HAPPY, HOLY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS
As this is the last About for the year I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has supported our school during the year. School resumes for all students on Wednesday, 29 January.

FAREWELL MRS LARKIN
It is with great sadness that we farewell Mrs Larkin who is retiring this year. For the past 14 1/2 years Heather has been an outstanding teacher and leader. We are truly amazed at her untiring work ethic and enthusiasm. Heather shows so much love and compassion towards all members of the school community and has done everything in her power to ensure all the children in her care have received a thorough education. St Joseph’s School is a far better place for having had Heather Larkin as part of its family and we all wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement because, Heather you have earned it!

CWA MACQUARIE GROUP PROJECTS
Congratulations to those Years 5 and 6 students whose CWA projects went to the Macquarie Group for the next level of judging. A special mention to Harriet Beveridge who gained first place for her poster, Matthew Ferguson who was second in the poster section and Olivia Gale who came second in the booklet section. Carissa Harrison-Reid, Grace Lunnis and Caitlin Spora were highly commended. Well done to these students for their outstanding projects.

K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – Tonight, Thursday, 12 December
Gilgandra High School Hall 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
All students are invited to our school social to be held at the Gilgandra High School Hall tonight from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Parents are most welcome to stay or to leave their children at the social and collect them at 9:00 p.m.

SCHOOL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS
The children’s end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home tomorrow, Friday, 13 December.

YEAR 6 PICNIC – Tomorrow, Friday, 13 December
Our Year 6 students are sure to have lots of fun at the Dubbo Waterslide and tenpin bowling tomorrow. This outing is the school’s way of saying thank you to our Year 6 student leaders for leading our school so well this year. We thank you for ‘Giving Of Your Best’ and may God bless you.

LIBRARY NEWS
Next week I will be conducting the library stocktake. If your child has outstanding books could you please ensure they are returned this week.

MRS KILBY
LAST DAY OF TERM – Wednesday, 18 December

END OF YEAR MASS AND PRESENTATIONS
MONDAY, 16 December
Children are to wear full summer uniform and the format will be as follows:
5:45 p.m. Students assemble in school square.
6:00 p.m. Mass and Year 6 Graduation Ceremony in St Joseph’s Church
7:00 p.m. Supper in St Joseph’s School grounds. Please bring a plate
8:00 p.m. Presentations at Gilgandra High School Hall.
All students are expected to attend both the Mass and Presentations.

POOL PARTIES – Tuesday, 17 December
All classes will have their annual pool party next Tuesday, 17 December. Children should bring a plate of party food to share and those children in Years 3-6, their Kristkindle present. Children from Kinder to Year 2 will be having a special Christmas visitor who I’m sure will brighten their day. They may even receive a little gift. CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM AND BRING THEIR SWIMMERS NEXT TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER.

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Thursday, 19 December Penitential Rite 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 24 December Tooraweenah 6:00 p.m.
Gilgandra 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 25 December Gulargambone 8:00 a.m.
Gilgandra 9:45 a.m.
If any of the children would like to join in the entrance procession for the Christmas Eve Mass, please let Mrs Banks know.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN HUNTER PARK
A wonderful evening was enjoyed on Sunday night singing Christmas Carols in Hunter Park. A terrific group of children from our school performed two songs, “It’s Christmas Time” and “The Irish Blessing”. They certainly ‘Gave Of Their Best’ and sang beautifully. Thank you to the organisers for inviting our school to participate in such a lovely community event.

NO CANTEN
There will be no canteen next Monday or Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our canteen volunteers who have manned the canteen this year. It is a wonderful service our P & F provides for the families of our school and it couldn’t happen without your help.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS
Monday, 16 December – So the children’s uniforms are clean for the Mass and Presentations.
Wednesday, 18 December – Last day of school.
CLEANING! CLEANING! CLEANING!  
As next Wednesday is the last day of term for the students there will be lots of cleaning. If any family or friends are able to help it would be great. We’ll start at 9:00 a.m. and finish by 2:00 p.m. If you can spare any time between 5 minutes and 5 hours, come along! Jobs include scrubbing desks and chairs, dusting and general cleaning.

ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL YEAR BOOK  
Just a reminder that the school year books will be available after Mass next Monday evening. All Year 6 students will receive a book as a farewell gift and there will be a book available for each family in the school. A huge thank you to Michelle Woollam and her helper, Mel Phillips for the tremendous amount of work that has once again gone into the year book.

CONGRATULATIONS PAIGE  
Congratulations to ex-student Paige Wilson who last week came second in the Girls Under 16 High Jump at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships held in Townsville. Paige jumped an amazing 1.73m. An outstanding performance. Well done Paige.

LITTLE ATHLETICS  
For this week only, Little A’s will be held on Friday at 5:30 p.m. plus a sausage sizzle and NOT THURSDAY.

MERIT AWARDS  
Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday:  
KINDER: Casey Gaff and Fletcher Jackson for their kind ways towards others, Nick Gale, Lucy McIsaac and Harry Mudford for reverence and participation during prayer, Ben Harland for great participation in singing, Paige Gilmour for her enthusiasm during singing, Mattea Purvis for excellent singing and being enthusiastic and Ava Meyers, Rian Diggs and William Fuller for their efforts in singing.

YEAR 1: Kyzack Corcoran for listening well during swimming lessons, Jade Elsom for always doing her best to produce quality work, Dylen Murray for his thoughtful questions during news, Isaac Grimshaw for his positive attitude when completing set tasks, Ry Heffer for working hard to produce his best work and Jack Oehm for his positive attitude to all classwork.

YEAR 2: Bradley Kilday and Zac Ferguson for superb job applications to be Santa’s reindeer. Rani Diggs and William Fuller for trying hard in swimming lessons, Harrison King for contributing interesting facts to class discussions and Tayarna McKenzie for working hard to complete set tasks.

YEAR 3: Billie Buckland for being a thoughtful and cooperative class member, Charlie Banks for his efforts in completing all tasks as best he can with a broken arm, Olivia Ferguson for working conscientiously in all subjects, Jett Grimshaw for great work in Maths, Aliza Purvis for reading with great expression and Kaitlyn Norris for always ‘Giving of Her Best’.  
YEAR 4: Alex Beveridge, Lauchlan Bash and Emilie Hassall for great group work when writing about the excursion, Harry Spora and Zoe Welsh for a fantastic writing effort of discussions and recounts and Sinead Sutton for terrific work in Grammar and Spelling.

YEAR 5: Montana McGrath and Noah Ryan for always being willing to contribute to class discussions, Spencer McIntosh for fantastic work in writing a book review and Isaac Frost for a fantastic effort in our Maths Challenge.

YEAR 6: Toby Cruickshank for writing a terrific narrative, Loki Ryan for welcoming Mr Humphries to our school, Jack Evans for writing a terrific narrative, Mikaela Sandford for giving Mr Humphries a great vote of thanks and Henry Johnson for an enthusiastic approach to writing narratives.

WHAT’S ON  
WEEK 10  
Thursday, 12 December - Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30 for 6:00 p.m.  
- Social – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 13 December  
- Year 6 Picnic – Dubbo  
- Infants swimming ends  
- Reports and Portfolios home

WEEK 11  
Monday, 16 December - End of Year Mass and Presentations – 6:00 p.m.  
- NO CANTEEN

Tuesday, 17 December  
- Pool Parties  
- St John’s Orientation Day  
- NO CANTEEN

Wednesday, 18 December  
- Last day Term 4

2014 TERM 1 WEEK 1  
Tuesday, 28 January - Teachers Resume  
Wednesday, 29 January - Students Resume

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS  
KINDER  
This week has been another great and busy time for our Kindergarten children. We revised all our sounds and sight words that we have learnt this year. We wrote our own personal letters to Santa and hope he replies soon. We had the opportunity to entertain our friends at Coocoo Lodge with some beautiful Christmas carols. This week a lot of art and books will be coming home, so if you can put a plastic bag in tomorrow for your child’s things it would be very much appreciated. Kindergarten will also finish their swimming lessons tomorrow and I hope they have really enjoyed this experience and have learnt a lot. We have been busy learning new dances and moves to enjoy at the social tonight. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish Kindergarten all the very best for 2014. I wish all Kindergarten families a very happy and safe Christmas. Take care.  

Miss Bourke

YEAR 1  
Year 1 has had a fantastic year. They have all worked hard and this can be seen in their achievements. A big thank you goes to all the students, parents and carers for all their efforts and help. This week has been filled with revision, swimming and dance practice for the social. We have been revising a variety of sounds in Spelling and common and proper nouns in Grammar. For Maths we have revised subtraction using a number line, adding money, number patterns and following directions. Some of the dances we have learnt include the Barn Dance, the Heel and Toe, the Nutbush, Ballin’ the Jack, Mexican Hat Dance and the Log Cabin. Have a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas!  

Miss Smith & Mrs Thomas

YEAR 2  
This year has raced by and it’s hard to believe we’ve reached the end of Term 4 and the end of infants schooling for Year 2! A big thank you to the mums who have helped with reading this year – it was really appreciated. During this week we have read stories about Advent, completed some Christmas Maths activities and read a play entitled “Santa’s Lost Hat”. Our swimming abilities have improved greatly through our intensive swimming lessons. We also have been practising our dances for tonight’s social which will be so much fun! We wish you all a very happy, holy and safe Christmas. God bless you.  

Mrs Larkin & Mrs Newton

YEAR 3  
This year has just flown and it is hard to believe how quickly Year 3 has grown up and will now be heading into Year 4. We have enjoyed spending our days with all of your children and we thank you for all of your support during the year. This week we have been finishing off units of work and happily completing Christmas craft. In Religion we have been working hard to finish off our ‘Advent to Christmas’ topic. We will try and hear everyone’s Christmas wishes in ‘News’ this week. Have a delightful Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.  

Mr Soares & Mrs Morris

YEAR 4  
I can’t believe the school year is just about over. Everyone is excited about tonight’s social and the class pool parties next week. Please bring in your KK presents by Monday. Farewell to our Year 6 leaders – you have done yourselves proud and we wish you all the best next year as you journey on to high school. Thank you to all the parents for your help and support throughout the year – it has been greatly appreciated. Finally to Year 4 – it has been a wonderful year. I’m so fortunate to have had such an enthusiastic and terrific group of children with which to work. It’s been a pleasure to teach you. I hope you all had as much fun as I did and take away great memories of your time in Year 4. Merry Christmas and have a well deserved break.

Mrs Bray

Year 5, what a year! Year 5 is very excited about the social tonight. We certainly have some groovy moves to show. Yesterday we thoroughly enjoyed the Sydney Excursion Expo. It was great to see all the highlights from our fantastic trip. This week Year 5 has been writing about their favourite memories from the past twelve months. There certainly has been a lot of highlights throughout the year. Next week we look forward to our presentation night and pool party on Tuesday. We have also been trying hard to do something extra special for our KK this week. Don’t forget all KK presents should be in by Friday. Thank you Year 5 for being such a wonderful class to work with this year. We have all had lots of laughs and you will all make sensational school leaders in 2014. Have a happy, safe and holy holiday and we look forward to seeing you in 2014. Merry Christmas!  

Mr Keady & Mrs Colwell

YEAR 6  
is enjoying their final days at St Joseph’s and they are to be congratulated on the way they have continued to work hard and give of their best. In Maths we have looked at percentages, revisited our long division skills and discussed various strategies to justify solutions to problems. Yesterday, we had an excellent morning at the Peer Support session at Gilgandra High School. We thank the Year 10 students for organising the activities that will help us next year. It was great to relive the excitement of our excursion at the Sydney Expo yesterday. A big thank you to all Year 6 for such a wonderful year and we wish you all the best as you take the next step in your life journey. Have a happy, holy and safe Christmas!  

Mrs Banks & Mrs Schier

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER  
Sunday, 15 December – Jasper Schembri, Ruby Schembri, Montana McGrath, Deklynn Lumnis