St Joseph’s Feast Day is this Thursday. As we do every year, the day will begin with Mass followed by Bullying. No Way!, Harmony Day and Caritas activities for the children. After lunch the children will be visiting the beach for the sandcastle building challenge.

Last weekend Bishop Peter Comensoli announced the appointment of a new priest to the Lakes Parish. Fr Joseph Lam has been appointed to the Lakes Parish as Administrator. Deacon David will remain at The Lakes Parish for a period of time before taking up an appointment in another parish.

This Saturday evening Stage 2 will be hosting the Parish Family Mass in the church beginning at 5.30pm. The last Mass was a fantastic community event with plenty of positive feedback from the parishioners. I encourage as many families in our school community to attend the Mass during this Lenten time.

Many of our Year 3 students, as well as others in the school, are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The last of the preparation lessons takes place this week with children receiving the Sacrament next week. Keep these children in your prayers.

A survey is being sent home this week in relation to homework at St Joseph’s. You can access the survey by clicking here. If you have more than one child, choose your eldest child at school or alternatively do one for each child. The information provided in the survey is totally anonymous and will be collated and fed back to parents at a later date. The survey will close at the end of the school holidays. To clarify, we are not looking at doing away with homework but to review its place within the school in light of parent feedback, teachers’ experience and quality research. Next term we will provide the opportunity for parents to have a say on the topic. In the weekend’s newspaper there was an article on the very topic we are reviewing. Click here to access the reading.

The state election is on the horizon and the many sectors of Catholic education are appealing to all major political parties to consider the funding of Catholic schools. As well as paying fees for our children to attend a Catholic school, parents also fund wider education through taxes paid to the federal and state governments. Attached to the newsletter is information from the Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT highlighting the need for an increase in government funding for Catholic Schools.

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 time has come for the Son of Man to be given his glory. I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat. If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life. If you serve me, you must go with me. My servants will be with me wherever I am. If you serve me, my Father will honor you.

John 12:20-33
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Religious Education News

St Joseph’s Feast Day Mass
This Thursday we will be celebrating St Joseph’s Feast Day. The whole school will be coming together, joining parishioners, taking time to remember Saint Joseph.

We would love as many parents, grandparents and special friends to join us for this celebration of faith.

When: Thursday 19th March
Time: 9:15am
Where: St Joseph Catholic Church

Our Saint Joseph art competition entries will also be on display near the school office for everyone to see. Thank you to all the children who took time to create such amazing masterpieces inspired by such a memorable person in our Catholic faith.

Whole School Parish Family Mass
Just a reminder this 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

Earth Hour
Next Saturday many businesses and homes around Australia and the world will be taking part in ‘Earth Hour’. A time when we stop and think about the effects we are having on the world that God has provided.

St Joseph’s School will also be taking part, stopping to act as stewards of the world. Stewardship is one of our school values, it means the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

For the first time schools in Australia can participate in “lights out” events the day before Earth Hour on Friday 27th March. Our school is taking part by turning off their lights, computers and interactive whiteboards for one hour, between 12-1pm this Friday 27th March.

Stef Thom
Religious Education Coordinator

Community News

Sibling Enrolments 2016
If you have a sibling starting at St. Joseph’s in 2016 please collect an enrolment pack from the school office. Enrolments are now open and application forms need to be returned ASAP so that interviews can be arranged - Thank you.
Library News

**PRC:** Unfortunately the Department of Education has been having trouble with their website since 5th March. This has prevented me from uploading new students. Hopefully this will be fixed soon. As soon as it is I will upload the students and once I get their user names and passwords I will hand them to the children. Thanks for your patience with this.

**Pirate day:** The children in Stage 1 had a lot of fun dressing up as Pirates and filming what they had learnt. Hopefully in the next few weeks the movie each class made will be uploaded to the school weebly and you can view what they have done.

Fran Jones  
Teacher/Librarian

School News

**Bullying. No Way!**  
This Friday is Bullying. No Way! Day. It is a national day of children learning that it isn’t cool to stand around and watch others being bullied. Doing that makes you as complicit as the perpetrator. The children will be doing activities on St Joseph’s Day and on Friday encouraging them to think about their actions and the right of others to feel safe. Information can be found at Bullying. No Way! [bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au)

**Sign Boards**

We are in need of a volunteer to assist with the changing of the sign boards once every few weeks. The job would normally take about 20-30 minutes and can be done by one or two people. Please let the school office know if you can assist.

**Parking around St Joseph’s**

Council rangers have been patrolling the streets around the school during the past few days. Infringement notices are given to drivers who ignore the rules in place during school hours. These include:

- Parking in Bus Zones during designated school times
- Parking in No Parking (Kiss and Ride zone) during designated times
- Leaving your car in the No Parking zone for longer than 2 minutes or stepping away more than 3 metres!
- Making U-turns in pedestrian zones or across double-white lines
- Queuing in Wellington St waiting for Kiss and Ride.

The rules are in place to ensure the safety of all our children. Following these rules may be inconvenient but will keep our kids alive!
School News Cont’d

Mufti Day
Friday 27th March will be a mufti day. The Year 6 children are raising money to put towards a gift that can be left to the school for the benefit of all the students. Children will need to wear sensible clothing as it will be a sport day. A donation of a gold coin will be collected by the class teacher.

Ride to School
Due to the washed out event last Friday we are going to have another go at Ride to School on Friday 27th March. The arrangements will be the same as before ie meet at the beginning of the Pelican Path next to the bridge on Ocean Street and ride to school around the lagoon. Children MUST wear helmets and the appropriate clothing to ride. In the event of wet weather, the event will be cancelled.

Important Information for Year 5 Parents - Enrolment at Mater Maria Catholic College
This is a reminder that the applications for the 2017 cohort at Mater Maria Catholic College close on April 1, 2015. The College will process all applications received by the closing date and offer enrolment places for Year 7 (2017) in May this year. The College will be following the guidelines of the Diocese of Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office Enrolment policy. Being the only coeducational systemic Catholic school on the peninsula, Mater Maria is keen to support all local Catholic primary schools. Although submitting an application on time does not guarantee an immediate offer of enrolment due to the policy guidelines, it does inform the College of your intent and give you the best opportunity to be offered a position in the first round of offers. Over the past couple of years, late applications have been placed on a waiting list and it is highly likely that this will occur again for the 2017 cohort. If you have any queries on enrolment at Mater Maria Catholic College please call the registrar on 99977044.

Student News

Year 2 Poetry
Sea, sea,
Can you see the sea?
Its waves are big and merry,
And fish look just like cherries!
Rolling, rolling, rolling, waves,
Looks like they could roll for days!
By Izzy Webb

Pirate Day in Stage 1 March 16th
Thankyou Mrs Jones

I woke up today smiling and saying “Oi me hearties!” I ran over to the lounge room and begged mum to choose my outfit. When dad came he put the fake scar on my cheek and I jumped on my brother and woke him up. Then I came to school and saw my friends in disguise. I nearly fell over, they looked like real pirates!
It looked like a pirate school, it was truly pirate! It was scary!
By Charlotte Barrett
Students of the Week

**Kindergarten**

Tage P: for a big improvement in using safe and caring hands.

Yasmin B: for listening when her friends are speaking.

**Year 1**

Zoe C: for working quietly and letting others learn.

Benji F: for respecting other peoples points of views.

**Year 2**

Isabelle W: for working quietly and doing her best.

Jolie M: for listening carefully to the ideas of others.

**Year 3**

Stella L: for her application when solving hard thinking addition questions.

Grace A: for her thoughtful manner allowing others to learn.

**Year 4**

Gabriel C: for working hard and offering insightful answers in class.

Jenna M: for always remaining focused and letting others learn.

**Year 5**

Jett C: for great work with fractions in Mathematics.


**Year 6**

Kalan M: for always being interested in learning and often sharing his ideas.

Makayla T: for always staying focused to complete her work.

**St. Lucy’s Startright 1**

Rachel S: for trying really hard at writing her name.

Ashley D: for increased confidence when talking to his peers.

**St. Lucy’s Startright 2**

Charlie M: for being a helpful and kind friend.

Balthazar D: for independent handwriting at his desk.

Uniform Shop News

Just a reminder that the uniform shop is open every Friday from 2.45pm to 3.15pm. If you are unable to make this time, please contact Emma Crossley or Cybelle Massey via phone or email and we will make sure to organise your items for you. Orders (with accompanying cash or cheque) can also be handed into the office attention 'Uniform shop'.

We are also on the hunt for more volunteers to run the shop, particularly from Term 2 when Cybelle will no longer be able to assist due to work commitments. Anyone interested can contact Emma or Cybelle to find out more. If we have enough volunteers, we could rotate people each week so that you would not need to be there every Friday.

Thank you
Emma Crossley & Cybelle Massey
0404 075 184 / 0405 384 822
email: agwaemma@optusnet.com.au / cybellemassey@yahoo.com.au

Important Dates

Thursday 19th March—St Joseph’s Feast Day Mass at 9:15am
Saturday 21st March—Whole School Parish Family Mass 5.30pm
Friday 27th March—Ride to School Day (subject to weather conditions)
  —Mufti Day
Thursday 2nd April— Last Day of Term
ST JOSEPH’S

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Raffle tickets were sent home last Friday with your eldest child.

One book of tickets per family.

$2.00 per ticket = $20/ticket book.

Please return the ticket stub (don’t forget to write your name on them!) plus the money in the envelope provided by no later than

Friday 27 March 2015.

Each family is also asked to donate an Easter Egg for the raffle prizes – please send to school no later than

Friday 27 March 2015.

Raffle is drawn at the School Assembly on

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015.

For questions please contact either Daniele Munro or Rebecca Pomponio (Year 2).
DID YOU KNOW?

You may be surprised to learn that the cost of educating a child is around $13,000 per year. This would be an enormous financial burden for most Australian families; that is why Governments have provided taxpayer support to all school sectors for decades.

Catholic school parents are also taxpayers and help pay for state and federal government services, whether they use them or not. They are therefore also entitled to a fair level of government support to ensure Catholic schools also remain affordable for Australian families.
**PLEASE NOTE DUE DATE WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entries Close</th>
<th>Cost per child</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday May 19</td>
<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science (Year 2-6)</td>
<td>Wednesday June 3</td>
<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday July 28</td>
<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday August 11</td>
<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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My child / ren ……………………………………………………………………                   Class:…………………
…………………………………………………………………                   Class:…………………
…………………………………………………………………                   Class:…………………

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