

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

WEEK 4, TERM 1, 2026



This Week at Joeys

Dear parents and carers in our Joeys community, Yesterday we commenced the Season of Lent in the Catholic Church calendar. **Seasons is a lovely way for looking at the cycles in our life, our faith and our celebrations.** We hear in the Ecclesiastes that 'to everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.'

We view Lent as a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This Lenten season is the first for Pope Leo XIV to guide us and his message is one I have heard echoed across schools, parishes, friendship and family networks. Pope Leo invites us to answer the need to create space to listen – truly listen with our hearts, to one another and to the presence of God within.

Pope Leo is inviting us to reflect on the impact of our words, setting a challenge of 'fasting' that extends to the use of language, "so that hurtful words may diminish..." This sets a new, contemporary way of looking at prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

I once received an idea for a Lenten promise from a patient mother of six boys. She said that during Lent, she held a person or a situation in her heart and every time she walked through a door she prayed a simple prayer, "God, help me." Food for thought this Season.

Liz Jones - Principal

CSBB Mass

This evening the School Leadership team and I will join with school communities for our Diocesan School Staff Mass.

This year is a significant one as Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) celebrates 40 Years as a Diocese. Prior to Mass there will be a Welcome and additional ceremonial activities as CSBB are hosting the Catholic Schools New South Wales (CSNSW) Indigenous conference in 2027.

Our gathering marks the beginning of the Message Stick and its journey across country heading to the Conference in 2027.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it on Monday's Parent Info night and Joey's HUB meeting.

We love having you alongside us through your child's journey at St Joseph's and we know your support has a huge impact on their learning too.

Need to Know

Dates of note

Please see below for 2026 Year overview.

Feb 26th: NB Cluster swim carnival
Feb 27th: Olympian visit at school: Holly Young. Olympic dress up!
March 1st: Joey's Hub Welcome Event (see flyer below for details)
March 3rd: Mater Maria Open Afternoon (register via the flyer below)
March 5th: Years 5 & 6 Leadership day
March 10th: Broken Bay Cluster swim carnival
March 16th: Cross Country - Years 2-6
March 18th: Our Open Day! 9.15 kick off
March 19th: St Joseph's Feast Day Liturgy, starts 12.30pm
April 2nd: Last day of Term
April 21st: First day of Term 2
NEW: April 27th: ANZAC Day public holiday



An Olympian to visit

Next Fri 27th, we will host an Olympian! Mrs Frost has coordinated this visit. **Our Olympian is bronze medal-winning, local beaches athlete Holly Young (Water Polo - London 2012, Rio 2016)** and we are so excited to hear from this inspiring athlete!

To celebrate this visit, the wonderful achievements of our winter Olympians and prepare for the start of the Winter Paralympics, **we are having a special Olympic Dress Up day! On Fri 27th, your Joey can dress in their preferred country of choice's colours or traditional clothing** (not their usual school uniform). We want to celebrate our diversity and have some fun. It's a sport day, so please wear something suitable for activities (or bring clothes to change into).



Good luck to our swimmers!

As we move into Week 5, almost the halfway point for Term 1, **we wish our wonderful swimmers all the best as they proudly represent themselves and Joey's at the Northern Beaches Zone Swimming Carnival.** We know they will give of their personal best and look forward to hearing all the news on their return.



NAPLAN: Years 3 & 5

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) begins with the Writing assessment on Wednesday March 11th, followed by one assessment each day until Friday March 13th. Make-up sessions for students due to illness or misadventure will be available on Friday 13 (for Year 3 Writing only) and Friday March 20th. Please refer to the NESA Information for Parents letter (for years 3 and 5 parents only) on Compass for further details.

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What's On

Joey's Shout Outs

Our Core Value this term is RESPECT. To launch this focus, we have introduced our new Behaviour Curriculum across the school. Students are being explicitly taught the expected behaviours and procedures that help keep everyone safe, calm, respectful and ready to learn throughout the school day. Despite a challenging start to the year with our sound system and playground microphones out of action, our students have shown excellent listening skills and have followed routines and expectations beautifully.

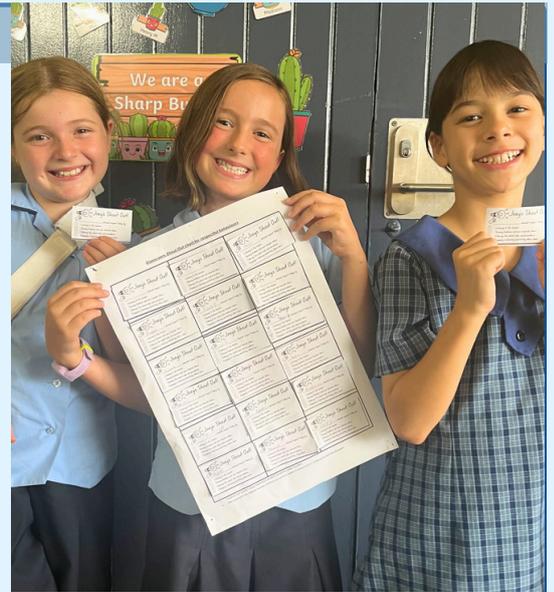
To support respectful line-ups and calm transitions to class, we have introduced our Joey's Shout Out Cards.

These are awarded to students or whole classes who demonstrate respectful behaviour, walk quietly in line order and enter classrooms calmly and safely.

Many classes have already completed their first full set of Joey's Shout Out Cards and have enjoyed a small class reward chosen by their teacher and classmates. The class with the most cards at the end of the term will celebrate with a class party with me (Mrs Browett)!

We are incredibly proud of our students. Staff have noticed a significant improvement in the calm and focused way students enter classrooms each morning and after breaks, creating a safe and ready to learn environment. Keep up the wonderful work Joeys, we can't wait to see which class will be celebrating at the end of the term!

-Mrs Browett (Head of Learning Support)



Project Compassion

The season of Lent has begun, along with Caritas Australia's annual **Project Compassion Appeal**. Project Compassion 2026 invites us to 'Unite Against Poverty', because together we can take action to make a lasting difference!

By donating to Project Compassion, Caritas Australia, the Catholic agency for international aid and development, can work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Your eldest child has brought home a Project Compassion donation box, and families are warmly encouraged to participate throughout Lent.

Donations can also be **made online**. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting this important Lenten initiative.

- Mrs Cook (Religious Education Co-Ordinator)

Iceblock Day: Fundraiser

Iceblock Day is coming again! Don't forget to order.

It's on Friday March 13th and orders close on March 11th at 3pm.

Zooper Doopers are \$1 each, available on QKR now.

The Year 6 group appreciate your support!



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Joey's Hub

Parent Contribution - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Joeys' Hub contribution?

The Joeys' Hub contribution is a voluntary payment made through QKR that helps class parents organise thoughtful gifts and acknowledgements for teachers and families throughout the school year. It's designed to make things simple—one contribution covers everything.

What does my contribution go towards?

Your contribution helps fund:

- Gifts for special occasions such as welcoming a new baby or celebrating a wedding
- Support during difficult times, including gifts for families experiencing loss
- End-of-year Christmas gifts for your classroom teacher, support staff and volunteers across the school (administration, library, learning support teams etc)

Note: Teachers don't expect birthday gifts, so these are not included.

How much is the contribution?

The default amount is \$30 per student. If you'd like to contribute more, QKR gives you the option to increase the amount.

Is the contribution compulsory?

No. It's completely optional, but it helps ensure class parents can organise gifts smoothly and fairly throughout the year. (And it makes life much easier for you!)

How do I make the payment?

Simply log in to QKR, select the Joeys' Hub contribution for your child, and complete the payment in just a few taps.

Do I need to contribute more than once during the year?

No. One contribution covers all planned gifts and acknowledgements for the entire school year.

Who manages the funds?

Your Joeys' Hub volunteers coordinate the contributions and organise gifts on behalf of the class community.

Why is this contribution helpful?

It removes the stress of last-minute collections, ensures consistency across the class, and allows class parents to plan ahead for meaningful moments.

Can I opt out?

Yes. Participation is voluntary, and families can choose whether or not to contribute.

Thanks for your support!

Reminder: Welcome Event

See flyer below for details... we'd love to see you there for a catch up, hello and welcome!



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YOU'RE INVITED

*Joey's
Hub*

WELCOME



TO

JOEYS

FAMILIES ON THE GREEN

DATE

MARCH 1ST

2PM-5PM

MONA VALE BOWLING CLUB
TIX: \$25 PER FAMILY,
AVAILABLE ON QKR!

TICKET SALES CLOSE
MON FEB 23RD



TICKETS INCLUDE:

- BAREFOOT BOWLS
- NIBBLES

Please note: This is a parent-led event. Supervision of children is the responsibility of parents. Thanks!



OPEN DAY

TUESDAY 3 MARCH

4pm - 7pm

FAITH CENTRED LEARNING WITH COMMUNITY AT ITS HEART

At Mater Maria Catholic College, we focus on supporting the academic growth of all students and recognising the gifts of the individual in order for all to thrive in our Catholic faith community.

We invite you to meet our staff and students and experience an evening at Mater Maria Catholic College.

Principal Talks: 4.15pm, 4.45pm, 5.15pm, 5.45pm, 6.15pm



WALK IN NEW LIFE

**MATER MARIA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

**BE YOUR
BEST SELF**
here

REGISTER NOW



TERM 1

KEY DATES



Parent Info Night: Feb 16th 6.00pm OR 6.30pm followed by...

Joey's Hub Meeting (P&F): Feb 16th 7.00pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: Feb 18th 12.30pm

NB Cluster swim carnival: Feb 26th

Welcome Event: Families on the Green: March 1st

Stage 3 (Yrs 5 & 6) Leadership Day: March 5th

Broken Bay swim carnival: March 10th

Cross Country - Yrs 2-6: March 16th

Open Day: March 18th

St Joseph's Feast Day Liturgy: March 19th 12.30pm

Last Day: April 2nd



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2026 TERM DATES

Term 1

Jan 29: Years 1-6 First Day Term 1
Jan 30: Kindy First Day
April 2: Last Day of Term 1
April 6-17 School Holidays

Term 2

April 20: Pupil Free Day
April 21: First Day Term 2
April 27: ANZAC Day Public Holiday (no school)
June 8: King's Bday Public Holiday
July 1: Last Day of Term 2
July 2 & 3: Pupil Free Day
July 6-17: School Holidays

Term 3

July 20: Pupil Free Day
July 21: First Day Term 3
August 17: Pupil Free Day
September 25: Last Day of Term 3
Sept 28-Oct 9: School Holidays

Term 4

Oct 12: First Day Term 4
Dec 15: Last Day of 2025
Dec 16 & 17: Pupil Free Days
Dec 18: Christmas Holidays Begin!



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