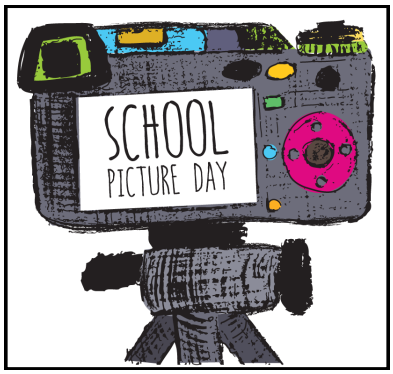

St Joseph's School Uralla Newsletter

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1 DEC 2021
TERM 4 WEEK 9

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents

End of Year Reports

End of year reports will be going home with our students this Friday. Please note that these reports reflect this semester's learning. With the COVID interruptions and the online learning, schools were directed by NESA to prioritise the outcomes and focus on those we could confidently assess at a school level. We focused on English (all strands), Maths (Number and Measurement strands) and RE. You will see this reflected in your child's reports. NESA has given an exemption regarding the outcomes that could not be assessed due to COVID.

If you have any questions about these reports, or would like to chat with your child's teacher about your child, please ring the school to make an appointment.

Year 6 Graduation and Presentation of Awards

Due to COVID restrictions we will be unable to hold our Annual Presentation Night in its usual format with all our families and guests. Instead, we will be holding a daytime Presentation to which we will invite the Year 6 parents only. This event will be held at 10:00am on Tuesday 7th December in the Primary Learning Studio. These parents will be required to be double vaccinated and will need to observe all the usual COVID protocols – checking in with the QR code, wearing of masks, hand hygiene etc. The Year 6 parents will be invited to present various awards on behalf of our usual sponsors.

We will not be able to hold a Mass as in previous years, but we will commence our celebrations with a paraliturgy and candle ceremony for the graduates. At the conclusion of the event, Mrs Finlayson and I will take the Year 6 students out for lunch. Permission notes have been sent home with the Year 6 students today.

School Photos Day

Our re-scheduled school photos day will be held **next Wednesday 8 December**. Due to COVID restrictions these photos will be taken outdoors. No group shots will be taken (other than siblings' photos). Each student will be photographed individually and then compiled in a composite photo for the Class and Whole School photos.

Please ensure that all your orders and payments are back at school by Monday 6th December.

If you require a siblings' order envelope or if you have misplaced your original order envelope please ring the school office for a new one.

Organic Learning

Due to COVID and Remote Learning, our Organic Learning unit "Design Challenge - An Artwork for our School" has been carried over 2 terms instead of being completed in Term 3. In this unit our students explored how artwork represents the world around us. They researched a variety of sculptors and how sculptures were created and the meaning behind them. The students then had to create a sculpture to represent the qualities of the school, its cultures and traditions. They have been very hard at work creating their sculptures and are putting the final touches to them (photos included in our newsletter). They are all very different and unique. The students have kept a journal of their creations and are also writing an artist's statement to go with their sculptures to explain the meaning behind them. The sculptures will be erected in the school grounds over the coming days. We are hoping to share photos with you next week of the finished product and look forward to inviting you in at the start of next year to complete a gallery walk of the students' creations.

Kind regards
Judy Elks

ORGANIC LEARNING

THUNDERBOLT FESTIVAL WINNER

Congratulations to all our students, parents and staff members who worked so hard on the students costumes for the Thunderbolt Festival. We are so excited to announce that our school won the School Category and received a certificate and a cheque for $100 from the Rotary Club of Uralla.

RELIGION NEWS

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is made from **evergreen leaves** which stand for eternity, God's eternal love for us (which is ever green, ever new), shown in the promise and birth of the Messiah, his Son. Holly is traditionally used as part of the wreath, with the sharp points of the leaves reminding us of the crown of thorns (the German name for holly is *Christdorn meaning 'Christ-thorn').*

The **circular shape of the wreath** (a crown of thorns) also stands for eternity (the ring goes round without beginning or end).

Red berries stand for the drops of blood which Jesus shed for us (in the Christian tradition, the joy of Christ's birth is always tempered by the knowledge that this child will end his life on the cross). Sometimes a **red ribbon** is tied through the wreath – this too stands for Christ's blood, the cost of our redemption.

The **four candles** represent the four weeks of Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas. Purple is the liturgical colour of Advent and rose (or pink) is a special colour that may be used on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (known as *Gaudete Sunday meaning 'rejoice' from the Latin antiphon at the beginning of Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!' (cf. Philippians 4:4-5)). In some traditions, the first candle represents prophecy (the prophecy of the birth of a Messiah in Isaiah) or hope, the second love, the third joy, and the fourth peace (sometimes known as the angels' candle after the angels which appeared singing 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of goodwill').*

Sometimes a fifth **white candle** is added in the centre of the wreath. This is lit on Christmas Eve to mark the coming of Christ the Light.

http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Liturgy/Advent.htm

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WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to Term 4 Week 9 award recipients:

Infants

Marlee Garrahy-Brennan,
Riley Garside
and
Eden Hunt

Primary

Riley Lester
and
Chloe Barnden

CANTEEN

$5 REGULAR MEAL OR $7 LARGE MEAL

Week 10 - Fruit Salad and Yoghurt Or $5 Plain cheese sandwich (toasted optional)

ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE. Orders can either be sent in to the school office or by messaging Peta on 0417 509 015. PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL MONEY IS IN AN ENVELOPE/BAG WITH THE CHILD'S NAME CLEARLY MARKED. Thank you!

Dates to Remember

Fri 3 Dec:
Swimming
Tue 7 Dec:
Presentation Day

Wed 8 Dec:
School Photos
Wed 15 Dec:
Last Day Of School

BIRTHDAYS

2 Dec: Chloe Barnden