**Coming Events**

**FEBRUARY**
- **Tuesday 10 February**—Parent Information Night 6:00 pm commencing in McCarthy Hall
- **Friday 13 February**—Whole School Mass @ 11.00am
- **Wednesday 18 February**—Ash Wednesday Liturgy 11.30am in McCarthy Hall
- **Friday 20 February**—Zone Swimming Carnival at Alstonville
- **Tuesday 24 February**—Back up day for Zone Swimming Carnival
- **Tuesday 24 February**—Parish School Forum (PSF) meeting at 7pm in the Staffroom
- **Thursday 26 February**—Zone Winter Sports Trials

**MARCH**
- **Wednesday 4 March**—Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- **Wednesday 4 March**—Junior Joeys commence
- **Thursday 5 March**—Back up day for Zone Winter Sports
- **Friday 13 March**—Staff Development Day (Pupil Free)
- **Wednesday 17 March**—St Patrick’s Day
- **Thursday 19 March**—St Joseph’s Day

**Week 3**

Dear Parents & Carers,

*Once upon a time, in a dark thick Redwood forest, a group of frogs gathered around the trunk of the tallest tree. They wanted to climb up to the top, so they can enjoy the sunlight from above the Redwoods' branches.*

First group started to climb up, only to come back down defeated. Another group tried and turned back telling the other frogs that it couldn't be done that it's impossible.

A third group decided to try one more time and also gave up. Only one frog, kept climbing and climbing.

The small frog kept climbing until she reached the top and enjoyed the sunlight and the view from above the forest. When she went down, the other frogs asked her:

"How did you do it? How did you manage to get up there? It seemed like it couldn't be done!!"

It turned out that frog was deaf.

She didn't hear that it couldn't be done.

She didn't know it was impossible. She just went ahead and did it.

I love this story - it gives hope and inspiration, even at times when some people may think that something is impossible, that doesn't make it so!

Have a great week!

**Parent Information Night**

See you tonight at 6pm in the Hall. After initially meeting in there we will move to stage rooms. The talk in stage rooms will be repeated for your benefit.

Please do not try to have interviews with staff at this time. You may need to make another time for this if you need to meet with them personally. Those children not in classes for their stage meeting will be supervised in the Tech room, Library and undercover areas. There will be NO access to playground.

Laura Fowler from the Commonwealth Bank will be at our meeting tonight. Laura will be available to open new accounts tonight and she will also be available on Wednesday afternoon between 2:30 & 3:30.

**Whole School Mass**

As Fr Max is away on holidays Fr Jack Robson is managing the parish. He has agreed to celebrate our beginning of the year *Mass this Friday at 11am*. Our Year 6 Leaders will be recognised at this Mass.

Our S3 students will participate in their first Leadership Training day for 2015 on Wednesday in the Hall. They may wear casual, suitable clothing on this day.

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy**

Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). You are invited to our Ash Wednesday Liturgy next Wednesday, 18 February at 11.30am in McCarthy Hall.

**Car Pick-Up Procedures**

Last week the car pick up area was an accident waiting to happen!

As we have so many Kinder children who cannot necessarily manage car doors and seat belts their parents were parking to come in to collect them. Unfortunately parking is very limited and so we had cars parking in the car lanes, poking out into car pick up queues and in dangerous positions. Cars were pulling out of parking spots into the

**Smiling is infectious,**

*You can catch it like the flu. Someone smiled at me today, And I started smiling too. ~Author Unknown*

**Accompanies this Newsletter**

- Call for Canteen helpers & volunteers for fruit/healthy snack roster

**In Brief...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly</th>
<th>General + Awards</th>
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**A REMINDER...**

Assembly is only being held fortnightly in 2015. Please refer to the timetable in this Newsletter OR remember they are being held on odd weeks.

**Book Club Catalogues were distributed yesterday. Orders are due by MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY**
path of children crossing roads (which should not be happening either) and blocking the car pick up lines. As one of the teachers on duty I cringed at the chaos!

We really need your help to make this process each afternoon safe and legal. If you have older students would you please consider waiting patiently in the car pick up queue and NOT parking for a few weeks as we all settle to new routines? And if you are going to park please be aware that many of you are parking illegally at the moment and should the Council Ranger come for a visit (& they usually do at this time of year) you will be liable for very hefty fines. Parking is only allowed on the school side of Perry Street and only just past the double gates. Cars parking close to our small side gate are parking illegally. For those utilising the car pick up in the afternoon you need to be aware that this is an area where you cannot get out of the car AND students MUST enter the car from kerbside only.

Many of you will be aware that we are currently negotiating with Ballina Shire Council for improved signage in this area. Meanwhile the car pick up must work safely. We need everyone to be thoughtful at all times. If you are going to park and come into school please do not ask your child to wait in undercover area for you. This is against our rules for supervision and places your child in an awkward situation.

The Bishop sent all Principals a letter in late January regarding our fundraising priorities for 2015. I have included some of his message for you to read:

“Whilst there are many ways to respond to those in need, one that is fundamental to our Catholic identity is to support the valuable faith-extension work of Catholic Mission. I appreciate that our schools are approached for support by various external organisations and causes. However, I emphasise that we have a responsibility to give priority to our Catholic Agencies before any other. It is important that all teachers and staff members understand and abide by this policy.

On consultation with the Principal, or further referral to the Catholic Schools Office, this does not preclude entirely a response to external approaches, but it does define the Catholic priority. Catholic Mission is an official papal charitable work, supported in its responsibilities through the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples. By its means we respond to Pope Francis’ call to reach out to those who have the greatest need. That need is Jesus Christ and faith in the Gospel. This inspires our participation in the great Catholic tradition of missionary endeavour and to lift our efforts to a higher level. Catholic Mission is the only agency in the world that has a policy that fundraising from children will go only to building and supporting Catholic communities of faith and their children around the world. “

Most Rev’d Geoffrey H Jarrett Bishop of Lismore.

SMS ALERTS FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

My apologies to a couple of parents who have sent SMS regarding absences. Any SMS messages being sent prior to the beginning of the school day to the number we gave you do not appear to be getting through to us. Any SMS sent in response to our SMS that comes out after roll marking is working correctly. Apparently there is some glitch in this SMS number, which Catholic Schools Office staff are working to rectify. Meanwhile the rest of our online roll marking is working really well. Please remember if your child is arriving after the 9am bell they must come through the office. PLEASE DO NOT DROP CHILDREN AT BACK OR SIDE GATES AFTER 9AM, rather bring them to the office.

And if you get an SMS from us please reply so we can mark the roll accordingly.

PEANUT AND OTHER ALLERGIES

We have a number of students with various allergies here at school. If we were to ban all the foods to keep them safe there would be a limited diet occurring. Instead we follow the guidelines suggested by Anaphylaxis Australia where those that have an allergy are known and we are all considerate of their needs. Consideration is seen through being aware of where you sit when eating known allergens like peanuts, sesame seeds, eggs, etc. Consideration is seen in washing hands thoroughly after eating, cleaning surfaces where food may be left, not sharing food with others. After all, in the big world our students need to learn to cope and the rest of us need to learn to be aware.

In each class students know who the affected students or staff are. In recent years we have seen students remain caring and sensible through their education about anaphylaxis.

So feel free to send your healthy foods to school with your child- your responsibility in this as parents is to talk to them about not sharing their food and to wash hands after eating.

JOEYSGOLF DADS SHIRTS

Thank you to our JoeysGolf Dads for donating a set of singlets in our colours and with our logo for students to wear when representing our school. They will get a trial at the Zone Swimming Carnival next week. We really appreciate your help Dads!!

Thanks to Flynn Transport for assisting us with a pick up of more playground equipment purchased from Melbourne by Year 6 in 2014. They carted it to Alstonville and delivered it free of charge. We are really grateful for their help as we had received quotes of $1000 to organise this!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 2015

After the year finished staff had many discussions about birthday celebrations in the open classroom. We all felt it was a big ask to get parents to bake enough cakes or purchase ice blocks for a whole stage. Often we had several birthdays on one day. This led to sugar overload. We also had trouble finding freezer space for the huge amount of ice blocks being sent in. It also meant we had to find alternatives for all the children that have food allergies.

We are suggesting for 2015 it might be best to just send in a small patty cake for the birthday child only. We can celebrate their birthday with a song and blowing out the candle and they can enjoy the treat.

Of course it is not compulsory to send in anything so don’t feel the need to send in the patty cake. We will always celebrate a child’s birthday!

We hope this meets your approval but we felt the need to make this a much simpler and more sensible arrangement for all concerned.

Therese Seymour
**INTRODUCING MRS. MICHELLE BRATTI**

My name is Michelle Bratti and I am excited to be part of the team at St Joseph’s in 2015 as Acting Assistant Principal. I grew up on a dairy farm just out of Coraki. I am married to Maurice and live in Casino, currently enjoying the travel through Tregeagle and Wyrallah each day. I have three grown up children, Anna, 26 living in Brisbane, Laura, 23 living in London and Alex, 20 living in Casino. I also have 2 dogs that I adore and love spending time with. I enjoy gardening, reading, kayaking, occasional social golf and spending time with family and friends.

I began teaching at a small Infant’s school in Casino and when this closed I commenced teaching at St Mary’s, in Casino. I was fortunate to be trained as a Reading Recovery teacher and was the Curriculum and IT coordinator as well as the National Partnership facilitator at St Mary’s. For the past three years I have been the Assistant Principal at St Brigid’s in Kyogle as well as the Leader of Pedagogy and Leader of Curriculum for the past two years.

I am passionate about making a difference to the students I teach, I believe that learning should be fun and that teaching should meet the current needs of each student. I will be teaching each stage whilst teachers have their Release from Face to Face Teaching, which means I have the pleasure of working with each student. Getting to know their names is my first challenge! I will also be working with teachers to provide intervention in targeted areas to ensure that each student is able to achieve the goals set for them. I look forward to meeting the parents and school community members over the coming weeks and feel blessed to be working in such a supportive, welcoming learning environment. The students are very fortunate to be led and nurtured by such a dedicated, professional team.

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**Junior Joeys will begin in Week 5**

*(Wednesday 25 February).*

If you have a child who will begin school in 2016, or know of anyone, then please ask them to contact school to organise an enrolment form.

Junior Joeys runs on Wednesdays from 9-11am. This service is FREE.

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**Jumping Joeys Playgroup  - Anyone Welcome**

Each Tuesday during School Terms

9.30 am—11.00 am in the

Technology Room

Come and dance, sing, play with dough, read a story and do craft with us! All pre-schoolers are welcome with their Mum, Dad or Carer. Please bring the children a snack, drink bottle and a gold coin donation to cover craft.

**Contact:** Libby Spash  0411 271 243

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**The following children have celebrated their birthday since our last Newsletter:**

Alyssa Wilson, Zane Braz and Olivia Mosse,

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

*From us all at St Joeys*

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**Children’s Sunday Liturgy**

15 February:  Alison & Jack O’Toole

Denise Robins & Cathy Simmons

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**Making Jesus Real**

**Attitudes Are Contagious**

Is Yours Worth Catching?

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**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

Saturday 14 February: Ethan Plunkett, Joshua McWilliam, Charlotte Voss, Olivia Voss & Georgia Shirley

Sunday 15 February: Jarod Newton, Mary Shelley, Sophie Pereira, Ruby parker & Lewis Parker

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**The most dangerous phrase in the language is "we’ve always done it this way."**
Youth Group News…

The next Youth Mass is on Saturday, 7 March at 6.00 pm. The Youth Gathering after Mass will be a games night at Alstonville Bowling & Sports Club. Please bring $8 to cover food, drinks and games. (Beach volley ball, super soccer & totem tennis) Parents can collect their children at 9.00 pm.

St Joey’s Food Garden Appeal

After harvesting bumper crops of tomatoes, herbs and assorted leafy greens at the end of 2014, we were looking forward to reaping the early crops of corn, beans and capsicums. The heat, grubs and bursts of heavy rain played havoc with these crops over January but we did manage to salvage some decent chunks of corn, some tomatoes and a handful of cucumbers! Then came the hail storm, which we are sure had much wider ramifications than just shredding our little school plot and putting holes in the baby pumpkins.

We are on our way to restoring the balance and have cleaned up a lot of the beds ready to plant for Autumn. As this activity attracts little or no finding until a grant can be found, we are appealing for help again from our local school and parish community. The garden is available for all our students and families to visit and get involved. The students who visit regularly always enjoy themselves and love learning about growing their own food – a life-long skill. These are the things that would really help us get new crops in the ground and grow them successfully. If you are able to help with any of these items or requests, we would be very grateful to hear from you soon!

- Fine Tea-tree, straw or Lucerne hay mulch for plants
- Tree-lopper mulch or sawdust for the walkways around the garden beds
- Any seedlings that will grow into Autumn that you may have ‘extras’ of from planting in your own garden beds, or would purchase to donate when you’re next in a seedling shop
- Seeds that can be prepared for Winter crops
- Fertilisers: Cow, sheep, chicken manure that we can mix together.
- Fertilisers: Blood n Bone, Dynamic Lifter, etc. We cannot store bulk quantities of these items at school, so a little bit is good!
- Liquid fertilisers: Seaweed and Fish Emulsions, Homemade weed brews
- Some helping hands – if you have time to pop down and tie up beans, or pull out a weed or two, help yourself! We welcome any input that keeps this project ticking along.

P.S .The rosella crop will be ready for harvest soon. If you know how to make rosella jam, we’d love to share our crop with you!

Breaking News….. In stage 3 we are considering having a little cooking session or two each term using fresh produce and teaching a few basic skills to our senior students. If you are keen to help out in this area, please contact Jenny Melville or Lisa Donohoe. via the school office.

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1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching

When: Wednesday 11th, 18th & 25th March 2015
Time: 10am - 12.30pm
Where: Baptist Church Hall,
Corner of Cherry & Crane Street Ballina
BALLINA

123 Magic & Emotion Coaching is a 3 week parenting course, designed to teach parents a simple and easily implemented system to help manage children’s difficult behavior. The program also introduces parents to the emotional development of their children and provides strategies for building a deeper connection between parents and children.

To confirm a place in this free course please call Pete or Lisa 66864109
Cost: Free
Limited childcare is available so please discuss with us when you book

ALSTONVILLE TENNIS ACADEMY

Qualified Junior Development Coach/Club Professional Coach

WE OFFER
* Private, Group and Squad Lessons
* MLC Hotshots (4-11 yrs)
* Cardio Tennis (Adults and Teens)
* Thursday night junior social comp
* Tournaments
* Birthday parties

CALL NOW! Paul Denning 0419 146 190

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All students in Year 5—12 are welcome