Dear Parents

Last week I had the privilege of joining Stage 2 on their excursion to The Sydney Academy of Sport and Stage 3 on their leadership camp at Port Hacking. Both events were very rewarding for the students and teachers. The children are to be commended for the way they interacted with the leaders and their excellent manners.

You would have received this month’s Broken Bay News with Anthony from Year 1 on the front cover. The magazine contains information about Catholic Schools Week and our Open Day. If you are aware of anyone interested in enrolling at St Joseph’s you can inform them that Open Day will be on Wednesday 12th March.

This year we have 16 new families at St Joseph’s. Our latest addition to the St Joseph’s community is the Kerin family (Ava—Year 3). We will welcome all our new families and the old with our Beginning of Year Mass at 9.15am in the church tomorrow. I hope you are able to join us for our first liturgical celebration of the year. The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) is inviting all of our community to welcome the new families with a gathering at The Sands on Friday 28th February. Come along if you are able.

Finally, I ask that you to keep free Sunday 16th March. This is the date for the 75th Anniversary Mass for our school. We would like to have all our children present at the Mass to share the significant occasion with the wider St Joseph’s community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Michael Gallagher

Sunday’s Gospel Reflection

If you reject even the least important command in the Law and teach others to do the same, you will be the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. But if you obey and teach others its commands, you will have an important place in the kingdom. You must obey God’s commands better than the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law obey them. If you don’t, I promise you that you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-37

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Religious Education News

BEGINNING SCHOOL MASS - THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY, 9.30am
Tomorrow morning the whole school will gather in St Josephs church to celebrate the new school year. We will welcome our new Kindergarten students as well as those students new in other classes of the school. Our Year 6 students will be presented with their leadership badges and they will make a pledge of commitment to their leadership role. Together we will listen to God’s word which will reassure us that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen us in all we do this year. As we go forth we will commit to trying our best to live by our school motto ‘Build in love’.
We hope many parents and friends will be able to join us for this special occasion.

PARISH FAMILY MASS - SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY AT 5.30PM
Another opportunity to come together as a community will be at the Parish Family Mass next week. It will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome new school families to our parish. Our Year 6 students will be asked to host the Mass and make welcome families new to our school community. All school families are urged to attend and show the spirit of community that is strength in our school.

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
In all of our Religious Education classes this term students are learning about the history of our school. They are learning the significance of the parable of The Good Samaritan and the influence the order of Good Samaritan sisters had in the development of St Joseph’s school.

Wanted: If you have knowledge and experience of the history of our school that would support this learning it would be most appreciated. Maybe you could visit to talk to the students about school life in the past. We would be very interested in any memorabilia you might have.

SAVE THE DATE: 75th ANNIVERSARY MASS - 16th March at 11.30am

MORNING ASSEMBLY This year we have established a routine of assembling as a school community at the beginning of the day. It is a good opportunity to pray together and share any special events taking place. Parents who are with us at this time may like to join us in our prayer.

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER
This is St Joseph’s School, let love abound here. Let us always love the truth, speak the truth and live the truth. May our school be a place of joy and friendship where together we build in God’s Love. Amen

Gillian Evers
Religious Education Coordinator
Library News

Author visit: We are very lucky to have Aleesah Darlison visit us on Monday 3rd March. Normally author visits cost around $600-$800, but she has offered us a free visit to tell us about writing her new books. She gave a very interesting talk in 2012 when we had the author’s afternoon tea here. She has written a couple of picture books including *Warrambi* and *Puggle’s problem*. She has also written the *Unicorn Riders* series and the *Totally twins* series. She is about to launch a new adventure/fantasy series entitled *Ash Rover*. If you would like to purchase any of her books please fill in the order form attached to the newsletter and return it to the Office. Please send book orders in an envelope labelled with your child’s name and class including payment - cash only by Friday 14th February.

Library magazine: We hope to run this again this year. If you are in Years 3-6 and would like to help put the magazine together please see Mrs Jones or just come along and join us first half of lunch on Tuesdays in the Library.

Library Book Club: This is a small group of children from Years 3-6 who enjoy reading. See Mrs Jones or come to our first meeting of the year in the Library on Monday at first lunch. Come and chat about what you are reading, listen to what others are reading, while eating your lunch.

Fran Jones  
Teacher/Librarian

CANTEEN NEWS

The school canteen will open from next Monday. **THERE WILL BE NO CANTEEN ON FRIDAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** At this stage we are still in need of helpers for Fridays. Please email Kylie Ouvrier if you are able to assist in any way possible. A roster will be sent to volunteers once it is finalised. Kylie can be contacted on kjouvrier72@optusnet.com.au. There will be no pies or sausage rolls available until further notice.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

St Joseph’s has two students who are highly allergic to nuts. An anaphylactic reaction could be fatal. We ask that **no nut based products** such as Nutella or peanut butter be put in lunches. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated.

SCHOOL BANKING

A representative from the local Commonwealth Bank will be on the playground from 8.30am on Friday 21st February. Parents will be able to open a bank account on behalf of a child. A driver’s licence is all that is needed. Banking will then commence from Tuesday 25th February and take place every Tuesday. Thanks Nichole Cook.

SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

If you have half an hour to spare once every two or three weeks you might have time to assist in changing the school notice boards. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment is for use by the students during school time under supervision. We request that children do not play on the equipment after school. Your cooperation is appreciated.
Stage 2 Excursion Recount

On Wednesday, 5th February we went on an excursion to Gai-marigal land at the Sydney Academy of Sport. Some parents came with us and Year 4 joined us, as well as Mr Gallagher, our principal.

First we went on the school bus to the Sydney Academy of Sport. We all walked and filled up our drink bottles and had morning tea. I had a juicy apple, a tasty muffin and a popper.

Then we learnt about what we can and cannot eat in the bush. Some people tried spinach and bush mint which are types of bush tucker. We built a mini wooden boat and tested it. Guess what? It worked! Yeah!

Next we went for a big bush walk and it took about an hour. I felt really dirty after the long and tiring walk.

After the walk we stopped at the Aboriginal carvings. We saw carvings of people and animals and drew pictures of our favourites. I drew a shark. Then we had lunch and a big drink! After that we listened to Dennis Foley who is a member of the Gai-marigal people. Dennis teaches people about the carvings.

Finally we started to head back to the bus. We got on the bus and went back to school.

I had a great time and wish I could do it again!

By Blake Wilson - Year 3
OFFICE NEWS

School Fees—Instalment 1  This account was emailed from Catholic Schools Office in January 2014. Payment is due on 24th February unless prior arrangements have been made for other payment options. Attached is information regarding the Tax Invoice and Instalment Payment Dates. If you have not yet received your account could you please contact the office.

Parent Permission Form for Local Outings  Please return this form as soon as possible. A copy is also attached to this newsletter.

SPORTS NEWS

Tomorrow our Year 2 – Year 6 students will take part in the Swimming Carnival / Trials. As per the note that went home, the children will be leaving by bus after morning tea and returning to school by 3pm. Please ensure your child/ren has the necessary items i.e. goggles, sunscreen, towel etc. Children are to wear full sports uniform to school. Children may change after Mass into a house colour T-shirt.

Mrs Carolan desperately needs at least three more helpers for the swimming carnival. If you are able to help out please see Mrs Carolan at the pool on Thursday prior to the start of the carnival.

Congratulations to William Barry and Lachlan Marshall who have been selected for the Manly Warringah Representative Touch Team.

P&F PRESIDENT REPORT

A reminder of our New Families Welcome Drinks on Friday February 28th at 7.30pm. Of course, all families are welcome. It is a perfect opportunity for the current families to socialise with the new families over a relaxing beverage.

Good Luck to all the children participating in the Swimming Carnival tomorrow. It will be lovely to witness the strong school spirit amongst the children as they cheer on their colours and friends. I am sure lots of prayers will be said at the Beginning of the Year Mass before the carnival.

We are still looking for parents to volunteer to work in the canteen on Fridays. If you are able to help, please contact Kylie Ouvrier at kjouvrier72@optusnet.com.au

Thank you to those Mums that have already volunteered. A roster will be sent out shortly.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Michelle Grice (P&F President)  michellegrice@bigpond.com  mob 0402914953

Important Dates

Thursday 13th February—Beginning School Mass commencing at 9.15am
—School Swimming Carnival  Years 2-6 buses leave at 11.30am

Wednesday 19th February—Parent Information Evening sessions from 6.15pm then 6.45pm
—P&F AGM Meeting 7.30pm Library

Saturday 22nd February—Parish Family Mass 5.30pm

Thursday 27th February—Good Samaritan Incursion Day (Cake Stall)

Wednesday 5th March—Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am

Sunday 16th March—Anniversary Mass at 11.30am St Joseph’s Church