Dear Families

Do you need a break from the hectic pace of this time of year? Advent prayers remind us to stop and take time to focus on what really counts at this time of the year, to prepare for the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ. During Advent, we await the celebration of Jesus’s birth at Christmas while taking stock of our readiness for His return.

The season of Advent precedes Christmas. Starting with the first Sunday closest to November 30, this Sunday, it marks the beginning of the church’s Liturgical year. Advent reminds us to give of ourselves and to be open to reflecting on Christ’s presence in our lives, as we think about His birth in a manger in Bethlehem to redeem us and show us the way to live.

Lord Jesus
You come to us and call us to serve.
Open our ears, our hearts and our hands to your call;
Grant us the courage and generosity to serve in your name.
Where there is hunger, illness, grief, or other hardship,
let us see the opportunity to feed, to clothe, to heal, to comfort and to love.
We pray in your name, the one who lives and reigns with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Parent Forum
You would have received the Parent Forum 2014 Yearly Round-Up yesterday. I hope you all took some time to read and acknowledge the wonderful work they have done. I want to personally thank the Parent Forum Executive of June Blunn, Karen Westerman, Naomi Robinson and Robyn Hatcher for all they have organised and achieved for our school this year. A special mention of thanks also goes to Judy Lollback and Tracey Bodley for their organisation of events and continued support.

As June stated in the round-up newsletter, the Parent Forum has many roles, two of those being fundraising to support our students and the creation and promotion of community. Our Parent Forum this year has excelled in those and many other areas. On behalf of the staff, student and families of St Joseph’s—thank you for all your hard work this year! We look forward to some new faces joining and supporting the Forum in 2015.

Farewell
It is with much sadness that this year we say farewell to Ms Carmel Pollard, a long-term staff member. Carmel will take leave for Term 1 next year and then begin to enjoy the fruits of retirement.

I have only worked with Carmel this year but have found her to be a committed professional with a true passion for ensuring her students learn and achieve. She is a thoughtful and kind colleague who will be missed by staff and students alike.

We wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for all that she has done to make a difference in the lives of the many students she has taught.

Thanks

Jeanette
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS from Megan Boyd

LESSONS FROM POPE FRANCIS:
Pope Francis spends time speaking about how we can love Jesus and one another more. His wisdom is profound so in an effort to share his wisdom with our school community. I have decided to share some of our Pope’s message to the world in our school newsletter. Each week I will include some of the thoughts and reflections from the book “Lessons from Pope Francis” by Angela Burrin.
Week 1: God’s love for us is so great!
Week 2: We are all called to be friends with Jesus
Week 3: Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit

LESSONS FROM POPE FRANCIS WEEK FOUR:
“God never tires of forgiving you”

Jesus wanted the people to know that their heavenly Father forgives all their sins, so he told them the parable, “The Forgiving Father”. The story of the youngest son of a rich man who asked his father for his share of his inheritance and left home. The son did many wrong things and squandered all of his money. When the son returned home the Father forgave the son and threw party to celebrate

Pope Francis has some great thoughts about our heavenly Father’s love and mercy: “Let us not forget: God never tires of forgiving us! He is the loving Father who always pardons, who has that heart of mercy for us all ...” God thinks like the father waiting for the son and goes to meet him; he spots him coming when he is still far off. When you’ve done something wrong, remember, your heavenly Father is waiting for you to come to him in prayer and say, “I’m sorry! Please forgive me!”

Pope Francis wants us to know that our Father in heaven will always forgive us!

Advent: A Time of Preparation
In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin advenio, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time. This Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. The Gospel Reading at Mass this Sunday will remind us to "stay awake! because you never know when the time will

Making Jesus Real: God Moments
A God moment is when you see Jesus reflected through a person or event or scenery. Very often a God moment is recalled when you think back on your day!
Eleanor Walsh: Nominated by Mrs Wilkins: For helping Chelsea when she fell over.
Taj Ferrier: Nominated by Mrs Boyd: For being a WEST person and quickly offering to help other!

ALTAR SERVERS
All Saints’ Woodburn - Saturday 29th November at 6pm
James Pursey, Amity McMahon, Amber Walsh
All Saints’ Woodburn - Saturday 6th December at 6pm
Elise Davies, Tara Blunn, Eliza Blunn
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 not be able to do the many wonderful educational activities we offer our students at St Joseph’s.
We invite EVERYONE who has assisted our school community in any way throughout 2014 to come along to our Liturgy at 10.45am on Tuesday 9th December in the Library followed by morning tea (provided).

SCHOOL LEADERS THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA
An Afternoon tea for our School Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, SRC members, Mini Vinnies President and Vice President, Parish Altar Servers and Year 6 are invited to a thank you afternoon tea on Tuesday, 9th December from 3.30pm-5pm. If your child is eligible and able to attend you please return the reply slip in this newsletter.

ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
The 2014 Vinnies Christmas Appeal campaign focuses on the idea that, “there are hundreds of reasons to donate. You only need one.” This year’s Appeal reminds us that we all have the capacity to “Do something About it” and make a life changing difference at Christmas so that together we can assist people experiencing disadvantage within our community during the festive season.

This year each class will be given an empty basket to fill with Christmas items suitable to give to a needy family in the community. We suggest Christmas novelties, Christmas puddings/cakes, chips, drinks, etc (no perishables or out of date food please!).

This opportunity is a simple way your child/children can give to others during the Advent Season. Thank you for your anticipated generosity and support in this matter.

ST JOSEPH’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Our school Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, 15th December.
The evening will begin with a BYO picnic tea at 6.30 pm followed by the concert at 7.45 pm. The concert will conclude with the draw for the Parent Forum Christmas Raffle and communal Christmas carols.

ROCKTOBER SOCKTOBER DISCO THANK YOU
On the 18th of November there was a fundraiser organised by the Mini Vinnies leaders. It was time to “Rock Your Socks Off” at the “Rocktober Socktober” disco. There was a disco and a casual day with all students’ wearing crazy socks to school. A gold coin was collected to raise funds for the Catholic Missions Socktober Jamaican Appeal. Everyone had a blast and there were some awesome dance moves. On behalf of the Mini Vinnies and Catholic Missions we would like to thank everyone for their support.  Amber and Lily President and Vice President of the Mini Vinnies.
Community Christmas Carols at WOODBURN and EVANS HEAD and Christmas Eve Mass – Woodburn All Saints’ Church 24th December 5pm

All over the Christian world the story of Jesus’ birth at Christmas is shared as people enthusiastically participate in Nativity plays and pageants. One of the best ways for children to become familiar with the real meaning of Christmas is for them to play a part in re-enacting the story at Christmas. Sister Janet and Mrs Boyd will be co-ordinating the children’s participation at the Christmas Eve Mass at Woodburn.

Our school also has a tradition of beautifully sharing the story of Christmas at the Evans Head and Woodburn Community Carols. We are encouraging all students and especially our senior students of the school to support these events. Mrs Lowrey is preparing the students for our school’s Christmas celebration and would appreciate receiving a commitment of attendance at these functions so that speaking parts and acting parts for the performances can be allocated.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider your child/children becoming involved in these Parish and community events, and return the reply slip at the bottom of this Newsletter as soon as possible. Thank you!

LISMORE DIOCESAN SUMMER SPORTS TRIALS 2014
The Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Trials (basketball, cricket, softball, touch football and tennis) for both boys and girls in Years 4 and 5 were held in Lismore on Friday 21st November. Well done to all St Joseph’s students who attended these important trials.

Congratulations to the following three students, Katelyn Bodley (girls cricket), Lara Barham (touch football) and Alec Robinson (softball) who were selected in Lismore Diocesan teams to attend Polding Catholic School trials in 2015.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 4—Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Blake Yager</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Presley Jubber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Tatum Hodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Domanic Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Leilani Mangan</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy Birthday to Mikaela Miller, Riley Transton-Lewis and Annabelle Robinson who celebrated their birthday this week.
TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Monday, 1st December
Leann Grebert
Kate Christoffel

Wednesday, 3rd December
Tanya Davidson
Megan Woolley (AM); Renee Stone (PM)

THANK YOU, LADIES!

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL
Our Lady Help of Christians, South Lismore Christmas Carnival is being held on 28th and 29th November 2014 in school grounds, Rhodes Street, South Lismore. There will be rides and games for the kids, BBQ, tombola, cake and craft stalls. Try your luck on he ham wheel and get tickets in our amazing Trailer Raffle valued at over $5,000 which will be drawn on Saturday night. A Christmas Tableau will be performed each night by our school community.
ALL WELCOME! Enquiries: 6621 5490.

EVANS HEAD JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
2015 Junior sign on dates: all ages welcome
Sunday, 1st February: Illawong Hotel, Evans Head at 1.30 pm (this is conjunction with the Illawong Hotel family fun day)
Saturday, 14th February: Stan Payne Oval, Evans Head Rugby League grounds, 1 pm—3 pm
For more information please contact Jeremy Bryant on 0422 585 226 or Debra Cain on 0435 860 746.

National Cheer Leaders Championships
Congratulations to Lily Davidson in Year 6 who will be competing at the National Cheer Leading Championships (level 1 co-ed) on the Gold Coast this coming weekend. Lily’s team, the Richmond Rumours were placed second in the New South Wales earlier this year.
We wish Lily (her sister Laura who is also in the team) and Lily's team – Richmond Rumours, all the best at the National Championships this coming weekend.

SCHOOL LEADERS AND ALTAR SERVERS' THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA
My child/children _____________________________________ will be attending the afternoon tea at school from 3.30pm to 5pm on Tuesday 9th December.
Name: ___________________________ Signature_____________________________

Community Christmas Carols Evans Head and Woodburn and Parish Christmas Eve Mass

Please return as soon as possible.

My child/children _____________________________________

Please circle:

- Will be able to attend the Christmas Eve Parish Mass at Woodburn 5.30pm YES NO
- Will be able to attend the Woodburn Carols by Candlelight on Saturday, 13th December YES NO
- Will be able to attend Evans Head Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday, 17th December YES NO
- Will attend Carols by Candlelight at both Woodburn and Evans Head YES NO

Name: ___________________________ Signature_____________________________
Lismore Greyhound Fundraiser

Business name / or Family name

……………………………………………..

(please select by circling)

Major Race @ $330-00

1 Race x 9 @ $100-00

Monetary donation for raffles @ $……………

(Two free tickets will be issued to the sponsor)

We thank you for your support

=======================================================================

We need your support in 2015..

LISMORE GREYHOUNDS
FUNDRAISER FOR
ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL WOODBURN
DATE: 17 FEBRUARY 2015

St Joseph’s School Woodburn has been fortunate to secure an early date next year to host a Fundraiser at a local Greyhound meet. The success of this event depends largely on the support we receive from local businesses and families within our area. There will be 9 races on the night and 2 major raffles. This is a great family night not to be missed. We are asking if you could support our school by either:

1) Sponsoring a race

2) Donating money to assist with the prizes for the major raffles.

In return your business will be promoted on the night and at all TAB venues and you will receive 2 entries for the night.

Please consider our request, we do understand that we have asked for your support earlier this year and are grateful to those sponsors. We held a very successful Greyhound night in June this year raising $2000. We have been able to secure the 17th February next year, 2015, so we need support for next years Greyhounds as it needs to be organised now, it is in Week 3 next year.

Please complete the attachment with your choice of donation. Thankyou for considering this request and we look forward to your positive response.

June Blunn
St Joseph’s School, Parent Forum.