Dear Families,

**Student Maths Assessment Interviews (MAI’s) 2017**

As mentioned previously in the Newsletter, our school is an EMU (Extended Mathematical Understanding) school and as part of that initiative, our teachers will be carrying out Maths Assessment Interviews on each student individually for Years 1-6 over the first three days of the 2017 school year.

The students in Years 1-6 will be required to attend the school for a Maths Assessment Interview on one of the three days: Monday 30th January, Tuesday 31st January or Wednesday 1st February 2017. **Each student assessment takes approximately 30 minutes.** The Best Start Testing for 2017 Kindergarten students will occur during the same time— the MAI is included in that testing.

**All of the Years 1-6 students will commence normal classes on Thursday 2nd February 2017.** Kindergarten will begin school on Monday 6th February 2017.

**This year we have the interview times available for you to book in online in Schoolworx. A note will be sent home today explaining the process.**

As mentioned in the Newsletter, once students are mapped on the Mathematical Assessment Interview, the staff will have a better understanding of their ability, their individual needs and how to make change through the Intervention process. This is a Diocesan initiative, for which we are extremely grateful to be involved. By 2018 all schools within the Diocese will be involved in the same process.

Thank you for your co-operation and support of your child’s Mathematical understanding and progress.

**Congratulations and farewell Miss Taylor!**

It is with much happiness that we congratulate Miss Sophie Taylor on her new job at St Joseph’s Coraki in 2017. Sophie is leaving St Joseph’s Woodburn to take up the positions of Leader of Curriculum and Additional Needs Teacher and of course Kindergarten teacher. We wish her every success and know that she will be a true asset in her new school. However, it is with sadness that we farewell her from our St Joseph’s community.

I have worked with Sophie for the three years that I have been at St Joseph’s and have found her to be an enthusiastic, committed professional and an outstanding Additional Needs Teacher and EMU Specialist. It has been a true pleasure to witness her drive and enthusiasm to take on any role given to her and work to the best of her ability grow into those roles. She is a thoughtful, fun and spirited colleague and friend who will be missed by staff, students and families alike.

We warmly thank her for all that she has done to make a difference in the lives of the many students, teachers and families from St Joseph’s. Good luck Sophie!

**HIGHLIGHTS WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK:**

- Miss Taylor!
- Our 2016 Year 6 leaders and all that they have achieved- as we prepare to elect our 2017 Leaders.
- The students who shared their talents with us at the Pam Bellingham dance concert this week.
- The time and effort our students have put in to practising for our Christmas Concert (12th December)

Have a wonderful weekend!
The Sunday Connection:
God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings
(2nd Sunday of Advent)
In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas.

PROCLAIM LISMORE - EXURO
On Monday I had the pleasure of accompanying Matilda Newman, Noah Dougherty and Declan Wilde to the McAuley Catholic College at Grafton to participate in the Lismore Diocese Proclaim EXURO experience for Year 5 students. I was so proud of the way that our students participated and engaged in a variety of challenging activities. I asked each of them to write three sentences to share with others their thoughts and feelings about the wonderful opportunity and experiences they had on the day.

During the day students reflected on the following passage from the Bible in 1 Timothy 4:12

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity."

By Noah Dougherty

EXURO was a fun experience for me. I enjoyed learning more about my faith in God and how important it is to proclaim my flame. I also made some new friends from lots of different schools.

By Matilda Newman

Being at EXURO was a great experience and I would love to go back. I met new friends and we played many games with each other. This gave me confidence to meet new people.

By Declan Wilde

REMINDERS:
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers: Each class is contributing items suitable for Christmas to fill an empty basket that will be donated to the 2016 Vinnies Christmas Appeal. This opportunity is a simple way your child/children can give to others during the Advent Season. Hampers will be collected on Friday, 9th December.

St Joseph’s Woodburn Volunteer Helpers Thank you Liturgy and Afternoon Tea – School Library
Our Volunteer Helpers’ Thank You Liturgy will be held on Tuesday, 6th December at 2:40pm and is being prepared by Year 3 and Mrs Piccini. The Liturgy will be followed by Afternoon Tea in the school library (provided). As a school community we really do appreciate the many ways our parents and grandparents help our school community. We invite EVERYONE who has assisted our school community in any way throughout 2016, and we encourage all our parent helpers, family, friends and parishioners to join us for this celebration.

Community Christmas Carols at WOODBURN and EVANS HEAD and Christmas Eve Mass – Woodburn All Saints’ Church 24th December 5:30pm
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. 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 end of this newsletter. Thank you.

PARISH ALTAR SERVERS
ALL SAINTS’ CATHOLIC
CHURCH WOODBURN 5.30 PM
Saturday, 3rd December
Charlotte Walsh, Eleanor Walsh
Declan Wilde
Saturday, 10th December
Jason Bell, Courtney Bell, Declan Wilde

Making Jesus Real Award – Term 4 Week 7
Fletcher Johnston: For donating his change to the tuckshop and having such nice manners. Nominated by Mrs Carissa Pursey.

Erin Williams: For looking after our environment and picking up rubbish. Nominated by Ms Wilkins.
**ST JOSEPH’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held at school in the evening on **Monday, 12th December**.

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!

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**REMAINDERS FOR KINDERGARTEN 2017**

**FAMILIES:**

- Please ring the school office to make the appointment for your child’s Best Start assessment.
- Please order your child’s sports uniform as soon as you can to allow time for delivery.
- Girls’ school uniforms, hats and library bags are available from the school office now.
- Please bring any outstanding enrolment papers to the office so your child’s enrolment can be completed.

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**SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

As advised in last week’s Newsletter, our complete school uniform will be available from The School Locker in Ballina from late January—except for the girl’s dress which will be available from February. Until then we have the girls’ uniform dress available in all sizes in the office ($40 each) - no need to order, just come in. It is recommended that the sports uniform be ordered as soon as possible through the school/Jodie Sauer to allow time for delivery before the end of the year.

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2017:</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 2nd February</td>
<td>Years 1—6 begin full time classes <em>(following MAIs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 6th February</td>
<td>Kinder students begin <em>(following Best Start testing in previous week)</em></td>
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<td><strong>2017:</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017:</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday, 6th December</td>
<td>Year 5 Leadership Speeches 9.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 6th December</td>
<td>Volunteers’ Thank You Liturgy—Library—2.40 pm followed by Afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 9th December</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival—Evans Head Aquatic Centre—10.00 am start</td>
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<td>Saturday, 10th December</td>
<td>Woodburn Carols by Candlelight</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, 12th December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14th December</td>
<td>Reports being sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14th December</td>
<td>Evans Head Carols by Candlelight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 15th December</td>
<td>Graduation Dinner—Evans Head RSL—6.15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 16th December</td>
<td>Graduation Mass—9.30 am followed by Morning Tea in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 16th December</td>
<td>Last day of school for all students for 2016</td>
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**CALENDAR—TERM 4 WEEK 9**

- **Monday, 5th December**
  - Tuckshop
- **Tuesday, 6th December**
  - Sports Uniform
  - Year 5 Leadership speeches: 9.30 am
  - Volunteers’ Thank You Liturgy: 2.40 pm followed by Volunteers’ Thank You Afternoon Tea (provided)
- **Wednesday, 7th December**
  - Tuckshop
- **Thursday, 8th December**
  - Sports Uniform
  - Stage 2 Assembly
- **Friday, 9th December**
  - Swimming Carnival—Evans Head Aquatic Centre (Yrs 2-6)
- **Saturday, 10th December**
  - Woodburn Carols by Candlelight

**TERM 4 WEEK 10**

- **Monday, 12th December**
  - Tuckshop—last for 2016
  - St Joseph’s Christmas Concert—7.15 pm
- **Tuesday, 13th December**
  - Sports Uniform
- **Wednesday, 14th December**
  - NO TUCKSHOP TODAY
  - Reports being sent home
  - Evans Head Carols by Candlelight
- **Thursday, 15th December**
  - Graduation Dinner—Evans Head RSL—6.15 pm
- **Friday, 16th December**
  - Graduation Mass—9.30am; followed by morning tea
  - Last day for all students for 2016
STUDENTS LEAVING
If your child will not be attending St Joseph’s Woodburn in 2017 could you please advise the office in writing as soon as possible to facilitate planning for the new school year. Could you also advise the school they will be attending. (This does not apply to Year 6 students.)

LIBRARY BOOKS
Library is now finished for 2016. **Could all library books be returned on Monday please.**
Thank you to the students, parents and staff for your support throughout the year.

Gayl Feros

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday to those who celebrated their birthday this week: Annabelle Robinson, Jacob Kirk and Alec Robinson.

SPORTS NEWS from Melissa Barnes

St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival—Friday, 9th December—Evans Head Aquatic Centre
Last week a note outlining your child’s travel arrangements for the Swimming Carnival was sent home. This note needs to be returned as soon as possible with the $3 per child pool entry. Swimming Carnival Parent Helpers are still required. Please consider helping and return the slip in the note. We are still in need of further help. Thank you to the parents who have already offered assistance.

Diocesan Summer Sport Trials
The Diocesan Summer Sports Trials were held last Friday in Coffs Harbour. Declan Wilde was successful in making our Diocesan Cricket team. He will now travel to Newcastle for Polding selection trial in early February 2017. Billy Bradford and Lilly Sauer trialled for Touch Football. Billy Bradford was successful in making our Diocesan Touch Football team. He will now travel to Port Macquarie in June 2017. Congratulations to Lilly, Billy and Declan for their sportsmanship and effort displayed at these trials.

Community Christmas Carols Evans Head and Woodburn **Please return ASAP**

Parish Christmas Eve Mass

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<tr>
<th>My child/children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will be able to attend the Christmas Eve Parish Mass at Woodburn at 5.30 pm</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will be able to attend the Woodburn Carols by Candlelight on <strong>Saturday 10th December</strong></td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be able to attend Evans Head Carols by Candlelight on <strong>Wednesday 14th December</strong></td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will attend Carols by Candlelight at <strong>both</strong> Woodburn and Evans Head</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________