the new number.

For the second set of 6 months, the call will be automatically redirected after a brief message that the number has changed.

For the last 6 months, callers to the old number get a recorded message that states the new number but then hangs up, so the caller has to manually dial the new number themselves.

Attendance Update



At St Joseph's we are aiming for over 90% total school attendance. Unfortunately we ended the year at 78.1% attendance. Congratulations to Year 2 who have finished the year on 92.4%!

We encourage children to be at school and on time every school day. However, if your child is sick please keep them at home.

If your child is sick and away from school for 3 or more consecutive days a doctor's certificate is required on their return.



MAI Assessment Interview - Years 1 - 6 2018

The Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) is a time for your child's teacher to get to know your child as a learner, through a one-to-one interview. Each child will have the opportunity to share their strengths and areas of challenge in the four number domains of counting, place value, addition & subtraction and multiplication & division.

In order for us to allocate the 30 minute time slot, it would be greatly appreciated if you could nominate a time, either on Monday 29th or Tuesday 30th January 2018, where you could bring your child in for their interview, using the electronic booking system outlined below.

Please go to
www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Enter the Access Code: **nan6q**

Please select the year your child is going into for 2018, then teacher 1 or 2. It doesn't matter which teacher you choose as long as it collates with the year your child will be going into.

A confirmation will be sent to your email address so please print and keep it in a safe place to remember your appointment date and time. If you lose this information, it can be retrieved again using your email address.

Counsellor's Corner

Tips for ending the year on a happier note

As we all know this time of year is when children become more tired and irritated and very ready for both holidays and the next step in the learning journey. It is a time when they find it easy to remember and talk about the negative times at school and to forget the things they are learning or the fun experiences they are having.

To help out with a positive end to 2017 we would encourage you to try and use the following at home:

1. Encourage a good sleep routine
2. Ask for one thing they learned today
3. Ask for one thing they enjoyed on the playground

Hopefully this will help everyone have a positive end to this year.

Kind Regards,
Vennessa Goode

Twilight Swimming Carnival 2018

Now that our Swim School Program has begun we are looking forward to hosting our upcoming swimming carnival early next year. The carnival will be held:

Tuesday February 6th 2018
commencing at **4:30pm** at
Ripples St Mary's

All children who **have turned or will turn** eight years old or over in 2018 from grades 2-6 (2018) are welcome to enter.

All children attending the carnival will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian, no child will be permitted to swim without their parent/guardian present.

The following events will be scheduled:

- 100m Freestyle (8-12+ years, the students must be confident, competent swimmers who have attempted 100m swims prior to the carnival).
- 50m Age Freestyle (8,9,10,11,12+)
- 50m Breaststroke (Junior Event 8,9,10 years) 11 Years Event, Senior Event (12+ Years)
- 50m Backstroke (Junior Event 8,9,10 years) 11 Years Event, Senior Event (12+ Years)
- 50m Butterfly (Junior Event 8,9,10 years) 11 Years Event, Senior Event (12+ Years)
- 200mIM (8-12+ years, the students must be confident, competent swimmers who have attempted 100m swims prior to the carnival).

This Twilight Carnival is a **competitors only** meet. There will be no 25m or novelty events. The fastest two boys and girls in each event may be selected to represent St Joseph's at the Nepean Zone Carnival in Glenbrook. The Zone qualifying times set by PDSSSC will be considered in selecting school representatives as well as the ability to swim the stroke correctly.

Ripples has set the following entry fees will apply, these are payable at the pool:

Students: \$5.00
Spectators: \$3.00

I encourage you to make the most of every opportunity during the summer school holidays to help your child develop in both skill and confidence to build on the high quality instruction from the Ripples Team in the School Swimming Program this term.

Further information and entry details will be available in Week 1, 2018. We will gratefully welcome parent assistance at the Carnival.

Yours Sincerely, Moreno Faccin
Sport teacher

2018 Staff

We would like to thank and farewell Jana Webb, Emily Follan, Fiona Hill, Chris Komorowski and Megan Ferguson.

We are delighted that Brittany Carey and Ereeny Abdelsayed will be continuing at St Joseph's in a casual capacity.

In 2018 we will be working in teams being guided by Alison Busittil, Michelle Sultana and Lisa Howell.

The following teachers will be working collaboratively in the learning spaces:

2018 A Team Approach

Grade	Teacher/s	Learning Support	Instructional Leader
Kindergarten	Terrie Berg	Rose Keane	Alison Busuttil
Year 1	Adelle Scott	Louise Grech	
	Celeste Collimore		
Year 2	Kathleen McNally	Catriona Pennay	
	Naomi Mico		
Year 3	Cheryl McGannon	Bernadette Purtell	Michelle Sultana
	Lamy Moloney		
Year 4	Ashu Aggarwal		
Year 5	Gabrielle Whitney	Jeanette Serrao (0.5)	Lisa Howell
	Jennifer Saaib		
Year 6	Phil Margerison/Moreno Faccin		
	Vicki Geraghty		

Classroom Teachers – These teachers will be working collaboratively in 2018 to ensure best possible outcomes for your students.

Diversity Support – These teachers will be working with the classroom teachers in the learning space to assist them in extending and providing additional support for students. They will also be delivering Second Wave intervention programs as required. They will be responsible for students with Personalised Plans.

Instructional Leaders – These teachers will be leading the learning in each stage. They will be working closely with teachers to plan, deliver and evaluate teaching. They will be team teaching with, observing and mentoring staff. Time will be allocated for them to analyse data with their teachers, to meet and to be involved in Case Management.

Christmas Stories

A Wonderful Christmas

By Jordan 4B

As the freezing snow fell on the old but cozy cabin, George was thinking about all the presents he would receive on Christmas. "Ahh, I love Christmas!" George checked the light blue sky every Christmas Eve to see Santa, Christmas was all he needed in his life.

It was the 24th of December Christmas Eve and George couldn't sleep. He decided to sit on his rocking chair outside and try to forget about his parents that died years ago. George slowly fell asleep "-Snoring-" /THUMP\ Within seconds George woke up to what sounded like something hitting a door. George leapt out of his chair and sprinted to the door and peeked out of the keyhole to see who was there.

It was the orphanage workers from the local orphanage. "Open up kiddo we're here to help." said one of the Orphanage workers in a sarcastic voice. "No, I'm fine living by myself now go away!" George yelled. There was another /THUMP\ to the door and George ran to the kitchen. He found a few old shelves and some nails. "That should keep them out" George thought. He placed the shelf on the door but he forgot the hammer. George ran back to the kitchen /THUMP\ The orphanage workers hit the door again. George rushed back to the door and hammered the shelves in the door. "Hey, what are you doing now kid?" Nothing you need to know about." George teased.

George set up banana peels at the door just in case the plan didn't work. /THUMP\ the door was on its final hinge. "One more hit and my 'gifts' may be embarrassment." George said with a worried tone. George ran upstairs and grabbed a few bowling balls, ready to send down the stairs...

/THUMP\ The door fell off all its hinges and the orphanage workers came storming in. "Ahh!" One of the orphanage workers, Jazz slipped on one of the banana peels and fell straight on his back like dropping a bowling ball, knocking him out cold. "Where is that little pest?" the other orphanage worker thought, Steve. Steve saw an arm and came bolting up the stairs. "Here you go, one bowling ball for you." George said. "Wait what?" /DOING\ the bowling ball hit him right in the head, knocking him out cold. "Yes!" George yelled, celebrating saving his Christmas.

George called the police and talked with them for awhile and ended up being adopted by a wonderful family of four, now five.

The True Meaning Of Christmas

By Jaxon 4Y

Why do you think presents are the meaning of Christmas? Because it's not, it's about things like Jesus' birth, spending time with family, giving, receiving, being kind, and some people in many countries don't even get anything for Christmas.

Jesus' birth is important, because Christmas wouldn't be real if Jesus wasn't born, and we wouldn't even be alive!

If your family wasn't there to celebrate Christmas, what would it be without them? If you're alone for Christmas you would have nothing and nobody to celebrate with.

You should sometimes give, because Christmas is about sharing, celebrating and making people happy.

Kindness is a really big part of Christmas, because you can't just be greedy and selfish on Christmas because it's a time to celebrate with your family and friends and you should always make them smile like others make you smile and be happy on Christmas Day!



Did you know that some people in different countries don't even get anything for Christmas? And they don't even get to celebrate Christmas! So on Christmas you should at least pray for them because they don't get the stuff we get, most of the time the poor don't even get a proper meal for breakfast, lunch or dinner like we do, so we should pray for them to get stuff like we have or so they can survive and have a life without any harm!

These are the reasons why presents aren't the true meaning of Christmas, and I hope I have taught you and convinced you that the gifts aren't the meaning of Christmas.



The Christmas Miracle

By Tristan 4Y

As the freezing cold snowflakes cracked in the bright blue sky, every single person started to sing Christmas carols.
“ This is why I hate Christmas.”

There was a young boy named Kody who hated Christmas. He had lime green eyes that could detect things through walls. Kody was homeless and his parents had died months ago. This was why he was always in a terrible mood.

Kody decided to move his cardboard across the road, <BANG> everything went black.

3 HOURS LATER

“ Huh what just happened to me?” Kody asked. He opened his eyes but everything was blurry. He saw a person standing right in front of him.

“ Who are you?” asked Kody.

“ I’m Benjamin!” said the man.

“ Why am I here ?” said Kody.

“ Well a car crashed into you and you blacked out,” said Benjamin.

“ Wait are we in your basement?” asked Kody.

“ Umm, no we’re in a creepy dark cave,” said Benjamin in a sarcastic voice.

After that weird conversation, Benjamin and Kody became friends.

Benjamin then gave Kody a colourful map. On that map was all different types of quests.

“What is this for?” asked Kody.

You will soon find out,” said Benjamin.

<POOF>, Kody looked around and saw nothing but smoke. He then looked down at the map.

“Wait!” screamed Kody.

“This map is leading to something”.

Kody leapt up off the floor and followed the path on the map. He travelled for 35 minutes and right in front of him was a school.

“What is this?” asked Kody.

Kody decided to walk into the school and that is when he saw... All of his school memories. He watched himself do all of the subjects and after one hour he came out with the smartest brain ever. Kody was as smart as Albert Einstein. Kody looked down at his map again and travelled to the next place which was where his parents used to live. That is when a tear came from his eye because he remembered his parents dying months ago. Kody stayed there for another hour and came out with the most love he has ever felt.

Kody looked down at his map for the last time and he travelled to the last place on the map. It took Kody five hours to get to the destination but it was totally worth it. He ended up at the north pole and he saw Santa’s Workshop. He ran as fast as he could and then jumped through the door. Kody got up and he saw all of the elves working as fast as cheetahs. Then on the corner of his eye he saw Santa the best present maker of all time.

“Santa!” shouted Kody

“Is it really you,” said Santa

“Wait me?” Kody asked

“ Yes, you my son.” From that day on, Kody had the greatest time being an elf and being the son

Christmas in Australia

By Chanel 4Y



Did you know how people celebrate Christmas in Australia? We celebrate Christmas in Summer, we come together as a family on the day of Christmas and we eat different foods on Christmas.

Christmas in Australia is bang in the middle of summer, which is the hottest part of Summer. Summer is the season with the longest and warmest days of the year. On Christmas Day in Australia the beach is packed with people swimming.

What do Australians eat on Christmas? Well due to the weather usually we eat salads and cold meat. Australia is surrounded with water so we have lots of seafood available. We also eat sausages, chips and nuggets.

Most families in Australia come together as one on Christmas Day, some families because it’s hot they usually go to the beach or a pool area. Some people love to go to functions or a lunch or dinner.

These are the foods we eat, how families in Australia celebrate Christmas and the weather in Australia in December (Christmas time).

What Is Christmas In The Boateng Family?

By Stephanie 4Y

What is Christmas? Christmas is a holy event celebrated with family, friends and the church. It is a special day where we give and receive presents and share food.

Celebrating Christmas with family is very special because it shows that you love your family.

In my house, we start Christmas off on the night of Christmas Eve, we wait till 12:00am (basically Christmas). We rush downstairs to unwrap our presents. If we got technology we spend the night setting it up. If not we go upstairs and sleep.

When it's about 9am, my brothers and I wake up and prepare the food for the Christmas feast. When we are finished, our half sister comes over and unpacks her bags.

At 2pm, my mum comes back from work. An hour later, my dad comes back from teaching people how to drive. When everyone is here, it's time for dinner.

After dinner we go to church. There is 2 hours of church then we drive home and the night ends with everyone going to sleep.

That's how my family celebrates Christmas!



Christmas

By Mark 4B

What is Christmas all about?

Christmas is all about spending more time with your family, Jesus' birth and going to Mass and love.

Mass

Going to Mass is very important during Christmas time so you learn more about God. The Catholic tradition the Church is celebrating Christmas at Mass.

Love

Love is the most important part of Christmas because if there is no love for Christmas there's no laughing, eating and playing with your relatives and your toys. If you don't have no love for Christmas you will have no one to celebrate Christmas with.

Jesus' birth

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Jerusalem and was born in a stable with animals like Cows, Sheep, Chickens and birds with all hay all around him. Baby Jesus was a very important person. The three wise men brought gold frankincense and myrrh. They all followed the big star above the stable to find baby Jesus.

Family

Spending more time with your family is the most important thing during Christmas time. It's important to spend time with family so then you will have fun with your family then eat and laugh. Sometimes my cousins, family friends, uncles and aunts come to my house for Christmas and celebrate Christmas at the park.

All these things together = Christmas and that makes this event the best time of the year.

Holiday Ideas

PENRITH CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 96, SUMMER 2017

IT'S GAME ON... WITH THE SUMMER READING CLUB

Monday 4 December 2017 - Sunday 28 January 2018



HOW MANY BOOKS CAN YOU READ THIS SUMMER?

From Monday 4 December, visit any library branch to collect your Summer Reading Club log and get started. Read and record ten books on the reading log and return your completed log to any library branch for your chance to win a prize. Winners will be drawn at our Special Summer Reading Club celebration at Penrith Library on **Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 4pm.**

The Summer Reading Club is open to all Library Members aged 16 years and under.

THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE TO WIN AWESOME PRIZES!

For more information contact the Children's Team on 4732 7890 or childrensteamlibrary@penrith.city

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

ZIPTALES

Help children learn and love to read

Ziptales is a fun and fantastic new, online eResource on the Penrith City Library website. Ziptales offers 500+ interactive stories with voiceovers, animations, games, quizzes and more, to help make reading fun! Ziptales is free for Library Members so all you need to get started is a library card. Find Ziptales online at: ziptales.com/subs/penrith/

Also, visit Penrith Library this summer and try out the Ziptales children's booth on display in the children's area till the end of January 2018. Tell us how it goes!

Look inside for fun holiday activities!

Little People's Literacy Learning

A FREE online guide for parents and carers with many examples of activities you can enjoy with your child. Some of the activities are incidental and some are planned. All activities are designed with an emphasis on learning through collaborative play and shared discovery.

AUSTRALIAN LITERACY EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

alea.edu.au/publicresources/resources-for-parents-and-community/little-peoples-literacy-learning

Zipples Intensive Learn to Swim

Benefits of Intensive Learn to Swim!
By practising swimming daily with repetition and correction, it enhances students learning process of retaining swimming skills and water safety.

5 Days for \$50

Week 1 - 8th to 12th January
Week 2 - 15th to 19th January (St Marys and Penrith)
Week 3 - Mon 22nd to Thurs 25th Jan (Penrith only - 4 days for \$40) (conditions apply)

SWIM SAFE SURVIVE

ASK ABOUT OUR INTENSIVE CARNIVAL PROGRAM

If you require further information please contact Ripples St Marys on 9833 3000 or Penrith 4721 3625 or visit us at Charles Hackett Drive, St Marys or 119 Station Street, Penrith. Email us at: rladmin@ripplesnsw.com.au

ST MARYS & PENRITH LEISURE CENTRES WWW.RIPPLESNOW.COM.AU



FAMILY SHOWS

NELLA'S WINGS

With Sydney Puppet Theatre

Nella doesn't speak but her drawings guide us into her imagination where flying creatures live in the snow, the desert, the sea and garden. With the audience's help Nella finds a way to fly!

WHO: For the whole family

WHEN: Wednesday 10 January 2018, 10.30 - 11.30am

TICKETS: \$5 per person (children under 2 free)



MAGIC SHOW

With Joel Howlett

You're invited into JD's World of Magic, with a live magic rabbit, buckets of audience participation and more fun than you could wave a wand at! Great for all the family!

WHO: For the whole family

WHEN: Wednesday 17 January 2018, 10.30 - 11.30am

TICKETS: \$5 per person (children under 2 free)

TEEN WORKSHOPS

HENNA WORKSHOP

With Gul Mehndi

You'll learn how to use traditional body art decorating techniques and create your own unique henna designs starting with simple henna patterns and step-by-step instruction.

WHO: 12 - 16 year olds

WHEN: Monday 15 January 2018, 10.30am - 12.30pm

TICKETS: \$25 per person



TRASH PERCUSSION

With Ian Watson/Fun Day Out

A whole lot of loud fun! Work together and create an original piece of music with this exciting, vibrant, all-inclusive style of percussion where anything and everything is a musical instrument.

WHO: 11 - 16 year olds

WHEN: Tuesday 16 January 2018, 11 - 11.50am

TICKETS: \$15 per person



WORKSHOPS

ICED CHOCOLATE CLAY SCULPTURES

With Katherine Kennedy from Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre

Shape your own clay sculpture - a yummy iced chocolate drink in a fancy cafe cup. Looks so tasty you'll want to drink it!

WHO: 6 - 11 year olds

WHEN: Monday 8 January 2018, 10 - 11.30am

TICKETS: \$20 per child



IMAGINE IT, CREATE IT, WEAR IT

With Christine Butterfield from Chrysanthemum Creations

Create magic with leather and fabric! Let your imagination run wild and design a unique accessory to wear on your clothes, your wrist, in your hair or around your neck. The possibilities are endless!

WHO: 8 - 12 year olds

WHEN: Tuesday 9 January 2018, 10.30 - 11.30am

TICKETS: \$20 per child



TRASH PERCUSSION

With Ian Watson from Fun Day Out

A whole lot of loud fun! Work together and create an original piece of music with this exciting, vibrant, all-inclusive style of percussion where anything and everything is a musical instrument.

WHO: 6 - 10 year olds

WHEN: Tuesday 16 January 2018, 10 - 10.50 am

TICKETS: \$15 per child



HULA HOOP DANCING

With Caitlyn from Spin Joy

Join Spin Joy for fun, dizzy hula hoop dancing and the coolest tricks around! Hula Hoop dance is great fun and captivates the attention of boys and girls of all ages. You'll be in fits of giggles as you master the basics and learn something new.

WHO: 6 - 13 year olds

WHEN: Thursday 18 January 2018, 10.30 - 11.30am

TICKETS: \$15 per child



TICKETS ON SALE FROM MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018

All events are at Penrith Library. Bookings are essential. Book early to avoid disappointment as tickets sell quickly. No refunds or exchanges for tickets purchased.

Family shows - every adult and child over 2 year old must purchase a ticket.

Workshops - accompanying adults attend for free. All workshops are supervised by professional facilitators and staff.

Your feedback helps us plan future events - email the Library's Children's team at childrensteamlibrary@penrith.city

Dates for your Diary

Week 10

Thursday 14th December

Friday 15th December

2pm End of Term Awards Assembly

Last day of school

Class Parties

Year 6 Farewell

2018 Dates

Monday 29th January

Staff Development Day and MAI Testing

Tuesday 30th January

Staff Development Day and MAI Testing

Wednesday 31st January

Children in years 1 - 6 return to school

Thursday 1st February

Kindergarten 2018 start school 8:50am

St Joseph's Birthdays



Happy Birthday to...

December - Aryan, Apuol, Kognin, Ruhani, Luca, Charbel, Jett, Anaarkali, Lily, Sienna, Laura, Indiana, Brock, Dominique, Mikayla, Garima, Cheyann

January - Catherine, Bhoke, Yazad, Maddison, Desmond, Dean, Andrew, Emily, Seth, Cooper, Jesraj, Adwoa, Felix, Keane, Narden, Claire, Sussi, Joshua, Hunter, Xavier, Lyanne, Ryan, Jordan, Alex, Shaun, Jaxon, Charlie, Kurt, Lacey, Kira

St Joseph's Christmas Mass Times

Monday 18th December 9am – 12noon and 5pm – 7.30pm Reconciliation

Sunday 24th December 9am Mass

11am Polish Mass

6pm Vigil Mass - Carols before Mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day Midnight Mass - Carols from 11.30pm