

St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2

5th January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2015 school year!



At our assembly last Monday, we formally welcomed our Kinder children as well as 14 new families from Yrs 1-6 to our school. Fr Andrew, our parish Priest, generously gave of his time to be at the assembly, and said a special prayer for all our students and families. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend. We love to see you at our Monday assembly each week.

We also welcome new staff to the St Joseph's team. Miss Gabrielle Whitney (KGW), Miss Ereeny Abdelsayed (1EA) and Miss Emily Durrington (Support teacher). We welcome back, Mrs Bronwyn Rose and Mrs Amy Hoppitt who are job sharing 2HR, and Mr Moreno Faccin (2MF). Welcome back to all our staff. A wonderful team!

The school calendar is filling up fast and the business of the school term has begun well and truly. We have two important events in the coming weeks to which you are invited: **Parent Information Night on Tuesday 10th February and Opening School Mass on Monday 16th February.** Hope to see you there!

Our Yr 6 Students are preparing for the election of Student Leaders, who will be commissioned at our opening school Mass. Speeches have been written, nerves are high and the date is set for elections! A very exciting time!

Education has been much in the news of late. Issues of funding for schools, the rigour of our curriculum and teaching standards are hotly debated in the media. At St Joseph's we continue to strive for constant improvement in teaching and learning for our teachers and students.

Each class teacher is conducting the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) which is an individual assessment of the child's mathematical knowledge, skill and understanding. Mathematics teaching is a major focus for us again this year, and we will be holding workshops for parents each term. Dates will be on the Term at a Glance.

Kindergarten, Years 1 & 2 are also conducting the Early Years Assessments (EYA) for literacy. This data allows for meeting the learning needs of each student. Our data keeps us on track.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the education of your child. We appreciate your support and value your trust.

See you next week at our Information Night – 7pm Tuesday 10th February.

Wishing you all the blessing of hope,
Fran Jackson
Principal

Staff Development Day
Friday 20th February



Learning without Limits

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Catholic Culture News

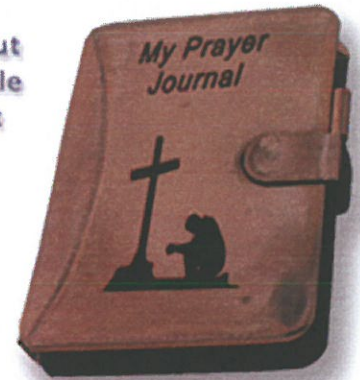
What's happening in RE this month?

Welcome back to the start of an exciting new year. This year we are focusing on prayer as a means of building a closer relationship with God. Throughout the year children will be bringing home a class prayer journal. We are asking families to share a favourite family prayer, or write a prayer with their child. It is also an opportunity to write down prayer requests, so the class can pray for your family needs. Whenever Jesus was faced with challenges he spent time in prayer, gaining strength from the time spent with his father. As a school community, we want to follow the example of Jesus and regularly present our prayers to God.

At our recent school assembly we welcomed new students to St Josephs both in Kindergarten and other grades. Father Andrew led us in prayer, as he blessed our new students and encouraged all staff to model Gospel Values in their teaching and learning.

**"To be a Christian without
Prayer is no more possible
than to be alive without
breathing."**

- Martin Luther King, Jr



Upcoming dates!

**Opening School Mass
9am February 16
in the Church.**

**Ash Wednesday
18th February**

We would like to encourage any interested parents, children and families to attend Mass at our parish. Mass is held daily at 8am and all are welcome. The church is located directly behind the school.

Church Blessing

Archbishop Anthony Fisher recently blessed our church renovations. Afterwards he had morning tea with the community in the MPA.

First Reconciliation Enrolment

Families that wish to enrol their children for the sacrament of reconciliation should contact the Parish Office on 4721 4080. Enrolments open the 15th of February.



Mark Aggar

Religious Education Coordinator

General News



School Fees

Please be aware that your School Fees Account will be posted to you from Monday 9th February. If you have not received it by Friday 13th February or have any questions regarding your account please contact Jenny Pendleton on 4732 3999.

Facebook

Our school site is for us to share good news stories and also remind parents of upcoming events. 'Likes' are always welcome, as are affirmations of our students and school. **It is not** a chat room or forum for grievances. Please contact the school for clarification of events and procedures. Newsletter and Term Calendars are available on the school's website www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au





Staff Development Days for 2015

Term 1: Friday 20th February

Term 2: Monday 20th March

Term 3: Monday 13th July

Term 4: Thursday 17th December & Friday 18th December

Please note children **are not** to attend school on these days. However, Joey's is open for care. Please call 4732 5771 to book your child's place.

Attendance

If you know your child will be absent from school a **formal, written application for leave is required prior** to the leave. Please see attached for more details.

Morning Drop Off

As a Child Protection issue and for the smooth transition into class we request parents leave the school grounds when the 8:50am bell rings. Thank you for your understanding.

Dismissal



For the safety of our children we ask that parents do not walk into the school to collect their children from the Bus and Kiss n Ride gates. If you are walking into the school to collect your children please go to the Walkers gate, next to Kindergarten.

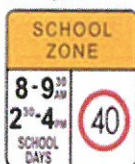


**NO
PARKING
PLEASE**

Staff Carpark

Please **do not** drive into the staff carpark or administration carpark. We have had some 'near misses' of children almost being hit by cars reversing out of the driveways. We appreciate your understanding in wanting to keep **all** of our children safe.

SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES					
					
			School Days 8am – 9:30am 2:30pm – 4pm		
Offence	Penalty	Points	Offence	Penalty	Points
TRAFFIC CONTROL LIGHTS			U-TURNS		
Not stop at stop line at red light	\$519	4	Begin U-turn without view of approaching traffic	\$311	2
Not stop before lights at red light	\$519	4	Driver not safely begin U-turn w/o obstructing traffic	\$311	2
Proceed through red traffic light	\$519	4	Make U-turn at intersection with traffic lights	\$311	2
STOP, GIVE WAY SIGNS/LINES			Make U-turn without giving way to vehicle/pedestrian	\$311	2
Not give way to vehicle (give way sign/line)	\$415	4			
Not stop at/before stop line/stop sign	\$415	4			
REVERSING					
Not reverse vehicle safely	\$242	3			
EXCEED SPEED LIMIT					
Exceed speed 10km/h & under	\$182	2			
Exceed speed over 10km/h	\$327	4			
Exceed speed over 20km/h	\$545	5			
Exceed speed over 30km/h	\$1053	6			
Exceed speed over 45km/h	\$2400	7			



Risk a child's safety & you could lose your licence. It's that simple.

School zones are patrolled by marked & unmarked police vehicles

NB – This is to be used as a guide only as penalty amounts & demerit points may change without notice. Not all offences are listed in this document.

Community News

Xavier College Open Night

Tuesday 10th March from 5pm-6.30pm for prospective families for 2016.



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



Boys and Girls, 7 – 13 years
are invited to join

Penrith City Children's Choir

on Sunday 15 February
for its Singing Day

Tumba, Tumba

directed by Lucy McAlary

If you love to sing, please join us.
No auditions.

Applications close 13 February.

For further information,
contact the Administrator:
Liz Strasser
0418 202 849

pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

Singing Day

Tumba, Tumba February 15

A fun afternoon of rounds, singing games and partner songs that will captivate all members – old and new. Enjoy the power of 'Drill Ye Tarriers', the bouncy rhythms of 'Hine ma tov', and the beauty of 'Sometimes'. A great introductory 'taster' session for new members. An informal performance for family and friends will be given at the end of the afternoon.

**PENRITH RSL
JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB
REGISTRATION - 2015**

REGISTRATION COSTS

MINI - U6 TO U9 \$49
INCLUDES:
SHORTS, SOCKS, JERSEY & POLO SHIRT

JUNIORS - U10 - U15 \$99
INCLUDES:
SHORTS, SOCKS, JERSEY, POLO SHIRT & GEAR BAG

APPEARL PARTNER
THIS YEAR WE'VE CHOSEN THE CANTERBURY CLOTHING COMPANY TO BE OUR APPAREL PARTNER. THEY ARE A GLOBAL BRAND WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT TO RUGBY UNION FROM AUSTRALIA'S RUGBY UNION FEDERATION. THE CANTERBURY CLOTHING COMPANY IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THE CANTERBURY RUGBY CHAMPIONS TEAM.

FACEBOOK.COM/PENRITHRSLJUNIOR
PENRITHRSLJUNIOR.COM.AU



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Angelina Ballerina
Dancing Partner Studio

St Joseph's Netball Club

Registration Day Saturday 14th February 11am – 2pm

Peachtree Hotel Function Room

Players required aged 6-14 years.

For further details please ring

Ray Geraghty 0412 061 335



COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. Students must complete Year 10 and after Year 10, until they turn 17 years of age, students must be:

- in school or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship)
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you **must** tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school

Your school will inform you of the required procedures for notifying them.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child has to:

- go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness

Children need to arrive on school and class on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school must be recorded as a partial absence. Your school will inform you of the required procedures for late arrivals and early departures from school.

Application for exemption

If you consider that it is in your child's best interests to be exempted from the legal requirement to attend school for any length of time, you **must** apply to the principal for an exemption. The school will provide an *Application for Exemption from Attendance at School* form, and assist you to complete it, if necessary. The principal will consider your application and decide whether to grant a *Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School*.

Responsibilities of the school principal

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. They **must** also keep accurate records of student attendance. Principals are able to question requests for a child to be absent from school and are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. Principals may request medical



certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to identify the reasons for non-attendance and put in place strategies so the child can return to school. Principals may ask support staff or other agencies to assist.

What if my child continues to have unsatisfactory attendance?

It is important to understand that the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC), on behalf of the State Minister for Education, may take further action in cases where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. The following actions may be taken in these cases:

Attendance meetings

Parents, and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend a meeting with school and Catholic Education Office personnel and in some cases, DEC regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family and remove barriers to non-attendance. Other agencies may also be invited, if parents agree.

Compulsory attendance conferences

If school attendance does not improve, parents and sometimes their child, can be asked to attend a compulsory attendance conference. The conference, which will be run by a trained conference convenor, aims to help the school, parents and other agencies to further identify the issue impacting on a child's attendance. The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are agreed in writing.

Compulsory schooling order

If previous attempts to resolve the issue of a child's attendance are not successful, legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues preventing satisfactory school attendance. This has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

Prosecution

If all attempts by schools, the Catholic Education Office and DEC regional support staff fail to improve a child's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court with the result of fines being imposed up to a maximum of \$11,000.



Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Further information:

Further information is available from:

Catholic Education Commission policy and information
www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au - search 'student attendance'
or <http://bit.ly/zdLonM>

NSW Department of Education and Communities
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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St Joseph's Primary School - Kingswood

Changes to School Attendance commencing 27th January 2015

The Minister of Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015.

These changes will implement the **ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting**. ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be **included as absences**. **A Certificate of exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.**

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel during school term is necessary the following considerations apply:

- If the principal **accepts** the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as 'L'.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interest and does not accept the reason, the absence is unjustified and will be record as 'A'.
- If the period of absence is in excess of **50 days**, the student may be eligible to enrol in *Distance Education.

*For that period the student's enrolment transfers to the distance education school. Please Note: A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school concurrently (including Distance Education).

Leave

Leave of **ten (10) or more school days** will require a **formal application for leave in writing**. This letter of request should be addressed to the Principal **prior to commencing the leave** period indicating the specific reason or purpose for the request of leave.

Principals should consider each application as it presents individually, and **notify parents, carers, and class attendance roll teachers in writing of the outcome of this request**.

Absences

Parents/Carers should notify the school, via phone, on the day of absence. However, legislation states a written letter or email must be sent to the school, **within seven (7) days**, with the dates and an explanation for the full period of absence. It is at the principal's discretion to accept or reject the explanation provided. The principal may request a medical certificate in addition to an explanation if the reason is doubted or the student has a history of unsatisfactory attendance.

Learning without limits

St Joseph's Primary School 94 Joseph Street Kingswood 2747

Tel 4732 3999 Fax 4731 1432

Email stjosephskwood@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stjosephskingswood.parra.catholic.edu.au

TERM 1 AT A GLANCE

2015

As at 03/02/2015

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
Jan	5 th Jan	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th /11 th Jan
Jan	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th /18 th Jan
Jan	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th /25 th
Feb Wk 1	26 th Jan Australia Day	27 th Teachers Commence (Joeys Vacation Care open)	28 th 9am Assembly Yr 1 to 6 return	29 th Kinder 2015 start School	30 th	31 st Jan/1 st Feb
Feb Wk 2	2 nd 9am Welcome Assembly	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th Ice Blocks L2	7 th /8 th
Feb Wk 3	9 th 9am Assembly	10 th 7pm – Parent Information Evening	11 th	12 th	13 th February Census Ice Blocks L2	14 th /15 th Sunday: Reconciliation Enrolment
Feb Wk 4 Mass?	16 th 9am School Mass	17 th Burning of the Palms Open Day for Prospective Enrolments 9am-10:30am & 4pm-6pm	18 th 9:15am Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word	19 th	20 th Staff Development Day	21 st /22 nd Sunday: Reconciliation Meeting
Feb/March Wk 5	23 rd 9am Assembly Y6 launch of Project Compassion 7pm PA Meeting AGM & Lunch Box	24 th Zone Swimming	25 th Combine Concert Band Rehearsal	26 th Combine Choir Rehearsal	27 th Ice Blocks L2 Diocesan Swimming Carnival – Blacktown School Clean up day	28 th Feb/1 st March Sunday: Reconciliation Meeting
March Wk 6	2 nd 9am Assembly 10am Principal from Xavier to talk to Y6	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th Ice Blocks L2	7 th /8 th Sunday: Reconciliation Meeting 10am CSW School mass
March Wk 7 Catholic Schools Week	9 th 9am CSW Liturgy & Assembly Easter Raffle Tickets go home	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th Ice Blocks L2	14 th /15 th Sunday: Reconciliation Meeting
March Wk 8	16 th 9am Assembly Easter Raffle tickets go home	17 th St Patrick's Day Mufti Day – Easter Eggs	18 th	19 th 9am St Joseph's Day mass Harmony Day	20 th National Day against Bullying School XCountry Ice Blocks L2	21 st /22 nd Sunday: Reconciliation Meeting
March Wk 9	23 rd 9am Assembly 9:30-10:15 Eat it to beat it Parent meeting 12pm-3pm Water Safety Road Show K-6	24 th	25 th Annunciation	26 th Raffle tickets to be returned to school	27 th Ice Blocks L2	28 th /29 th Sunday: First Reconciliation after 8:30am Mass
April Wk 10 Holy Week	30 th 9am Term Award Assembly – Raffle Tickets drawn	31 st March	1 st April	2 nd Last day Term 1	3 rd Good Friday	4 th /5 th

2nd April
3rd April
5th April

Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday

Dates for your Diary

Week 2 Friday 6th February – Ice Blocks Lunch 2 - 50c each

Week 3 Monday 9th February – Assembly 9am

Tuesday 10th February – Parent Information Night 7pm

Friday 13th February – Census; Ice Blocks Lunch 2 - 50c each

Sunday 15th February – Reconciliation Enrolment

Week 4 Monday 16th February – School Mass 9am

Tuesday 17th February – Burning of the Palms;

Open Day for prospective enrolments 9am – 10:30am & 4pm-6pm

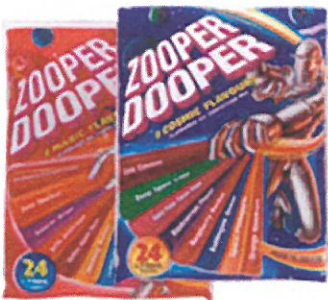
Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word 9:15am

Friday 20th February – Staff Development Day

Census – Friday 13th February

*If you know your child/ren will be away on this day please advise the school in writing **before** this date.*

*If your child/ren is away unexpectedly on this day please ensure you provide a written note explaining their absence on their **first day back to school.***



Zooper Dooper's will be on sale every Friday (with the exception of 20th February and 3rd April) at Lunch 2 - 50c each