Our children had a great afternoon last week with the launch of KidsMatter. The framework is a combined approach between all members of the school community to ensure that the mental health of our children is looked after. If you haven’t had the chance to visit the website to find out more please use the following link.

At present I am in the middle of finalising staffing for next year. We have interviewed candidates and are awaiting confirmation from the CSO. I hope to announce these by next week. I am also aiming to inform you next week of the class teachers for 2017.

The Parents and Friends Association has worked extremely hard over the past few years at raising funds that will go towards resourcing the school for the benefit of our children. At the last P&F meeting, the school requested that this year’s donation from the P&F go towards fitting some of our classrooms with air-conditioning. This will go ahead before the end of the year! Seven units will be installed in the most needy classrooms and the staffroom. Some of the money the school had budgeted will be redirected towards the purchase of reading resources across the grades. Thank you to the P&F for their generous contribution.

I have approached the Catholic Schools Office for assistance with some maintenance issues around the school. During the holiday period they will organise for the repointing of some brickwork in the school as well as replacing many light fittings that have corroded due to the sea salt.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this Sunday’s P&F end of year function at North Narrabeen Surf Club.

If you have any concerns, issues or questions you would like to discuss, I am always happy to make a time to meet with you. Contact the school office to organise a time.

Michael Gallagher

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**Link to ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 4 2016**

**Week 8**
- 1 Dec  Year 5 and St Lucy’s Class Mass
- 1 Dec  Year 4 Reconciliation
- 1 Dec  Swimming K-2

**Week 9**
- 7 Dec  School Choir and Band Christmas Performance (Taylor Village)
- 8 Dec  Year 4 and Year 2 Class Mass
- 8 Dec  Year 5 Reconciliation
- 8 Dec  Swimming K-2
- 9 Dec  School reports sent home
Sunday’s Gospel Quote

I baptise you with water so that you will give up your sins. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in a barn and burn the husks in a fire that never goes out.

2nd Sunday of Advent
Matthew 3:1-12

Religious Education News

Advent
As we enter the season of Advent, we begin to share and celebrate this special time with significant signs and symbols of our faith. Here are a few ideas of ways to celebrate the season of Advent within your family.

First Sunday of Advent

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arrange a sacred space in your home. Place an Advent wreath there and light the first candle</td>
<td>Pray: Dear God, please make our hearts extra loving this Advent.</td>
<td>Put aside one of your toys for Christmas collections for children in need.</td>
<td>Be patient with your brother or sister.</td>
<td>Make a Christmas card which tells the story of Jesus’ birthday.</td>
<td>Don’t watch TV tonight. Instead, do something loving with your family.</td>
<td>Read a story about one of the saints.</td>
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Dates for the diary
Christmas Carol Celebration
This year the whole school will come together to share in the Christmas joy and festivities, through a musical celebration. On Wednesday 14th December, following lunch (time to be confirmed in the coming weeks) the school band, choir and each class will perform a Christmas Carol or song for all. We would love family, friends and parishioners to come along and join in this festive filled experience. Put the date in your diary and keep your eyes on the newsletter for more details.

St Vincent de Paul- Christmas Hamper Appeal
Christmas is one of the many times in the year when families experience hardship and turn to Vinnies for support.

Over the next two weeks all students from St Joseph’s and St Lucy’s will once again support the wonderful work of the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, who support people in our local community who are suffering from loneliness, mental illness, addictions, homelessness and other factors which alienate them within society.

On Monday you would have received a letter, which shared information about our schools Vinnies Christmas Hampers. Please remember to bring in the highlighted item from your note to school by NEXT Thursday, 8th December (Week 9). Please put your item into your classes decorated hamper basket.
Religious Education News Cont’d

We thank you all and know these items will bring great joy to the families who receive them and look forward to seeing many full hamper baskets be presented at our final end of year Mass.

End of Year Mass
As the year draws to a close it is a great time to come together and celebrate our faith, while reflecting upon the years events and sadly farewelling Miss Cronin, Mrs Gualtieri, Mrs Wark and Mr Gallagher.
Please join us for our End of Year Mass;

Date: Friday 16th December 2016
Time: 12:00pm
Where: St Joseph’s Church

All members of the community are invited to be a part of this celebration and we hope that you extend the invitation to all extended family and friends. It looks to be a festive Mass with great music from members of the school band and reflections which we wish to share with you.

Stef Thom (REC)

Library News

Book returns: Thank you to all those who returned their books this week. If your child still has books out they were given a yellow stick-it note with the tiles listed on it. Please help your child to look for these books. We are running a competition to see which class gets all their books in first. At present we have over 173 books still outstanding. Thanks for your assistance with this.

Fran Jones Teacher/Librarian

Office News

Reminders:

- **Swimming Carnival Yr2-6** Forms due by Friday 2nd December. [Forms]
- **School Fees Due** Outstanding school fees for 2016 are now overdue. If you are experiencing difficulties with payments please contact the school office. Thank you to all families who have already paid their fees.
- **Family Registration Form 2017 overdue.** This form must be completed, signed by both parents/carers and returned to the School Office ASAP so that correct fees for the 2017 school year can be determined for your family. Link to [Family Registration Form 2017](#). Thank you to those families who have return forms.
- **Students Leaving - School Leaver’s Form (Primary)** Link [School Leaver’s Form](#). If your child is leaving St. Joseph’s school at the end of the year please fill out the above form.
- [2017 School Travel Opal Cards](#)
School News

**Kids Learn, Kids Love, KidsMatter**

Last Thursday on the day of our school launch of Kid’sMatter the Year 2 children wrote their feelings about our school slogan for the program.

Happy children are children who are safe and that makes it easier for children to learn. KidsMatter is coming to St Josephs. KidsMatter!

Kids need to feel comfortable and need to feel loved or it’s nearly impossible to learn. So, LOVE them. KidsMatter!

Kids are important, without kids human kind would be doomed. So, don’t leave them all gloomy. KidsMatter!

Rohan Year 2

Being happy and safe is good for learning and our lives. If you come to school and don’t feel safe when you’re in class you will just keep worrying and you will never focus. KidsMatter!

All kids need to have love. If kids feel they aren’t loved, they can’t learn. Children need to learn that they are loved. KidsMatter!

Kids are so important to the world, so take care of kids. Kids turn into full grown humans. Help kids be safe, feel loved and have respect. KidsMatter!

Jocelyn Year 2

Year One spent the afternoon at the beach creating the letters of ‘Kidsmatter’ using their bodies. These were then photographed and put together to form a banner which included our new school slogan. Well done Year One, creating this inclusive and inspiring poster reminds us all that we really do matter!

P&F News

**Canteen:** Please note that the canteen is not ordering any more products because we are coming up on the end of the year.

If an item does not show up on the menu on school24, it is out of stock. However, we are keeping ice blocks in stock as they seem to sell pretty quickly in this hot weather.

Please make sure you use up as much on your school24 account by the end of the year.

I realise this may be hard due to the shortage of product but it’s hard to stock items and risk spoilage over the holidays.

The canteen will have a thorough cleaning on the 16th so it will be closed. That’s also the day of the End of Year Mass.
P&F News Cont’d

Christmas party! Remember to notify your class parent or the school Facebook page of how many people in your family are coming. We need the numbers to buy enough food. Hope to see you all there! Dec 4th 3pm North Narrabeen Surf Club.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Katie  pagekatie1@gmail.com  0411247709

Community News

- **THE LAKES PLAYGROUP IS BACK IN 2017**
  At FR. SOBB’S HALL LAGOON ST. NARRABEEN
  MONDAY - 9.30 am to 11.30 am
  ALL ARE WELCOME
  COME AND JOIN US
  Contacts: Ann Boyadji- 0451223803
  Monique Boland-422471632
  Sue Willis – 0450327564

- **BECOME A CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE (SRE) TEACHER IN 2017**
  The Lakes Catholic Parish invites you to come and see what’s involved in becoming a SRE teacher or classroom assistant. We will be holding an information morning tea early in 2017. Please register your interest with the parish office. PH: 9982 1058

- **Summer Holidays at the Mary Mackillop Place Museum** Botanical Room North Sydney- Opening 16th December. Kids can be creative and take part in a community mural drawing project [Link]