Dear Families,

As you are aware the staff from St Joseph’s will join with 600 staff from local Catholic primary and high schools for a Professional Development day on a Diocesan initiative titled ‘Proclaim 2013’. The following is a letter from the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore, Mr David Condon about Proclaim.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is a great statement of trust in Catholic education that you have chosen our parish schools to provide the best Catholic education for your child. As Director of Catholic Schools I am privileged to visit our parish schools and I can assure you that the quality of education and Christian Character development provided is worthy of your trust.

We are motivated to ensure all students receive the best opportunities that will allow them to become fully integrated human beings. In order to do this we are currently engaging in significant professional development across all areas of Catholic education, but especially teaching and learning, pastoral care and student wellbeing, and religious and moral development.

On behalf of Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett and all in Catholic education I ask that you pray for us as we especially enter into the Proclaim Lismore 2013 days during the last week of May. Catholic education takes its purpose and energy from Jesus Christ who is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school.

The Proclaim Lismore 2013 days are the beginning of a three year planning process that will ensure we maintain all that we are doing well and to seek what more we could do to ensure your children receive the best opportunities for an outstanding education and a meaningful Christian life.

As with any time that you may be inconvenienced as a result of a staff professional development day, I can assure you that these occasions are held in the best interests of your child and the purposes of Catholic education. I am conscious that for many parents and care givers these days pose many demands, and I appreciate your patience and understanding. I know that the Proclaim staff professional development day will have a profoundly positive effect on the overall education your children receive.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Yours sincerely
David Condon
Director of Catholic Schools

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank our families for supporting this PD day and for allowing us to participate in this wonderful initiative!
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. Anyone who is interested or knows of anyone who may be interested in joining a centenary committee please contact the school and leave your name at the office. We will then organise a meeting to begin our planning.

Today these writers have been involved in a ‘writers’ camp’ here at school. They have worked all day with Mrs Lowrey and Miss Taylor to publish some of their work. A blog will be set up so that these students’ writing can be uploaded for others to read.

I thank Anne for her foresight and passion and to Anne and Sophie for their generosity of time in setting up this great opportunity for our students.

We will share with you some of the students’ writing over the coming weeks.

PIE DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to Tracey Bodley for organising and co-ordinating the pie drive for us. I thank Tracey and her helpers for sorting the pies ready for an efficient pickup—this is a huge job! Thank you to our families and friends who supported this fund raiser.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Thank you to Naomi Robinson for organising our Biggest Morning Tea that was held at school today. It was a great social morning whilst supporting the Cancer Council. Thank you also to Sonya Elley for bringing her Oasis Homewares along to share.

PARENT FORUM NEWSLETTER

The minutes from our last Parent Forum meeting have been sent home today.

PARENT FORUM MEETING

Our next Parent Forum meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd June at 6.00 pm in the Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

MEETING ROOM OPEN FOR PARENTS

We are opening our Meeting Room to parents and friends on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 2.30 pm. You are very welcome to come along to the meeting room for a cuppa and a chat with other members of our school community. This is a good opportunity to network with other school families and to maybe meet some new friends.

This will start next Tuesday, 28th May and continue each Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

ST JOSEPH’S WRITERS’ CAMP

For the past term Mrs Lowrey has been working with a group of very enthusiastic and motivated writers who meet together at lunchtime to improve their creative writing skills. These students voluntarily give up their time to work with Mrs Lowrey and Miss Taylor to learn about what it is that makes a good writer. A lot of time goes into the planning and organisation of a good piece of writing and the teachers assist the students to discover their creative skills in order to produce a quality piece of writing for a focussed audience.

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PAPAERT FORUM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN 2014 INFORMATION EVENING

We have planned an Information Evening for parents who are thinking about enrolling their child at St Joseph’s in 2014. This will be held on Wednesday, 19th June at 6.00 pm in the library and we invite any interested parents or carers to come along and learn more about what our school has to offer. This night gives families and carers the opportunity to visit the school and get a feel for what our school espouses. Not only does it afford parents and carers the opportunity to learn more about what our school offers educationally, but many visitors have stated that our school has a ‘lovely feel’, that it is a very welcoming place to walk into and hopefully prospective parents will also feel this as they enter the school. St Joseph’s is a school renowned for its welcoming and inclusive atmosphere and that is largely thanks to you, our parent body. It is our families and friends who make St Joseph’s a great place to be and I see this in action regularly - people working together to achieve the best all round outcomes for your children - our students. Information nights such as these are very valuable, but I believe that the best advertisement or recommendation for our school is word of mouth. It’s what you say that influences people’s decisions on their child's education more than any other form of advertising. So if you are happy with your child’s school let others know, as this is a great opportunity to celebrate with others the wonderful sense of community that exists here and to acknowledge the great things that continue to happen at St Joseph’s.
SCHOOL MASS
All parents and friends are invited to join Year 2 and Miss Taylor at our next school Mass in the Church next Friday, 31st May at 9.30 am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT MASS
Children who are being confirmed will be formally enrolled at the Parish Mass on either Saturday, 25th May at All Saints’ Church, Woodburn at 5.00 pm, St John’s Church, Evans Head at 7.30 am or St Joseph’s Church, Coraki at 9.15 am on Sunday, 26th May.

It is a Parish and school obligation that students who are being confirmed attend one of these enrolment ceremonies. Please keep these children in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING
There will be a parent meeting for those parents whose children are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, 5th June at 5.30 pm in the Year 2 classroom. It is a Parish expectation that all families are represented at this meeting by at least one parent.

SCHOOL PROTOCOL
There are times when issues may occur at school, both in and out of the classroom that may need clarification.

It is important that concerns related to school are directed back to the teacher or to me. I am disappointed when I hear of these issues being spoken about negatively in the community when a simple phone call or appointment with the classroom teacher can clarify or allay concerns. We pride ourselves on working in partnership with parents and sometimes these conversations can undermine trust and confidentiality.

At times there are incidents that occur on the playground that require intervention from teachers. There are rare occurrences that may not be reported to teachers. Under no circumstances are parents permitted to approach a student to gain information or deal with such issues. There are protocols to be followed in these situations. A parent must report to the office and make an interview time to talk with a teacher or myself according to school procedure. I appreciate your understanding and support in dealing with these matters.

WINTER UNIFORM REMINDER
As the weather is becoming cooler please ensure that your children are in the correct uniform for the winter months. Please note the following winter requirements:

Girls are not to wear tracksuit pants under their summer dress. They can wear:
♦ Bottle green slacks (not dance pants) with gold polo shirt
♦ Green tights under their summer dress with green sloppy joe/jacket.
♦ Boys and girls can wear track suit pants with their sports shirt (or yellow sports shirt until the end of the phase-in period this year) on sports days.

CORRECT UNIFORM
I have asked teachers to keep a close eye on uniforms, due to the amount of students wearing incorrect hats, socks, shoes, jewellery and hair styles. If a student is out of uniform or wearing their uniform incorrectly they will be asked to rectify this as soon as possible. We ask that you support us in ensuring that our school uniform is worn correctly and that if your child is wearing an incorrect uniform to send a note to school informing staff. St Joseph’s prides itself on a uniform that is worn with pride and respect for its history and traditions.

LABELLED CLOTHING
Please check all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Some hats, jumpers and track suits may need labels renewed. We have a number of jumpers without names. If your child is missing a jumper please contact your child’s teacher.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 2 – WEEK 3
Class
Kinder
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
Year 5
Year 6
Student
Olivia Hayden
Mikaela Robson
Charlotte Walsh
Eliza Blunn
Jonathan Robinson
Luke Sauer
Joe Waddell
CONGRATULATIONS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday and best wishes from all at St Joseph’s to those who celebrate their birthday this week: Aimee Landrigan, Zac Campbell, Jack Oldham and Jaak Schneider.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
Woolworths Earn & Learn is back. For every ten dollars spent at any Woolworths store you will receive stickers. The more stickers St. Joseph’s collects, the more money Woolworths will give to the school to buy valuable learning resources! All stickers need to be handed back to the office by Friday, 28th June 2013—the last day of this term. Ask your neighbours, friends and family to join in and give you their stickers! Get collecting today!!!

SPORTS NEWS
Paul Wilson Memorial Football Challenge and Diocesan Netball Challenge
On Monday St Joseph’s will compete against St Joseph’s Primary School, Coraki in football (soccer) and netball. Students in Stage Three have been selected to be part of our school team and we wish them all the best in these games. Thanks to Miss Taylor and Mrs Robinson who have been coaching these teams.

School Cross Country
As you are aware, our school Cross Country was postponed due to the wet weather. We have rescheduled this for Friday, 31st May at 11.30 am. Families are invited to come along and watch these events.

Lismore Diocesan Cross Country 2013
This event was held at Murwillumbah today. St Joseph’s had two students attend this event as part of the Richmond Zone squad. Congratulations to Alice Bradford and Zack McMahon on their hard work and effort with cross country running this year. We will let you know how Alice and Zack went next week.

St Joseph’s Athletics Carnival
St Joseph’s Athletics Carnival will be held on Wednesday, 26th June. After the success of our carnival at Riverview Park, Lismore last year we have decided to once again hold the carnival in Lismore. This gives all students the opportunity to participate at a ground specifically designed to cater for Athletics. All students Kinder to Year 6 will be participating in this carnival. More information will be provided as this event gets closer.

HEALTH MATTERS FOR MEN
Stephen Carroll is a men’s health specialist who has spoken to hundreds of men (and women) across Australia as part of his Health Matters tour of regional NSW.
Brought to you by the Department of Primary Industries and the Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, you are invited to a FREE hearty breakfast by the river at the Woodburn Memorial Hall and enjoy a laugh with Stephen on Wednesday, 29th May starting at 7 am. Start the day with a laugh.

Please ring either Catherine O’Halloran at the Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre on 0417 780 149 or Jen Haberecht—DPI-on 0400 160 287 to book your place.

BUS 64 (BRONTOSAURUS) AFTERNOON ROUTE
Northern Rivers Buslines have advised us that as of Monday 27th May, students travelling on Bus 64 in the afternoon that disembark after Swan Bay—New Italy Road will arrive home ten minutes later than usual.