A very big welcome back to a brand new school year. We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and look forward to a prosperous year. A special welcome to our new Kinder class and new students in other classes. We hope all the new members of our school family find their time at our school enjoyable and rewarding.

STAFF FOR 2014
Kinder - Miss Belinda Bourke/Mrs Alison Newstead
Year 1 - Miss Philippa Smith/Mrs Sue Alchin
Year 2 - Mrs Melinda Morris/Mrs Michelle Schier
Year 3 - Mr Damien Soares
Year 4 - Miss Lisa Harvey
Year 5 - Mr Tim Keady/Mrs Donna Colwell
Year 6 - Mrs Dominica Banks/Mrs Nikkola Thomas
Parish Priest - Fr Martin O’Mahony
Principal - Mr Tony Musgrave
Assistant Principal - Mrs Dominica Banks
Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Dominica Banks
Support Teacher - Mrs Sheree Spora
Literacy/Numeracy Assistants - Mrs Cheryl Batten, Mrs Margie Stewart
Aboriginal Education Worker - Mrs Margaret Pearce
Librarian - Mrs Jenny Kilby
Secretary - Mrs Heather Hodge
Cleaner - Mrs Dawn Cooper

KINDER/YEAR 6 BUDDIES
It was an exciting time yesterday when the Year 6 students were introduced to their Kinder buddies. The Year 6 students now have a big job in front of them making sure our new Kinders settle in well at St Joseph’s. The Year 6 students and Kinder children will do things like visit the church together, have lunch together and be there for one another. A full list of the buddies is included in today’s newsletter.

STUDENT LEADERS’ INVESTITURE MASS
The Student Leaders’ Investiture Mass for 2014 will be held next Thursday, 6 February at 10:30 a.m. in St Joseph’s Church. At St Joseph’s we consider all our Year 6 students to be leaders of our school and therefore all Year 6 students will be presented with a leader’s badge. Everyone is welcome to attend this ceremony, particularly family and friends of the Year 6 students. Following the Mass morning tea will be served and we would appreciate it if all Year 6 parents could supply a plate for the morning tea.

ST JOSEPH’S P & F DEBUTANTE BALL
Saturday, 15 March, 2014
The P & F Debutante Ball will be held at the Shire Hall on Saturday, 15 March. This is a wonderful evening and raises funds for our P & F Association which in turn is then spent on much needed and very worthwhile resources for our school.

There are lots of jobs in the lead up to the ball and working bees will be held each Monday prior to the ball, commencing Monday, 10 February from 9:00 a.m. Even if you can only spare an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated. So please try and be a part of this wonderful fundraiser.

TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This year’s twilight swimming carnival will be held on FRIDAY, 14 FEBRUARY. The following timetable for the carnival will be in operation:
1. Children come to school on Friday at the usual time for a normal day’s school.
2. Children wear their sports uniform and bring their swimming gear to school with them.
3. End of school bell rings at 3:20 p.m. but the children DO NOT GO HOME.
4. The canteen is open and the children can buy an afternoon snack or bring it with them. (Cordial and watermelon will be provided).
5. If the children wish, they can change into clothing representing their house colour. This is optional. No crepe paper please.
6. At 3:45 p.m. the children will go to their Sports House Meetings to be held in the classrooms.
7. At 4:00 p.m. the staff and students walk down to the carnival together.
8. The carnival begins at 4:30 p.m.
9. A sausage sizzle tea will operate between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. (cost $1.50). The canteen at the pool will also be operating where you can purchase pies ($3.80), sausage rolls ($3.00), hot dogs ($3.00), hot chips - small ($3.00) box chips ($4.00), scallops ($1.00), pluto pups ($3.00), pizzas ($2.70) and roundas ($2.70). It would be appreciated if these foods could be ordered at the canteen when you arrive at the pool – but not necessary.
10. The Infants’ events will cease at 6:30 p.m. at 7:00 p.m. (cost $1.50). At this time the parents of the infants children can either take their child home, or keep them at the pool for the sausage sizzle and the remaining carnival under their own supervision.
11. The carnival will finish by 8:30 p.m.

Once again there will be a Staff, Ex-Student, Parent Relay and also a free swim at tea time for everyone, so bring along your swimmers. To help make this carnival a success we will need YOUR HELP! Attached to this newsletter is a tear-off slip asking for people to assist as judges and cooks. Also, to assist with catering, we would like to know how many sausages your family will require. The staff look forward to seeing you for a family night out at the pool.
STAFF/_PARENT_EX-STUDENTS RELAY
The staff team is again in solid training and we’d appreciate some opposition. So come on, get your team organised and get into the water. We encourage our kids to have a go at lots of different things, let’s lead by example. The teachers promise to go easy on you!

SWIMMING HEATS
Heats for the length of the pool races for children in Years 2-6 will commence on Monday and will continue on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week with different strokes being held on different days. Students will be advised which stroke we will be doing on a particular day. All students entering length of the pool races should bring their swimmers on these days. If anyone could help time the heats from 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on any or all of these days, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please phone Mrs Hodge if you can help. The Western Region Swimming Carnival will be held in Coonamble on Friday, 21 February.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The staff will be participating in professional development activities on Monday, 10th and Monday, 17th February from 3:45 – 6:15 p.m. During this time staff will analyse the 2013 NAPLAN results identifying what is being taught well at St Joseph’s in Literacy and Numeracy and more importantly where we may be able to improve our teaching and learning practices. All staff members agree that these professional development activities will further enhance the fine educational opportunities already present here at St Joseph’s.

P & F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Our P & F AGM will be held at school on Tuesday, 18 February at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
School banking will commence next Tuesday, 4 February. Mrs Lorraine Hutchison is the agent for the CDF. All Kinder and new students to our school will receive an application to open an account with the CDF next week. If anyone else would like to start banking with the CDF please let Mrs Hodge know and she will give you an application.

LIBRARY
Library classes will commence next week and the timetable is as follows:
Tuesday: Kinder, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6.
Wednesday: Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5.
Each child must have a library bag. School library bags may be purchased from the school for $4.00 each. Mrs Kilby

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
The Active After School program provides our school children with a fun, free and safe introduction to sport after school. The program will commence this Tuesday, 4 February and continue on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:20 to 4:30 p.m. Children will be given a light afternoon tea followed by the physical activities. The children may wear their school uniform or change into casual clothes. The program will continue for seven weeks and will be held on our school grounds. Therefore we hope to see lots of children here on Tuesday for the beginning of Active After Schools. There is no cost incurred for this program.

PRIVATE VEHICLE CONVEYANCE SUBSIDY
A subsidy is available for students who travel by private vehicle from home to the bus stop. It is paid twice a year. Application forms can be obtained from the office.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
The school newsletter, the ‘About’, is sent home with the eldest child in each family every Thursday. Please make sure you ask for your ‘About’ each Thursday to enable you to keep informed about what’s happening at the school.

FAMILY INFORMATION/PERMISSION NOTE
Every child received a Family Information/Permission Note yesterday. These forms need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible. Please note a separate form must be completed for each child.

BUSINESS SPONSORED EXERCISE BOOKS
In recent years our school has been very lucky to receive a number of exercise books for use by the children free of charge due to the generosity of local business houses who in turn have an advertisement printed on the books. We would like to thank those businesses responsible for their support and we do ask if your child brings home one of these books to be covered, that they be covered in clear contact.

CANTENE
Our school canteen operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When your child is ordering his/her lunch, please include only the lunch order on the lunch bags. Any ‘extras’ like chips, ice blocks etc can be purchased by the children after lunch. For the benefit of new parents to our school this year, when ordering lunches please include on the lunch order your child’s name, class and the order. The lunch bag, together with money, is then placed in the basket in the classroom when the children arrive at school.

CANTENE VOLUNTEERS
Attached to today’s newsletter is a note for those who would like to help out on canteen this year. If we get enough helpers, it usually means helping only once a term from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. When we get all the notes back a roster will be prepared. If anyone can help out in the first couple of weeks, please let Mrs Hodge know.

NEW PRICE LIST
A new canteen menu and price list is with today’s newsletter. There have been a couple of price changes, so please destroy all previous canteen lists.

CRUNCH & SIP PROGRAM
Our ‘Crunch & Sip’ Program will continue this year in each classroom at 10:00 a.m. every day. At this time each class takes a five minute break in their class to have a drink of water and to eat some fruit. This is a voluntary activity and the water and fruit is brought from home. All fruit must be cut into bite-size pieces. Acceptable foods include apple, grapes, banana, carrots, celery sticks, sultanas, dried fruit, strawberries, cherry tomatoes. The purpose of this activity is to encourage healthy eating and to give the children an energy boost in the morning.

NO HAT, NO PLAY
If your child does not have a hat, he/she will not be permitted to play on the playground. Please dress your child in a maroon school hat. All classes have been distributed with sunscreen.

PICKING UP CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL
A SAFETY ISSUE
Just a reminder that when picking up children from school to
use the Wrigley Street entrance and not the Dudley Street entrance. The Dudley Street entrance is for buses only in the afternoon and it is too dangerous for children to be ducking between buses to leave school.

**THE DANCE ACADEMY**
The Dance Academy will be holding the 2014 enrolment day on Wednesday, 5 February at the Gilgandra Shire Hall between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. Ballet, Tap and Jazz classes will be offered to students aged 3 years and over. All ages and abilities welcome. For further information call 68451998 or 0439 895 804.

**WHAT’S ON IN TERM 1 (so far!)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 3 February</td>
<td>Swimming Heats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4 February</td>
<td>Swimming Heats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5 February</td>
<td>Active After Schools commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 6 February</td>
<td>Investiture Mass – Year 6 (K-6) – 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 7 February</td>
<td>Polding Summer Sports Trials – James O’Neill (basketball)</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 3 - Year 6 Reconciliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 February</td>
<td>Ball Working Bee – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11 February</td>
<td>Swimming Heats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12 February</td>
<td>House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 13 February</td>
<td>Sport for Kinder to Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 14 February</td>
<td>House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 16 February</td>
<td>No Sport</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 17 February</td>
<td>Ball Working Bee – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 18 February</td>
<td>P &amp; F AGM</td>
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<td>Friday, 21 February</td>
<td>Western Region Swimming Carnival – Coonamble (St Joey’s to host)</td>
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<th>WEEK 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 24 February</td>
<td>Ball Working Bee – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 27 February</td>
<td>Kinder Welcome Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, 28 February</td>
<td>Principals Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6 - Year 4 Reconciliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 3 March</td>
<td>Ball Working Bee – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4 March</td>
<td>Pancake Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5 March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass (K-6) 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<th>WEEK 7 - Year 5 Reconciliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 March</td>
<td>Ball Working Bee – 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12 March</td>
<td>Adaminical – School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 13 March</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 15 March</td>
<td>Ball</td>
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**WEEK 8 - Catholic Schools Week**
- Monday, 17 March: St Patrick’s Day Mass – Year 5 (Years 3-6) – 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 18 March: Grandparents Day
- Wednesday, 19 March: St Joseph’s Day – Mass (K-6) - 12:00 p.m. followed by celebrations at the pool
- Final active After Schools

**WEEK 9**
- Tuesday, 25 March: The Annunciation Mass – Year 3 (K-6) - 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, 28 March: NSW CPS Swimming – Homebush

**WEEK 10 - Year 3 Reconciliation**
- Friday, 4 April: School Photos
- Sunday, 6 April: Years 1 and 4 Sunday Mass – 9:45 a.m.

**WEEK 11**
- Monday, 7 April: School Photos
- Friday, 11 April: Last day Term 1
- Sunday, 13 April: Palm Sunday
- Friday, 18 April: Good Friday
- Sunday, 20 April: Easter Sunday

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER** A big welcome to all our Kindergarten children. It was wonderful to see so many family and friends at our school to start the new year. Yesterday we met our Year 6 buddies who showed us around the school and we spent time talking and playing with them. We have been practising the sign of the cross and had a lovely visit from Father Martin. Each week Kinder will have a sound focus. During the week the children can bring in something that starts with that sound and place it on the sound table. Our sound next week is ‘Aa’. It would be very handy if each child could bring in a painting shirt to wear during art and craft activities. Please make sure all your child’s belongings are clearly labelled to avoid any confusion. Thank you for your help and support. Miss Bourke & Mrs Newstead

**YEAR 1** Welcome back to the new school year. I hope everybody had a happy and restful holiday. Year 1 has spent this week settling into routine and revising English and Maths concepts from last year. We have also learnt a few new things. Our HISE topic for the beginning of this term is ‘Identifying Us’ so we have begun by discussing what makes us unique and creating a self-portrait. For Comprehension we read and discussed Bronwyn Bancroft’s “Why I Love Australia”. We then discussed and wrote about why we love Australia and created an artwork of the reasons why we love Australia. Miss Smith

**YEAR 2** It was lovely to see so many happy faces in Year 2 yesterday. Welcome everyone! The children have been sharing stories about their holiday adventures and it seems everyone has been very busy. In class we’ve started decorating our book covers and creating title pages. Books will be coming home to be covered. Please ensure they are returned to school the following day even if they are uncovered, so the children can work in them. We all enjoyed cooling off at the pool today and helping our new Kinder friends. Mrs Morris & Mrs Schier
**YEAR 3** Welcome back! I’ve heard many stories about lots of holiday fun and it seems everyone is excited to start the school year. We’ve started looking at descriptions in text types and we read a story about ‘Puck Wudgie’. In Maths we’ve learnt about addition facts and skip counting. Year 3 will be taking home their books on Friday to be covered. Please ensure all books are returned on Monday whether they are covered or not. I look forward to a fun and exciting year. *Mr Soares*

**YEAR 4** Welcome back everyone! It was great to see so many smiling faces yesterday. The Year 4 students look refreshed and ready for a big year. During the week we discussed our holiday adventures and began writing a recount of the past five weeks. We completed an activity, ‘All About Me’ and interviewed our classmates about their likes and dislikes. We worked on holiday pictures during Art. It was a great day for swimming today for sport and the heats for the upcoming swimming carnival begin next week. Books will be sent home during the next few weeks to be covered. Please ensure all books are returned to school on Monday even if time gets away on the weekend to get them all covered. Have a great weekend. *Miss Harvey*

**YEAR 5** Welcome back everyone to another year at Joeys. We were both super excited to see our Year 5 students on Wednesday and are looking forward to the adventures of 2014 ahead. This term is kicking off with a bang with us already working through writing our recounts about our holidays whilst in PDHPE we are investigating the topic ‘I Like Me’. We will also commence looking at NAPLAN style work to become more confident for this year’s testing. In the coming days students will be bringing home books to cover which need to be returned the next day so we can continue working in them. Swimming started today and with our swimming carnival just around the corner we are refining our brilliant swimming techniques. Homework will start next week and needs to be brought back to school every Friday. Bring on an exhilarating 2014 in Year 5! *Mr Keady & Mrs Colwell*

**YEAR 6** Our first few days back to school have started with lots of smiles and enthusiasm. Year 6 students greeted their buddies on Wednesday morning and have enjoyed getting to know them and help them settle in. Year 6 has written some goals for 2014 and it was wonderful to read the mature and reflective responses from our leaders. We have started preparations for our Investiture Mass and are working hard to learn the “Leader’s Pledge” off by heart. We look forward to this special celebration next Thursday. *Mrs Banks & Mrs Thomas*

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
Friday, 31 January – Claudina Ryan & Katherine Gaff  
Monday, 3 February – Volunteers required  
Wednesday, 5 February – Volunteers required  
Friday, 7 February – Volunteers required

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**
Sunday, 2 February - Tobey Creenaune, James O’Neill, Kyle Welsh, Georgia Horan

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**2014 KINDERGARTEN/YEAR 6 BUDDIES**

- **Tia Allan** to **Maddie Eason**
- **Eva Bonnington** to **Georgia Horan**
- **Carter Chapman** to **Isaac Frost/Sebastian Jackson**
- **Tahleigh Davey** to **Matilda Cruickshank**
- **Beatie Davis** to **Liberty Barden**
- **Rani Diamond** to **Charlotte Banks**
- **Sam Dunn** to **Kelly Anforth/Daimon Horne**
- **Blake Fairley** to **James O’Neill**
- **Alex Gaff** to **Liberty Barden**
- **Declan Gale** to **Matthew Ferguson/Spencer McIntosh**
- **Kimbalee Gilmour** to **Georgia Horan**
- **Taylor Hayes** to **Montana McGrath**
- **Sienna Horne** to **Kayla Bonus-Stauber**
- **Rhyan Hutchison** to **John Raglus/Brock Johnston**
- **Michael Ibe** to **Mitchell Gaff/Jack Bonus-Stauber**
- **Grace Jones-Copelin** to **Harriet Beveridge**
- **Nick Kirsop** to **John Spora**
- **Ethan Morris** to **Kyle Welsh**
- **Alison Mudford** to **Grace Lummis**
- **Ella Mudford** to **Georgia Horan**
- **Indi Murphy** to **Harriet Beveridge**
- **Molly Nichols** to **Charlotte Banks**
- **Lilla Oehm** to **Harriet Beveridge**
- **Emmie Peart** to **Caitlin Spora**
- **Henry Purvis** to **Deklyn Lummis**
- **Jessie Riley** to **Shari Grimshaw**
- **Rachel Ryan** to **Maddie Eason**
- **Miah Scott** to **Liberty Barden**
- **Millie Spora** to **Caitlin Spora**
- **Taylor Statham** to **Shari Grimshaw**
- **Isabella Townsend** to **Kayla Bonus-Stauber**
- **Rydah Whitehouse** to **Noah Ryan**
- **Jordan Wighton** to **Tobey Creenaune**
- **Brooke Woollams** to **Montana McGrath**
- **Charlie Zell** to **Mitchell Carlow**
- **Sienna Zell** to **Grace Lummis**
- **Trinity Zell** to **Matilda Cruickshank**