Dear Families,

We have joined with St Joseph’s Coraki in a Parenting Ideas subscription which supports parents with practical, up-to-date parenting articles. Below is one of the articles by Michael Grose:

**It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school**

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage. That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time. Being late is not okay either.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10:00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting ... As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase your children’s chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE. …………Michael Grose

Jeanette
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS from Megan Boyd

LESSONS FROM POPE FRANCIS:
This year we will continue with our reflections on the wisdom of our 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 continue 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
Week 6: Learn to pray every day
Week 7: Take care of people in need
Week 8: Use your manners—say thank you and sorry!
Week 9: Mary is our Mother and she loves us!
Week 10: The Saints are like us!

LESSONS FROM POPE FRANCIS WEEK ELEVEN:
“Be missionaries of the Gospel!”

One evening not long after Jesus’ resurrection Peter and some of his friends went fishing. Jesus was on the shore watching. He called out, Have you caught any fish? They answered, “No.” Jesus said “Throw your net over the other side of the boat.” Immediately their net was filled with fish – so many fish that the net nearly tore. Peter and the other disciples became missionaries. They travelled all over the world sharing the good news about Jesus. They were no longer catching fish but catching men and women. They taught them about Jesus life, death, and resurrection. They brought them into the Church by Baptising them in the name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis knows that many people don’t have a special relationship with Jesus. So he wants you to be a missionary right where you live by telling your friends and neighbours the good news of Jesus.

Pope Francis wants us to be missionaries of the Gospel, every day and in every place ….. and wants us to spread the joy of his friendship everywhere.

Pope Francis wants us to share the good news of Jesus!

PARISH FAMILY SCHOOL MASS—Saturday, 7th March, 6 pm

Tomorrow, Saturday, 7th March, there will be a Parish Family Mass at the All Saints’ Church Woodburn at 6 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build community in this the Year of Proclaim for Students.

There will be a social opportunity after Mass at the school with a PIZZA supper provided for all in attendance.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

You will have received a note in relation to your Parent Teacher Interviews times to be held next week on Tuesday, 10th March and Wednesday, 11th March 2015. (Year 3 interviews will be held in Week 9 due to Mrs Roxburgh being on LSL)

These meetings provide the opportunity to meet individually with teachers to discuss any goals, concerns or queries you may have regarding your child’s education and I urge you all, if possible, to avail yourself of this opportunity.

We look forward to sharing this time with you to further support your child’s progress. Thank you for your cooperation.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

RVC gift voucher awarded to Lilly Sauer and Jessica Williams for commitment to school composting routine/maintenance.

HEAD LICE

Several parents have recently reported their child having head lice. Please check your child this weekend and treat if necessary to control the spread of this pest.

MAKING JESUS REAL AWARDS

Addison Edwards—for using beautiful manners! Nominated by Mrs Boyd
Mrs Stormon—for being a very kind teacher! Nominated by Charlotte Walsh

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

TERM 1 — Week 4/5

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Addison Edwards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jackson Grissell</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Blake Yager</td>
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<td>Jimmy Bradford</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Charlie Hong</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Alex Yager</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Tatum Hodges</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Tayla Ferguson</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Lani Reese</td>
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<td>Kye Evans</td>
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</tbody>
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CONGRATULATIONS!

WE NEED HELP - Class Parents

A big thank you to those people listed below who have already offered to be class parents.

We really need a class parent for all classes for this to work. Mums or dads are welcome. Please consider taking on the role.

If you are interested in helping out and becoming a Class Parent, please complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return to the school as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Gillian O'Neill</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Robyn Hatcher</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Naomi Robinson</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
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**LISMORE DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015**
The Lismore Diocesan Swimming carnival was held on Wednesday, 4th March at Murwillumbah. St Joseph’s had two students (Mikaela Robson in the eight years 50 metre freestyle and Mila Scott in junior girls backstroke) and in the Richmond Zone team.
Both girls were very happy with their times and whilst nervous before their events enjoyed the experience of swimming against other students from the Lismore Diocese.
Mila was placed first in her heat and ninth overall in junior girls backstroke. Mikaela was placed sixth in her heat and recorded the sixth fastest time in the eight years girls freestyle.
Congratulations to both girls on their selection in the Richmond Zone team and their future endeavours in swimming.
We are very proud of your effort in swimming this year.

**LISMORE DIOCESAN WINTER TRIALS**
The Lismore Diocesan Winter Trials will be held on Friday, 13th March at Grafton. Talented and skilled boys and girls from Catholic Primary Schools from Tweed, Richmond, Clarence and Hastings Zones will participate in hockey, netball football (soccer), rugby union and rugby league (opens & under 11’s).
St Joseph’s have the following students attending these trials next week following selection in Richmond Zone teams.
Congratulations to the following students George Campbell (under 11 rugby league), Nella Bradford (hockey) and Hannah McClure (football-soccer).
We wish them all the best at these important trials as they attempt to make the Lismore Diocesan teams to attend Polding Winter trials in Term 2 at Tamworth on Friday, 24th April.

**PARENT ASSEMBLY MEETING**
There will be a Parent Assembly Meeting with facilitator, Jo Kelly, held at the school on Wednesday, 11th March at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**The dreaded lunchbox challenge!!**
Struggle with lunchboxes? Need inspiration? Northern NSW Local Health District is putting together a series of lunchbox suggestions to take the worry out of what to pack each day. The fortnightly email ‘Let’s Look at Lunches’ will provide lunchbox tips, recipes and ideas. A well balanced nutritious lunch is important to keep active kids on track all day but it shouldn’t be a challenge. If you would like to subscribe simply send us your first name, email address and postcode by:
- Email to lookatlunches@gmail.com, or
- Text to 0429 033 517, or
- Scan the QR code below and it will take you directly to the subscribe page.

We look forward to lightening your load and sharing ideas!

**CALENDAR—TERM 1 WEEK 7**
- **Saturday, 7th March**
  - Parish Family School Mass—6 pm—All Saints’ Woodburn
- **Monday, 9th March**
  - Tuckshop
- **Tuesday, 10th March**
  - Sports Uniform
  - Year 6 Proclaim Incitare Day (4 students)
  - Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Wednesday, 11th March**
  - Tuckshop
  - Library
  - Parent Assembly Meeting—9 am
  - Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Thursday, 12th March**
  - Sport
  - Parent Lenten Program Group 10.30 am
  - Leadership Forum—Mr Cocciola and Mrs Boyd
- **Friday, 13th March**
  - Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day
  - Diocesan Winter Sports Trials—Grafton

**TERM 1 WEEK 8**
- **Monday, 16th March**
  - Tuckshop
- **Tuesday, 17th March**
  - Sports Uniform
  - St Patrick’s Day
  - St John’s Woodlawn talk to Year 6
- **Wednesday, 18th March**
  - Tuckshop
  - Library
- **Thursday, 19th March**
  - Sports uniform
  - Feast of St Joseph’s with Coraki
- **Friday, 20th March**
  - Polding Swimming—Sydney
  - Trinity Talk for Year 6
  - Stage 2 Assembly 2.30pm

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**
Happy Birthday wishes from the school community to Daniel Bass and Sr Janet who celebrated their birthdays this week.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**
- **Monday, 9th March**
  - Tanya Davidson
  - Helen Grissell
- **Wednesday, 11th March**
  - Tracey Bodley
  - AM: Naomi Robinson
  - PM: Renee Stone

Thank you ladies!
ST JOSEPH’S DAY CELEBRATIONS - Thursday, 19th March
This year St Joseph’s Day will be celebrated at St Joseph’s School Coraki. We will travel to Coraki by bus in the morning. The children will attend Mass at the St Joseph’s Church Coraki at 10 am. This will be followed by organised fun activities at the school. Recess snacks and a cake stall will be available for morning tea. There will also be a Sausage Sizzle available for lunch — ordering details below. Children will return to St Joseph’s Woodburn in time for their regular buses. The cost of the bus travel will be covered by the Performance Levy.

Sausage Sizzle $1.50
If you would like a sausage sandwich for your child for lunch please place your order on a bag (as for normal tuckshop ordering) with name and class and number of sausage sandwiches required. Please label the bag: ‘St Joseph’s Day’ and enclose the correct money. Please return the orders to school by Monday, 16th March.

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REMINDERS
♦ Staff Development Day (‘Pupil Free Day’) on Friday, 13th March
♦ Turning Circle: Please use the turning circle at the front of the main office for dropping off/picking up only. If you need to go into the school please use one of the parent parking spaces
♦ Please return any outstanding green Health Details and Permission notes for 2015 as soon as possible.
♦ Please return the Parent Forum note regarding meeting time preferences to have your input
♦ Easter Raffle: Please send in donations for the Easter Raffle. Thank you to those who have already sent in donations.
♦ Raffle tickets have been sent home today for the Easter Raffle, which will be drawn on Thursday, 2nd April. They are 50 cents each or three for $1.00.
♦ Year 6 shirts: Sizing will take place early next week. Notes with the money need to be returned to school by Wednesday, 11th March.
♦ School Fees: Thank you to those who have paid their Term 1 school fees, or who are paying fortnightly. If you have any questions about your Fees Statement please contact Lesley.

PARENT FORUM SURVEY ON FUTURE MEETING TIMES
Please return by Monday, 16 March 2015

Preferred Day: Monday Tuesday (please circle)
Preferred Time: 2:30pm 3:30pm 6:00pm (please circle)
Child Minding: If child minding was provided, would it make a difference to your attendance at meetings? Yes No (please circle)

Any other suggestions:

SELECTION OF CLASS PARENT
Please return as soon as possible
The Class Parent is selected by the class teacher in consultation with the Principal and Assistant Principal.

I would like to be considered for the role of Class Parent of my child’s class.

Child’s Name: _______________________________ Class: ___________
Parent Name: _______________________________ Contact No. ___________________

I have read the role description and believe I can fulfil the role as Class Parent.