O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with graces and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.
The days have passed quickly Oh Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and the holy days,
The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies.
All have come forth from your hand.
While we trust that your purposes have always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate
Just what you have been up to in our school.
Give us the rest and refreshment we all need this summer.
Let our efforts of the past year bear fruit.
Bring all our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to your will,
With the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams.
Watch over us all in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this year.
Help us to return to school in 2018 with new spirit and new energy.
May we all continue to grow
In age, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives. Amen.

On Thursday at 9.30 am we celebrate our final Mass for the year. During the Mass we will farewell our Year 6 students, say thank you to staff who are finishing and announce the award winners for the school year.
We invite everyone to join us on this day for Mass.
Following Mass our Year 6 students and their parents will join us for Morning Tea.
Traditionally this morning tea is supplied and served by our Year 5 parents. Unfortunately, as of today, we have only had two (2) Year 5 parents offer to help out. So we are sending a big plea for Year 5 helpers please.
Year 6 will finish on Thursday.
Kinder - Year 5 finish school for the 2017 year on Friday at 3.20pm

Congratulations to the following Year 6 students who complete their primary years this week
Our school swimming carnival has been delayed this year due to the rebuild of the pool. We have set the date of Tuesday 6 February for our carnival in 2018. Notes have been sent home regarding this carnival. Pool Entry of $4.00 is required, unless you have a Seasons Pass. We hope the pool will be up and running in time as there are very few alternatives available. Zone will be two weeks after our carnival date on Tuesday 20 February. Diocesan carnival is Friday 2 March.


Kinder 2018 (ES1) students (Next years kinders) book in here at school.

Outstanding School Fees If you still have outstanding school fees then these need to be paid in full by the time school returns please (unless you have an arrangement with the Principal). Enrolments of students who have unpaid school fees will be cancelled if these outstanding fees have not been dealt with. There are a number of families who promised to attend to outstanding fees by the end of the school year who have not yet honoured their promise. Unfortunately we are not in a position to wait for these fees any longer.

Safety Reminders: A reminder to all our parents ahead of the Christmas holiday break at the end of Term 4 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.

For most NSW Catholic schools, school zones operate as normal until (and include) Tuesday 19 December 2017 and resume on Monday 29 January 2017. Note: even though some schools will elect to have some of these days as pupil free days, school zones will be in operation on all gazetted school days, whether students are present or not.

Also please be vigilant with children riding bikes, scooters and skateboards over the break - helmets are a compulsory item! We constantly remind our students of the need for keeping our brain safe!

Please clearly label items with child’s name!!

Stage One 2018 requirements

- Whiteboard markers - 1 pkt
- Paint shirt
- Headphones/ earbuds
- Pkt of baby wipes
- Library Bag

Sorry please return your Stage 1 requirements as soon as possible.

Stage Two requirements for 2018:

Equipment needed:

- 4 HB lead pencils
- 1 blue pens
- 1 red pens
- Pack of 12 coloured pencils
- 2 erasers
- 1 pack of four highlighters
- Plastic pencil sharpener
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 glue stick
- Narrow pencil case no larger than 30 cm in length
- Pack of thin whiteboard markers. Dark colours work best.

The items above will need to be replaced as needed throughout the year.

Extra supplies:

- Microfibre cloth for whiteboard
- Box of tissues
- Roll of paper towel
- Pack of antiseptic hand wipes
- 1 clear document pouch with button clip
- Library bag
- Paint shirt or apron
- Headphones

Please clearly label items with child’s name!!
FROM MRS LYN ROWLING - SCHOOL CHAPLAIN/ WELBEING

Vinnies Hampers
Tomorrow our hampers will be presented to the ladies from SVDP. Unless we have more contributions overnight we have finished with about 17 hampers which is a marvellous result. Thank you for your support of this important community initiative.

LAP Afternoon Tea and Thank You
On Wednesday we celebrated the achievements of our LAP volunteers and students with a stylish afternoon tea in the hall. The tables were decorated beautifully with the afternoon tea food prepared and arranged by Jen Mitchell, mum of Van and Sully (S2 and Kinder, 2018). If you need any assistance with styling your next function and need a hand Jen would surely be able to provide her services along with beautiful flowers from her business Main Street Posy Co.
Our theme was ‘Light’ so there was an abundance of candles as well as candle gifts made by the students for their tutor labelled with “Thank you for shining your light into my life” - Matthew 5: 14
Our LAP volunteers were entertained by video interviews of all the students expressing why they enjoy LAP and how they believe it has helped them grow personally. This year has seen 14 students involved in LAP and I hope to extend this opportunity to more students next year. Please consider sharing your skills or encouraging someone else who may be interested to share some time with our students.

End of Year Whole School Mass
In 2009 when my son Luke was completing Kindergarten and I was yet to start working at our school I attended the end of year Mass. I recall myself having an emotional cry even though I didn’t know any of the students or families but I was impacted by the fact that they were at the end of a journey through primary school and that’s a pretty big deal. I think I have only missed one of these Masses in nine years being a parent at our school and I can say it’s certainly worth attending.

Even if you are not a regular Mass attendee or your children are still young I encourage you to join us on Thursday. Witness our major school awards being given out, the lovely slideshow and music that Ros prepares and be part of a celebration that is very special. One day you will be a year six parent too and, trust me, it happens really fast so please take the time to join us on Thursday ready to start at 9.30am.

Thursday is the end of a nine year journey at our school for my family. It will be an emotional day but I am looking forward to the next stage for our sons.

I’d like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Therese Seymour for being at the helm for all of the years of my boys primary years. I’m yet to meet anyone who probably knows a child as well as their parents like Therese does!!

Enjoy your family time over the break, have a rest and wind down as there is much to look forward to at Joey’s in 2018.

Early Stage One (Kinder) 2018 REQUIREMENTS

- A paint shirt – This can be an oversized shirt. Please make sure it covers the whole uniform.
- Drink bottle – Children can bring this into class so they can sip water as needed in the hot weather.
- Crunch and Sip – Joey’s is a ‘Crunch and Sip’ school. Each morning at approximately 10am we have a break. Children require a small piece of fruit or vegetables that are easy to eat during this time.
- A clear plastic A4 buttoned envelope – These folders will be used daily to transfer notes and homework between home and school.
- A packet of baby wipes, paper towel roll and box of tissues – These will be used for general hygiene and cleaning in the classroom.
- Earphones/headphones – We will use them during computer lessons and for ipads in the classroom. Whatever your child is most comfortable wearing.
- Uniform – All items of the uniform are available from the uniform shop. The Uniform Shop is open on Friday mornings 8.30-9.30 am and Friday afternoon 2.30 -3.30pm. John Fivaz is happy to field any enquiries on 6628 6816 or 0409 526 345.
- Spare underwear – Accident do happen even when children have been free of these for some time. Please keep a pair of underpants and socks clearly labelled in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag.

Please ensure that everything is clearly labelled so that anything that goes astray can find its way back to its owner.

Stage Three Requirements for 2018

Stationery
- Pencil case
- Pens- 4 blue, 2 red, 4 black (ballpoint, no liquid/gel)
- Pencils- 6 x HB
- Erasers- 2
- Glue sticks- 4
- Pencil sharpener
- 4 highlighters (different colours)
- 1 pair scissors
- Ruler 30cm
- Set 12 coloured pencils
- Set 12 coloured textas
- 2 black “whiteboard” markers (slim-line is best)
- Clear push button envelope- x 4
- Library Bag

Curriculum
- Australian Primary Dictionary / Thesaurus

Organisation
- Tissues (2 boxes for year)
- Baby wipes (2 packets)
- A4 Clipboard
- A set of small headphones for Chromebook use

Please clearly label items with child’s name!!
The following children have celebrated their birthday since our last Newsletter:

**Ella Bertoli, Harrison Beare**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ALL OF US**

ALTAR SERVERS

**ROSTER**

Saturday 16 December:
Tyler & Noah Glavocih, Charlotte & Olivia Voss, Brighton Wilson

Sunday 17 December: James Penhey, Anna, Amy & Holly Prodger

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Saturday 23 Dec—4th Sunday of Advent
4 pm Wardell
6 pm Alstonville

Sunday 24 Dec—4th Sunday of Advent
8.30 am Alstonville

Sunday 24 Dec—Christmas Vigil
5.00 pm Wardell
5.00 pm Alstonville—Children’s Mass in McCarthy Hall
7.00 pm Alstonville

Monday 25 Dec Christmas Day Mass
8.30am Alstonville

The Uniform shop will be opening for the following hours in the lead up to school reopening for 2018

**MONDAY 22 JANUARY AT 10AM**

**MONDAY 29 JANUARY AT 10AM**

**WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY AT 10AM**

Orders can also be organised by completing the order form (available on the webpage) and lodging this at school with money.

**John Fivaz, Coordinator—Ph 0409 526 345**

The Summer Reading Club is on again! Richmond Tweed Regional Library has been running this successful program for many years, the theme for this year’s Summer Reading Club (SRC) is “Come On! Supercharge your Summer!” and we’re encouraging all children to join in the fun.

Every book or audiobook you borrow and read/listen to from the library during December and January will earn you an entry in the competition to win an Apple iPad mini thanks to our major sponsor Bollinda. The more you read the more chances you have to win!

The Summer Reading Club will begin 1st December 2017 to 31st January 2018.

Visit your local library, become a library member and collect a free activity pack containing summer reading ideas, a reading log and fun activities with the chance of winner an Apple iPad mini!