ST JOHN’S COLLEGE VISIT

We welcome Mrs Kerrie Morris, Principal of St John’s College Dubbo to our school next Tuesday, 14 May. Mrs Morris will address our Year 2 students regarding high school education at the college.

YEAR 2 LITURGY

Year 2 will celebrate a class Liturgy in St Joseph’s Church next Thursday, 16 May at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome and we ask if you could please bring a plate to share for morning tea which will follow the Liturgy.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

Thank you to those who have donated items to our Mother’s Day Stall this year. Just a reminder that the gifts range in price from 50¢ to $5.00 and don’t forget to send a plastic bag with your child to bring home their precious gifts.

HELPERS FOR THE STALL

If anyone can spare some time on Friday to wrap last minute gifts and help man the stall, your help would be greatly appreciated. Helpers are needed from 9:00 a.m.

MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE

All raffle tickets need to be returned to school tomorrow as the raffles will be drawn at the conclusion of the Mother’s Day Stall. We would like to thank the following local businesses for their kind donations towards our raffles: Ag-n-Vet Gilgandra, 3D’s Butchery, Gilgandra Central Stores and Ochre Hair. Thank you also to those parents and friends of St Joseph’s School who donated items.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is again being held this year for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level or achievement will be reported against the agreed national benchmarks of student achievement. The tests will be conducted in the areas of Language, including spelling, punctuation and grammar, Writing, Reading and Numeracy (including Number, Algebra – function and pattern, Chance and Data and Measurement and Space). These tests will be conducted next Tuesday, 14 May, Wednesday, 15 May and Thursday, 16 May. If you require any information about the NAPLAN tests please contact the school.

CHAMPION CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITORS

Congratulations to all our cross country competitors who competed at Coolah on Tuesday. All our runners performed extremely well with Kaitlyn Norris winning the 9 years event and Caitlin Carlow finishing 4th in the 12 years event. Both Caitlin and Kaitlyn will now run at Eastern Creek in Sydney at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Polding Cross Country Championships later this term. Well done girls. Other outstanding results included Carissa Harrison-Reid – 11th and James Ferguson – 13th.

NOAH EXCELS

Congratulations to Noah Ryan who was selected in the Possibles-v-Probables match at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Rugby League Championships held in Bathurst last week. Playing at fullback Noah was outstanding all day and can consider himself very unlucky not to have been selected in the Polding team. Well done Noah.

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STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The staff will be participating in a professional development activity on Monday, 20 May from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. During this time Mrs Pat Eakin from the Catholic Education Office will inservice the staff on a variety of assessment strategies. These strategies will be implemented into the classrooms over the next two terms and then Mrs Eakin will return to evaluate the strategies.

CITY OF DUBBO EISTEDDFOD

We received the programs for the City of Dubbo Eisteddfod this week. Our Infants Verse Speaking Choir will perform on Wednesday, 5 June and our Senior Primary and Junior Primary Verse Speaking Choirs will both perform Thursday, 6 June. A timetable for those children performing individual items at the eisteddfod went home on Tuesday.

ICAS WRITING AND SPelling COMPETITIONS

The International Competition and Assessments for Schools is holding both writing and spelling competitions on Monday, 17th and Tuesday, 18th June for children in Years 3-6. If you would like your child to enter either one or both of these competitions please complete the tear-off slip attached to today’s About and return it to school by next Friday, 17 May together with the relevant entry fee ($17.00 for the writing and $11.00 for the spelling competition).

ST JOSEPH’S P & F CATTLE DRIVE

The idea of a cattle drive has been discussed as a fundraiser for our P & F Association. It has been suggested that the P & F purchase a number of steers. These steers would then be agisted on farms of families of our school and then sold at a later date. At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest from any of our farmers who may be able to run one or two steers on their farm. If you could help with the agistment, please contact Grant Zell on 042845366 or Andrew Schier on 0402542585.

GILGANDRA SHIRE HALL 50TH ANNIVERSARY MASK BALL

Gilgandra Alive, with Gilgandra Shire Council, is holding a Mask Ball on Saturday, 11 May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Gilgandra Shire Hall. The NSW Governor, Her Excellency Marie Bashir will be opening the ball on the night and will be spending the weekend in Gilgandra attending different functions. Gilgandra Alive is asking for organisations that use the hall to please give a helping hand as all proceeds from the night go towards the upkeep of the hall. Gilgandra Alive is looking for people willing to come along and help in the kitchen with supper and/or donate items for supper on the night. Also if people are interested in helping to set up and pack up the hall that would also be appreciated. If you are able to help please contact Brenda Purvis, President of Gilgandra Alive on 0424536223. The P & F will also be assisting on the bar during the night. If you are able to help please contact the office.

FAR WEST ACADEMY SOCCER TRIALS

Trials for the 2013 Soccer Program will be held on 2nd June in Warren at Carter Oval. The trials are open to male and female footballers turning 10-14 years of age in 2013 (ie born from 1999 to 2003). Please note the Academy will not be holding a development camp in July 2013 so this is their only opportunity to trial for a place in the 2013 program. Selected players will have the opportunity to take part in further training under the guidance of experienced
coaches, participate in several games and take part in a tour to Sydney where they may have the opportunity to meet and greet the Sydney FC team and receive coaching from some of the best coaches in NSW. If you require any further information please contact the Academy office on 68473638 or email Matthew Thompson, Acting Executive Officer at matthew.thompson@community.nsw.gov.au.

**MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday:

**KINDER**
- Nick Gale for trying hard to learn his sight words each week and, Lucy McIsaac for always trying hard in her writing.
- Casey Gaff for listening to instructions and directions in the classroom, and Ryley Smith and Bethany Earlsman for being good role models for their peers.

**YEAR 1**
- Richard Glover and Sarah Temple for beautiful handwriting, and Zahaila Proctor for always taking great pride in her work, and Dylan Garvey for fantastic reading and comprehension.

**YEAR 2**
- Patrick Sporna for being a speedy and accurate mathematician, Rani Diggs for working well independently, Skye Bui for completing set tasks neatly and quickly, Jess Scholte for ‘Giving of her Best’ and Bob McEwen for being a cheerful and helpful class member.

**YEAR 3**
- Emily Skinner and Mary Westbrook for being awesome artists, Olivia Ferguson and Ella McAnally-Elwin for showing highly accomplished comprehension skills and Hamish Beveridge for being an excellent mathematician.

**YEAR 4**
- William Sandford and Jye Day for working hard in Problem A Day and Maths Warm Up, Lauchlan Bash for coming out of Operations and Maths work and Martin Fryers, Olivia Newsread and Rebecca Gaff for super spelling work.

**YEAR 5**
- Harriet Beveridge for ‘Giving of Your Best’ in all class tasks, Sebastian Jackson for terrific exposition writing, Noah Ryan for continued improvement in spelling and language and Georgina Horan for extraordinary results in class spelling tests.

**YEAR 6**
- Jack Evans for clearly describing the formula for the area of a triangle, Jacob Lunnis for being a reverent and reliable altar server, Loki Ryan for working hard to improve his listening skills and Toby Cruickshank for making a conscientious effort on his free choice speech.

**WHAT’S ON**

**WEEK 2**
- Friday, 10 May - Mother’s Day Stall

**WEEK 3**
- Friday, 10 May – Claudina Ryan & Katherine Gaff

**WEEK 4**
- Monday, 13 May – Kerry Gale & Danielle Diggs

**WEEK 5**
- Monday, 20 May - Staff Maths Assessment Inservice – 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

**YEAR 6**
- Tuesday, 16 May - NAPLAN – Years 3 and 5 – 6 – 11:30 a.m.

**YEAR 2**
- Thursday, 16 May - NAPLAN – Years 3 and 5

**YEAR 3**
- Friday, 10 May – Carol Alchin & Penny Hassall

**YEAR 4**
- Monday, 13 May – Kerry Gale & Danielle Diggs

**YEAR 5**
- Friday, 10 May – Claudina Ryan & Katherine Gaff

**YEAR 6**
- Wednesday, 22 May- AEW Meeting

**YEAR 1**
- Thursday, 16 May - NAPLAN – Years 3 and 5

**YEAR 2**
- Friday, 24 May - Our Lady Help of Christians Mass – Peace and Friendship

**YEAR 3**
- Wednesday, 29 May - Peachey/Richardson Football

**YEAR 4**
- Thursday, 30 May - Primary Netball Challenge Coomambale

**YEAR 5**
- Friday, 31 May - Diocesan Spelling Bee- Wellington

**YEAR 6**
- Thursday, 15 May – St John’s College – Year 2 Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.

**KINDER**
- It has been another busy week for our Kinders. Our sound for the week has been ‘Oo’. The children are continuing to improve their writing skills, using previous and new sight words. They are also getting better at using capital letters at the beginning of sentences, finger spaces and a full stop at the end. During Science and Technology we discussed the differences between living and non-living things. There was some great discussion about what living things have in common and what things non-living things have in common. Also in our PDHPE unit, we are learning the skill of skipping. Just a reminder for all Kindergarten children to bring in some money for the Mother’s Day Stall tomorrow. Wishing all our mothers a happy day on Sunday. Take care, Miss Bourke.

**YEAR 1**
- What a lovely week this has been. In Speaking we have examined the ‘mm’ sound while in Grammar we have continued our work on prepositions by examining different images and describing, using prepositions, the position of objects within these images. In Text Types we have begun work on procedures. We have examined their purpose and structure by making rainbow biscuits and writing a procedure titled ‘How To Make Rainbow Biscuits’. In Maths we have learnt about left and right, comparing areas, subtraction and quarters. In H.S.I.E we discussed and examined why we need shelter and the different types of shelters there are. Thank you to those parents and carers who have offered to help listen to students read. I will have a timetable written up for you next week.

**YEAR 2**
- Once again another busy week has flown by in Year 2. In Religion we have read the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. He was certainly very brave and had lots of faith in God. We are also preparing for our Liturgy about ‘Mothers’ so please remember to bring in a photo of mum by next Monday. As we are learning about narratives we have been discussing the use of speech marks and using more interesting words for “said”. Fractions and angles were our Maths focus this week and we had a lot of fun testing right angles. Thank you to all our reading mums and we would like to continue reading this term if it still suits everyone. Enjoy your weekend.

**YEAR 3**
- It has been hard at work! We have been working on Numeracy, Writing, Comprehension, Spelling and Grammar with set time limits to complete the tasks. Year 3 has found this challenging and motivating to help us prepare for NAPLAN next week. We have also been working hard with Year 4 on our poetry. It’s wonderful to see the students’ enthusiasm and commitment towards this activity. In Religion we have learnt about ‘The Last Supper’ and its significance.

**YEAR 4**
- Congratulations to all the cross country runners – great school spirit! Years 3 and 4 continue to work hard on our poem practices for the eisteddfod. In the classroom, Maths challenged us working with patterns in tables, interpreting data and using picture graphs. In HSIE we focused on the facts about Gilgandra and looked at an historical timeline for the past 100 years. Narratives allowed us to explore our imaginations during writing and next week we move on to information reports. Direct and indirect speech was the main focus in Grammar. Have a lovely weekend and Happy Mother’s Day to all the wonderful mums. I hope you get a well deserved rest on Sunday.

**YEAR 5**
- What another busy week in Year 5! This week we have been under the clock doing some work that has set time limits. Although a challenge to us all, it is great to see the effort each student has put into preparing for our upcoming NAPLAN testing. With homework well underway I am hoping many have nearly finished or are working busily on their CWA projects that are due in Week 6. Sport has also been a hectic time with many training sessions for both McNamee and other upcoming sporting events. Well done to those who went to Coolah on Tuesday - I have heard some great reports back on your efforts. Wish us the best of luck next week. Have a great weekend.

**YEAR 6**
- Peace and Friendship was the theme of our class Mass today and it was a wonderful celebration. Year 6 is to be congratulated on their reverence and enthusiasm. In Maths we have been concentrating on decimals to thousands and chance from zero to one. Descriptions have been our focus in Writing and we have been looking at similes and metaphors to make our writing more elaborate. We have also been working on our free choice speeches which we look forward to presenting on Monday. It is great to see some CWA projects coming in looking very impressive. Don’t forget they are due in Week 6!

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
- Friday, 10 May – Claudina Ryan & Katherine Gaff
- Monday, 13 May – Kerry Gale & Danielle Diggs
- Wednesday, 15 May – Nickie Scholte & Leanne Creenean
- Friday, 17 May – Carol Alchin & Penny Hassall

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**
- Sunday, 12 May – Georgia Horan, Meg Horan, James O’Neill, Tobeey Creenean