Dear Parents Families and Friends,
Thank you to all those who attended the garden Party on Friday evening. It was a fantastic evening with plenty of good conversation and laughter. It was wonderful to see some of our new parents being welcomed by others. Food and drinks were perfect for the warm evening and enjoyed by all. This is our annual ‘get together’ for parents and staff, at the beginning of the year, and was a great success this year as it was last time. If you could not make it to this one, we hope to see you there next time. It really is a fabulous night. Thanks Mrs Nielsen for the magnificent singing, entertaining us on the night and Paul Spain and other staff for the set up beforehand.

On Monday we welcomed Anita Chin into the school. Anita is an expert in teaching mathematics and understanding the curriculum. She worked with teachers and children in the classroom and then with staff in the evening. We are very grateful for her knowledge and assistance in helping us to bring out the best in our students in maths. We are looking forward to continuing the journey with her.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week I have been attending a meeting about ‘principal well-being.’ It has been an excellent meeting so far, with some great insights into health and life, often shared by many school leaders. I am very much looking forward to the second day.

Mr Spain is part of a reference group for IT in the diocese and attended a meeting for this on Tuesday. I sure it will have enormous benefits for all of us and the technology in our school.

Thursday is St Patrick’s Feast day. Students are encouraged to wear something green to celebrate the day as we do, traditionally. This could be socks, a T-shirt, hair ribbons etc. to represent St Patrick and Ireland.

Friday is St Joseph’s Feast Day and children may wear casual clothes. As this is our own school’s patron saint, activities are planned for the afternoon following assembly. The whole school will also be attending mass in the morning to celebrate. Children are asked to bring a gold coin donation for the missions.

Yours in Christ

Kathy Gaskin
Principal

Reflection
Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

The Project Compassion story this week tells the story of Dominic from Papua New Guinea.
Generational poverty has led to many challenges in Dominic’s community, including gender inequality, alcohol abuse and violence.
Since receiving training in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program, Dominic has learnt communication and problem solving skills to lead his community towards a more peaceful, prosperous future.
**Important Dates for Term 1 2016**

- **Friday 18th March**: St Joseph’s Day School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 4 assisting
- **Wednesday 23rd March**: Athletics Carnival K-6
- **Thursday 24th March**: School Easter Liturgy 9.30am and Easter Raffle drawn
- **Friday 25th March**: Good Friday
- **Monday 28th March**: Easter Monday
- **Thursday 31st March**: Grandparents Afternoon Stage 1 (Yrs 1 and 2) - 2.10pm
- **Friday 1st April**: Friday school assembly Yr 5 presenting 2.40pm
- **Thursday 7th April**: School Mass at Cathedral at 9.15am Yr 3 assisting
- **Thursday 7th April**: School Disco 6pm
- **Friday 8th April**: Cross Country
- **Friday 8th April**: Last Day of Term 1
- **Monday 25th April**: Anzac Day—public holiday
- **Tuesday 26th April**: Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
- **Wednesday 27th April**: Diocesan School Conference—Pupil Free Day
- **Thursday 28th April**: First Day for students Term 2

**St Joseph’s Feast Day—Friday 18th March**

We are celebrating this day with a number of activities. The children are invited to wear casual clothes (mufti). Children are asked to bring in a gold coin donation which will be collected for our Project Compassion appeal. Please ensure that clothing is appropriate and that all students wear closed in shoes and bring a hat as they will be having games after lunch.

Year 4 students are assisting Fr Rick with the preparation of the St. Joseph’s Feast Day Mass which begins at 9.15am in the Cathedral.

One student from each class will receive a St. Joseph’s Feast Day Award at a mini assembly after lunch which will be followed by an afternoon of games organised by the Year 6 students.

**Easter Raffle**

We will once again hold our Easter Raffle this year—it is always a great success as a fundraiser and we usually end up with a large number of prizes to give out.

We ask that each family send in one Easter chocolate item to donate to the raffle. We have sent home a book of tickets for each family. Please check your children’s bags if you haven’t received them yet. Extra books are available. Tickets will be $1 each and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th March.

**School Mass**

**St Joseph’s Feast Day Mass**

Our next school Mass will be held on Friday 18th March 2016 at 9.15am in the Cathedral. Year 4 will be assisting Fr Rick with the preparation of the Mass.

We invite all our families to join us for this celebration.

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**Cathedral Parish Mass Times**

- **Mon—Fri**: 7am & 12.45pm
- **Sat**: 12.15pm
- **Sunday Mass**: Saturday 6pm, 8am, 10am & 5.30pm
From the Assistant Principal—Paul Spain

Students from Years 3 to 6 have been actively involved in coding since the year commenced. Coding is another name for computer programming. It has been wonderful to see the manner in which students have adapted to the challenges that coding has presented. They are displaying the ability to solve problems, take risks, self start, communicate, design and evaluate. Coding for most of us can seem like a foreign language. I am not surprised however, with the speed the students at St Joseph’s have taken to this new adventure as they become literate in the world of code.

Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, believed that the ability to code teaches you how to think. 90% of schools however, do not teach students how to code. The Australian Federal government, in their review of the national curriculum, are investigating whether to make coding mandatory from the age of eight. In the nation of Estonia all students from the age of 6 are taught how to program computers, phones and other devices. Coding is also a part of the national curriculum in Great Britain and many other countries.

What does coding teach? Coding gives students a sense of pride and achievement, a belief that they can accomplish more when working with computers and this may directly transfer into the classroom. It develops design skills and logical thinking, assists problem solving strategies and looking at a bigger picture. Who knows where the ability may lead them as this video shows: http://tinyurl.com/awjq4ze

The tools that we use to teach coding at St Joseph’s are Scratch and Code.org. If you are interested in investigating what can be done with coding these links will be of assistance: http://scratch.mit.edu/ and https://code.org/. Download them, let the children further explore. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised with what they create.

Athletics Carnival

Don’t forget the athletics carnival is Wednesday March 23rd at Jubilee Park.

Some important points to remember:

- All students will be involved and will leave school at 9:15.
- Students can either wear their house colours or sports uniform.
- Infants students will participate in their age races and fun activities.
- Primary students will participate in the 100m, 200m, shot put, discus and long jump.
- The 800m is optional and some students have been preselected for high jump.
- A canteen will be available.
- Infants students will return to school at 1:00pm.
- Primary students may leave with their parents once all events and presentations have been completed.
- Parent assistance would be greatly appreciated in order to make the day highly successful.

Merit Awards Week 7 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Isaac Looney</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barry Blomfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1J</td>
<td>Ashleigh Crossett</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eloise Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Benjamin Hogan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Hogan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ellie Anderson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ashton Campbell</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Andrew Cabot</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bella Nejman</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Hannah Byrne</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver Spackman</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Kyra Swaffield</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harry Pollard</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Georgia Barclay</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gus Goodyer</td>
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Anaphylaxis Alert

We would like to advise you that we have two children in our school, one in Year 3 and one in Year 6 who may have an anaphylactic reaction if they eat nuts or fish. Please be conscious of this if sending food items to school for sharing.
Project Compassion Fund Raising

This week our school raised a total of $116.35 for Project Compassion. Well done to 1J this week! They raised the most money—$33.95. Please encourage your child to bring in a little of their spare money to put into the classroom mission box.

Open Morning for Kinder Enrolments 2017
St Joseph’s Primary School, Wagga Wagga
Friday 1st April 2016
Information session at 9.30am followed by school tour

Hoping you can join us.
Inquiries 69215733 or sjw-info@ww.catholic.edu.au

Kathy Gaskin, Principal

Term Dates for 2016
Term 1: Thursday 29th January to Friday 8th April
Term 2: Thursday 28th April to Friday 1st July
Term 3: Monday 18th July to Friday 23rd September
Term 4: Monday 10th October to December 16th

CIPS Band Performance – 30th March 2016
The Catholic Inter-Primary Schools (CIPS) Band will present a short concert at the Kildare Catholic College Hall on Wednesday 30th March at 9am. The band, which includes several students from our school, will perform for Kildare’s Year 7 and 8 students and Year 9 and 10 elective music students. This will present an exciting opportunity for our students to show off their skills on their chosen instrument.

The CIPS band students will rehearse at their usual time prior to the concert, albeit in the KCC hall and will be returned to school on the KCC bus by 10am. Parents are more than welcome to attend the concert. For more information, contact Robert Thompson or Amanda Hilton at Kildare Catholic College on 6925 3388.

Tuckshop Roster Week 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 21st March</th>
<th>Belinda Schreiber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Weds 23rd March  | Danielle O’Connor  
|                  | Kylie Knox       |
| Thurs 24th March | Maha Puli        |
| Friday 25th March| Kathy Gaffney    
|                  | Ruth Hackett    |

From the Office—Christine Nielsen

We are still waiting for confirmation from the family who made a deposit into the school CBA bank account on 10th February to pay school fees but there was no name or school account ID number. If you made a deposit on this day could you please contact the office—thank you to the parents who have already done so—as we are unable to allocate it to the appropriate fees until we have a family name.

Our enrolments are now open for Kinder 2017. If you have a child who will be commencing school in 2017, you can either call in to the office to pick up an enrolment pack or we can send one home with their sibling.

Tuckshop News—Vacant dates
Monday 2nd May and 6th June
Wednesday 30th March
Thursday 28th April, 19th May and 16th June
Friday 18th March, 1st April, 29th April, 20th May, 27th May, 17th June. Please contact Kathy Gaffney 0422493879 or the office if you can assist.

Extend OOSH at St.Joseph Primary School Wagga Wagga
SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!
Book by the deadline to take advantage of lower rates!
NSW deadline: Friday 1 April
To check out what’s on and where your local program is, visit our website at extend.com.au and book via the Parent Portal. - Diana Ganapathy
School Council Call for Nomination

Positions have become vacant on the St Joseph’s School Council so we are calling for nominations for this position.

The School Council is a forum in which parents:

- Support the development of the Catholic ethos of the School;
- Support pastoral care strategies;
- Assist in promoting the School in the local community;
- Advise on and support capital and maintenance programs;
- Support local strategic plans (finances, buildings, resources) and contribute to Diocesan educational strategic planning;

Parents who become active on the School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

In view of this you might seriously consider:

Standing for Election as a member of the School Council and / or
Encouraging another person to stand for election

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted during the AGM.

School Council meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month during school term. Meetings start at 6pm and most often are finished within the hour.

If you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to speak to Kathy Gaskin or Paul Spain or one of the other members – Simon Wallace, Matt Humphrey, Ondre Nejman, Lina Wood or Julianne Carroll.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Gaskin
Principal

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St Joseph’s School Council Nomination Form

I, ........................................ wish to nominate ........................................... for an elected
(position as a Parent Member on the St Joseph’s School Council for a 2 year term.

Home telephone: ......................... Business telephone: ......................................
Mobile: ___________________________ Email address:____________________________

Signature of Candidate:............... Date:

Please complete this form and return to the school by Friday 18th March 2016 or email a nomination to sjw-info@ww.catholic.edu.au