Dear Families,

Generosity is a lovely gift that a lot of people possess. At times, however, people can be too generous with their time, money, energy and/or possessions. Others can be takers and give nothing or very little in return. In this beautiful story entitled ‘The Giving Tree’ by Shel Silverstein we can see this giving and taking.

Once there was a tree and she loved a little boy. And every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. And they would play hide-and-go-seek and when he was tired he would sleep in her shade. And the boy loved the tree very much. And the tree was happy.

But time went by. And the boy grew older and the tree was often alone. Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said "come boy come and climb my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy." "I am too big to climb and play," said the boy.

"I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money. Can you give me some money?" "I'm sorry," said the tree "but I have no money. I have leaves and apples - take my apples, boy, and sell them in the city then you will have money and you will be happy. And the boy climbed up the tree and gathered the apples and carried them away. And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time and the tree was sad and then one day the tree shook with joy and said, "Come boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy." "I'm too busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep me warm" he said, "I want a wife and I want children and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?" "I have no house," said the tree. The forest is my house but you can cut off my branches and build a house then you will be happy. So the boy cut off the branches and carried them away to build a house and the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak "Come, boy," she whispered, "come and play." "I am too old and sad to play," said the boy. "I want a boat that will take me far from here. Can you give me a boat?" "Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away ... and be happy." So the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away.

And the tree was happy... but not really. And after a long time the boy came back again. "I am sorry, boy," said the tree, "but I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone ..." "My teeth are too weak for apples," said the boy. "My branches are gone" said the tree, "you cannot swing on them..." "I am too old to swing on branches," said the boy. "I am sorry," sighed the tree. "I wish that I could give you something... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry..."

"I don't need very much now said the boy, "just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired." "Well," said the tree, straightening herself as much as she could, "well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, boy, sit down. Sit down and rest." And the boy did... And the tree was happy.

Let us in our lives find a balance between giving and taking as we strive to be the best people we can be in this life.
**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, nuts, puddings, Christmas cake, biscuits, tinned fruit, breakfast cereal, fruit juice, bon-bons, etc. 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.

Hampers are being presented to representatives from St Vincent de Paul on Thursday morning, 12th December so it would be appreciated if items could be sent to school by Wednesday, 11th December.

**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 Candlelight on Saturday, 14th 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.

In order for our planning to begin we request that you nominate if your child/children will be able to attend either or both of these events. 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 so that parts can be allocated and practised.

**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.

**LEADERS’ CELEBRATION**

To show our appreciation to our School Leaders, SRC members, Sports Captains, Mini Vinnies’ leaders and Parish Altar Servers we are holding a ‘Thank You’ Afternoon Tea for them at school on **Tuesday, 10th December from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm**. Afternoon tea will be provided. Please indicate if your child is able to attend and return the reply slip at the back of this Newsletter.

**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). Please return the note in this Newsletter by Friday, 6th December. We look forward to seeing you there!

**PARENT FORUM NEWS**

**Christmas Raffle**

Thank you to the many families who generously donated items for the Christmas raffle. We have some great prizes for this raffle which will be drawn at our Christmas Concert on Monday, 16th December. Raffle tickets will be sent home soon.

**Parent Forum Meeting - Social Evening**

In lieu of our final Parent Forum Meeting for this year, we will be having dinner together at the Rod n Reel Hotel, Woodburn on Tuesday evening, 26th November at 6.30 pm. Even if you have been unable to attend these meetings throughout the year you are invited to come along and celebrate the end of another great year.
SEWING HELP NEEDED!
We are in need of some sewers to make some angel costumes for our Christmas Concert. These costumes are quite simple with the fabric, cotton etc being supplied. Please phone the office if you are able to assist.

SPORTS NEWS
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). The Carnival will again be held at the Evans Head Aquatic Centre, and will go ahead regardless of the weather. Nomination forms have been sent home and will need to be returned as soon as possible so that events can be finalised.
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 as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 4 – WEEK 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Mia Felsch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chelsea Franks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Sky Oldham</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Dominic Mason</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Courtney Bell</td>
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<td>Will McIntosh</td>
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<td>Lily Fisher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mikaela Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Clark Aleckson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jasmine McClure</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday from all at St Joseph’s to those who celebrate their birthday this week: Jarrod Lohse and Max Fisher.

ST JOSEPH’S CORAKI PARISH WEEKEND MASS TIMES & WOODBURN ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>23rd/24th November</th>
<th>30th November</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Ella Robinson</td>
<td>Eamonn Wilde</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kell Reese</td>
<td>Tara Blunn</td>
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<td>7.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15 am</td>
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CALENDAR – TERM 4 WEEK 8

Monday, 25th November
School Tuckshop
Staff Meeting - 3.30 pm

Tuesday, 26th November
Sports Uniform
Parent Forum Social Night Out: Rod n Reel Hotel - 6.30 pm
Newspapers in Education—Northern Star

Wednesday, 27th November
School Tuckshop
Library

Thursday, 28th November
Lana’s Memorial Prayer Service—10.15am
(followed by morning tea)
Sport - Swimming

Friday, 29th November
Woodlawn Year 7 Orientation Day
Pam Bellingham Dance Concert - 12.00 pm

TERM 4 WEEK 9

Monday, 2nd December
School Tuckshop
Staff Meeting - 3.30 pm

Tuesday, 3rd December
Sports Uniform

Wednesday, 4th December
School Tuckshop
Evans River K-12 Orientation Day

Thursday, 5th December
Sport - Swimming
 Principals’ Cluster Meeting - Mrs Heffernan

Friday, 6th December
Infants Assembly - 2.30 pm
Trinity Year 7 Orientation Day

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Monday, 25th November
Judie Lollback
Linda Collins

Wednesday, 27th November
Tanya Davidson
Ria Pearson (AM)
Michelle Lohse (PM)

Thank you, ladies!
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS – WOOBBURN AND EVANS HEAD

Please return as soon as possible

My child/children _________________________________

Please circle:

• will be able to attend the Woodburn Carols by Candlelight on Saturday, 14th December
  YES  NO

• will be able to attend Carols by Candlelight at Evans Head on Wednesday, 11th December
  YES  NO

• will attend Carols by Candlelight at both Woodburn and Evans Head
  YES  NO

Name: __________________________________________ Signature: ________________________

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SCHOOL HELPERS’ CELEBRATION

Please return by Friday, 6th December

NAME: _________________________________

I / We will be attending the School Helpers’ Liturgy and morning tea on Tuesday, 10th December at 10.30 am.

Signed: _________________________________

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SCHOOL LEADERS’ AND ALTAR SERVERS’ THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA

Please return by Friday, 6th 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: ____________________________