Dear Families,

I have recently had the privilege of interviewing parents who are joining our school community for the first time in our Kindergarten class of 2014. I have been reflecting on how lucky the children in our school are to have such strong family support, and parents who really take their roles seriously.

‘A Parent’s Prayer’ is shared as a tribute to parents who model the intentions of this prayer.

A Parent’s Prayer

Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to answer all of their questions kindly.
Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them and contradicting them.
Give me courage to confess my sins against them and to ask of them forgiveness, when I know I have done them wrong.
May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children.
Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment.
So guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that goodness produces happiness.
Reduce, I say, the meanness in me.
May I cease to nag, and when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue.
Blind me to the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things they do.
Give me a ready word of praise for honest effort.
Help me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose and to make decisions.
Forbid that I should ever punish them for my selfish satisfaction.
May I grant them all of their wishes which are reasonable, and have the courage always to withhold a privilege which I know will do them harm.
Make me so fair and just, so considerate and so compassionate to them that they will have a genuine esteem for me.
Fit me to be loved and imitated by my children. Amen.

NAIDOC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to Mrs Boyd for preparing and leading our Mass this morning to celebrate the NAIDOC Week. This was a very meaningful mass where we acknowledged and recognised the contributions that Indigenous spirituality, identity and culture bring to our Australian story.

Following Mass we were entertained by Mereki, an indigenous performer.

Mereki started writing and performing her own children’s songs at various inner city schools of Sydney. It became more and more apparent to her that there is an urgent need to educate all Australians from a young age about Aboriginal culture.

SAFETY CONCERNS

Please be aware that our ‘Kiss and Drop’ roundabout at the front of the school is for dropping off and picking up only. If you wish to come into the school please park in the designated Visitors’ car park. Stationary vehicles prevent the flow of traffic and can cause safety issues for students. Thank you for your support in this area.
In Week 6 we will be celebrating Literacy and Numeracy and Book Week at St Joseph’s. The week is a collaboration between the Australian Government and the school community to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy for all children.

This year’s theme for the week is Reach for the Stars and the Book Week theme is Across the Universe. The theme emphasises the importance of setting goals and working hard to achieve these even if, at times, they appear out of reach.

The week gives schools the opportunity to get involved in a range of activities and to recognise locally the achievements of students and the work of teachers, parents and members of the community who support young people to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills.

Our Open Day will be held on Tuesday, 20th August. The focus in each classroom will be on writing. Classrooms will be open from 10.00 am to look at children’s books.

The program for Tuesday is:

10.00 am  Open Classrooms
10.15 am  Shared Writing Activity
11.15 am  Shared Morning Tea with your child/children (tea and coffee supplied)

Book Fair will operate in the Library.

BOOK CHARACTER PARADE
On Friday, 23rd August we will have a focus on reading to celebrate Book Week. The children are invited to dress up as a book character on this day and bring along the book to share with others. We will have activities throughout the day focussing on reading.

Parents are welcome to come along at 9.30 am for our Book Character parade.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

SCHOOL MASS
Our next Mass will be on Thursday, 15th August at 10.15 am (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) This Mass will be prepared and led by Kindergarten and Mrs Boyd.

EUCHARIST MEETING REMINDER
The first Eucharist Parent Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7th August at 5.30 pm. It is a parish and school expectation that at least one parent attend this meeting (it would be great to see both parents!). The Enrolment ceremony for this sacrament will be at the Parish Masses on the 10th and 11th August.

GREYHOUND FUNDRAISING NIGHT
I would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to Tracey Bodley for organising and co-ordinating the Greyhound Fundraising Night and for the helpers who assisted on Tuesday. I thank them for their tireless work in gaining sponsors, organising tickets and raffle prizes and, most of all, for encouraging our school community to support this night - it was greatly appreciated. Whilst we only had a small representation of school families present, I know that they enjoyed this, for some, new experience.

I would like to especially thank our sponsors:

Major sponsor:
Evans Head-Goonellabah Denture Clinic

Race Sponsors:
Complete Accounting Essentials
Evans Head Bowling Club
Evans Head First National Real Estate
MTK Cabinets
NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative Limited
Perry Thomas Bricklaying
Troy Robson Bricklaying and Building
Wardrobe World
Warren Innes Contractor

Parent Forum works extremely hard to raise funds for resources to ensure that our children are receiving the best possible educational outcomes. All money raised benefits each child in the school so I encourage each family to support these fundraising ventures.
ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL CENTENARY

Our school will celebrate 100 years of operation next year. As this is a very important milestone in our school’s history it is important that we begin planning for our celebrations as soon as possible. We have a number of people who have indicated that they would like to be a part of this committee, however we have room for more! If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our Centenary Committee please contact the school and leave your name at the office. Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, 13th August at 2.30 pm in the meeting room.**

THANKS FROM ALICE

I would like to sincerely thank the St Joseph’s school community for supporting me in my quest to attend the National School’s State Hockey trials in Canberra in a couple of weeks. It is a great opportunity for me and I am looking forward to representing NSW to the very best of my ability. Your financial support will assist me in realising my dream and again I thank everyone who has supported today’s fundraising efforts.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Gayl Feros for organising a book covering day to cover classroom resource books. Our thanks to Kim McClure, Judie Lollback, Linda Collins and Kerrie Tunsted for giving up their day to assist in this way.
SCHOOL FEES
Third and final school fees for the year have been sent home this week. Payment is due by Friday, 16th August. If you have any queries regarding your fees statement please give Lesley a call on 6682 2468. Please note that direct deposit payments made during July have not been included in these statements.

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE
The Woodburn Memorial Hall Committee are running a Trash and Treasure Sale at the Woodburn Memorial Hall on Sunday, 11th August from 9 am to 3 pm. ‘One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.’ Book a space and bring your unwanted treasures in to make some quick dollars. $10 per area which will include a table to display your treasures. No food stalls, no commercial traders. Set up from 7 am, doors open 9 am. Come along to pick up a bargain!
For enquiries and bookings please contact Glenn Crawford on 6682 2032 or Pam Bellingham on 0414 953 879.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 3 – WEEK 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Lani Blunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eli Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Jessica Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Bridie Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Lahni Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Matthew Coombs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>James Pursey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Alyssa Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONGRATULATIONS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday to those who celebrated their birthday this week: Louis Murada, Lily Davidson, Chelsea Campbell, Kallarney Collier and Lana Wilson.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Monday, 5th August
Judie Lollback
Renee Stone

Wednesday, 7th August
Tanya Davidson
Ria Pearson (AM)
Helen Kirk (PM)

Thank you ladies!

NAIDOC DAY