Dear Families,

Last Wednesday evening, Mr Wilde, Mrs Boyd and myself had the privilege of attending St Carthage’s Cathedral for the Episcopal Ordination of the sixth Bishop of Lismore, Bishop Greg Homeming. It was an wonderful experience to be a part of such a beautiful, holy and moving Mass.

We warmly welcome Bishop Homeming to our Diocese and look forward to welcoming him to our school. The Archbishop of Sydney, the most Reverend Anthony Fisher, who celebrated the Mass, referred to Bishop Homeming as humble and compassionate. Those sentiments certainly shone through in Bishop Homeming’s words to the congregation, following his Ordination:

‘I am your bishop; with the emphasis on “your”. I belong to you. The people, religious and priests of Lismore will show me my job. I will listen to you, and together we will discern God’s will for our diocese. Our weaknesses and failings will not be an obstacle because, I believe, they will guide us. As Our Lord said to St Paul, “I am strong in your weakness”.

My role is that of a shepherd who leads his people, with a simple focus, to stand in the presence of God. I pray that I will not be an obstacle. I pray that you will come to know the love of Christ and be filled with the utter fullness of God,’ he added.

LENT

Next week we begin the Church Season of LENT. At the beginning of Lent— we Catholics receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads. The cross of ashes tells friends and neighbours that we know we are not perfect. We sometimes turn away from God. We hurt other people. We act selfishly. During Lent we tell God and each other that we are sorry, and with the help of Jesus, we will try during Lent to become better people.

Today we know Lent as a season of conversion: we acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward God.

Hence the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These observances help us turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed us and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. Or we might “give up” a bad habit as a way of positively turning our life back towards what God wants for us.

At school the children are encouraged to make sacrifices by making a commitment during Lent. The commitment could be anything from a promise to help mum every day during Lent, to a promise of a kind act each day, to one of their siblings or a classmate. You could encourage your children to do this by asking questions and complimenting them when they make a special effort. We also have Project Compassion Boxes in the classroom where the children and staff are encouraged to give to those who are struggling in Australia and the world.

Jeanette Wilkins
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS from Megan Boyd

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. In this week’s Gospel (Matthew 6:24-34) Jesus reminds us to love, but it is easy to love those who love us. Jesus calls us his followers to a higher standard: to love even those who hate us! We can pray for mercy and peace in our hearts so that we can forgive others.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Gary Reen, the Diocesan Assistant Director, School of Evangelisation and Catechetical Services has informed our school community that Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated in Week 6 of this Term, 5th-11th March.

Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate our shared faith, educational excellence and the importance of every student. Catholic schools offer an educational foundation for living life to the full through the development of the students’ spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral and emotional growth.

Catholic schools respond to and serve the needs of parents who seek a Catholic education for their children. Catholic schools contribute to the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are well served by dedicated principals, teachers and support staff who are determined to provide a high quality education and accompany students on their faith and educational journeys.

The main aim of Catholic Schools Week is to raise public awareness of the wonderful opportunities that Catholic schools provide, and to celebrate our history, our faith and our achievements. It serves also to inform potential parents of the coming enrolment periods.

The theme for 2017 is ‘Catholic Schools-Great Learning, Great Communities’. We will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with a Parish School Family Mass on Saturday, 11th March at the All Saints’ Catholic Church Woodburn 5:30pm. Please complete the note in this Newsletter if you can attend.

SCHOOL OPEN DAY—FRIDAY, 10th MARCH 9.30 am-11.15 am

An invitation is extended to parents, family and friends to join our school community in fun Science and Technology challenges and Mathematical games. Parents will be encouraged to join Rotational Learning activities that challenge and consolidate learning!

Families are then invited to have a shared morning tea with their child/children.

We are looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to learn together as a school community!

PANCAKE DAY

Thank you to our parent helpers Linda Collins, Tina Cauchi and Laura Thomas for assisting in the Canteen, and students in Year 2, 4 and 6 who brought pancakes to school on Tuesday. Money raised will be donated to the Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. We really do appreciate your generosity and kindness.

PARISH SCHOOL FAMILY MASS

We warmly welcome all families to attend our first Parish School Family Mass tomorrow, Saturday, 25th February at the All Saints’ Catholic Church Woodburn at 5:30pm. We would love volunteers of parents and students to assist with the presentation of this Mass. There will be a pancake supper afterwards. We would love to see you there!

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2017

ALL SAINTS’ CATHOLIC CHURCH WOODBURN

Sacrament of Penance – First Reconciliation – Tuesday 28th March 6:30pm
Sacrament of Eucharist – Celebrating First Holy Communion – Saturday 17th June
Sacrament of Confirmation- Saturday 26th August 5:30pm

MAKING JESUS REAL AWARDS—WEEK 4

Kallarney Collier and Chelsea Franks: For an amazing effort and kindness to others!
CLASS PARENTS
This year we are looking to continue having a Class Parent for each class. Being a class parent involves being part of a friendly, helpful group of parents who are available to lend a hand when needed. Class Parents’ duties include welcoming new families to the school and being a point of contact for parents in the class for information about different school activities.

Class Parents’ Role Description:
⇒ Liaise between parents and teachers
⇒ Provide Pastoral Care support to families in the class in the way of organising card/food drive, etc in times of need and or celebration.
⇒ Support and organise class/grade social activities to build community within the school
⇒ Support social activities among parents and the Parent Forum
⇒ Organise a phone tree for families in their class
⇒ Include all parents as much as possible in the life of the class
⇒ Care for the children and teacher
⇒ Exhibit complete confidentiality and professionalism

Refer any mediation issues to the appropriate channels

Desirable Criteria for Class Parent:
⇒ Confidentiality – this is vital to maintain the integrity of the school and privacy of families in the school
⇒ Knowledge of the Parent Forum and willingness to assist
⇒ Accessibility to the class teacher and other class parents
⇒ Openness and understanding
⇒ Knowledge of class members and their families
⇒ Able to attend at least one Parent Forum meeting once per term

It is not a difficult job. The main purpose is to strengthen class/school community and keep parents informed of class events, changes etc., usually through emails or texts. 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. It is a great way to become involved in our school.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
TERM 1 — Week 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Leila Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Ella Felsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Charlotte Kinsella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Breanna Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Thomas Tunsted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Brianna Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Blake Allan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONGRATULATIONS!
PARENT FORUM 2017

Thank you to the mums who were able to attend the Parent Forum meeting held this week.

Congratulations to our:

2017 Parent Forum Executive:
President: Tracey Bodley  
Vice President: Naomi Robson  
Secretary: Gillian O’Neill  
Treasurer: Melissa Handford

We look forward to working together this year!

SCHOOL FEES STATEMENTS

School Fees Statements will be sent home next week. Please note that any direct deposits made during February are not included in these statements. If you have any queries regarding your family’s fees statements, please give Lesley a call.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Monday, 27th February  
Megan Woolley

AM: HELP NEEDED  
PM: Renee Stone  
Thank you ladies!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday wishes from the school community to Oliver Arragon, Leila Bailey, Alex Pursey, Tasman Newman and Mrs Lowrey who celebrated their birthday this week.

UNSW GLOBAL COMPETITIONS

2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

Each year students from Years 3-6 are invited to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in various subject areas. Students from Year 2 are also eligible to participate in the English, Mathematics, Science and Spelling competitions.

Parents who wish their children to participate should complete the form in this Newsletter and return to school with the entry fee by Friday, 17th March. Costs and dates for each competition are listed below. If more than one child in a family is participating please write out a separate list. Unfortunately, if your child is absent on the day of the test no refund is available.

- **Digital Technologies (Years 3-6)**  
  Tuesday, 23rd May  
  $9.00

- **Science (Years 2-6)**  
  Tuesday, 30th May  
  $9.00

- **Writing (Years 3-6)**  
  Monday 12th-Friday 16th June  
  $18.00

- **Spelling (Years 2-6)**  
  Wednesday, 14th June  
  $12.00

- **English (Years 2-6)**  
  Tuesday, 1st August  
  $9.00

- **Mathematics (Years 2-6)**  
  Tuesday, 15th August  
  $9.00
WOODBURN WOLVES FC
REGISTER NOW TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH THE WOLVES IN 2017!

Register in person at the club:
Saturday February 25th
8am to 12pm
Wagner Street, Woodburn
OR online:
www.myfootballclub.com.au

Grades from U6’s (turning 5yrs old in 2017) up to senior men & women.
Teams are filling fast, register now to avoid disappointment.

UNSW COMPETITIONS
— YEAR 2 TO YEAR 6 ONLY
Please return by Friday, 17th March

If you have more than one child entering, please write a separate list.

I wish to enter my child ________________________________ in Year ____ in the following UNSW tests:

Digital Technologies
23rd May
$9.00
(Years 3-6)

Science
30th May
$9.00
(Years 2-6)

Writing
12th-16th June
$18.00
(Years 3-6)

Spelling
14th June
$12.00
(Years 2-6)

English
1st August
$9.00
(Years 2-6)

Mathematics
15th August
$9.00
(Years 2-6)

TOTAL COST: $________

I enclose $_____________ to cover entry fees (if paying by cheque please make out to ‘St Joseph’s School Woodburn’)

Name: ________________________________________ Signature: ________________________________________

===============================================================================
SELECTION OF CLASS PARENT
Please return as soon as possible

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.

===============================================================================
PARISH SCHOOL FAMILY MASS—CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK—Saturday, 11th March

My child/children ________________________________ will be able to attend the Mass.

My family will be able to help with the preparations for the Mass
Such as Reading, Altar Serving, Presentation of the Gifts, or Prayers. YES (Please circle)

Name: __________________________________________ Signature: ______________________________

===============================================================================
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