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Issue No. 2
10th February 2016

Reflection

Today is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent—a season in the Church year that focuses on reflection, prayer and service. The Church, from its earliest times prepares for Easter by inviting all people to examine their hearts carefully by praying, fasting and giving to others during Lent. Praying, fasting and giving to others prepares us spiritually. We commit to these actions so that we can be one with others, empty ourselves of things that are not necessary and make room for God.

Loving God, you want everyone to be saved and come to know your truth. Help us to open our hearts to hear your word, learn your truth and give this knowledge to the world through our acts of kindness, love and charity.

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Today, being Ash Wednesday, the whole school attended Mass and received ashes to remind us to turn away from our sinfulness and back to God. As we journey through Lent over the next 6 weeks, the teachers will talk to the children about prayer and penance, such as finding ways to be kind to others or give up things that may be treats for them. In an age appropriate way, the children will learn ways to trust in the love and mercy of God. It is a time of renewal and rejuvenation. I am always impressed that the children come up with some great ideas and really try to persevere in their efforts over Lent. At school, the children are also encouraged to give generously to others through Project Compassion. Each classroom has a mission box for this purpose and children are usually very generous putting money into these each week.

I would like to offer a special welcome to all our new Kindergarten children and their families this week. It is wonderful to see their happy smiling faces each morning as they enter the classroom and the smiles on the parents faces when the children are picked up again at the end of the day. Kinders are settling in very well with their teacher, Miss Ray and getting to know the school routines pretty quickly. Thank you year 6 buddies who are supporting the children and of course, Ms Hall and Mrs Taylor. The whole Kinder class even managed to be present to Friday assembly on their first day. We are delighted that they are having such a great start and loving school.

Yesterday evening, the staff from St Joseph's joined with those from other Catholic schools around Wagga Wagga to attend the Deanery Mass at Our Lady of Fatima's Church. It is always a good way to start the school year together, recommit to the vocation as Catholic teachers in the diocese and enjoy the opportunity to catch up with colleagues.
Yours in Christ

Kathy Gaskin
Principal

Important Dates for Term 1 2016

Monday 22nd Feb and Tuesday 23rd Feb	Parent/teacher meetings Yr 1—Yr 6
Thursday 25th Feb	Parent/teacher meetings Yr 1—Yr 6
Friday 11th March	Opening school Mass 9.15am Yr 6 assisting
Friday 18th March	Parent Welcome Evening—6pm
Wednesday 23rd March	St Patrick's Day School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 4 assisting
Thursday 24th March	Athletics Carnival K-6
Friday 25th March	School Easter Liturgy 9.30am
Monday 28th March	Good Friday
Friday 1st April	Easter Monday
Thursday 7th April	Friday school assembly Yr 5 presenting 2.40pm
Friday 8th April	School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 3 assisting
Friday 8th April	Cross Country
Monday 25th April	Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 26th April	Anzac Day—public holiday
Wednesday 27th April	Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
Thursday 28th April	Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
	First Day for students Term 2

Clothing Pool

We have lots of second hand clothes in our clothing pool—especially jumpers and tracksuits. Please feel free to call down at any time (except from 1pm to 1.50pm) and we can open the room for you.

We are looking for a volunteer (or two) to come and organise the clothing as we have had to reorganise the room to incorporate the musical instruments. If you could spare an hour, we would love to see you.

Opening School Mass

Our opening school Mass will be held on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 9.15am in the Cathedral.

At this Mass all Year 6 students will be making a school leaders pledge. The school captains, vice captains and sports captains badges will be blessed and distributed. We invite all our families, especially the parents of the Year 6 students to join us for this celebration.

From the Office—Christine Nielsen

Thank you to the families who have already paid their school fees—this is much appreciated. If you would still like to pay by direct debit, the forms need to be in by the latest tomorrow morning, Thursday 11th February.

Letters were sent home yesterday to all students who are on our Asthma register. Thank you to the parents who have advised us that their child no longer suffers from asthma. To date we have only received a few forms. It would be appreciated if parents could fill these out and return by Friday 12th February. If your child has recently been diagnosed with asthma or any other allergy, please contact the office and we will send paperwork home with your child. It is very important that we know of all students who suffer from any allergies/illnesses so we can ensure that your child receives the appropriate medical attention as soon as it is required.

We will also be publishing the St Joseph's Family Directory in the next few weeks. If you have changed your email address, residential address or phone number, please advise the school office as soon as possible so that we can publish the most up to date information for all our families. If you have any queries regarding your school fees or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

From the Assistant Principal—Paul Spain

A key element of success in any pursuit in life is having high expectations. These goals will drive an individual further and make them hungry to achieve what they have set out to accomplish. There is no shame in having high expectations. Many people share the belief that if something is going to be done it should be done well.

Do not hesitate to have high expectations of your child at school. This will assist them with their studies. What is vital however, is to ensure that these expectations are met with total support. A young person will more readily accept a challenge if they know they are supported.

All teachers have high expectations of their students. They set out to challenge the members of their class and then support and monitor progress in order to reach what is set for all students no matter their ability level. The teachers at St Joseph's communicate with parents and students what the established expectations are and provide regular feedback. A cooperative environment between teachers and parents will greatly assist with the achievement of the high expectations that have been

Tuckshop News

Our tuckshop opened this week. Just a reminder to parents that ALL LUNCH ORDERS must be ordered using a paper bag. Please **include food prices** on the bag. Some parents are sending the order in an envelope and this creates more work for the volunteers as they have to rewrite the order onto a paper bag. The Tuckshop price list is available on our school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

This year, Kathy Gaffney is going to work in the tuckshop on Fridays so only one volunteer will be needed on that day. This will ease the burden for our Friday volunteers. Kathy has been contacting all our volunteers over the break to see if they are willing to join the roster for another year. If you haven't worked in the tuckshop before and would like to help, we would love to add you to the roster. Just send an email to the school, call the school or contact Kathy with your preferred day on 0422493879. We have lost a few volunteers so desperately need some more to replace them. Please consider if you can help—even if it is only once a term.

Parent Teacher Interviews **Monday 22nd February and Tuesday 23rd February**

Parent Teacher interviews for Years 1 to 6 will be held on Monday and Tuesday February 22nd and 23rd. Some classes will be holding all of their interviews on Monday 22nd whilst others are spreading them out over the two days. The purpose of these meetings are for parents to share important information regarding their child with the new class teacher.

Bookings can be made at
www.schoolinterviews.com.au
using the following code **25K8S**

If you have trouble booking an interview, please contact the office and we will assist you in this regard.

Merit Awards **Week 2 Term 1**

Year 1S Erin Chu
Senan Hackett
Year 1J Lucas Huskisson
Jodi Vinuya
Year 2 Eilis Canny
Isaac McCormack
Year 3 Oliver Furnell
Maisie Rumbachs
Year 4 Izzy Dewar
Joe O'Connor
Year 5 Joshua Byrne
Molly Huskisson
Year 6 Sarah Bowering
James Molloy

Catholic Inter-Primary Schools Band

Rehearsals for the Catholic Inter-Primary Schools (CIPS) Band will commence on Wednesday 10th February at 8am in the Kildare Catholic College music room. The CIPS band is a collective of children from four Catholic primary schools: Henschke, Holy Trinity, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's. Students may play violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, bass guitar, keyboard and percussion. No experience is necessary as lessons on an instrument can be arranged. At the conclusion of each rehearsal, students return to their schools on Kildare Catholic College's bus. This is a fantastic opportunity to take advantage of the terrific music tuition offered by Kildare. For more information, contact Robert Thompson or Amanda Hilton on 6925 3388.

Extend After School Care

A reminder that we have after school care each day from 3.10pm to 6pm. If you would like to use this service, please enrol and set up your online account at extend.com.au.

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au



SPEAKING OUT SCHOOL

Speech and Drama

Clear, fluent speech

Improved self-confidence

Public speaking

Drama

Imagination building

Eisteddfods and exams

Acting

Group Classes for young actors

No experience necessary

Stimulate creativity and develop acting skills through character work, improvisation, monologues, movement, mime

Regular performances

Contact Jill Tucker at

speakingout@bigpond.com or Ph 69253063,

0428818740 for further details and enrolments.

St Joseph's Primary School Skoolbag App

We encourage our new families to download the Skoolbag app to their electronic device. We would like to draw your attention to the Parent eForms section of the app and in particular the Absentee Form. We would encourage parents to use this feature to report your child's full day absence to the school. Once you have put in the relevant details and pressed submit the school receives an email notification. If your child is away for one day, the 'away start date' and 'away finish date' are the same. Due to legal reasons, the absentee form can only be used for full day absences. If your child is late to school or needs to leave early, it is still necessary to come to the office and sign your child into/out of school using the partial absence form. Over the next few weeks we will update the school calendar and you will then be notified of upcoming events through the app.

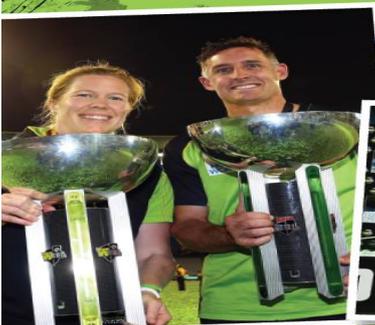
<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/st-josephs-primary-school/id957259355?mt=8>

<http://www.skoolbag.com.au/app/admin/parentinstructions.pdf>



COME AND GET YOUR PHOTO WITH THE BBL AND WBBL TROPHIES

WAGGA WAGGA COMMUNITY TROPHY VISIT
TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY
ROBERTSON OVAL, WAGGA WAGGA
4.30 - 6pm
Guest appearance by Thunder WBBL player Alex Blackwell
Player signings and activities at the 'Thunder Bus'
For more email luke.olsen@cricketnsw.com.au



01 CHAMPIONS



Extend OSHC at St Joseph's Primary School, Wagga Wagga

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting opportunities that 2016 will bring.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of familiar faces at After School Care and to welcoming lots of new faces as well.

Existing Families

Don't forget to manage your 2016 bookings.

Last year's bookings do not roll over so log on to the parent portal NOW to secure your bookings for 2016.

You can book for the entire term or year or even book specific dates.

New Families

Enrol online – allow 24 hours

Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol now, pay later

The annual enrolment fee per family of \$20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later? It doesn't matter if you don't end up using the service, because you won't be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Bre Camp

School Wellbeing Practitioner | Centacare South West NSW

☎ Office 02 6923 3888 Mobile 0438 705 191 | 📠 02 6921 1375 | ✉ campb@centacareswsw.org.au 📍 201 Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 | 🌐 <http://centacareswsw.org.au/>

Available: Every Tuesday during the school term

Overview:

Centacare School Well Being Team provides counselling and support service to Catholic School Communities.

As the School Well Being Practitioner my role is to strengthen student, family and the school community's capacity where mental health, behaviour, family, and/or personal issues are impacting upon a young person's ability to reach their potential.

How do I get support?

A student in Primary School requires parent/guardian permission. A permission/referral form can be obtained by contacting the principal.

Role of the School Well Being Practitioner

Supporting Student

Students can come to the School Well Being Practitioner for a variety of reasons including and not limited to: personal issues, mental health, family relationships, and or school issues.

I offer suggestions, and different ways of thinking.

I advocate for child and family

I welcome your ideas and suggestions on how to make changes to your situation.

Supporting Families

A School Wellbeing Practitioner believes in working alongside parents/guardians to support children to strive for their best. Our service is available for Parents and guardian's to offer support, advocacy, advice, suggesting links to community services depending on the goals for the family.

Supporting the School Community

As a School Wellbeing Practitioner we offer support to the School Community working with the Principal, Assistant Principal and teaching staff to work on developing programs to assist children to achieve their best. Some programs facilitated by the School Wellbeing Practitioner can include:

Group work Programs; Seasons For Growth, Drumbeat Program, Friends program, Rage Program, Gorgeous Girls, Restorative Practice Conversations

Developing other programs which assist students with: improving their social skills, emotional intelligence, managing conflict

Facilitating Family Meetings with students, family, school staff and/or other community agencies to assist in supporting positive outcomes for children. These family meetings are useful where the Mental Health/Behaviour/and/or other issues of the child are impacting upon School Attendance or connectedness to their school community.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The information students and families share with me will be treated with respect and will not be shared with others without permission from student and family. In these situations I will work with the student and family about what information will be discussed and with whom.

If I am concerned about the immediate safety of the student I have a duty to contact community organisations and/or family to keep the child or others safe.