Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2016 school year. We trust that the holiday has given you time for relaxation, renewal and special family moments. We look forward to another wonderful year with many opportunities for learning and growing. We hope that you will feel comfortable and involved with your child’s learning throughout the year. We welcome your presence at school, encourage you to become active partners in the education process, and invite you to volunteer at the school whenever possible. Please share your ideas, encouragements and concerns with us so that we can provide the best possible learning environment for your child.

For the last 2 weeks I have been in the Philippines. Initially to spend time with Fr Nonong, a Vincentian priest in Manila who works with many volunteers to relocate, educate and empower the poor. Secondly to attend the 51st International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu. It was an unforgettable experience, where sadly I witnessed unbelievable poverty on a daily basis but I also had the privilege of meeting and learning about hope, deep faith and love from the warm and kind-hearted people of The Philippines. Throughout the Congress there were daily opportunities for prayer, Mass, international keynote speakers and testimonies. The Masses, attend by crowds of 350 000 to 1 000 000 people were beautiful and a definite highlight. We Australian Catholics have much to learn and reignite!

The Congress concluded with a video message from Pope Francis who stated, ‘So it is fitting that this Congress has been celebrated in the Year of Mercy, in which the whole Church is invited to concentrate on the heart of the Gospel: Mercy. We are called to bring the balm of God’s merciful love to the whole human family, binding up wounds, bringing hope where despair so often seems to have the upper hand’.

Pope Francis encourages us to extend forgiveness and compassion to others through our actions in our everyday lives. I hope we all experience the joy of giving and receiving mercy through generosity of spirit throughout 2016.

Welcome

This year we welcome Mrs Felicity Wilde as Assistant Principal, Mrs Danielle Piccini, (Year 3), and Mrs Sarah Flocchini to our staff in the role of Aboriginal Education Worker. Ms Chaya Wilson returns full time this year as our Year 2 teacher.

We also welcome our new students, Thomas (Year 3) and Samuel (Year 5) Carey and their parents Jo-Anne and Peter, to our school community. I am sure that you join with me in welcoming the Carey family to St Joseph’s and we trust that their transition will be a happy and successful one.

On Wednesday we welcomed our 2016 Kindergarten to our St Joseph’s School community. It was wonderful to see them arrive looking so grown up in their uniforms and wearing a huge smile on their face! They have settled well and are adapting to ‘big school’. I would like to say a big thank you to their Year 6 buddies who have shown wonderful leadership skills in caring and assisting them throughout the week in many different ways. The Kinders know that they have a familiar face to turn to if needed throughout the day. Thank you also to Miss Taylor who has spent a great deal of time preparing for their start with great eagerness and excitement.

Special thanks to Tracey Bodley and her helpers for organising the morning cuppa for our Kindergarten parents. It was a kind way to welcome our new parents and to strengthen community with our existing parents. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you on the day. Finally, thank you to our new kindergarten parents who have entrusted the care of their little ones to us—I know that we will develop a great partnership working together in and for the best interests of the students in our care.

Thanks

Jeanette
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS from Megan Boyd

SUNDAY GOSPEL - 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reflection
When Jesus had finished teaching one day he asked Simon to put out into deep wa-
ter and cast the nets for a catch. Simon replied, "We fished all night and caught noth-
ing." Yet they did as Jesus asked. They caught so many fish that the nets began to
break. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be fishers of peo-
ple." Jesus wants us to make his mission of teaching about love and forgiveness our own
and use all our gifts and abilities to share his message of love.

Pope Francis has named this year as a special time to remember that Jesus asked us to love God and each other.
This is how we receive and give mercy. It’s the way to be happy. When we heal our hurting friendships we are happi-
er and we are doing what God wants. This year we are also trying to show mercy by forgiving others when they hon-
estly are sorry and ask us for our forgiveness.

BEGINNING SCHOOL MASS and SCHOOL LEADERS’ INDUCTION
On Friday, 12th February our school will celebrate our Beginning School Mass and our School Leaders’ Induction at
the All Saints’ Church Woodburn at 12.45 pm.
All family and friends are very welcome to attend this special occasion.
Everyone is welcome to stay for a cuppa in the library. Please bring a small plate to share.

SHROVE TUESDAY- Pancake Day
In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is called Shrove Tuesday. Lent is a time of giving up things.
For Christians, it is one way of remembering the time Jesus fasted in the desert and is a test of self-discipline.

There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some
Christians just give up something they really enjoy such as cakes or chocolate. Shrove Tuesday is known as Pan-
cake Day. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent.
Today people may try to give up other things like being unkind, jealous or selfish.

Our students in Year 2, 4 and 6 are asked to bring a small plate of plain pikelets to school to sell at the tuckshop on
Tuesday 9th February. Plain, and jam and cream pikelets will be sold for 30 cents each at morning tea. Money raised
will be donated to the Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal.

ASH WEDNESDAY PARISH MASS - Wednesday, 10th February, 12 noon
Ash Wednesday is one of the important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday is the
first day of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish
tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ash-
es symbolize the dust from which God made us. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are
invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm
branches, taken from the previous year’s Palm Sunday Mass. Our students from Years 3-6 will at-
tend this Parish Mass. Students in Kindergarten, Year One and Two will participate in a Distribution
of the Ashes ceremony at school.

ST JOSEPH’S WOODBURN FAMILY-CENTRED SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM
Parents of our Year 3 students preparing for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to a very
important meeting on Tuesday, 1st March at 6.30pm.
At least one parent of each child must be at this meeting in order for their child to be enrolled into the program. At the
meeting parents will be asked to enrol their child into a Family Group that will meet weekly for 4 weeks before the
celebration of the Sacrament as preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Penance-First Reconciliation. Please
contact me, or Sister Janet Cummings, at school if there any queries or questions regarding this matter.

INVITATION TO JOIN PARISH LENTEN GROUP
Throughout Australia small groups of believers gather together to reflect on the teachings of Jesus during the Liturgi-
cal Season of Lent.
Such a group will gather in the Library at School on Thursdays at 10.30am. All parents and friends are welcome to
join this group which will commence next Thursday 11th February.
For further information please contact Sister Janet at the school.
STAGGERED START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

We would like to thank all parents for their cooperation and understanding of the staggered start for the 2016 School year. The information and data collected by teachers from the Maths Assessment Interviews is invaluable and will assist greatly in your child’s future understanding, learning and confidence in Mathematics.

The information provided below explains EMU and the MAI’s, in case you missed it in last years newsletters. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

What is EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding)?
Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) is a research-based intervention program developed by Dr Ann Gervasoni of ACU in association with the Early Numeracy Research Project (1999-2002), focusing on the early years of schooling.
Through detailed research the EMU Program has shown improvement in children’s learning and confidence with mathematics.

What is the Maths Assessment Interview (MAI)?
The MAI is a powerful tool for assessing each student’s numeracy development. It has been developed through years of research (the Early Numeracy Research Project) and is constructed to provide greater insights into what each student knows and most importantly the strategies they use in mathematics. This is difficult to obtain in a paper and pencil assessment or with a number of children working together. This is why the interviews are conducted with the classroom teacher and the student individually.

What do teachers do with the interview information?
During each interview the teacher will record the student’s answers AND the strategies they use to answer. This then provides the teacher with a clear picture of what the children can do. This information is then used to create learning experiences that will target each student’s needs.

Can parents help with EMU?
Later in Term 1 a parent night will be held that will give parents the chance to come to learn about and play some of the games and activities that the MAIs have shown will benefit their children. The research shows that most children need 200 experiences to gain a skill. If the children are playing the games at school AND at home they will develop their mathematics skills much faster – which is the purpose of EMU!

Which schools use EMU?
Teachers in Victorian schools have been using the Early Numeracy Interview, now called the Mathematics Online Interview, since 2001, following its development in the Early Numeracy Research Project in 1999.

UNIFORM
Thank you to parents for sending your children to school looking smart in their uniforms, and well prepared for school.

Just a few reminders: Please ensure that your children wear fold down socks not ankle sports socks with their school uniform and sports uniform. Sports shoes are plain black in colour with white fold-down socks. Dunlop Volley shoes are not suitable for school as they do not provide support or protection for children’s feet during physical activity that occurs each day at school.

Haircuts and styles should be neat and tidy with no extremes in either cut or style. Boys hair should be no longer than collar length and girls’ hair should be tied back.

TERM 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
A Calendar of Events for Term 1 of this year is being sent home today detailing Mass and Assembly times as well as many other events on the school calendar.

CLASSROOM HELPERS
If you are able to assist in your child’s class in any way this year please fill out the return slip at the back of this Newsletter so that teachers can prepare rosters. Teachers are always appreciative of any assistance that parents are able to provide!
NEW ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE SOFTWARE

Our school has moved to a new electronic attendance software which includes the ability to send and receive an SMS directly to the system. If your child is absent from school an SMS will be sent to one of the mobile phone numbers we currently have in our database. We will send the SMS at approximately 10.00 am each day. Usually we will only send one SMS per child.

If we are in doubt as to the custody arrangements of a student (on the day absent) an SMS will not be sent.

You are able to respond directly to this SMS with a reason for your child's absence and it will be recorded as sent. We request that this is done by 2.30 pm on that day. You are able to store this number and text a message prior to one being sent on any day if you prefer.

If more than one family member is absent from school on a particular day you will receive more than one SMS. However only one SMS response is required from parents, provided it adequately explains the absence of all children.

SMS messages are now considered legitimate forms of communication and as such a follow up phone call or note is not required. However, if you are unable to respond to the SMS then the school does require some form of communication such as a phone call or note to explain absences.

The text of the message will be as follows:
<name> is absent from school today. Please confirm, with reason for absence, by return SMS by 2.30 pm today.
Thank you St Joseph's Woodburn.

Can I ask that if you have recently changed your mobile phone or other contact details that you inform the office staff immediately.

SPORTS NEWS from Melissa Barnes

Polding Summer Sport Trials 2016
Talented Catholic Primary school students from Lismore, Armidale, Maitland-Newcastle, Bathurst and Wilcannia Forbes will converge on Lismore hoping to be selected in the Polding Catholic team to attend P.S.S.A State carnivals during 2016. Sports contested during the trials in Lismore today, Friday 5th February, include tennis, basketball, cricket and softball. St Joseph's have one student (Alec Robinson – softball) attending these trials. We wish him all the best at the Polding Summer Trials.

Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival 2016
The Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival will be held at Lismore Memorial Baths on Friday, 19th February. A reminder to students attending the swimming carnival that all notes and levy money should have been returned to school by today (5th February) to finalise the squad and transport arrangements.

GIRLS’ SCHOOL UNIFORMS

There has been a change in the ordering process for the girls’ school uniform (the checked dress). The school will place an order with the supplier, Marlan Clothing in Lismore, on behalf of parents needing uniforms. We need to place an order for a minimum of ten uniforms at a time. The uniforms will be sent to the school and we will then forward them on.

An order form will be sent home next week, so if you would like to place an order please return the form with the payment (cash or cheque made payable to St Joseph’s Woodburn) by Tuesday, 16th February. At this stage we plan to place an order at the beginning of each term, but can place extra orders if needed. We do have sample dresses at school if you need to try for sizing. (Please contact Lesley to make a time for this.)
**NUT BAN**

We have two children at St Joseph’s who have a very **severe nut allergy**.

*If they are exposed to nuts in any form it may be life threatening.*

I am asking parents to ensure that children do not have peanut butter, peanuts or nuts of any kind in their lunch boxes. Bars that are not specifically peanut bars but may state that they may contain traces of nuts are acceptable.

I thank you for your understanding and compliance with this request.

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**PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS**

These Parent-Teacher Meetings are a vital communication link between home and school. I encourage every family to attend the Kindergarten to Year 6 meetings. This sends a powerful message to your children about the value you place on your child’s learning this year. Teachers go to a lot of trouble preparing these nights and I thank them for giving up their family time to assist your children’s education.

The meetings will be held on **Monday, 15th February**.

In order to make it easier for parents to attend these important meetings, we will repeat each meeting at a different time on the same evening. This means that parents will be able to attend each of their child’s class meetings on the one evening. The meetings will run for 30 minutes.

We will commence the evening with a barbeque at 5.30 pm and keep cooking until around 7 pm. All are welcome to catch a bite to eat and have a chat with staff. There will be a short talk in the Library with the Principal before the meetings commence.

The schedule for these meetings is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The above sessions will be repeated at:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.00 pm</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00 pm</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a few weeks’ time parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s class teacher individually at Parent/Teacher interviews.

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**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

The following days have been set down as Staff Development Days for St Joseph’s for 2016.

If you have difficulty with arrangements for the care of your child/children on these days please let us know as soon as possible. We thank you for supporting us in our Professional Development opportunities.

**Students do not attend school on these days.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Friday, 8th April</td>
<td>Staff Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday, 26th April</td>
<td>Catholic World View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friday, 1st July</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday, 18th July</td>
<td>Curriculum/Vision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TERM 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

A Calendar of Events for Term 1 of this year is being sent home today detailing Mass and Assembly times as well as many other events on the school calendar.

**CLASSROOM HELPERS**

If you are able to assist in your child’s class in any way this year please fill out the return slip at the back of this Newsletter so that teachers can prepare rosters. Teachers are always appreciative of any assistance that parents are able to provide!

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**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 8th February</td>
<td>Megan Woolley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tina Cauchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 10th February</td>
<td>Stacey Bradford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tina Cauchi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you ladies!

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**TUCKSHOP HELPERS—ALWAYS NEEDED!**

We are asking for volunteers to assist in our school tuckshop on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are able to assist (even for half a day), please fill out the return slip on the back page of this Newsletter and return to school as soon as possible.

Tuckshop ordering for lunches is available on Mondays and Wednesdays.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday to those who celebrated their birthday last week and this week: Coen Puglisi, Kaedy Doohan, Presley Jubber, Sky Oldham, Demi Ibrahim and Faith Stewart.

PARENT FORUM NEWS
PARENT FORUM MEETING
Our first Parent Forum Meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday, 8th February at 6 pm in the Library. We would like to extend an invitation to all parents and carers to come along and help plan our activities for 2016.

PAM BELLINGHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE WOODBURN
Ages 3 to adult
Classes resume week of 1st February
See Facebook page for timetable
For enquiries and enrolments phone 6682 2203 or 0414 953 879.

WOODBURN WOLVES FC
SIGN ON DAYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
FEBRUARY 6TH, 13TH AND 20TH
AT WOODBURN SOCCER FIELDS
9 AM — 12 PM

BALLINA RUGBY UNION
2016 REGISTRATION
WEDNESDAY 10TH AND 17TH FEBRUARY 5 PM
FROM UNDER 8S
$95 INCLUDES SHORTS, SOCKS AND SHIRT
KALINGA STREET, WEST BALLINA
CONTACT KAHLI MILNER 0115 797 494

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
FREESTYLE CLASSES, WEAPONRY, MMA FIT
CALL KATRINA 0408 544 357
OR MARK 0417 456 923
mdmixedma.com.au

SCHOOL PRAYER
Dear Jesus,
I offer you today, all that I think and do and say. I offer you this as my prayer to you, Lord help us today ‘to grow in truth and love’.
SCHOOL FEES
Fees for 2016 are listed below for your information. Fees Statements will be sent home to families shortly. Please speak to Lesley if you have any queries at all about your fees statement.
The first termly payment of school fees is due by **Friday, 26th February**.
For those choosing to pay fortnightly, the first payment is due by **Friday, 12th February**.

**SCHOOL FEES FOR 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Students</th>
<th>Per Year</th>
<th>Per Term (3 termly payments)</th>
<th>Per Fortnight (15 payments for 1st 3 terms)</th>
<th>Per Fortnight (20 payments over 4 terms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One child</td>
<td>$990</td>
<td>$330</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td>$49.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two children</td>
<td>$1881</td>
<td>$627</td>
<td>$125.40</td>
<td>$94.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more</td>
<td>$2574</td>
<td>$858</td>
<td>$171.60</td>
<td>$128.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERFORMANCE LEVY**
The Performance Levy of **$35 per child for 2015** will cover whole school events for the year such as performances and local excursions.
The Performance Levy is payable by **Friday, 26th February** and will be billed to families on the Fees Statements.

**SCHOOL’S DIRECT DEBIT DETAILS**
Account Name: St Joseph’s School Woodburn
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Branch: Lismore
BSB: 062-565
Account Number: 1005 6169

Please Note:
**Please ensure there is a notation stating the student’s name (not just surname) when paying by direct debit.**

CHANGE OF DETAILS
Please advise any change of contact details, addresses or phone numbers to the school as soon as possible to keep our records up to date. Thank you!

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**TUCKSHOP HELPER**
Please return by Monday, 8th February

I can assist with Tuckshop on:
- Mondays, 11.45 am - 2.00 pm
- Wednesdays, 9.30 am - 3.00 pm
- Wednesdays: half day (AM/PM)

I can help:
- Once a fortnight
- Once a month
- Once a term
- Other: _________________ (e.g. a specific day)

Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________ Phone No.: __________________________

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**CLASSROOM HELPER**
Please return as soon as possible

I would like to help in:
- Year _____ doing ______________________________
- Year _____ doing ______________________________
  (Reading, Maths, Computers, Craft, etc).

*If you have a special interest/skill you would like to share please let us know.*

Preferred days: ________________________________ (Class Teachers will contact you when they receive names.)

Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________ Phone No.: __________________________

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