



St Joseph's School Uralla Newsletter



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21 FEB 2024
TERM 1 WEEK 4

Dear Parents

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Induction of School Leaders

Congratulations to our Year 6 students Bono, Byron, Mackenna, Azzie, and Ruby who were inducted as our Student Leaders 2024 at last night's Beginning Year Mass. This is a very important honour. We expect that they will act as role models for all students – through their dedication to upholding our school values, wearing the correct school uniform with pride, displaying enthusiasm for all areas of school life and being responsible both inside and outside the classroom. Throughout the year the students will have many opportunities to put these leadership skills into practice.

Beginning School BBQ

Thank you to the parents, grandparents and students who were able to attend our Beginning Year Mass and BBQ last night. Special thanks to Abby Smith for helping set up and pack up and to Tim Carlon and Sam Smith for manning the BBQ. Thank you also to the families who brought lovely salads and desserts to share. It was a lovely evening and a great way to start the new school year. It was wonderful to see so many new faces joining us this year. I remind you that here at St Joseph's we are a family school where we care and support, not only our students, but the whole family.

Swimming Carnival

Today we held our annual swimming carnival. Thank you to the staff for organising and running this event. Thank you also to our parent volunteer helpers and those who came to support and encourage our students. We cannot run our carnival without your support. I would like to congratulate all our students on the very enthusiastic way in which you all participated in the carnival. The sportsmanship that was clearly demonstrated is a credit to you all. It was very pleasing to hear that everyone was having a go and getting in the water and doing their best. Well done, we are all very proud of you! Championship medals and ribbons will be handed out at assembly on Friday. Winners will be listed in next week's newsletter.

Annual Improvement Plan 2024

Each year as a staff we develop an Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) to guide us to improve our ability to support each and every student to achieve success. We reflect on where we have come from and then devise a plan on where to next. When we are reflecting we look at both student and teacher progress and achievement, celebrating successes and identifying areas of improvement. Each year we strive to build on what we have learnt the previous year and look at ways to help us to do even better.

As a result of this process Our Key Priority Improvements for 2024 are:

- **Quality Teaching and learning** - Teachers using data to improve teaching practice
- **Catholic Identity** - Focus on prayer life at school and at home.
- **Strong Teams** - Maintain the current culture of the school, by building a collaborative team who works together to maintain whole school and class learning processes across all KLA's

Ongoing information will be shared with you around these priorities throughout the year.

Please remember that as a parent you are part of this journey and you have a major role to play in supporting your child's education. Research has shown that when schools and families work together, children do better, are more engaged with their school work, go to school more regularly, behave better, and have better social skills. We are all looking forward to an exciting learning journey and a very productive and successful year for each and every student.

Kind regards
Judy Elks

PT&F NEWS AGM

At St Joseph's we have an active PT&F who support the school in a variety of ways. The PT&F will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 5 March at 5:30pm. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations are invited from parents to fill the following position: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Canteen Convenor. Please contact the school office if you would like a nomination form for one of these positions or if you would like to be nominated yourself. The AGM will be followed by an ordinary meeting to discuss plans for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome, please come along and feel free to offer your ideas.

SPORTING SCHOOLS GRANT - ATHLETICS PROGRAM

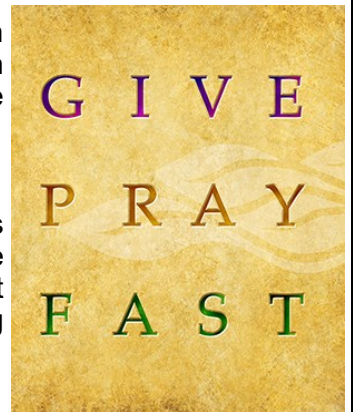
Beginning next week we will be running a coach directed athletics program using our Term 1 Sporting Schools Grant. Through this grant we have been able to fund an Athletics NSW accredited coach to work with our students in introducing, and improving on their athletics skills, along with two Athletic Australia Sporting Schools Equipment Kits. These sessions will be run during our Friday PE lessons from next Friday 1 March until Friday 22 March.

RELIGION NEWS

Lent is a time of renewal. The season of Lent is a time to reflect on ways we can change and follow Jesus more closely through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the Gospels we learn how Jesus gave himself for others. We can reflect on the events of Holy Week, in preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

Why Do We Pray?

As Catholics, we believe that personal prayer is not complete unless our prayers are joined with the community of faith who is the living Body of Christ. The Sunday liturgy is the greatest form of prayer because together we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist — the very real presence of the Risen Christ. Attending weekly (or daily) Mass is an essential part of a healthy prayer life.



Why Do We Fast?

Lent has traditionally been the season where we give something up, often sweets or a favourite food, in order to focus on the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. But fasting is much more than a means of developing self-control. Fasting is spiritual and physical purification; the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Fasting and abstinence help us to participate more fully in the cross of Christ.

Why Do We Give Alms?

Charitable giving is a very ancient practice; almsgiving was normative long before the time of Jesus. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making the needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; the heavy burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering in others. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time tending to people in need.

Please note our twilight prayer is Tuesday 27 Feb from 3:30pm till 5pm. All are welcome to attend.

BEGINNING YEAR MASS



INCURSION UNE DISCOVERY

As part of our Organic Learning unit this term (Material World) we had the UNE Discovery team come to our school on Monday to present science investigations for all students K-6. The themes for the day included: **Creative Chemistry and Crime Scene Investigation**. Students were very engaged and enjoyed the visit from the UNE Discovery Team.



CANTEEN ORDERS

Menu for Monday 26 February 2024

MORNING TEA - 50cents each:
Lemon Poppyseed Cupcakes

LUNCH \$5 - ONE SIZE ONLY:
Beef Nacho Bowl with Salad (Cucumber/lettuce/tomato/cheese)

Drinks

Strawberry or Chocolate Milk \$2.00
Apple or Black Currant Juice \$2.00

Other Items

Red Deli Chips \$1.50
Packet of Popcorn \$1.00
Cheese and Crackers \$2.00
Quech Sticks \$0.50cents



LIBRARY NEWS - PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Premier's Reading Challenge opens **Monday 26 February 2024** and will close Friday 23 August 2024.

If your child is interested in participating this year, please ask them to notify the school office and we will email you your child's username and password for you to enter books from home. If you have any trouble adding books, please send a list to school with the book's Title, Author, and ISBN and we can enter them to your child's list from here at school.



- ⇒ Kindy students can include books that have been read to them.
- ⇒ There are printouts in the library of available books to borrow that are on this years PRC list.
- ⇒ Please encourage your child to participate.
- ⇒ Students can be awarded a Certificate on completion of the Challenge if they have read the required amount of books.

If you require any further information, please go to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website:

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Please see to your right, required number of books to be read.

	Challenge Level	Total number of books to be read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	Booklists included as PRC book choices
Mrs Mary Hull (Librarian)	K-2	30	20	10	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
	3-4	20	10	10	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
	5-6	20	10	10	5-6, 7-9

Dates to Remember

Thur 22 Feb: Music Program

Fri 23 Feb: 2:30pm Assembly

Tue 27 Feb: 3:30pm Twilight

Prayer

Fri 1 Mar: Athletics Program

and Diocesan Swimming

Carnival in Gunnedah

Thur 7 Mar: Music Program

Fri 8 Mar: Athletics Program

Week 7: NAPLAN

Fri 15 Mar: Athletics Program

Wed 20 Mar: 1:30pm Art

Show Visit

Fri 22 Mar: Athletics Program

BIRTHDAYS

25 Feb: Archer

27 Feb: Byron

