Dear Families,

Fancy a little humour? Well, try this: standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand, the CEO said, ‘Listen, this is a very sensitive and important document and my secretary has finished for the day. Can you make this thing work?’ ‘Certainly,’ said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper and pressed the start button. ‘Excellent, excellent!’ said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the shredder machine. ‘I just need one copy.’ Perhaps the moral from this slightly dark incident might be that not being aware can be costly sometimes.

Parenting can be a tough and thankless job. Often, we say that we need to be aware of everything that’s going on in our children’s lives but sometimes our lack of awareness can be costly to our children. Here is an old riddle: Five frogs were sitting on a log. Four decided to jump off. How many were left? Answer: Five. Why? Because there’s a difference between deciding and doing.

To be ‘aware’ parents and maintain harmony within our family, we need to have a proper set of family rules, understandings or expectations that are based on our family values. For example, if one of our expectations is for our children to maintain good results at school, we need to have what could be called preventative rules such as completing daily homework, limits on TV and Internet access time, balance of sporting, cultural and social activities with study time. For our part, we need to maintain regular contact with teachers to monitor progress rather than wait till the end of a whole semester.

If we set rules and create a structure that assists children along the way, it maximises their chances for success. For us, it allows us to be involved so that we can be aware of problems early and resolve them before they become overwhelming.

Of course the hardest, yet most important, thing for parents to do is to be consistent. If our rules or understandings are not enforced, it’s the same as not having them at all and can undermine the effectiveness and structure of our family. Our children need to know that they can count on us to be consistent and dependable. They need to know that we are still not sitting on the log. Letting things slide until they become big things, will create confusion and resentment in our children. We need to consistently follow through on what we have said, for only then will our rules and understandings be consistently followed.

Quite often we fail to give our children, particularly if they are in their teens, guidelines and boundaries because we are afraid of confrontation. However, we cannot afford to shirk our responsibilities, be log sitters, simply for the sake of keeping the peace. Topics such as bullying, underage drinking, drugs, group violence and other uncomfortable subjects that we might choose to ignore or make light of, hoping that such issues will not affect our family. The consequences of these issues can be frightening, devastating, even deadly. Just as the ‘important and sensitive document’ was swallowed by the shredder, because of ‘unawareness’, so too, can our children be lost to us and deprived of their future if we are afraid to move out of our comfort zone and be proactive parents. I share the following reflection with you;

**A WISH FOR YOUR CHILD**

If there could only be one thing in life for me to teach you, I would teach you to love …

To respect others so that you may find respect in yourself;
To learn the value of giving, so that if there ever comes a time in your life that someone really needs you, you will give;
To act in a manner that you would wish to be treated; to be proud of yourself;
To laugh and to smile as much as you can, in order to bring joy back into this world;
To have faith in others; to be understanding;
To stand tall in this world and to learn to depend on yourself;
To take only from this earth those things that you really need so there will be enough for others;
To not depend on money or material things for your happiness but
  - to learn to appreciate the people who love you;
  - The simple beauty that God gave you; and
  - To find peace and security within yourself.

To you my child, I hope I have taught you all of these things, for they are love. (Donna Gargis)

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**LANA’S MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE**

We would like to invite our families and friends to a prayer service and dedication of a memorial plaque and tree planting in memory of Lana on Thursday, 28th November at 10.15am. This will be a place where students, staff and visitors will be able to sit and remember Lana and the great contribution she has made to each of our lives. This will be followed by morning tea in the library. Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you intend joining us for this prayer service could you please ring the office and leave your name with Lesley.
**LEADERSHIP THANK YOU AFTERNOON**

Reminder that our thank you afternoon tea for our School Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, SRC members, Mini Vinnies’ leaders and Parish Altar Servers is on **Tuesday, 10th December from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm**. Afternoon tea will be provided.

**THANK YOU LITURGY AND MORNING TEA FOR SCHOOL HELPERS**

We will have a liturgy and morning tea to say thank you to the many parents, carers, grandparents and friends who assist us in so many ways around our school. Without their generosity in giving up time and energy our children would miss out in so many ways.

We invite **everyone** who has assisted our school community in any way throughout 2013 to come along to our liturgy at 10.45 am on **Tuesday, 10th December** in the library, followed by morning tea (provided).

**REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES**

On Monday we celebrated Remembrance Day with a very meaningful liturgy at school. We were joined by three service men from the RAAF base at Evans Head who spoke with the students about the significance of Remembrance Day.

Our two School Captains, Heidi and Zayd, and Aimee Landri-gan proudly represented our school at the community Remembrance Day celebration at Evans Head. The captains gave a speech about what Remembrance Day means for 12 year children living in Australia in 2013 and Aimee recited the poem, The Unknown Soldier. These students were outstanding ambassadors for St Joseph’s.

**MINI VINNIES AND THE PARISH CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL**

Each year our local St Vincent de Paul members from the St John’s Evans Head Conference organise a Christmas Hamper Appeal for needy families within our community. This year our school Mini Vinnies members are helping coordinate this appeal.

On the **GIVING TREE** in each church our Parish will place envelopes that contain some information about people who may appreciate our support and care. Christmas can be a very lonely and difficult time for many people so we should remember that we all can make a difference by helping others and by showing we care.

Each class will be taking one envelope and are encouraged to help a needy family by students and their teachers bringing along to school, items to place in Christmas Hamper Boxes.

Suitable items for the Hampers would be non-perishable Christmas fare and groceries such as soft drink, sweets, puddings, Christmas cake, biscuits, tinned fruit, breakfast cereal, fruit juice, bon-bons, etc. (NO NUTS) Please check the use by dates - expiry dates would need to be no earlier than February 2014.

The Mini Vinnies Team thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.

**SRC AND MINI VINNIES FUNDRAISER**

The SRC and Mini Vinnies are combining for our final fundraiser for this year. The proceeds will go to the Asthma Foundation. It will be on Friday, 22nd November and will go for two hours. This fundraiser will be a Spring Market with students organising a market stall for other students to purchase goods or services; eg face painting, basketball throws, nail painting, etc. Students will purchase tokens—5 for $2.00 and will spend these at the stalls that interest them.

Students may wear casual clothes on this day.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS - WOODBURN AND EVANS HEAD**

The students from St Joseph’s have again been asked to perform Christmas items at the Woodburn Chamber of Commerce - Carols by Candelight on Saturday, 16th December at Riverside Park, Woodburn and at the Mid Richmond Community Carols on Wednesday, 11th December at the Surf Club at Evans Head. The community events have been very well supported by our school in the past and we look forward to continuing this tradition.

Thank you to those students who have returned the reply slip to indicate their availability for these community carols. Specific parts of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, etc need to be allocated and, for ease of costuming and practises, will go to children who are able to attend BOTH events.

We appreciate your consideration and support of these important community events. If your child/children will be attending could you please fill out the reply slip at the back of this Newsletter and return to school as soon as possible.
**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

**TERM 4 – WEEK 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Eleanor Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riley Transton-Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Zac Landrigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Cooper Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Courtney Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Matthew Coombs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hannah McClure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Westerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Liana Sparenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Louis Murada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**LISMORE DIOCESAN SUMMER TRIALS**

Next Friday Tara Blunn will be competing in the Diocesan Summer Trials at Coffs Harbour. Tara is trialling in touch football. We wish her the best of luck!

**St Joseph's Swimming Carnival 2013**

St Joseph’s Primary School will be holding its annual Swimming Carnival for 2013 on Friday, 13th December (9.30 am to 2.30 pm). This year the Carnival will again be held at the Evans Head Aquatic Centre, and will go ahead regardless of the weather. Nomination forms have been given out today and will need to be returned by Friday, 22nd November.

*Infants children in Kindergarten and Year 1 will remain at school on this day.*

**Swimming Carnival Volunteers Needed**

Your help is needed at this year’s annual Swimming Carnival. The success of our Carnival relies on the help of our parents. If you can help with timekeeping or ribbon writing please complete the note in this Newsletter and return it to school by Friday, 6th December.

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**BOOK CLUB**

The final issue of Book Club brochures for this year have been sent home. Orders are due back at school by Monday, 26th November. Many thanks, once again, to Kim Bell for being our school’s Book Club organiser in 2013.

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**CAL ENDAR – TERM 4 WEEK 7**

- **Monday, 18th November**
  - School Tuckshop
- **Tuesday, 19th November**
  - Sports Uniform
- **Wednesday, 20th November**
  - School Tuckshop
  - Trinity Year 7, 2014 Information Evening—6.00pm
- **Thursday, 21st November**
  - Sport - Swimming
- **Friday, 22nd November**
  - Stage 2 Assembly - 2.30 pm

**TERM 4 WEEK 8**

- **Monday, 25th November**
  - School Tuckshop
- **Tuesday, 26th November**
  - Sports Uniform
  - Parent Forum Dinner—Rod n Reel Hotel, Woodburn, 6.30pm
- **Wednesday, 27th November**
  - School Tuckshop
- **Thursday, 28th November**
  - Sport—Swimming
- **Friday, 29th November**
  - SRC & Mini Vinnies Fundraising Day—Casual Day

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

- **Monday, 18th November**
  - Alisha Youngberry
  - Naomi Robinson
- **Wednesday, 20th November**
  - Tanya Davidson
  - Kerrie Tunsted

Thank you, ladies!

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**SCHOOL REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS**

School Reports will be sent home in Week 10 and parents who wish to have an interview with their child’s teacher are advised that staff will be setting aside times for interviews during Week 11. Some parents may not feel that an interview is required at this time and may prefer to wait for our interview period early in Term 1, 2014 to catch up with your child’s new teacher. If you feel the need for an interview please contact your child’s teacher directly.

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**TERM DATES**

- **Term 4 ends: Friday, 20th December**
- **Term 1 2013:**
  - Tuesday, 28th January—Staff only
  - Wednesday, 29th January- Years 1 - 6
  - Monday, 3rd February- Kinder

New Kindergarten students for 2014 will be doing their Best Start Assessment in Week 1 and will therefore not begin school until Monday, 3rd February.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy Birthday from the St Joseph’s school community to those who celebrate their birthday this week: Natasha Wotherspoon, Lochlan Campbell, Alyssa Smith, Olivia Bell, Shaun Boland and Eli Harrington.
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS – WOOBBURN AND EVANS HEAD

Please return ASAP

My child/children ____________________________________

Please circle:

 will be able to attend the Woodburn Carols by Candlelight on Saturday, 16th December YES NO
 will be able to attend Carols by Candlelight at Evans Head on Wednesday, 12th December YES NO
 will attend Carols by Candlelight at both Woodburn and Evans Head YES NO

Name: _______________________________ Signature: _______________________________

SCHOOL HELPERS’ CELEBRATION

Please return by Friday, 7th December

NAME: ______________________________

I / We will be attending the School Helpers’ Liturgy and Morning tea on Tuesday, 10th December at 10.45 am.

Signed: ______________________________

SCHOOL LEADERS’ AND ALTAR SERVERS’ THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA

Please return by Friday, 7th December

My child/children ____________________________________ will be attending the celebration at school from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th December.

Name: _______________________________ Signature: _______________________________

SWIMMING CARNIVAL ASSISTANCE

Please return by Friday, 6th December

I am able to assist with the Swimming Carnival on Friday, 13th December by:

Timekeeping YES

Ribbon writing, etc YES

Name: _______________________________ Phone Number: _______________________________

JUST DANCE!
Richmond Valley Annual Concert 2013
Celebrating 5yrs of JD! RV with Jazz, Modern, Hip-Hop, Cheerleading, Cabaret and much more!!

Two back-to-back performance nights this Friday 15th & Saturday 16th of November in the Woodburn Memorial Hall @ 7:30pm.

Tickets $5 each at the door, children under 5 free!

SCHOOL FEES

We still have a number of families with outstanding school fees. It is crucial that fees are paid to ensure that we can continue to provide the level of education you expect from St Joseph’s Primary School. We wish to thank those families who have

♦ Paid their accounts in full
♦ Established and maintained regular payment plans
♦ Contacted the Principal to discuss payment options

We remind parents that it is your responsibility to contact the Principal to discuss issues that are affecting you in meeting your obligations. We are currently reviewing the list of those families who have not finalised their 2013 fees (unless they have maintained a consistent, regular payment schedule).

Please finalise your school fees payments as soon as possible or make an appointment to meet with the Principal to discuss final payment before the end of the 2013 school year.