Dear Families

Last Sunday marked the beginning of Advent. The season of 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 begin to show us the way to love.

The Advent wreath is green, the colour of new life and hope. Green reminds us of the newborn Jesus, who came to show us the way to everlasting life. Green reminds us of the gift of new life we received at baptism. Green also reminds us that we are people of hope, because God is always with us, to raise us up when we are sad, when we are sick, and even when we die.

The Advent wreath has three purple candles and one pink candle. Purple is the colour of kings and queens. It is also the colour of penance: the small sacrifices we make to welcome Jesus in our hearts, in our neighbour and to prepare ourselves to meet him on Christmas day. Pink is the colour of Joy. It reminds us of the joy of meeting Jesus at Christmas.

The Advent wreath is made in a circle, with no beginning or end. It reminds us of God’s everlasting love, which has no beginning or end. We light our Advent wreath from a single candle. This candle reminds us of Jesus, who comes to us as Light of the World.

Thank you

Parent Forum

Last week we had the Parent Forum Christmas and end of year dinner. I want to personally thank the Parent Forum Executive of Naomi Robinson, Tracey Bodley, Gillian O’Neill and Tina Cauchi for all they have organised and achieved for our school this year and for all the Parent Forum members for their never ending support.

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 2016.

Congratulations and Welcome

It is with much pleasure that I announce to our community that the our Acting Assistant Principal for 2016 is Mrs Felicity Wilde. Felicity comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge and a keen passion to continue and add to teaching, learning and leadership of our wonderful school. Felicity is already a member of our Parish community and is currently the Leader of Pedagogy and Leader of Catechesis and Stage 3 teacher at St Joseph’s Coraki. I know that you will join with me in congratulating Felicity and we look forward to welcoming her next year.

Mr Sandral goes to Coraki—At this time we also temporarily say goodbye to Mr Ern Sandral. Mr Sandral will be teaching at St Joseph’s Coraki for the 2016 year. We wish him well for his year of change and thank him for all that he is to our school.

Thanks

Jeanette

ST JOSEPH’S WOODBURN CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

Monday 14th December

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, 14th December and will be held at school in the evening, commencing with a BYO picnic tea from 6.30 pm. Students from Mark Earl’s music classes will present items from 7.15 pm. The whole school annual Christmas Performance will commence at 7.45 pm. All students are asked to be at school by 7.15 pm.

The evening will conclude with a visit from Santa!
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS from Megan Boyd

REFLECTION on the SUNDAY GOSPEL
2nd Sunday of Advent YEAR C : 6th December 2015
This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by responding with love, forgiveness, generosity and compassion for others.

CHRISTMAS EVE PARISH FAMILY MASS -
All Saints’ Catholic Church WOODBURN 24th December 5.30pm
The next Parish Family Mass will be on Christmas Eve. Our students are invited to dress as Angels or Shepherds and will process in with Father at the beginning of Mass. Children are encouraged to speak to Mr Cocciola or Mrs Boyd before this Mass if they would like to assist with the celebration, with the Presentation of the Gifts or Reading a Prayer of the Faithful.

Please don’t forget the Mini-Vinnies and the St Vincent de Paul 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 and supporting the appeal. 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 is encouraged to help a needy family by students and their teachers bringing along to school items to place in the empty Christmas Hamper containers. 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, and fruit juice. Please check the use by dates before donating any items.
The Mini-Vinnies Team thank you for your anticipated support and generosity.

HAMPERS WILL BE COLLECTED FROM THE SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER.

WOOBURN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS—Saturday, 12th December
EVANS HEAD COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS - Wednesday 16th December
Thank you parents for the excellent response to our Community Christmas Carol participation. We are happy that so many of our families have indicated that their children will be able to attend. It is not too late to participate! Traditionally our school has performed at these community celebrations and shared the true meaning of Christmas - the Birth of Jesus with the wider community.
We would like to continue our wonderful efforts this year, so it would be great if as many children as possible could participate. It is very important that our senior students in Years 4, 5 and 6 take part in these events in order to enhance the performance and show school leadership and spirit. Please indicate on the reply slip if your child is able to attend.

MAKING JESUS REAL AWARDS—TERM 4—WEEK 8
Breanna Evans: For being kind and helpful—nominated by Mrs Spencer
Farrah Carpenter and Chloe Wooley: For being kind friends—nominated by Nyah Roxburgh

PARISH ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER:
ALL SAINTS’ CHURCH WOODBURN—SATURDAY, 5.30 PM
5th December: Jessica Williams, Kade Williams, Jordan Biffin, Sarah Biffin
12th December: Jacob Woolley, Matthew Woolley, Fletcher Johnston
19th December: Alec Robinson, Annabelle Robinson

All Saints’ Woodburn Christmas Eve Mass—5.30 pm
Victoria Mohammed, Alec Robinson and Lani Reese
WHOOPING COUGH (PERTUSSIS) ALERT

There have been several recent confirmed cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in the St Joseph’s Primary School community at Woodburn.

Whooping cough caught at school can spread to any other members at home. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection may also occur in fully-vaccinated children.

What should people sick with pertussis do?

Pertussis is readily spread from an infected person to others by coughing and sneezing. If left untreated, it can be spread for up to three (3) weeks after the start of the infected person’s cough.

Do not attend work, school or a childcare facility if you or any household members:

* Have a cough as described above. Please see your doctor.
* Are being tested for whooping cough by your doctor and waiting for test results.
* Are being treated with antibiotics for whooping cough for at least five (5) days after starting the medicine.

Keep coughing children away from babies.

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it’s a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines.

For further advice, please call the Public Health Unit 1300 066 055 or NSW Health website


TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Monday, 7th December
Gillian O’Neill
Stacey Bradford
Wednesday, 9th December
Megan Woolley
AM: + HELP NEEDED
PM: Buffie Scott

Thank you ladies!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday wishes from the school community to Annabelle Robinson, Alec Robinson, Lily Fisher and Frankie Cameron who celebrated their birthdays this week.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 4 — Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Ilah Gardiner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luca Farlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Jahli Brady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Tawny Thomson</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Jarrod Lohse</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Cooper Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Jordie Forsyth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Kye Evans</td>
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</tbody>
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CONGRATULATIONS!
**ST JOSEPH’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015**

ST Joseph’s Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 11th December at Evans Head Aquatic Centre commencing at 10 am. All students from Years 2 to 6 will attend this carnival plus any 50 metre swimmers in Year 1. All notes need to be returned to school by Tuesday, 8th December regarding how the students will travel to the Aquatic Centre. Please include $3 pool entry with this form (unless you have an Evans Head Season Pass). If students are going home from the Carnival by different means from how they arrived at the pool, please mark this on the Travel Note.

Teachers will be present from 9.40 am at the pool so all parents are asked not to drop students to the pool before this time as there will be no supervision available. A bus will transport students from school to the pool at 9.30 am.

The students on the day of the Carnival will wear their colour house tops (blue, green or gold) or their sports top. They will need swimmers, towel, sun screen, goggles, morning tea, lunch or money for canteen. If you have any concerns regarding the Swimming Carnival please contact the school before the event.

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**SPORT ENRICHMENT CAMP 2015**

The Lismore Diocesan Sport Enrichment Camp for selected Years 6 to 8 talented students (NSW or Polding representatives) was held at Narrabeen (Northern Beaches of Sydney) this week. Nella Bradford was selected after representing NSW and Polding at hockey and athletics over the last two years. The camp itself provided these talented students with valuable information on topics such as diet and nutrition, training programs and to listen to a current Olympian (Jo Brinden-Jones) talk to them about goal setting, training, mental toughness, learning from others, how to look after your body, competition and life balance. These talented students were able to train together, try out new sports challenges, use an ice bath in a recovery session and listen to others about their journey so far in sport.

The students were lucky enough to meet the Manly Sea Eagles first grade team and watch them train. Trent Barrett, the new coach of Manly, spoke to the group of 58 students about having dreams and what it takes to maybe realise these dreams.

A fantastic camp where I’m sure the students gained a lot of useful information and ideas to help if they intend to continue in their chosen sport, maybe to elite or professional level down the track.

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**COMMUNITY CAROLS**

**EVANS HEAD CASINO SURF LIFESAVING CLUB**

Sausage sizzle and soft drinks available to purchase 16th December 2015 7 pm—8.30 pm Bring a chair or blanket In the event of bad weather carols will be held in the Performance Hall at Evans River K-12 Community School, Cypress Street, Evans Head. Further information contact 6682 4334 With a special visit from Santa!