YEARS 4 EXHILARATING EXCURSION

The Year 4 students, parents and teachers had a fabulous time last Thursday and Friday at the Wellington Caves and Burrendong Dam. The touring party first visited the Western Plains Cultural Centre where they inspected the centre and then got to do some great art activities. Then it was off to the Wellington Caves and Phosphate Mine. The Cathedral Cave was splendid and the mine was so interesting. Following these guided tours the group visited the Japanese Garden and Bottle House before looking into the motel accommodation at the caves. After a tiring day everyone enjoyed a refreshing swim, tea and spectacular concert, before bed. The next day the group was up bright and early for another big day. The giant chimes were the first stop, followed by the intriguing Fern Gully, a visit and talk at the spillway and then fun on the Dubbo Waterslide. What a great excursion. Many thanks to Mrs Bray for ensuring this was a most successful and enjoyable excursion, to the parents, Melissa Welsh, Natasha Banks, Christine McCarthy, Paul Alchin, Hugh Beveridge, James Hassall, Luke Godber, Andrew Newstead, Peter Gaff and Michael Spora for their fabulous help and to the children who represented the school so well.

EXCURSION SNIPPET

Wow! Collaroy Beach was awesome. We loved our surf lessons and we learnt about lots of things including rips and how to save people in the surf. We played volleyball and flags, which made it an amazing experience. Seeing blue bottle jellyfish topped off our visit. Charlotte Banks, Shari Grimshaw

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN HUNTER PARK

Come and celebrate coming together as a community at Carols in the Park on Sunday, 8 December at Hunter Park at 6:30 p.m. Bring a chair or rug, bring your carols sheet. Free sausage sizzle and other goodies.

Our school has been invited to perform an item at the carols. If you would like your child/ren to be part of our choir please come along on Sunday evening. The more the merrier! We will meet in Hunter Park at 6:30 p.m. and the carols start at 7:00 p.m.

KINDER COOEY LODGE VISIT

Kinder will be spreading some Christmas cheer next Tuesday, 10 December as they visit Coee Lodge. We’re sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

VISIT BY MR HUMPHRIES

Our Year 6 leaders are very much looking forward to a visit from State Member of Parliament, Mr Kevin Humphries tomorrow. It is a fitting tribute to our outstanding 2013 leaders that they should have this opportunity to meet our local member.

EXCURSION SNIPPET

Our favourite place to visit on the Sydney excursion would have to have been Mary MacKillop Place Museum. The chapel was absolutely amazing! We all loved the detailed exhibitions about Mary’s life. Harriet Beveridge, Grace Lunnis, Georgia Horan

GHS PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

The Year 6 students have been invited by Gilgandra High School to their peer support activity to be held next Wednesday, 11 December in the Gilgandra High School Hall from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Students will walk to the high school. Kinder to Year 2 will be having a special Christmas visitor who I’m sure

YEARS 5/6 SYDNEY EXCURSION EXPO

Everyone is invited to relive the thrills and spills of our Years 5/6 Sydney Excursion at our expo to be held in the school hall at 2:00 p.m. next Wednesday, 11 December. Come along and watch the DVD, peruse the photos and browse through the booklets.

EXCURSION SNIPPET

Sydney Tower is the tallest tower in Australia. If the fifty-six cables on the tower were put together from end to end they would reach from Sydney to Alice Springs or from Sydney to New Zealand! What an awesome view! Brook Bonus-Straub and Mikaela Sandford

KRISTKINDLE

Kristkindle is a German Christmas custom which means ‘Christ Child’. This custom helps us prepare during Advent for the coming of the Christ Child by seeing him and serving him in others. In the spirit of Christmas every child in Years 3-6 will be given the name of one of their classmates. Until the end of the year each child is asked to be extra kind to their Kristkindle by leaving little notes and surprises, helping and caring for them, but not telling them who they are. Also each child is asked to bring in a small gift, no more than $5.00 in value, with their KK’s name on it to be handed out at our pool parties during the last week of term. The important thing about Christmas is not the gifts but the way we treat one another. The children in Kinder to Year 2 are expected to care for one another and there will also be a little surprise for them at the pool party.

LEAVING FAMILIES BBQ

Those families leaving St Joseph’s this year are invited to our Leaving Families BBQ to be held next Thursday, 12 December at 5:30 for 6:00 p.m. in the school grounds. This is our way of saying thank you to those families for their involvement with the school over the years. So bring the family for tea and please feel free to stay on while the children go off to the social. For catering purposes please RSVP to the school on 68472828 by tomorrow, Friday 6 December.

K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – 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 next Thursday, 12 December 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 next Friday, 13 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. If children are unable to attend, could you please advise your child’s class teacher as your child may be receiving an award.

POOL PARTIES – Tuesday, 17 December

All classes will have their annual pool party on 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
will brighten their day. They may even receive a little gift. 

CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM AND BRING THEIR SWIMMERS ON TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER.

EXCURSION SNIPPET

We enjoyed our visit to Katoomba on the way to Sydney. We especially liked the railway although the cableway and skyway were also enjoyable. The formation of the Three Sisters was an amazing view. We recommend that everyone should go see for themselves. Kyle Welsh, John Spora, Noah Ryan

SCHOOL BANKING

Next week will be the last week for school banking. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hutchison for her time and effort and ensuring school banking is available to our students.

WHS

Our school WHS Management Plan has been completed and a copy sent to the Catholic Education Office. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should contact the school office.

CALTEX ‘STARS OF THE WEEK’

We thank Caltex for sponsoring our ‘Star of the Week’ Awards. The ‘Stars of the Week’ this week were Ryley Smith, Emma Westwood, Tylah Anforth, Emily Skinner, Olivia Newstead, Charlotte Banks and Tom Flannery.

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday: KINDER: Jasmine Zell for consistent effort in reading, Bethany Earsman for excellent input during class discussions, Jett Tarrant for always striving to improve, Ryan Ferguson for effort in writing and Ben Storling for consistent effort in number work. YEAR 1: Emily Zell for being a marvellous mathematician, Camilla Beveridge for being a diligent and conscientious student, Oscar Spora for being a good listener and contributing to class discussions and Layney Godber for being a super speller. YEAR 2: Jacob Harland and Sophie Hassall for creating wonderful treasure island maps, Will Gaff for being a great listener and Bradley Gibson, Max Cruickshank, Jessica Scholte, Laura Farragher and Bob McEwen for creating wonderful desert pictures. YEAR 3: Hamish Beveridge for completing all tasks to a high standard, James Ferguson for excellent work in Maths Operations, Olivia Schier for consistent effort in reading, Ella McAnally-Elwin for achievement in Comprehension and Tyler Evans for improving in all areas of Maths. YEAR 4: Darren Doherty for wonderful improvement in Reading and Maths, Julia Cusack for always trying her best in Maths, Rebecca Gaff for beautiful publishing of a discussion about class pets and William Sandford for improved work habits in class. YEAR 5: Matthew Ferguson for consistent effort in all Key Learning Areas, Daimon Horne for always willing to be involved in all classroom activities and Brock Johnston for always striving to improve. YEAR 6: Olivia Gale for being a conscientious member of Year 6, Brook Bonus-Straub for working quietly and diligently in Spelling and Kiarna Diggs for a wonderful clay creation in Art.

WHAT’S ON

WEEK 9 – Year 6 Reconciliation

Sunday, 3 December – Christmas Carols in Hunter Park

WEEK 10

Tuesday, 10 December – Kinder Christmas Visit to Cooeec Lodge 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, 11 December – GHS Year 6 Peer Support – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, 12 December – Sydney Excursion Expo – 2:00 pm

Friday, 13 December – Infants Swimming ends

WEEK 11

Monday, 16 December – End of Year Mass and Presentations

Tuesday, 17 December – Pool Parties

Wednesday, 18 December – Last day Term 4

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

KINDER

This week has been a great week for our Kindergarten children. We have been learning how to add ‘ing’ to words so they become a new word. We have even written some of these in our stories and our Sentence A Day. During Maths we have been focusing on revision and finishing our Maths book. Today Kindergarten entertained the elderly at the MPS Windmill Cottage. The students sang some Christmas carols with their Santa hats on. The audience was certainly happy to hear the students and see their happy faces. Also we have been busy learning from our swimming instructors and having a great time whilst learning some safe water skills. Miss Bourke

YEAR 1 has had a terrific time down at the pool this week learning to swim. In the classroom we have been working hard revising sounds in Spelling and brainstorming proper nouns for Grammar. In text types we have written a recount of our weekend and are practising writing opening statements for expositions. During Maths we have been revising concepts such as addition, subtraction, reading calendars and quarters. Year 1 has also spent this week learning dances for our upcoming social. I hope you have a lovely weekend and come back refreshed for another week of swimming. Have a great weekend.

Miss Smith & Mrs Thomas

YEAR 2 began their week with a reflection about Advent. We talked about it being a time to ‘get ready’ for the coming of baby Jesus. We completed a fun booklet all about reindeers and wrote a job application to Santa for the position of reindeer sleigh driver! In Maths we have been revising addition and subtraction facts and sketching a bird’s eye view of buildings. The simile is our Grammar focus this week and we are all ‘as keen as mustard’ to create some of our own. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Larkin & Mrs Newstead

YEAR 3 Yesterday in Maths we learnt how to draw a plan. First we drew a bird’s eye view of items on our desk which proved quite easy. Then we had to draw a plan of our house. This proved tricky as we struggled with size ratios and layout. The children all enjoyed the activity but we have no architects just yet! For Art we sewed some Christmas stocking ornaments. At first many children thought they couldn’t sew but after starting, surprised themselves and were quite pleased with their finished products. In Religion we’ve been praying for Addi from St Laurence’s in Dubbo who is very sick and we have also written our own prayers.

Mr Soares & Mrs Morris

YEAR 4 Tired, exhausted, smiling and happy – that’s how Year 4 (and Mrs Bray) arrived back to Joey’s last Friday after a fantastic excursion to Wellington Caves and Burrendong. The children are to be commended on their terrific school spirit and excellent behaviour during the trip. A HUGE thank you to all the mums and dads who helped out in so many ways on the excursion. Year 4 would also like to thank Mr Mus for his tour guiding and water bombing efforts that helped to make the excursion so much fun! This week we completed a paired recount writing task about the excursion and will be publishing them next week. In Maths we revised decimals using multiplication and division, millilitres and litres as well as extended multiplication strategies. Have a wonderful weekend – not many weeks of school left to go! Mrs Bray

YEAR 5 has been super busy this week with everyone putting on their dancing shoes in preparation for the upcoming social. In the classroom we have been exploring metaphors once again whilst in Maths we have been looking at diagonals and finding the mean of a class. In Religion we have started our Advent unit by reflecting on the Advent wreath and its meaning. Our class pets and sector graphs. During Religion we have started our Advent unit by reflecting on the Advent wreath and its meaning. Our art activities have also taken on a Christmas theme, which we are all thoroughly enjoying.

Mrs Banks & Mrs Schier

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday, 6 December – Mel Phillips & Rochelle Godber

Monday, 9 December – Kerry Gale & Danielle Diggs

Wednesday, 11 December – Nikki Church & Emma Meyers

Friday, 13 December – Christine Harland & Katherine Gaff

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

Sunday, 8 December – Kyle Welsh, Henry Johnson, Caitlin Spora, James O’Neill