Dear Parents & Carers,

Today we remembered those who had served their country in times of war and strife in a beautiful stage based ceremony. Thank you to Ros Kingsford for organising this for us all.

Thank you to the many, many people who have started the letter campaign to the Department of Education requested in last week’s Newsletter. There has been a significant number of letters and emails sent to voice our dissatisfaction with the tree stam. Last week at Assembly I asked students if they would like to voice their thoughts too. If your child wants to write a letter to the people concerned then I am happy to make a bulk post on Friday this week. The more we voice our dissatisfaction the faster we will get action. Keep up the pressure!

Following our fundraiser for St Joseph’s Lockhart two weeks ago today we posted off a beautiful book called “The Important Things” by Peter Carnavas along with a beautiful rainbow chain created by the students. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser to brighten up a school hit by tragedy.

It is nearing the end of the year and we are seeking to hear from any families who may not be returning to our school in 2015. We need to know prior to the end of the year please.

HELPFUL APPS
A few weeks ago we brought to your attention a few apps that could be quite harmful for students. To balance that we present a webpage this week that offers some great apps to use with children. Please go to http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/appsthat-rinto-the-top-tested-and-approved-by-teachers/

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Our End of Year Celebration is being held on Monday 1st December from 5.30pm

The night will start with open classrooms for families to visit while there will be a pre-ordered BBQ running, tombola stall and sales of candles and glowsticks for the Hall sing along. There is a timetabled performance in the Hall with students not in the Hall being supervised by teachers in classes. The night culminates in a sing along in the Hall with all students involved. It is an expectation that all students attend the night. Christmas Concert Tombola!

STAGE 3 EXCURSION—THIS THURSDAY

On Thursday Stage 3 will be travelling to Lake Ainsworth for a day excursion as part of their PDHPE unit on Healthy Living. Students will need to be at school by 8.15am on the day. The bus will be leaving school at 8.30am.

Students are to bring morning tea and lunch, a drink, Swimming gear including a rash vest, comfortable clothes, sunscreen, hat and a great attitude!

Therese Seymour

The Scholastic Book Fair

EFTPOS will be available for your convenience.
- Tuesday 11th November 8.30 – 4.30pm
- Wednesday 12th November 8.30 – 4.30pm

11 Perry Street Alstonville NSW 2477 (PO Box 265) Phone: 02 6628 1009 Fax: 02 6628 1508
www.alstplism.catholic.edu.au Email: sjpalst@lism.catholic.edu.au
Stage 2 Action Research Challenge

What did we want the students to learn?
Goal: to improve speed and accuracy of multiplication facts (automaticity).
Why did we choose to focus on multiplication facts?
Solid recall of multiplication facts leads to efficiency in solving a range of mathematical problems. These skills will be used in everyday calculations for the rest of our lives.

How did we work on improving the student’s knowledge?
After conducting a pre-assessment to gauge what each student already knew we set targets together for the students to work towards throughout the remainder of the term. All of the targets related to increased knowledge of multiplication facts (for instance of a student knew their x2, x3, x, 5, x10 then their target range may have been to learn x4, x6, x9) increased accuracy and increased speed when recall the answers.

Speed sheets were used on a weekly basis for the students and teachers to monitor the student’s improvement and to adjust targets when appropriate.

On a daily basis a number of different activities were used to improve the students’ knowledge in this area.

The results.
The graph below shows how a selection of the children improved throughout the term. The left hand bar being the first assessment of the term, the middle bar in the middle of the term and the right bar at the end. This clearly demonstrates the growth over time. The children were also shown their individual growth using this information and it certainly excited and motivated them to see their own success.

In terms of accuracy –
Due to the large number of children in the sample we split the results into Year 3 and 4.
At the beginning of term the Year 3 students averaged 13.11 correct answers for their multiplication fact sheet and by the end of term this average had grown to 30.51! This was enormous growth and every single student had grown significantly in this period.
Year 4’s average at the beginning of term was 25.16 and these students also improved dramatically ending the term with an average of 44.75.

In terms of speed –
In the middle of the term the stage group collectively averaged 4.22 mins to complete 20 multiplication facts and by the end of term they had improved to 2.58 mins!!! And the accuracy of answers in these assessments improved also.

What did we learn from this experience?
One of the really interesting lessons from the challenge was both the teachers and the students understanding more about the best way to learn these types of facts.
At the beginning of term the children were asked to indicate which way they felt they would learn multiplication facts best. Most indicated games and online activities would be the best way for them to learn.
The students were asked to do this again at the end of the term and the results are contained in the graph below.

Congratulations to all of the students for their wonderful growth throughout the term. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and commitment that they brought to the challenge and what they discovered about themselves as learners.
Thank you also to the families who supported the children’s development by working on the challenge at home!!

Are you interested in finding out more about the implementation of the new Mathematics K-6 Syllabus in 2015?
Join us,
Tonight, 11 November at 6:00pm
in the staff room to find out more.
Tea and coffee provided.

Making Jesus Real

The Power of Reflection

Have you ever stood so close to a painting that you can only see the colours of dark brown, light green, fawn, orange, off white, and blue? Take a few steps back and you can tell it is a landscape of a valley, trees, creek, clouds and sky. It is only when we step back, that the picture becomes clearer.
The same happens with our daily life. If we can use our video camera-mind, rewind your memory and see the gifts that we received during the day. Positive people, even when they have a bad day, can pick some small comment, smile, compliment, wave, a thank you, encouraging word, apology, saw someone helping someone else, or a total stranger opened the door for you, kids lending you a biro or ruler or picking up something you have accidentally dropped. God Moments Happen All the Time! BUT, we have to be switched ON, to pick them up. We are instruments for Christ
St Joseph’s School Christmas Project
Dear Families and Friends,

As we head into the season of Advent and look forward to the coming of Jesus at Christmas, we ask you to consider contributing to a very worthwhile cause that will help make a real difference to the people in our community. Through giving and receiving we are truly blessed with Christ’s message of hope, love, joy and peace. It is not only those who receive that benefit but also through the act of giving, we know the Spirit that dwells within each of us is expressed in love and compassion for others.

The St Joseph’s School community has dedicated this term to donating towards the St Vincent de Paul Society. Over the coming weeks students, families and parishioners are invited to offer much needed gifts to add to our Christmas Hampers. Items could include:

- non-perishable foods (healthy, nourishing and of course fresh use-by-dates)
- Christmas goodies (for celebrations and cheerful worth eg. Decorations, treats etc.)
- Useful household items (new and what families could benefit from having eg. Teatowel, detergent etc.)
- An all purpose gift (eg. Calendar-2015, stationary, gift-packs etc.)
- A children’s present (labelled with GIRL or BOY and the age appropriate for the gift)

Your generosity toward this cause will truly help make this Christmas a Holy and Happy time for every one of us. Please send in your donations to school before Friday 5 December when we will deliver the hampers.

We thank you for contributing in whatever small way possible and wish you all the blessings of this Season.

St Vincent de Paul Society’s Mission
“The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.”

CHESS
Last Thursday we hosted the first Individual Age Gardiner Chess Competition and 110 students from around the area enjoyed a great day playing chess. The day ran smoothly and our 15 students were on their best behaviour. Everyone gave it their best shot and all children won at least a few games. Well done to Sam Donatsch and Sean Nicolas for placing third in their age groups. Ribbons of Merit for winning 4.5 out of 7 games went to Thomas Johnson, Maddox Parsons and Lawson Ward, with quite a few boys narrowly missing out! Very promising! Also competing were: Jayden Binder, Parker Moore, Mark Wright, Murray Freebody, Danny O’Toole, Patrick Stuart, Sam Chawalliar, Zac Hipkins, Andrew Payne, Josh Simmons. Hopefully we will have as much enthusiasm for chess next year, maybe some girls want to have a go? Full results on gardinarchess.com.au.

Thanks to Leanne Harris for managing a very busy day in the canteen!

Hermien Mellick

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER
Saturday 15 November: Cara Feain-Ryan, Mackenzie Rhodes, Elise Hatchman, Breanna Rhodes & Ethan Rhodes
Sunday 16 November: Lucas Kaeslin, Elise Pereira, Cameron Boyce, Portia Dostine & William Barnes

The following children have celebrated their birthday since our last Newsletter
Klancie Freebody, Lucy Mosse, Imogen Boyce, & Coby Cook
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Altar Servers Picnic—next Tuesday
Students in Years 4-6 who altar serve will go on the annual Altar Servers Picnic next Tuesday (18 November). The students will go to the Ballina Water Slide in the morning, so don’t forget to apply sunscreen. Morning Tea and lunch will be provided by the Parish. After lunch, you will be taken to Ballina Ten Pin Bowling so you will need to bring socks. Please note, it is casual clothing. The students will be back at school in time for the afternoon buses. Have Fun!

Tanya Pagotto—Parish Secretary
**Canteen Special - Wednesday Only**
Fish with Oven Baked Fries
with lemon and tartare sauce

**$4**

**Canteen Roster**
Open Wednesday & Friday
Leanne Harris Coordinator Ph 66281990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duty Starts at 9.00am</th>
<th>Healthy Snack Donation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12 November</td>
<td>Lucy Sporne</td>
<td>Melissa Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>Linda Hayes</td>
<td>K Pereira &amp; K Lamas</td>
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**Assembly Roster**
(Held @ 2.20pm in McCarthy Hall)
ALL WELCOME
Reminder: Boom gate closes at 3 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Week</th>
<th>Host</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: 14 November</td>
<td>NO Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7: 21 November</td>
<td>Stage 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: 28 November</td>
<td>Awards &amp; Acts of Kindness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: 5 December</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10: 12 December</td>
<td>Final Assembly</td>
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**Competition Results for ICAS & Maths Trust**

This year has seen another big year for students participating in external competitions. It is always pleasing to see so many having a go at these competitions. As they are competitions they are designed to find winners so they are never easy. Therefore our students have done remarkably well and I congratulate all participants on their efforts. Please see the results listed below and please note the new edition of “Principal’s Choice Award”.

**Principal’s Choice Award Winners**
- **ICAS Maths**: Sean Nicolas
- **ICAS English**: Claire Parsons
- **ICAS Science**: Jacob Robinson
- **ICAS Writing**: Holly Oates
- **ICAS Spelling**: Anna Prodger
- **ICAS Computer**: Jasper Delman

**The Trading Circle Helping Women Trade out of Poverty**

This weekend, 15/16 November, the Trading Circle will “set up shop” in McCarthy Hall and will be open Saturday 15 November from 10 am to 8 pm and again on Sunday from 8 am until 12 noon.

You will be amazed at the variety and quality of the products, clothing, tableware, homeware, bags and purses, toys and cards and much more.

Buying from the Trading Circle shows practical solidarity with women in developing countries. In many very poor areas of the world, poverty is the major enemy.

The Good shepherd Trading Circle is a non-profit company established by the Good Shepherd sisters in Australia in 1995 to support women in micro-enterprises internationally.

Please mark it on your calendar and be ready to do some Christmas shopping – shopping that will help women in developing countries.

**Melbourne Cup Mega Sweep**… Congratulations to Denise Robinson for winning the first prize of $500 in the Melbourne Cup Mega Sweep. John & Eileen Molloy won the 2nd prize of $200 and the 3rd prize of $100 went to Lisa Maree Dominican. The four prizes of $50 were won by Michela Brown, Tina Pippo, Marie Thorpe and Lyn Rowling.

The Mega Sweep raised $1040 which will go towards Take Home Reader for our children.

Many thanks to the parents and parishioners for supporting this fundraiser. Also, we would like to thank Margaret Liddbetter, Wendy Astone, Therese Seymour and Jo Wunsch for assisting in selling the tickets before and after Mass on the weekends.

Lisa McCormack & Suzanne Wright