Dear Parent/Caregivers,

On Sunday, students preparing for the Sacrament of Penance pledged their commitment at Mass. We keep these students in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Thanks to Mrs Hart and the students of the Parish Children’s Choir for their contribution to this lovely celebration and to Father Paul for his ongoing spiritual strength and guidance.

On Wednesday we began the special Lenten period with an Ash Wednesday Mass led by Father Paul.

Lent is a time of waiting and the season in our liturgical year where we as Christians focus on simple living and prayer in order to be closer to God.

Today our Year 6 Councillors attended the Young Leaders Conference in Sydney accompanied by their parents and Mr Owens. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to engage in leadership workshops and to listen to inspirational guests speakers. We wish the students continued growth on their leadership journey.

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. Throughout the week students will be involved in a number of workshops and activities within their classes and at lunch time, to celebrate all that is wonderful about Catholic Education. The theme for the year is Great Learning, Great Communities.

Our staff and students will join with the St Paul’s community for a Combined Schools Mass to be held at St Paul’s next Friday 10th March at 11.30am followed by a shared lunch celebration. Students will travel by bus to St Paul’s. As Parish schools we are fortunate to be bound by our faith and commitment to a holistic quality Catholic Education.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week also prompts us to consider a sense of understanding and learning in community. The reflection this week helps us to consider this place in our hearts and in this time of Lent, how great learning can bind us in community and build strength.

As a Catholic school we are united as students, parents, teachers and community members. This week we pray that we have continued strength and guidance on our educational journey together.

All the best for the week ahead

Many Blessings, Melissa Turner

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**WEEK 7**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 6th Mar</td>
<td>Assembly - 9am (CSW Prayer)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canvas Art Class at Lunch 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keyboard Group - 12.45pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Band - 1.40pm</td>
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<td>Rug Reading with Buddies - 2.10pm</td>
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<td>Tues, 7th Mar</td>
<td>Vincent Court Visit - 6O 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canvas Art Class at Lunch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 8th Mar</td>
<td>Commissioning Assembly - 9am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canvas Art Class at Lunch 1 Mad Hatters Tea Party &amp; Official Blessing of New Playground Equipment - 1.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, 9th Mar</td>
<td>Clothing Pool Open - 8.30-9.15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canvas Art Class at Lunch 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sport Rotations - K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 10th Mar</td>
<td>Combined School Mass with St Paul’s - 11.30am at St Paul’s College</td>
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NETBALL
This week 26 children from Year 3 & 4 finish their netball clinics with Netball NSW. All students enjoyed learning new skills. Hopefully we have started a new generation of netballers as they continue their experience and preparation for a Netball Gala Day in Port Macquarie on the 28th March (information to follow).

CRICKET
Last week, thirty Year 3 & 4 cricketers finished their clinics with Cricket Australia Development Officers. To further their experience with cricket I have booked a T20 day for Stage 2 during the last week of this term (information to follow).

RUNNING CLUB
Each day before school, interested children are invited to prepare for our upcoming Cross Country (Thursday, 23rd March at Trial Bay), by completing laps of our playground.

CURRICULUM IN MY CLASSROOM
YEAR 1
Year 1 have been reading a range of picture story books written by Mem Fox. Students are creating a range of artistic murals to represent their understanding of the texts as well as their favourite pages and characters from the texts. While reading the Mem Fox story books, students are analysing written features such as grammatical conventions, language and layout features.

DIARY REMINDERS...

- Last day of Term 1 is Thursday 6th April (Friday 7th is a Staff Development Day)
- Parent Teacher Learning Conversations will take place Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March in the School Hall
- P & F Meeting will be held Tuesday 14th March at 5.30pm
- Cross Country will take place at SWR on Thursday 23rd March
- First Penance will be held on either Saturday 25th or Saturday 1st April

School Banking day is Thursday!

At St Joseph’s Thursday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit book in their yellow Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites Book holder by Wednesday. For every deposit made at school, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their regular savings habits.

2017 School Banking program information packs were sent home last week. To open an account please visit the website commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or visit your local Commonwealth Bank Branch.
Dear Parents/Carers

This year, St Joseph’s Primary School will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week from March 5-11.

The theme for 2017 is ‘Catholic Schools – Great Learning, Great Communities’.

Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate our shared faith, educational excellence and the importance of every student. Catholic schools offer an educational foundation for living life to the full through the development of the student’s spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral and emotional growth.

Catholic schools respond to and serve the needs of parents who seek a Catholic education for their children. Catholic schools contribute to the Church’s mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are well served by dedicated principals, teachers and support staff who are determined to provide a high quality education and accompany students on their faith and educational journeys.

The main aim of Catholic Schools Week is to raise public awareness of the wonderful opportunities that Catholic schools provide, and to celebrate our history, our faith and our achievements.

For that reason, we invite you and your family to join us to celebrate with our school and parish community during Catholic Schools Week 2017. This is an ideal opportunity to support our community and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

Our school will celebrate by engaging our school communities in a range of wonderful activities throughout the entire week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School and look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you.

Catholic Schools Week is proudly supported by the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund, and we greatly appreciate their generous participation. I encourage you to visit the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund’s website at www.catholicsuper.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Melissa Turner

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School

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**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**SATURDAY, 4TH MARCH**
6.00pm at Kempsey

**SUNDAY, 5TH MARCH**
7.30am at South West Rocks

**SUNDAY, 5TH MARCH**
9.30am at Kempsey

**MONDAY 6th March**

- 9.00am School Assembly and Catholic Schools Week Prayer
- Lunch One Canvas Art Work Lessons School Hall
- 2.10pm Rug Reading with Buddies

**TUESDAY 7th March**

- Incitare Retreat Day
- Lunch One Canvas Art Work Lessons School Hall
- 1.15pm Mad Hatters Tea Party and Blessing of New Playground Equipment

**WEDNESDAY 8th March**

- 9.00am Commissioning of staff, students, Enviro Team, SRC and Mini Vinnies Team
- Lunch One Canvas Art Work Lessons School Hall
- 1.15pm Mad Hatters Tea Party and Blessing of New Playground Equipment

**THURSDAY 9th March**

- Lunch One Canvas Art Work Lessons School Hall

**FRIDAY 10th March**

- 11.30am Combined School Mass at St Paul’s College

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**KINDER PHOTO PACKS**

Orders close Wednesday, 8th March.
Get your orders in now!

**CANTENE SPECIALS**

FISH FOR LENT
Crumbed Fish $3.00 per piece
Fish, Wedges and Salad $5.00
Fish Burger with lettuce & mayo $4.50
LENTEN PRAYER

Within the Catholic tradition, the period of Lent (40 days before Easter) is acknowledged as an invitation to reflect and take some time to see what our life’s direction has been, and to evaluate that in the light of our Christian vision ~ living life in the spirit of Jesus as outlined in the Beatitudes (attitudes of Being).

For many years there was a heavy emphasis on ‘fasting’ and ‘going without’, yet may it be possible that ‘fasting and feasting’ could go hand in hand. I invite you to:

Let us invite each other to be fair dinkum in our approach to Lent, and may our ‘fasting’ be encouraged in and through one’s commitment to generous ‘feasting’.

Extract from the Marist Brothers Newsletter