Dear Parent/Caregivers,

The week began with students in Stage 3 participating in the Diocesan Winter Sports Trials in Port Macquarie. The students competed strongly and with great sporting attitude and character. Special thanks to the staff involved for leading the students on the day.

On Thursday our students participated in “The Big Veggie Crunch” to encourage healthy eating habits as a part of the NSW initiative during Fruit and Vegetable Week. Thanks to Mr Watts for the organisation and promotion of this event and to the students and staff for their enthusiasm. It was hinted by one student that the crunching sound was so loud that perhaps it was heard on the moon! More information regarding healthy eating habits and this week’s event can be found here [http://healthy-kids.com.au/teachers/vegetable-week-the-big-vegie-crunch/](http://healthy-kids.com.au/teachers/vegetable-week-the-big-vegie-crunch/).

Next Tuesday we host our second gathering of the P&F for the year to finalise voting for the establishment of the P&F Executive. This meeting will take place at 5.30pm in the meeting space in the Administration Building. We look forward to seeing all new and existing members there.

As the term nears its mid-way point it is important to note the following significant calendar date. For students in Years 3 and 5 NAPLAN Tests will take place on Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th May. Information regarding the tests will be distributed to families via their child’s class teacher in the coming weeks. Please note this is a paper and pencil test.

Next Week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The theme for this year is “enabling students to achieve the fullness of life”. John 10:10 “I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance”, reminds us of our commitment as educators (parents, carers and school staff) to the ongoing role we play in embracing the gifts of each child and promoting inclusion, participation and engagement in life and in learning. Please see the outline of our program for next week. We would love to see you in attendance at one of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations.

This Sunday students preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Penance will pledge their commitment at a special Mass at 9.30am. Please keep our students and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this very important time in their spiritual journey.

All the best for the week ahead.

Many blessings,

Melissa Turner
ZONE WINTER SPORT TRIALS

Despite the persistent drizzle all children managed to stay focused and put in a great effort for their respective trials. Well done to all who trialled and thank you to teachers, teaching assistants and parents for their help on the day.

Congratulations to the following children who progress through to the Diocesan Trials:

- Rugby League - Shannon Davis, Harry Gill and Wilson Ware
- Rugby Union - Bryce Peters
- Football (Soccer) - Jai Goodman, Blake Bullen, Chelsea Hackenberg, Jorja Barnett, Tayla Scott, Isla Lennon & Elisa Farrawell

BIG VEGIE CRUNCH

On Thursday 1 March at 10am sharp, our students joined with thousands of other primary school students from across NSW to crunch on vegies together as part of an attempt to break the previous record of 29,067 students crunching vegetables simultaneously. At the same time this experience aimed to increase students’ knowledge, exposure and positive attitudes towards the vegetables.

Katie Booth from the Healthy Kids Association, who is the manager of Vegetable Week & The Big Vegie Crunch program, says that fun, interactive, school-based campaigns such as Vegetable Week & The Big Vegie Crunch can help to influence the variety and amount of vegies kids choose to eat.

It is recommended that children between the ages of 4 and 12 eat around five serves of vegies each day.

CLEAN UP SCHOOLS DAY

It has become a tradition that each year St Joseph’s participates in Clean Up Australia Schools Day. Today, children brought in gloves and, as a community, participated in the Annual Clean Up, cleaning areas within the school, the oval and in around the local area.

Enviro Team would like to encourage all families to take part in Clean Up Australia Day this Sunday and pick up rubbish to keep Australia beautiful.

CURRICULUM IN MY CLASSROOM

Year 3

In Year 3, we have been having fun during our STEM (Science, Technology Engineering & Maths) lessons learning about coding and programming using the free App “Lightbot”.

Parents and Caregivers are invited to join their for lunch following Assembly.
The School Bus Safety Program, was run by Busways on Monday for students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. The children each received an information pack and a talk on bus behaviour and took a short bus trip.

St Joseph’s students are reminded of what is considered appropriate behaviour when travelling on a school bus:

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BUSES**

It is every student’s responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers.

- Use appropriate language not offensive or racist language
- Fighting, spitting, feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus is not permitted
- No eating or drinking (other than water) – unless for medical reasons or the bus operator gives written permission
- Offer seats to adults including people with a disability, elderly or expectant mothers
- Do not push or shove other people
- Do not bully or harass other passengers or the driver
- Avoid attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of emergency
- Do not play music at such volume that it may distract the bus driver or other passengers

**ST JOEY’S CLOTHING POOL**

Open on a Thursday each fortnight (even weeks). 8.30-9.15am.

Please note that is a volunteer run service and it would be appreciated if the donated clothing that has been sorted into size boxes, is left tidy and in the correct tubs.

Thank you for your support!
Volunteers needed please!

**DROP & PICK UP ZONE**

It has been noticed that parents are parking their cars in the Drop & Pick Up Zone at the front of the hall and walking their children into the school. This is strictly a drop off zone and cars are not to be left. Please stay in the car and say goodbye to your children and watch them enter the school grounds/ or at pick up time your child comes to you.

This area is a designated DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE - Not a parking zone and is regularly monitored by the police.

Thank you for keeping our children safe!

It’s SHOWTIME!!!!

Entries for 2018 show are open from 13th March.
All Children’s Section Entries are 0.60 cents and can be left at the school office. Please ensure that your child’s name, age and the section they are entering are clearly marked on each entry.
Closing date is 6th April.

**P&F EASTER EGG RAFFLE**

As part of our annual fundraising, the P&F have kindly organised an Easter Egg Raffle and guessing competition.

Today, the eldest child in the family brought home a book of 10 tickets at 50c each. We appreciate all families support of this event by selling as many tickets as you can and returning any unsold tickets to the office. All sold tickets need to be returned to the school office by the Monday 26th March.

Prizes will be drawn on Thursday, 29th March.

**GUESSING COMPETITION** will also be running for 20 cents per guess. Guesses will be on sale before school and during lunch times.

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**
Lenten Prayer for Transformation

Loving Father,
I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you. Help me to become the best version of myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world. Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that dynamic and engaging. Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish, Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning. Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged and clarity in times of decision. Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times.

Amen.

The Dynamic Catholic Institute, 2018