STUDENT LEADERS’ INVESTITURE MASS
It was a wonderful celebration at Mass on Tuesday morning when we joined with our Year 6 leaders as they received their leaders’ badges. We thank Mr Stephen Horan who gave a wonderful address regarding what’s needed to be a successful leader. Congratulations to our Year 6 class and we all look forward to working with them as they lead us through 2015.

School Captains: Martin Fryers & Olivia Newstead
Vice Captains: James Kildey & Alexandra Beveridge

Minister for the Environment: Harry Spora
Minister for Communications: Grace Alchin
Minister for Health: Lachlan Fairey
Minister for Catering: Zoe Welsh

TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This year’s twilight swimming carnival will be held next FRIDAY, 13 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 ($4.00), sausage rolls ($3.00), hot dogs ($3.00), hot chips - small ($3.00), medium ($4.00), large ($6.00), pizzas ($2.60), munchies (20¢) and fish cocktails (50¢). 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 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. Thank you to all those who have offered to help. If you would still like to help, it’s not too late, just send in your form that was with last week’s catalogue for each Book Club issue. There will be a better selection for students and one order form and one payment making it easier when ordering. Please ensure that each order form has your child's name and class on it. I often receive orders with no name or class which makes tracking down the child extremely difficult. Issue 1 Book Club order must be in no later than Friday, 13th February.

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!

SPORT NEXT TUESDAY
As mentioned in last week’s About, due to the high school swimming carnival being held next Thursday, 12 February, all our students, Kinder to Year 6, will have sport next Tuesday, 10 February NOT Thursday, 12 February. As the swimming carnival will be held next Friday, the children will need to wear their sports uniform on Friday and may wear either their sports uniform or school uniform next Tuesday, 10 February. All children will go to the pool for sport next Tuesday.

SWIMMING HEATS
Heats for the length of the pool races for children in Years 2-6 commenced this week and will continue tomorrow, next Monday and Tuesday. 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. The Western Region Swimming Carnival will be held in Coonamble on Thursday, 26 February.

BALL WORKING BEE
There are always lots of jobs in the lead up to the ball and working bees will now be held each Saturday prior to the ball, commencing this Saturday, 7 February from 9:00 a.m. If anyone has some sharp material scissors, could you please bring them with you. Even if you can only spare an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated. So please try and be part of this wonderful fundraiser.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The staff will be participating in professional development activities on Monday, 9th and Monday, 16th February from 3:45 – 6:15 p.m. During this time staff will analyse the 2014 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.

BULLDOGS VISIT
Next Monday afternoon we will be getting a visit from players from the Canterbury Bulldogs rugby league team at 2:00 p.m. We thank Daniel Swan from the NRL for organising this visit.

LIBRARY NEWS
Book Club has changed this year with each child receiving only one catalogue for each Book Club issue. There will be a better selection for students and one order form and one payment making it easier when ordering. Please ensure that each order form has your child's name and class on it. I often receive orders with no name or class which makes tracking down the child extremely difficult. Issue 1

Mrs Kilby (Librarian)
P & F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Our P & F AGM will be held at school on Tuesday, 17 February at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CANTEEN
We are still a little short of canteen helpers for this year. If you could give just one day a term to help on the canteen, that would be fantastic. If you can help, please let Mrs Hodge know.

BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS
It has been six weeks since road users have had to remember to slow down and look out for children around schools and forgetfulness and complacency can affect us all after an extended break. Drivers and riders should allow for children who may act unpredictably on the road as uncertainty and excitement over the new school year overrides otherwise sensible behaviour. Please remember to abide by School Zone speed limits of 40 km/h from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the mornings and 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. in the afternoons. Parents are also reminded to brush up on their safe parking skills around schools when dropping off and collecting their children.

WHAT’S ON

WEEK 2 - Year 6 Reconciliation
Monday, 9 February - Swimming Heats – 1 – 2 p.m.
- NRL Bulldogs Visit – 2:00 – 3:00 pm.
- Staff NAPLAN Analysis 3:45 – 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 February - Sport
- House Meetings
Wednesday, 11 February - House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 12 February - House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, 13 February - Principals’ Meeting
- Twilight Swimming Carnival
- Polding Summer Sports Trials back-up date
Saturday, 14 February - Ball Working Bee – 9:00 am.

WEEK 3 - Year 6 Reconciliation
Monday, 9 February - Polding Summer Sports Trials – Zoe Welsh
- Swimming Heats – 1 – 2 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 February - Sport
- House Meetings
Wednesday, 11 February - House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 12 February - House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, 13 February - Principals’ Meeting
- Twilight Swimming Carnival
- Polding Summer Sports Trials back-up date
Saturday, 14 February - Ball Working Bee – 9:00 am.

WEEK 4 - Year 4 Reconciliation
Monday, 16 February - Staff NAPLAN Analysis 3:45 – 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, 17 February - Pancake Tuesday
- P & F AGM
Wednesday, 18 February - Ash Wednesday Mass – (K-6)
- 10:30 a.m.
Friday, 20 February - IT Contacts Meeting
Saturday, 21 February - Ball Working Bee – 9:00 am.

WEEK 5
Tuesday, 24 February - REC Meeting
Thursday, 26 February - Principals Meeting
- Western Region Swimming Carnival - Coonamble
Friday, 27 February - Principals Meeting
- Clean Up Australia Day
Saturday, 28 February - Ball Working Bee – 9:00 am.
Sunday, 1 March - Years 1 and 4 Sunday Mass – 9:45 a.m.

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS
KINDER
This week Kindergarten started homework. It consists of a reader being read each night. Each day the children will also read to the teacher. If there are any questions, please ask. Also the children were given their day for News. News happens every day and gives the children an opportunity to speak about a topic known to them. We have been learning about the sound ‘Aa’ and practised writing the uppercase and lower case ‘A’ in our book. Our sound for next week is ‘Mm’, so please keep an eye out for anything at home that begins with this letter and send it in to put on the sound table. We have started our HSIE topic ‘School Days’ and discussed as a class what is a school and how we can make St Joseph’s a happy and safe place. There were a lot of great ideas shared amongst the children. Also this week we have started Art, so could all children bring in a paint shirt with their name on it please. The Kinder children were excited to celebrate to join with the rest of the school on Tuesday to celebrate the Year 6 Investiture Mass and to see their buddies receive their badges. Take care.

Miss Belinda Bourke

YEAR 1
It has been a busy week and Year 1 has been working hard and getting back into school routine. On Tuesday we all celebrated a lovely Mass, as Year 6 received their leadership badges. Congratulations Year 6! In Maths we worked on counting patterns, 2D shapes and focusing on the concept of halving objects. Mrs Colwell introduced the new Science unit ‘Up, Down And All Around’ and in HSIE we discussed belonging to different groups including our family and school. The spelling focus has been on blends – ‘fl’, ‘sl’, ‘cl’ and ‘pl’. Maths Mentals will go home for homework next week. Thank you to all the parents who have covered books. It is much appreciated. Have a great weekend everyone.

Mrs Alison Newshead & Miss Lisa Harvey

YEAR 2
Congratulations Year 6 on a beautiful Investiture Mass on Tuesday. We look forward to you leading us in 2015. In class we’ve started our Religion unit, ‘In God’s Image’ and also our HSIE unit, ‘The Way We Were’. In Maths we practised addition, halves and 2D shapes. Thank you to the parents who have covered and returned books. We will send uncovered books home again on Friday to be returned on Monday. Mrs Mechelle Schier & Mrs Melinda Morris

YEAR 3
Thank you Year 6 for such a lovely Mass on Tuesday. It’s great to have our new school leaders. Year 3 has continued to work very hard this week. In Writing we have written a description about our class pet – Year 3 decided to name him ‘Octopuppy’. In Religion we have made our own creations out of playdough and they look great! Our Maths activities led us to learn about three-dimensional objects, centimetres and subtraction. In Grammar we have been learning about common nouns. In Comprehension we have read an interesting text titled “Max’s Idea”. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Damien Soares

YEAR 4
Thank you Year 6 for the wonderful Mass you prepared for us on Tuesday. It was fantastic to see you receive your leader badges and duty statements and we hope to follow your fabulous example this year. In Grammar our focus has been on clauses and we have identified the independent and dependent clauses in a variety of complex sentences. We have continued our work on recounts and have explored their purpose, structure and language features. Mrs Colwell will be taking the class on Mondays for Science and our unit this term is ‘Heating Up’. In HSIE we mapped the voyage of The Endeavor from Plymouth in England to Botany Bay. Our artwork this week is a watercolour landscape. Miss Phillipa Smith

YEAR 5
Week Two is nearly done and dusted! As we settle into the routines of Year 5 this week we have been looking at ways to improve our narrative writing using adjectives. In Maths we have been taking the time to look at angles and strategies for addition and subtraction. Congratulations to Year 6 on a wonderful Investiture Mass on Tuesday – we are really looking forward to you leading us this year. Well done to all of the students who have given of their best in the swimming heats this week. Have a great weekend.

Mr Tim Kennedy

YEAR 6
Our Year 6 leaders are very proud of their new shiny badges. Mr Horan, our guest speaker really inspired us to take on the challenge of leadership and to always ‘Give Of Our Best’. In between swimming, doing our jobs and looking after our buddies, we have been working hard in Maths using protractors and revising various multiplication strategies. In English we have been enjoying reading our class novel “Stormbreaker” and completing our daily five minute Power Writing challenge. We are all looking forward to the swimming carnival next week.

Mrs Dominica Banks & Mrs Nikola Thomas

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday, 6 February – Kerrie Altus & Leanne Gilmour
Monday, 9 February – Sally Temple & Rachel Kirsop
Wednesday, 11 February – Nikki Church & Briony Mills
Friday, 13 February – Paula Purvis & Mel Phillips

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER
Sunday, 8 February - Martin Fryers, Matthew Ferguson, Olivia Newstead, Montana McGrath