Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who has made me so welcome during my first week here at St Joseph’s Narrabeen. It was especially good to meet so many parents and children in the context of a fun day at the swimming carnival on Tuesday.

For those who do not know me, my name is Peter Rafferty. I am a retired principal who has worked previously in Broken Bay Diocese as principal at St Rose, Collaroy Plateau, St John’s Narraweena and St Kevin’s Dee Why as well as spending some time working from head office in the area of school governance and leadership. Since my retirement I have provided temporary relief for principals in a number of schools within the diocese and across the state. I have been appointed to serve as Acting Principal at St Joseph’s for four days a week during first term. These days will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Paul will be Acting Principal on a Wednesday.

It is always a great privilege for me to take on such roles in Catholic schools because one becomes so intimately involved in wonderful communities of learning and care. I’m sure St Josephs will be no different with its beautiful ambition to ‘Build in Love” and its current Core Value focus on ‘Community’. Most of all I enjoy the opportunity to connect with children and families. During my term at St Joseph’s I aim to learn every child’s name and get to know them a little bit. This will only happen if they introduce themselves to me and then give me a few extra chances to remember them. Likewise with parents I am eager to get to know you, so please do feel free to introduce yourself and have a chat when you can.

To fit in with our work roster Mrs Paul and I have decided that during term 1 this newsletter will be posted on Thursday (rather than Wednesday evening as in the past). I hope this will not inconvenience anyone too much.

**Alpha Program**  As I have said our value focus at St Joseph’s this term is “Community” and with this in mind I would like to recommend to you an exciting program for community leaders which is being run again in our Parish. It is known as the Alpha Leaders course and more information about it can be found at [http://australia.alpha.org/](http://australia.alpha.org/)

Dates: Friday 17th Feb -7pm, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th February full days. Start and finish times TBA.

Venue: St Rose School Hall

I would like to invite everyone to consider undertaking the course especially those who might be willing and able to provide leadership within the community as a member of the School Advisory Council or Parents and Friends Association or other leadership roles. To assist with catering, would you please RSVP via the school office by Friday 10th February if you wish to attend.

**Band**  As you know, despite protracted negotiation, the school has been unable to re-engage the contractors of the band program at St Joseph’s. The process of engaging a new contractor is underway and I will keep you informed of developments.

**Allergy Awareness**  A number of children at St Joseph’s suffer from serious allergies to certain foods. These include peanuts and peanut butter, all tree nuts, kiwi fruit, pineapple and raw eggs.

Some children can suffer potentially life threatening reactions if they ingest one of these foods. For this reason we have a rule at school that children should never share foods with others. And we ask parents to support us in keeping all St Joseph’s students safe by refraining from sending such foods to school, or if you must, reminding your child to be responsible for ensuring other children do not come into contact with it.
Coming up  Beginning of School Year Mass, 9.15am Thursday 9th February, investing School Leaders 2017.

Reconciliation  Parent Evening: Monday 6th February 2017, 7pm, St Rose Church

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.

Peter Rafferty
Acting School Principal

School Calendar

Week 1
30 Jan  Assessment Day (students Year 1-6)
31 Jan  First Day students Year 1-6  Swimming Carnival (Year 3-6 and selected students in Year 2)
1 Feb  Assessment Day (students Kindergarten)
2 Feb  Assessment Day (students Kindergarten)
3 Feb  First Day Kindergarten

Week 2
9 Feb  Beginning of Year Mass (whole school Church) 9.15am

Week 3
15 Feb  Stage 3 Leadership Camp
16 Feb  Stage 3 Leadership Camp
17 Feb  Stage 3 Leadership Camp

Week 4
21 Feb  Parent Information Night in classrooms (Session 1 at 6.00pm, repeat Session 2 at 6.30pm) followed by P&F Meeting in Library (7.00pm)
24 Feb  P&F Welcome Event (Narrabeen RSL)

Link to St Joseph’s School Calendar Term 1 2017

Religious Education News

Welcome to a new school year.
This term our school core value focus will be “Community”.

Community is more than a social group of people. At St Joseph’s we are a Catholic school a community, a family with a story, a history, and a purpose who believe in Jesus Christ. Pope Francis said... “I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer radiant and attractive witness of radiant fraternal communion...Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another...” (EG#99)

Parents, friends and extended family are invited to St Joseph’s Whole School Mass to begin the 2017 school year; it will be held on Thursday 9th February at 9.15am.

First Reconciliation - parent information evening: to be held in St Rose Church, Monday 6th February at 7pm.
The school appreciates the commitment parents are making in attending the parish sacramental information evenings that are held during the year.
Learning and Teaching News

A full list of Stationery for 2017 was emailed to families last term for Kindergarten to Year 6 students. Please click on link to view Stationery 2017.

Library News

Borrowing: All children in Kindergarten – Year 2 require a Library bag to borrow. This can be a canvas or calico bag, or even an old pillow slip. Children in Years 3-6 do not need to have a Library bag to borrow.

 Helpers: The Library needs helpers! If you are able to help shelve books on either a Monday or Tuesday morning 9am-9.15am, or can cover books at home please fill in the form below. If you did this last year I do not automatically keep you on the list for this year as I know circumstances can change so please fill this out and return it to the Office.

Fran Jones

Name ________________________________ Child’s name ______________________________

Child’s class ______________

- I can shelve books on Monday mornings.
- I can shelve books on Tuesday mornings. (Circle whichever applies)
- I can cover books at home.

Fran Jones
Teacher Librarian

Sports News

School Swimming Carnival Tuesday 31st January Yesterday all Year 3-6 and selected students in Year 2, parents and staff all enjoyed a fantastic day at our school swimming carnival at Manly Pool. Thank you to all the colour captains, teachers and parents who all contributed to ensure that the carnival was a great success.

Congratulations to POLDING – BLUE who won the Overall Point Score. Congratulations to all the other colour houses for the wonderful team spirit they displayed.

Swimming Colour House points

1st – Blue/ Polding – 244 points 2nd – Green/ Aloysius – 187 points
3rd – Red/ St Joseph – 161 points 4th – Yellow/ Therry – 135 points

Office News

- School Fees 2017 School Fees Tax Invoice was emailed to families last week. If you have not received your invoice or have any queries please contact Lisa Emerton in the Administration Office.

Payment due dates for 2017 School Fees Link

- Family Verification Reports
Each family will receive a Verification Report this week. The report includes family contact and emergency contact information.

- We ask that you take a few minutes to review the information contained in the report and provide any changes to information listed.
- Please sign the last page of the report and return to the school office.
- Please do not complete Has student been immunised under Medical Details as we have this information on file.
- Emergency contact information required: name, relationship to the student, telephone/mobile number only. An address for emergency contacts is not required.
• **Labelling uniforms**  Please remember to clearly label your child’s uniform, hats and lunch containers.

• **Lost property**  There is a large number of items in lost property. Uniforms, lunch containers etc. Lost property is located outside the school office in the undercover walkway.

### School Banking

School banking commences next Tuesday 7th February.

If your child has lost or misplaced their banking book please ask them to see Vanessa Hill on Tuesday morning in the Computer Room upstairs.

### Class Parents 2017

A list of class parents including their contact details has been emailed to all families.

### Community News

- **Stella Maris College Manly**  [Link](#)  Applications for Year 7 2018 Academic and Performing Arts Scholarships opened 1st Dec and close 22nd February 2017

- **Northern Beaches ADHD Support Group** – [Link](#) February Speaker – Ian White Naturopath  'Enhancing Your Child’s Learning, Behaviour & Well-being’ Tuesday 7th February 2017 @ 6.45pm Pittwater RSL, Mona Vale. Parents/carers, teachers & other professionals welcome $5 at the door.
Community, Respect, Compassion, Stewardship

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