Dear Families

WELL WE MADE IT AND WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN! So much to be thankful for, to celebrate, to congratulate, to farewell and to remember with love, joy and fondness. Our lives have been enriched by many people and events in 2014.

As we prepare for the joy of Christmas and the wonderful gift of the birth of Jesus, we give thanks for the many gifts bestowed on St Joseph’s throughout 2014.

* Our students
* Our parent community
* Our teachers, teacher aides, secretary, pastoral worker, cleaner and groundsman
* Fr Richard
* Our Year 6 leaders and buddies
* Our Student Representative Council
* Our Mini Vinnies
* Our Parent Forum
* Our Class Parents
* Our LAP volunteers
* The Centenary Celebrations and all involved
* Mass Celebrations and Sacraments
* Parent Forum community events
* Christmas Concert
* Year 6 Graduation Dinner and Mass

And the list goes on…..
A big thank you to and for all of our gifts of 2014!

Best Wishes
For a final time we thank Mrs Carmel Pollard for her professional teaching and loving service at St Joseph’s. We thank her for all her special gifts she has shared with us and acknowledge the difference she has made to our school. We are all the better for her being here and we will miss her. We wish her well in her retirement. Thank you Carmel!

I would also like to thank those families moving on from St Joseph’s this year. On behalf of our school community, I wish you all the best for the future and thank you for the contribution you have made to our community.

Goodbye Year 6
After a wonderful Graduation Dinner and a moving Farwell Mass, we say goodbye to Year 6 2014. As we farewell our Year 6 students we wish them all the very best as they enter into a new stage of their schooling, High School. We thank you for trusting us with your child this year and for the opportunity to encourage and teach them to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed children of faith. Thank you Year 6 for making our school a better place to be, all the best for the future.

I sincerely thank everyone for your support, prayers and encouragement in my first year as Principal at St Joseph’s. I am continuously proud and thankful for the helpful, hard-working and considerate community we have at St Joseph’s. I hope you know how appreciated and valued you are!

I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas and a New Year filled with all that you’re hoping for.
Have a safe and restful holiday.

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
Week 4: God never tires of forgiving you
Week 5: Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist

Jesus would often get up early and go up on a mountain to talk to his Father and listen to him. His disciples knew that he was praying to his Father, but they didn’t know what to do or say when they prayed. So one day from praying, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord teach us to pray.” Jesus said, “When you pray, say, “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name…”

Pope Francis wants to tell us about the importance of prayer:
Dear young friends, learn to pray every day: this is the way to know Jesus and invite him into your lives….. He is always listening and he knows everything about us lovingly … Let’s try to be open to God’s word, and open to the Lord’s surprises when he speaks to us.

Leadership Retreat Day for Years 4 and 5
On Friday 5th December we held our first Leadership Retreat Day for our Year Four and Five students. At the Retreat they had the opportunity to reflect on Jesus as a leader and how that may influence their choices when they are called to be school leaders in the future. We thank Mrs Reese and Miss Taylor for organising this most beneficial day for our students.

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!
Oisin Rigley: nominated by Courtney Bell: For helping others.
Georgia Hughes nominated by Nyah Roxburgh: For letting others join into her games!
YEAR TWO BOYS: nominated by Mikaela Robson: For letting the girls play with them always!
Kirra Higham: nominated by Eleanor Walsh – for helping solve problems at playtime!

ALTAR SERVERS
All Saints’ Woodburn – CHRISTMAS EVE at 5.30pm
Sarah Biffin, Jordan Biffin

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR RICHARD
I would like to wish all our school families and staff a very happy and relaxed Christmas and holiday season. Thanks so much for the wonderful efforts that have been made by Miss Wilkins and every member of the school staff this year.

I trust that God will BLESS every member of our school and staff families with a spirit of Christmas love, reconciliation and peace, that will last the whole year round.

Finally, special thanks and good wishes for a blessed future for Ms Carmel Pollard as she completes her generous service over several years, as part of our school staff—family. Ms Pollard will be greatly missed, but fondly remembered.

Father Richard Foley
Leadership 2015

Congratulations to our newly elected 2015 School Captains Nella Bradford and Daniel Westerman, and our Vice Captains Lily Fisher, and Jonathan Robinson. Congratulations again to all the students who nominated for the positions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the 2014 School Captains Tara Blunn and Eamonn Wilde and the Vice Captains Aimee Landrigan and Brodie Forsyth for their leadership this year. They have been amazing and consistently led with enthusiasm, pride and confidence.

Congratulation to our Leadership Team for 2015

Captains: Nella Bradford and Daniel Westerman
Vice Captains: Lily Fisher and Jonathan Robinson

Sports Captains:
Burbi (blue) Charlise Jamroz and Kye Evans
Gahgun (green) Sarah Biffin and Stephanie Bell
Guraman (yellow) Mikaela Miller and Blake Doohan

School Representative Council: Lilli Sheen and Lielani Mangan

Mini Vinnies President and Vice President: Hannah McClure and Ella Cutler

They will receive their badges at the Opening School Mass in 2015.

Polding Summer Sports Trials 2015

Polding Summer Sports
Trials will be held in Lismore on Friday 6th February. Talented students from Armidale, Maitland / Newcastle, Broken Bay, Wilcannia Forbes, Bathurst and Lismore Diocese will converge in Lismore for these important sporting trials. Sports in Lismore include softball, tennis, basketball and cricket.

Polding Touch football trials will be held at Mudgee on Friday 29th May. The following students from St Joseph’s will attend Polding Summer Trials in 2015. Alec Robinson (softball), Eliza Blunn (softball), Katelyn Bodley (cricket) and Lara Barham (touch football). We wish them all the best and keep up your training over the holiday period.

Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival 2015

The Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival will be held at Alstonville Memorial Pool on Friday, 20th February at 10a.m. Students from all Primary Catholic Schools in the Richmond Zone will compete at this event.

Richmond Zone Winter Sports Trials 2015

The Richmond Zone Winter Sports Trials for representative or talented Stage Three (years 5 & 6) students (boys & girls) will be held in Lismore on Thursday 26th February at 4pm. Sports include netball, hockey, rugby league (opens & under 11’s), rugby union and football (soccer). Notes will be sent home early in 2015 after school commencements.
Clarence Valley Horse Riding Competition

During the last weekend of November at Grafton Ella Robinson and Jak Ferguson both year 6 students at St Joseph’s attended the Clarence Valley Horse Riding Competition. Both students enjoy this sport and both excelled at Grafton in their events. Jak on his horse named Gav were entered in hacking and sporting events (barrel racing, team penning, flag, bends and the bonfield bounce) in various classes.
Jak won 10 ribbons (four 1st placings, five 2nd placings and a 3rd placing).
Ella, on her horse Tuppence entered the Hacking section and was placed 2nd in her class by the judges.
Congratulations to both students (and their horses) on some wonderful achievements at Grafton.

Nambucca Inter Club Athletics

Last Weekend eight students (Olivia Hayden, Heidi McClure, Lani Blunn, Eliza Blunn, Hannah McClure, Mikaela Miller, Katelyn Bodley and Tara Blunn) from St Joseph’s who are part of the Evans Head Junior Athletics Club attended the Nambucca Inter Club championships for this area. The students competed in both track and field events.

RESULTS
Heidi and Olivia McClure competed in finals for Long Jump, 100m and 70m.
Mikaela Miller - Bronze Medal 400m and Bronze Medal 800m.
Lani Blunn - Gold Medal Discus and Bronze Medal in Shot put, 4th 400m.
Eliza Blunn - Gold Medal Discus and Gold Medal in Shot put.
Tara Blunn - Silver Medal 1500m walk, Bronze Medal Discus and 4th Shot put.
The girls will now go on to compete at Tamworth Regional Championships, in February 2015.
Congratulations to all students for your effort with athletics this year.

School Holiday Intensive Swimming Lessons

With summer holidays here all parents are encouraged to have their children taught to swim. We live on the North Coast where there are many beaches, water ways and pools. The following sessions are available in Lismore. Please check with your local pool manager for details about learn to swim classes this holiday period.

Where: Lismore Memorial Baths and/or Goonellabah (G.S.A.C.).
When: Week 1- Monday 5th January – Friday 9th January.
     Week: 2- Monday 12th January – Friday 16th January.
     Week: 3 – 19th January – Friday 23rd January.
Time: Lismore Memorial Baths 9 a.m. til 12p.m.
      Goonellabah 8a.m. til 11a.m.
New students can book for a free swimming assessment. Lessons are 30 minutes duration.

GIRLS SCHOOL UNIFORMS
Marlan Clothing is now based in Lismore.
The contact number for orders is 0402 001 145
Sample sizes will be kept in the office to try.