This week we celebrated the successes of our school community with our annual school Presentation Night. Thank you for all staff, students and parents involved in the preparation and organisation of this wonderful community event.

Thank you to the P&F for their organisation of the Major Raffle. Your support is very much appreciated.

2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year ahead. We have some wonderful plans on the horizon and will share these with you at the commencement of the school year.

FAREWELLS
This week we say farewell to Miss Nicola Bernasconi and Mrs Kate Hollis who are leaving us to continue their educational journey in other schools in 2016. Thank you both for all that you have done for our community and we wish you well on your new adventures. We also wish Ms Karen Foley and Mrs Michelle Clarke all the best for their study leave in 2016.

As the school year draws to a close I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our Catholic School. To the families who are leaving us to embark on new journeys; we thank you and ask God to bless and keep you in his care.

To all of our staff, students and parents and carers, we wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas and look forward to a wonderful year ahead in 2016.

Many blessings for this Christmas Season, Melissa Turner
AWARD RECIPIENTS 2015

Congratulations to the following children on receiving St Joseph’s Traditional Awards 2015

AWARD FOR HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Tom Fletcher & Emily Brenton
THE LINDA CAMPBELL AWARD: Lara Edwards, Curtis Ware, Annie Sutherland, Archer Northey, Matilda Dowling & Joseph Hoffman
CATHERINE MCAULEY AWARD: Josilyn Neville
KEMPSEY ROTARY CLUB CITIZENSHIPS AWARD: Eve Harradine
GERRY HORSECROFT AWARD: Brittany Pogson
JESSICA HINE MEMORIAL AWARD: Harriett Shields
GILES/CAPARARO FAMILY MUSIC AWARD: Isabelle Capararo
DEDICATION & ENTHUSIASM TO MUSIC AWARD: Paige Campbell & Kaitlyn Tarrant
KEMPSEY EVENING VIEW CLUB PRIZE: Isabelle Baker
SPORTS BOY OF THE YEAR: Adam Grant
SPORTS GIRL OF THE YEAR: Emily Brenton
JACK CLARK MEMORIAL AWARD: Benjamin Brennan
CREATIVE ARTS AWARD: Logan Norton
READING ENTOURCAGEMENT AWARD: Piper Kirkman & Bailey Rogan
THE NICOLE COOPER MEMORIAL AWARD: Audrey Collins, Angelique Hand & Kaitlyn Tarrant
THE ENVIRO TEAM AWARD: Dominic Collins

RECYCLING NEWS

Just a reminder that the school is a recycling depot for Aluminium Cans, Printer Cartridges, Mobile Phones, Used Stamps and Batteries.

STOP PRESS We can also recycle preloved sporting equipment and school supplies to our sister school in New Guinea.

Items can be brought to school next year or over the holidays during OOSH hours.

WEEK 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 25th Jan</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 26th Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 27th Jan</td>
<td>Teachers Return to School</td>
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<td>Thursday, 28th Jan</td>
<td>First Day of School Years 1-6</td>
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<td>Best Start Interviews</td>
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<td>Friday, 29th Jan</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer - School Councillors</td>
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<td>Best Start Interviews</td>
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<td>Monday, 1st Feb</td>
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<td>Primary Choir</td>
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<td>Keyboard Group</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 2nd Feb</td>
<td>Best Start Interviews</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 3rd Feb</td>
<td>School Band - 8.15am</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Start School</td>
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<td>Thursday, 4th Feb</td>
<td>Opening School Mass - 9.30am</td>
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Please find below planned staff Professional Development days for 2016

Term 1  Friday 8th April
Term 2  Tuesday, 26th April and Friday, 1st July
Term 3  Friday, 23rd September
Term 4  Monday, 10th October
**P&F CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Winners are:

1st Prize
$500 Grocery voucher
Sam Sutherland

2nd Prize
Mini iPad Bundle
Anna Prasanth
(ticket sold by Parvathy Jayakumar)

3rd Prize
Sunglasses
Patrick Preston

4th Prize
$100 Petrol Voucher
Judith Hyde
(ticket sold by Evie Barton)

Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser for our school and for the donations from local businesses.

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**CHRISTMAS CALENDAR**

**Christmas Eve**
Thursday 24th December
Both the Children’s Masses with the placing of the Baby Jesus in the Crib & the lighting of our Christmas Candle.
6.30pm Kempsey  Children’s Mass
6.30pm South West Rocks  Children’s Mass

**Midnight Mass**
12.00am Kempsey

**Christmas Day**
Friday 25th December
7.30am Kempsey
9.00am Kempsey
7.30am South West Rocks

**Weekend Mass** *
Saturday 26th December
6.00pm *All Saints Church Kempsey
Sunday 27th December
7.30am *Our Lady Star of the Sea, South West Rocks
9.30am All Saints Church Kempsey

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**MESSAGE FROM MR WATTS**

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all parents and friends for your involvement and support of our sporting programs over the course of the year. Wishing you all the best during the Christmas break. Mr

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**SRC ART COMPETITION**

Congratulations to the following SRC Art Competition winners for 2015.

**EARLY STAGE ONE**
1st - Macrae Pilbeam (pictured)
2nd - Piper Kirkman
3rd - Owen Connolly & Pacey Smith

**STAGE ONE**
1st - Destiny Fisher
2nd—Samantha Ware
3rd—Emily Doyle

**STAGE TWO**
1st - Nat Fletcher
2nd - Lynete Bridgwater
3rd- Annie Sutherland

**STAGE THREE**
1st - Kimberley Hancey
2nd - Matthew Stocks

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**STUDENT STATIONERY PACKS 2016**

Now available online for students in K-6. To order your child’s 2016 Stationery Pack visit...

User login: stjos096
Password: studentpack

Orders need to be placed by the Friday, 18th December

and will be delivered to your home by the 20th January, 2016.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Perfect Christmas Gift

As a young child I can always remember running down the steps on Christmas morning and looking around the tree for the biggest box. I always believed that within the biggest box lay the most expensive gift and best gift.

But as time works its magic on the mind and soul of a young child, I soon realised that each and every gift was special, unique, and meaningful. In fact, those presents that I remember most are the gifts that came directly from the heart, such as one of my mother’s handmade clothes. Christmas truly is not about the gift itself, but rather the thought behind the gift!

This Christmas I have already been blessed to receive the most beautiful and amazing present in the world, my family and friends. But I know the true meaning of Christmas is found in the word "giving." So, this Christmas I promised myself to search and find the most incredible gifts for the most incredible people in my life.

I spent many days searching the crowded stores and scanning numerous holiday catalogues, but nothing seemed to stand out. As Christmas quickly approached I wondered if I would ever find that "perfect" gift for each of them. I decided to try the local shopping centre one last time. Maybe I had missed a store or new merchandise had just hit the racks and shelves. But as I quietly passed from one store to the next, nothing attracted my eye. Somewhat defeated, I slowly made my way to the exit of the shopping centre. But before I could reach the doors, I suddenly found that "perfect" gift for everyone.

No, this gift was not found in a fancy and expensive department store. It will not be wrapped in pretty Christmas paper and adorned with ribbons and bows. Actually, this gift doesn't have a receipt and can't be taken back.

So, where did I find this "perfect" gift and more importantly what is it? I found it in the eyes of an elderly couple holding hands, I heard it in the playful words between a grandfather and grandson, and I saw it in the actions of a proud new mother.

Yes, the gift is LOVE. So, to each of your family members this Christmas please give to them LOVE and trust that you will always keep it with you!

Merry Christmas and don’t forget to say I LOVE YOU!