Principal’s Message

This morning was our annual Open Day which was attended by many in our community and even more from outside! It is one of those days during the year that we have the opportunity to share with others the great school that St Joseph’s is. Once again we had many volunteers offering to show our visitors around, serve morning tea or just to meet and greet, not to mention those who could not be here but were able to send in items for morning tea. Thank you so much for your generosity.

As mentioned earlier in the year, the school is reviewing its position on homework. Homework is always a controversial topic with many arguments for and against, some based on research and others on personal opinion. Teachers recently met during a professional learning meeting and looked at what the researchers say, what we thought from our experience and what is necessary in preparation for high school. Needless to say there was some heated discussion with a variety of opinions. In the next week or two we will be sending home a survey on homework and will invite your online responses. This anonymous feedback, combined with the teachers’ work, will be presented to a parent forum for further discussion. The aim is to develop a school-based statement/policy on homework that will direct our future homework practice. I encourage you to provide your input and feedback so as we can make well-informed choices.

Permission forms for technology, sunscreen, local excursions, bike riding and photographs were sent home recently. Many have not been returned. To ensure that a child is not disadvantaged by not having permission, return these forms as soon as possible. Photographic permission forms cannot be accepted that contain conditional permissions. Any student with conditional permission will be considered not to have permission. Please check the school website for permission forms.

Thank you to Mrs Paul for stepping in as Acting Principal during my absence.

If you have any questions, concerns or worries, my door is always open. Contact the school office to make an appointment or drop in if I am available.

Michael Gallagher

Sunday’s Gospel Reflection

The leaders told the man, “You have been a sinner since the day you were born! Do you think you can teach us anything?” Then they said, “You can never come back into any of our meeting places!” When Jesus heard what had happened, he went and found the man. Then Jesus asked, “Do you have faith in the Son of Man?” He replied, “Sir, if you will tell me who he is, I will put my faith in him.” “You have already seen him,” Jesus answered, “and right now he is talking with you.” The man said, “Lord, I put my faith in you!” Then he worshiped Jesus.

John 9:1-41
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Religious Education News

St Joseph’s Feast Day Drawing Competition
This year to celebrate St Joseph’s Feast Day, we are holding a St Joseph’s Art Competition.
The Artwork Guidelines;
- All artworks must be of St Joseph (face, whole body, portrait)
- All artworks must be of A4 size.
- Any medium can be used eg: pencils, charcoal, crayon, online drawing programs etc.
- All artworks must be original, but can have inspiration from other works.

All submissions are due this **Friday 13th March**, and the Infant and Primary student winner to be announced on St Joseph’s Feast Day. We look forward to seeing all the beautiful works of art, inspired by St Joseph and his presence in our school community.

Whole School Parish Family Mass
Just a reminder next weekend we will be celebrating our second Whole School Parish Family Mass, with the support of our excellent host families from Year Three and Year Four. Whole School Family Masses are an excellent opportunity to come together as a community, with our Parish and celebrate our faith.

Please feel free to invite friends and family to this special celebration;
**When: Saturday 21st March**
**Time: 5:30pm**
**Where: St Joseph’s Catholic Church.**

Stef Thom
Religious Education Coordinator

Assistant Principal News

It is wonderful to see so many St Joseph’s students riding their bicycles to school! Not only are they trying to lead a healthy lifestyle, they are also caring for the environment by helping to reduce carbon emissions (when Mum or Dad don’t have to drive them to school!).

Many of you have returned a bicycle users permission note, agreeing to follow the procedures the school has put in place as advised by the Ministry for Transport NSW. Our primary concern is for the safety of our students riding to and from school. We know you will help us to enforce these rules and regulations and also remember that under the **NSW road rules**, a bicycle is considered a vehicle.

With this in mind we would like to highlight the following points:

- **Children under 10 years of age DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult.**
- **Bicycle riders are required to obey the road rules, including stopping at red lights or stop signs, giving way as indicated by signage and giving hand signals when changing direction.**
AP News Cont’d

- Students must correctly wear a Standards Australia approved bicycle helmet at all times when in control of a bicycle.
- Cyclists 12 years and over must not ride on the footpath unless it is a signposted as a shared footpath, they should use the road. The bell should be used as a warning when approaching pedestrians.
- Children are to dismount before entering the school grounds and walk their bicycles whilst on site.

These are just a few of the rules and procedures that can be found on the school website.

We hope to see many of our students and parents on Friday morning, following the rules, in our annual Ride Safely to School Day!!!

Brenda Paul
Assistant Principal

Library News

PRC: I have registered those children who indicated they wished to be part of the Premier’s Reading challenge. I hope to have the user names and passwords to you next week. If your child has done the PRC in preceding years they can use their previous login details. Just go to https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html select the logon button and then begin to record the books you have read.

Library Magazine: We hope to put together a Library magazine 2-3 times this year. Any child in Years 3-6 is welcome to come along and help write and produce the magazine. We meet the first half of lunch in the Library. Bring your lunch with you.

Fran Jones
Teacher/Librarian

School News

Ride2School Day – THIS FRIDAY

This Friday 13th March, St Joseph’s will be participating in National Ride 2 School Day. This is a chance to celebrate a healthy and active lifestyle while reinforcing safe bicycle behaviour.

Students may choose to ride a bicycle, scooter or skateboard. They MUST wear a helmet to join our ride. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us on the ride or you can walk behind.

The group will meet on the Pelican Path where the path meets Ocean St at the Narrabeen Bridge at 8:00am and do a loop following the path towards Pittwater Road and along to school, picking up riders along the way. Please remind your child to wait on the grass areas by the path and when we ride, to keep to the left and be mindful of other path users. We will remind the children of this as we ride.

It is a great community event where we have seen up to 100 bicycles parked on the grass area for the day at school.

We hope to see lots of people on Friday morning starting the day in a healthy way!
**Students of the Week**

**Kindergarten**
- **Owen M:** for trying to use safe and caring hands when walking to and from class.
- **Daniel P:** for a very enthusiastic attitude to school.

**Year 1**
- **Gabriela A:** for her enthusiasm and help in the classroom.
- **Ryan C:** for great descriptive writing.

**Year 2**
- **Anthony P:** for fantastic writing skills.
- **Chloe L:** for such beautiful manners.

**Year 3**
- **Stella N:** for always being respectful to her peers.
- **Imogen B:** for using detail in her writing.

**Year 4**
- **Grace M:** for being a patient and polite member of our class.
- **Blake W:** for taking the initiative to extend and challenge himself.

**Year 5**
- **Liam A:** for excellent participation in class discussions.
- **Georgia N:** for great work in Mathematics.

**Year 6**
- **Mitchell B:** for excellent transitioning between classrooms.
- **Ben O:** for outstanding effort in all learning areas.

**St. Lucy’s Startright**
- **Emma W:** for working independently at her desk.
- **Sreenidh V:** for trying his best to follow class rules.

**Canteen News**

We are going online!!! The canteen menu and ordering process will be going online at the beginning of next term. At present time I am just waiting on parent information packets to send home to everyone so you have thorough knowledge of how this works. Once those are sent out to you, have a read through and take a look at the website. I believe you’ll find this MUCH EASIER than digging through your wallets for money or change! Please stay tuned for more information as this moves forward and keep reading the newsletter for updated information.

Thank you! Katie Page
0411 247 709 pagekatie1@gmail.com

**Sports News**

Congratulations to **Mitchell B, Jenna M and Harrison R** who competed in the Broken Bay Swimming Trials last night. Mitchell and Harrison were selected to compete in the State trials next week at Homebush. Well done to all three children on your wonderful efforts.

**Lost Property**

The **LOST PROPERTY** boxes are overflowing with jumpers, hats, raincoats, lunch boxes etc. If your child/ren are missing any school items please ask them to check the boxes.

**Important Dates**

- **Friday 13th March**—Ride2School Day
- **Saturday 21st March**—Whole School Parish Family Mass
- **Thursday 2nd April**—Last Day of Term
The St Joseph’s Easter Egg Raffle will be held again in Term 1. All proceeds from the raffle are donated to the school to provide much needed resources.

We would ask that all families send a donation of an Easter egg with their child to school by no later than March 27.

This year there will be many prizes and the raffle will be drawn in the last week of Term 1.

Raffle tickets will be sent home soon.

If you have any queries please contact either Daniele Munro or Rebecca Pomponio (Year 2).
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<th>Sitting Date</th>
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<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
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My child / ren ……………………………………………………………………                   Class:……… …………
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Would like to participate in the Competitions as indicated above.

Signed:…………………………………………………………                      Amount enclosed: $…………… (cash / cheque)
Parent / Guardian

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND PAYMENT BY Wednesday 25th March 2015
THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

Entertain the kids these school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids’ and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip’n’slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids’ Day Camps start from $47. Family Camp weekends start from $63 per day for kids and $96 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free; cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps
dsrs.nsw.gov.au/familycamps
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facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation