Dear Families,

I recently read this reflection on the Christmas story put into today’s context and it got me thinking about the way that we are so quick to judge others. During this Christmas season I hope that we all take the time to look at others ‘through the eyes of a child’ so that we can see things more openly and empathetically.

The first Christmas that little Linda learned to read, she was allowed to distribute the family gifts on Christmas day. According to family custom, the one who distributed the gifts could open the first package. After all the gifts were distributed with loving care, Linda kept looking around the tree and among the branches. Finally her dad asked, ‘What are you looking for, dear?’ To which Linda replied, ‘I thought Christmas was Jesus’ birthday and I was just wondering where his present is. I guess everyone forgot him.’

That is the challenge that faces us all this Christmas - to put the Christ back into our family Christmas. This is an ideal time for families to focus on the important things that affect their family life - the time they spend together, the quality of relationships within the immediate and extended family group, the willingness to put others first and to forgive one another. Please remember to include Jesus on your family gift list - make the religious significance of Christmas visible in your home and join with your Church family for this special feast.

And so to another Christmas! The little baby born in Bethlehem serves to remind us of the truth that our God is a God who loves us even to the point of becoming one of us. In becoming human, God has given each of us dignity and importance, and the opportunity to transcend the worries of this world and focus on our eternal destiny.

Thank you to all families for their continued support and participation in school life throughout 2013. It has been a privilege to be involved in the education of your children this year. I pray that the peace of Jesus be with you and your families this Christmas and New Year. I encourage all families to celebrate with their Church family. Christmas without Christ just doesn’t make sense.

GOO0D BYE A ND T HANK YO U

I would like to take this final opportunity to say thank you to the wonderful St Joseph’s school community for your unwavering support over the past six years. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to lead this school and I will take with me so many memories of students and families that will remain with me always. You have all heard me say on say many occasions that we work in partnership with our families, and without this St Joseph’s would not be the great school that it is—and I firmly believe this. We are blessed with an amazing parent body who contribute to school life in so many ways and I urge you to continue to be a part of your child’s school life as the value of this cannot be measured! Life at school cannot be without its challenges and I have grown both professionally and personally through these and I thank you for your assistance in solving issues to ensure the best outcome for students at all times.

The students at St Joseph’s are a credit to their school and their families in their actions, words and deeds and this makes teaching at St Joseph’s such a rewarding experience and such a happy place to work. I wish all families the very best for the coming years and I sincerely thank each and every one of you for making my time at St Joseph’s enriching and rewarding.

Good bye and God bless.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Joseph’s Coraki Parish Weekend Mass Times &amp; Woodburn Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24th December—Christmas Eve</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.30 pm - All Saints’ Church, Woodburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Wotherspoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tara Blunn</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30 pm - St John’s Church, Evans Head</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Robinson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU

As this is our last newsletter for the year there are so many people to thank! Last week we had the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who so generously give up their time to assist in so many different ways around the school. I would like to say a special thank you to Naomi Robinson who has expertly supervised our school tuck-shop this year to ensure that everything is ready for the students each day - thanks Naomi. I would also like to thank Kim Bell who so efficiently collates and organises our Book Club each year and who again volunteered to do so next year. This is a big job each month and we thank Kim for giving up her time to do this.

- We had a very enjoyable afternoon recently with our school leaders and Parish Altar Servers and this was a special opportunity to say thank you to each of them for the great work that they so willingly do around our school.
- To our Parent Forum, under the leadership of Jodie Sauer, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the generous way that you give of your time to assist our school in so many different ways.
- To Fr Richard who continues to have faith in me and support me in my role and provides faith leadership and guidance to our school community.
- To the teachers, I would like to express my sincere thanks for everything you do to ensure that quality teaching and learning continues to occur.
- To Lesley and Gayl who work tirelessly to assist the students, teachers, parents and visitors to our school. So much of what they do goes unnoticed!
- To you, the parents and families of our students, who continue to support and assist us each and every day.
- And finally to our students, who make us proud to be their teachers by what they do and say, not only when they are ‘on show’ but each and every day they are at school. I believe that we are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderfully supportive school community.

May this Christmas be a reminder
Of the hope and love
That was given to the world
Through the birth of Jesus Christ
Bringing Peace and Joy

FAREWELL MISS EGAN

On Friday we say goodbye to Miss Egan who has been teaching at St Joseph’s for the past 13 years. Amanda has accepted a two year secondment to St Carthage’s, Lismore as Leader of Catechesis. Amanda has been a valued member of staff who has contributed in many ways to the life of St Joseph’s, teaching hundreds of children and holding a number of leadership positions during this time. We thank her for the great job that she has done and I know that she will be sadly missed by all.

WELCOME MRS REESE

Mrs Jocelyn Reese has been employed to teach Year Six next year. Jocelyn brings with her a wealth of educational knowledge from many years of teaching in the Lismore Diocese as well as interstate. Jocelyn will be Leader of Curriculum in 2014. We welcome her to St Joseph’s and hope that her time here will be a rewarding one.

SCHOOL LEADERS 2014

Last week our students in Years 2 - 5 heard speeches from our Year 5 students who nominated themselves for school leaders for 2014. All staff were impressed by the outstanding quality of the speeches and the maturity shown by these students during their presentations. I am happy to announce that our School Leaders for 2014 have been elected by students and endorsed by staff and have accepted these positions in our school.

Congratulations to:

Captains: Tara Blunn and Eamonn Wilde
Vice Captains: Aimee Landrigan and Brodie Forsyth
Sports Captains:
Burbi (blue) Elise Davies and James Pursey
Gahgun (green) Ella Spackman and Lochlan Campbell
Guraman (yellow) Ella Robinson and Ryne Dicinoski
School Representative Council: Year 6 Kaitlyn Cook and Oliver Mason
Year 5 Mikaela Miller and Blake Doohan
Year 4 Lahni Pearson and Jason Bell
Year 3 Mila Scott and Declan Wilde
Year 2 Mikaela Robson and Jed Dougherty

Mini Vinnies President: Lily Davidson

They will receive their badges at the Opening School Mass in 2014.
YEAR 6 FAREWELL

This week we say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. We thank them sincerely for the wonderful contribution each one has made to St Joseph’s and we know that they will be valuable members of their high school communities.

Goodbye and good luck -

Clark Aleckson        Olivia Bell
Alice Bradford        Oscar Brown
Laura Davidson        Jordan Feros
Maxwell Fisher        Jasmine McClure
Zackery McMahon       Kalani Moss
Louis Murada          Angus O’Connor-Lohman
Heidi Pearson         Emma Racz
Kell Reese            Jaak Schneider
Alyssa Smith          Harry Stanley-Jones
Zayd Thomas           Mya Tosomeen
Joe Waddell           Tyson Williams
Natasha Wotherspoon

STAFFING 2014

Staff for 2014 are:

Kindergarten  Mrs Boyd
Year 1        Ms Pollard/Mrs Barnes
Year 2        Miss Taylor
Year 3        Mr Sandral
Year 4        Mrs Roxburgh
Year 5        Mr Cociola
Year 6        Mrs Reese
Music, Dance and Drama  Mrs Lowrey
Secretary     Mrs Dorrell
Teacher Assistant  Mrs Feros
ICT Support    Mr Greg Staader
Mrs Spencer will again be covering Executive Release.
Mrs Stormon  Literacy/Numeracy

FAREWELL

This week we say goodbye to the following families who are leaving our school - thank you for your support and co-operation during your time at St Joseph’s:

Aleckson family
Bell family
Bradford family
Brown family
Coombs family
Feros family
Moss family
O’Connor-Lohman family
Racz family
Schneider family
Smith family
Thomas family
Tosomeen family
Waddell family
Williams family
Wotherspoon family

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, 24th December 2013
5.30 pm  St Joseph’s Church, Coraki
5.30 pm  All Saints’ Church, Woodburn
7.30 pm  St John’s Church, Evans Head

Christmas Day - Wednesday, 25th December 2013
8.30 am  St John’s Church, Evans Head

New Year’s Day - Wednesday, 1st January 2014
8.00 am  St John’s Church, Evans Head

SCHOOL MASS

Our final school Mass for 2013 will be on Friday, 20th December at 10.00 am. Everyone is welcome to stay for morning tea in the library following Mass.

COULD YEAR 5 FAMILIES PLEASE SUPPLY A PLATE FOR MORNING TEA AFTER MASS.

MINI-VINNIES: PARISH CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

On Thursday Mrs Veronica Perry and Mrs June Clayton from the Evans Head Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society thanked our school community for their generosity in donating goods for the Class Mini Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal. She assured the children that the gifts of food and toys will be most appreciated by those who will receive them. We thank our school families for your generosity and support of this appeal.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thank you to the many families and friends who came along to our concert on Monday night. I was overwhelmed by the huge number of families who were able to be with us at this special school event.

We thank Mrs Anne Lowrey for our Christmas production. Anne again wrote the script that the children performed and has spent the last few weeks practising with the children. We are very grateful to Anne and we all appreciate and thank her for sharing her musical gifts and talents with us.

Thank you to those who supported our Christmas raffle, and congratulations to the following winners:

1st:  Ryne Dicinoski
2nd:  David Robinson
3rd:  Matt Bodley
4th:  Tink O’Keefe
5th:  Tahlia Robson
SEWING THANK YOU
Many thanks to Mary Gibson, Natasha Wotherspoon’s grandmother, for sewing the angel costumes for our school. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.

HOME READERS AND LIBRARY BOOKS
We are missing some home readers and library books. We ask that all students check at home and if they find any of these could they please be returned to school by the end of the week.

2014 CLASSROOM ACQUISITIONS
Please find attached to this Newsletter a list of classroom acquisitions for 2014. Classroom books are supplied for students.

CALENDAR – TERM 1 2014
WEEK 1
Monday, 27th January
PUBLIC HOLIDAY for Australia Day

Tuesday, 28th January
Professional Development Day - Staff only

Wednesday, 29th January
Years 1 - 6 students return to school
NO TUCKSHOP
NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN ALL WEEK
Kindergarten Best Start Assessments begin

Thursday, 30th January
Sports uniform

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday from all at St Joseph’s to those who celebrated their birthday last week, this week and during the coming Christmas break:

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 4 – WEEK 9

Class      Student
Kinder      Eli Lancaster
Year 1      Charlee Spackman
Year 2      Elleigh Jamroz
Year 3      George Campbell
Year 4      Ella Cutler
Year 5      Lily Davidson
Year 6      Jaak Schneider

CONGRATULATIONS!

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 4 – WEEK 10

Class      Student
Kinder      Thomas Tunsted
Year 1      Brianna Evans
Year 2      Bridie Moss
Year 3      Jason Bell
Year 4      Matthew Coombs
Year 5      Oliver Mason
Year 6      Harry Stanley-Jones

CONGRATULATIONS!

ST JOSEPH’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to all students who competed in the swimming carnival last Friday. The weather was very kind to us and this set the scene for a day of top swimming, great sportsmanship and loud barracking! We thank Mr Cocciola for all his hard work in organising the day and to the staff who arrived at the pool early to set up and the staff for their assistance on the day. I would like to especially thank our parent helpers who generously gave up their time on the day.
The champion house in swimming in 2013 is Burbi (blue) in a very close contest from Gahgan (green) coming second, with Guraman (yellow) third. Congratulations to Burbi house captains Kalani Moss and Zack McMahon.

Our age champions were:
Junior girls champion — Charlise Jamroz
Junior boys champion — Ryne Dicinoski
Junior girls runner up — Amity McMahon
Junior boys runner up — Jonathan Robinson
Senior girls champion — Aimee Landrigan
Senior boys champion — Kell Reese
Senior girls runner up — Tara Blunn
Senior boys runner up — Max Fisher
Parents are asked to provide the following items for the class/es their children are in.

Please label all items clearly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5 &amp; 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Bag - must be waterproof</td>
<td>Library Bag – must be waterproof</td>
<td>Library Bag – must be waterproof</td>
<td>Calculator – basic functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting shirt</td>
<td>Painting shirt</td>
<td>Pencils - HB (4) 4B (1)</td>
<td>Library Bag – must be waterproof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Glue Sticks</td>
<td>2 HB Pencils</td>
<td>Biro – 2 red and 2 blue</td>
<td>Painting shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box of Tissues</td>
<td>Coloured pencils in small pencil case</td>
<td>Ruler - wooden/plastic rigid type with mm markings</td>
<td>Lead Pencils - HB (2), 4B (1), 2B (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x HB Pencils; 1 x 4B Pencil</td>
<td>Textas (in a pencil case)</td>
<td>Biro – 2 red and 2 blue and 2 black</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coloured pencils in small pencil case</td>
<td>Artline Pen 90 – Black</td>
<td>Ruler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Artline Pen 90 - black</td>
<td>2 Highlighters</td>
<td>Coloured Pencils in pencil case</td>
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<td>2 Highlighters</td>
<td>2 Glue Sticks</td>
<td>Textas</td>
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<td>2 Rubbers</td>
<td>2 Rubbers</td>
<td>Wind up crayons</td>
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<td>2 Rubbers</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Artline Pen 90 – Black (fine point)</td>
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<td>Scissors - small</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
<td>Highlighter Pen</td>
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<td>Pencil Sharpener – with shavings container</td>
<td>Pencil Sharpener – with shavings container</td>
<td>Glue Sticks (2)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wooden/Plastic (rigid) ruler with mm marking</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
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<td>Box of Tissues</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
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<td>Pencil Sharpener – with shavings container</td>
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<td>A4 Writing pad</td>
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<td>Roll of paper towel</td>
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<td>Geometry set (protractor, compass, etc.)</td>
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<td>Dictionary</td>
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<td>Box of Tissues</td>
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Thank you for helping us help your child to be organised for school and learning.