Principal’s Message

Tomorrow we remember our school’s patron saint, Saint Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. While the actual feast day is on Saturday, we will be celebrating the day this Thursday. We hope you can join with us in celebrating the feast with a liturgy commencing at 10.30am in the church. Let us not forget the other saint who’s feast day is actually on March 17, St Patrick. This feast was traditionally a holiday in Australian Catholic schools due to the Irish connections with the priests, nuns and brothers that established many of the schools around the country.

Following tomorrow’s liturgy, our children will be taking part in activities that recognise diversity within our society (Harmony Day), the need to stand up to bullying (Bullying, No Way) and ways in which we help those in need (Project Compassion). In the afternoon, children will be going to the beach for our annual sandcastle building, subject to the weather. Sports uniform would be the most practical choice of clothing for the day! Children will need hats, sunscreen and a bucket and spade (optional) for building sandcastles. Please ensure all items are labelled. Parents are welcome to join us at the beach.

Next week we have two police officers coming to speak to our Year 4-6 students about the safe use of the internet. While our students have a responsibility to use social media responsibly, we as parents also need to be aware of how our children use it, the perils involved and the social media apps that may put our children at risk. This link https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information provides some excellent and up to date information on internet safety.

My door is always open if you would like to chat or discuss any issue.

Michael Gallagher

Sunday’s Gospel Quote

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”


Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Religious Education News

First Reconciliation
Thoughts and congratulations go out to all our school students who are making their Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Thursday.

Students include:

A big thank you to Chris Curry, our parish Sacramental Coordinator, as well as all the parents and sponsors who supported and prepared the children throughout their journey.

Holy Week Celebration- Stations of the Cross
Our Stage Three students will be leading the school in our Holy Week Celebration on Thursday 24th March at 11:30am. Each class will be lead by the year six students on a journey around the school exploring the fourteen stations of the cross, reflecting upon Jesus’ journey and their role as disciples today. We would like to invite parents, family and friends into classrooms at 11:30am. Students will finish their journey in the Church with a quiet reflection song. At the conclusion of this journey parents are most welcome to take their child/ren home from the church after letting the classroom teacher know.

Parish Holy Week Timetable
Thursday 24th March (Holy Thursday)
Mass of the Lord’s Supper - at 7:30pm at St Rose Church

Friday 25th March (Good Friday)
Stations of the Cross— at 10am St Joseph’s Church
Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow the Stations of the Cross.
Commemoration of the Passion— at 3:00pm at St Joseph’s Church

Saturday 26th March
Easter Vigil - 7:30 pm St Rose Church
There will be no Mass at 5:30PM at St Joseph’s on Saturday 26th.

Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday)
Mass at 8:00am and 9:30am at Rose Church
Mass at 9:30am St Joseph’s Church
There will be no 6:00pm Mass at St Rose on Easter Sunday.

Project Compassion
Throughout the season of Lent, students from St Joseph’s have been bringing in their loose change, in support of Project Compassion. We ask that all project compassion boxes be returned by Thursday 24th March for counting and collection. All students are to be congratulated on their efforts so far, it has been wonderful hearing children in the school talking about why it was so important to support Project Compassion.

Stef Thom
Religious Education Coordinator
**Library News**

**PRC:** All of Kindergarten as well as those children in other grades who indicated they wished to do the Premier’s Reading Challenge were given their user name and password this week. The children can logon to the PRC website at [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html)

And then add books they have read to their reading log. They have until 19\textsuperscript{th} August to complete the challenge.

Next week I will list some of the books we have read in Library which children in K-2 can add to their log. If you have any difficulties logging on or adding books please let me know.

Fran Jones  
Teacher/Librarian

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**Schools Earth Hour and Clean up Schools Day**

On **Friday 18\textsuperscript{th} March**, St Joseph’s will be incorporating Schools Earth Hour and Clean Up Schools day into the day. We are suggesting that all classes work for one hour without any electricity being used. In addition each class will complete a clean-up of a designated area within and around our school. Children may wish to bring in gloves to pick up rubbish. We hope that this will give examples of how we can improve our local and larger environment. The Environment Leaders will be placing some posters around the school, and will talk to each class next week so children can be prepared for the area they are to improve.

Anita Brooks
School News

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING

FRIED RICE DAY **EGG FREE**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23TH
$2 A CUP

ORDER FORM

NAME _______________________________________________________ YEAR______

NAME _______________________________________________________ YEAR______

NAME _______________________________________________________ YEAR______

MONEY ENCLOSED $__________

PLEASE ENSURE THE EXACT MONEY IS ENCLOSED
ONE ORDER FORM PER FAMILY
THANK YOU

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Thursday 17th March</th>
<th>St. Joseph’s Feast Day Liturgy 10.30am in Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
<td>EMU/MAI Parent Information Night (Library) 7.30-8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Monday 4th April</td>
<td>• Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Parent Information First Eucharist At St Rose 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 26th April</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. From 2016, NAPLAN content will be aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this please see the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May 2016.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2016 tests timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.
What is EMU, the MAI Assessment and how is Mathematics being taught to my child?

Would you like to further understand the assessment and mathematical learning of your child?

Would you like ideas of how you can support your child at home with their learning of Mathematics?

Would you like the tools to do all of this?

Join us for our

**EMU Parent Information Night**

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd March, 2016

**Time:** 7:30 - 8:30pm

**Where:** St Joseph’s Catholic School Library

RSVP: To ensure that we are able to adequately provide support resources for those that are attending, could you please complete the tear off slip below and return by **Wednesday 9th March**.

---

**EMU, MAI, Mathematics Parent Information Night**

I ________________________________, will be in attendance for the Mathematics Parent Information Night on Wednesday 23rd March, 2016 at 7:30pm- 8:30pm.

_________________________________________    ___________________________________________

Signature                                  Date
Vacation Care bookings open Monday 14th March 2016!
To download the full program and Booking Request Form please go to: www.warringah.nsw.gov.au
Does your child…
- Have trouble fitting in with other kids?
- Struggle to meet like-minded mates?
- Feel excluded by friendship groups?
- Feel lonely after starting at a new school?
- Always want to be ‘the boss’ of games?

Child Psychologist Corrine Mescher has helped hundreds of kids to overcome friendship challenges.

At this valuable & absolutely FREE parent event, Corinne will give you practical tips & ideas for supporting your child’s social skills so that your child will be happier at home and school.

Don’t delay – this event is already filling fast!

TUESDAY
5 April 2016
7.30pm – 9.30pm
The Chairman’s Lounge
Brookvale Oval
Alfred Street Brookvale
Located in the Ken Arthurson Stand.
Enter via main gate on Alfred Street.
Ample parking available

To reserve your place, book on-line at

Or call Kids First now on
9938 5419

Tickets are absolutely FREE, however places are limited. Bookings are essential.
## 2016 International Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Years 3-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entries Close</th>
<th>Cost per child</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday May 17</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science (Year 2-6)</td>
<td>Tuesday May 31</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday June 13-Fri June 17</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Wednesday June 15</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday August 2</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday August 16</td>
<td>Wednesday March 23</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 23rd March 2016