



St Joseph's Primary School Schofields



Term 1

Week 4

18 February 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Gospel Action: Be true to yourself—showing integrity

Sunday Gospel for the 22nd February, 2015

Mk 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee.

There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Reflection

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Joseph's,

Welcome to Week 4. Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. An array of themes appropriate for the beginning of Lent appears in the scriptural offerings today: repentance, reconciliation, fasting, prayer and almsgiving. All take their bearings from what is central to the penitential season: conversion of heart derived from a renewed and revitalised relationship with God.

When the ashes are marked on your forehead you will hear the words: 'Remember that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return', the ashes are marked in the sign of the Cross, the Cross which appeared to signal the extinction of life.

You will recall that Jesus' death on the cross was only the start of a fantastic three days, which finished with his victory over death. His body was transfigured by divine energy like a new sunburst, a new starburst, a new creation, we call 'the Resurrection'.

This is also our destiny desired by the Loving God. Our bodies are to become lively stardust again.

So, let us embark on this forty days of Lent remembering that we are stardust not condemned to an inert end, but able to be saved from that fate into a wonderful future.

And then let us do three traditional things:

Thank God for our existence as earthlings with a fantastic destiny. This expression of gratitude to the Creator is itself Prayer, the first of the tripods of Lent.

Live a little more simply for the traditional forty days in imitation of Our Lord's fasting before embarking on his public ministry: Fasting, the second tripod of Lent.

Be generous during Project Compassion, for we share the same genesis as every other human being. Our common humanity obliges to sharing what we can: Almsgiving, the third tripod of Lent.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is very apt that our System Leadership goal this year is to Renew and Adapt. We plan to be reflective on what we do, question its validity to make a difference and refocus where necessary to improve the learning and teaching to ensure all students achieve the outcomes for success.

Last week we inducted our school leaders at the Beginning of the School Year Mass. Fr Ruben celebrated Eucharist with our school community of students, teachers and parents. We are very proud of our Year 6 students who will be leading our school in 2015. They are important leaders because their role is to model the school rules in everyday life of our school.

School Rules:-

- I am Safe
- I am Respectful
- I am Responsible
- I am a Learner

This week has been very productive for further developing the teacher's skills set in putting faces on the data, case managements, mathematical teaching strategies and differentiating the learning for all students. So you are aware of the professional learning the teachers are engaging in a new section will be added to the Newsletter called Professional Learning. I am aware that parents may be concerned when teachers are not on class and often see this as a disruption to the learning. As a whole school we plan to ensure that our teachers are engaged in professional learning to improve the quality of the learning and teaching and we aim to limit parent concerns in the following ways:

- Ensuring a consistency of a casual on a particular class
- Developing a school professional learning plan so there is a sharing of professional learning opportunities across all teachers
- Being aware of student needs in each grade so they are not disadvantaged in any way when their teacher is engaging in professional learning workshops
- Forward planning of the professional learning so parents can be advised of the coming professional learning opportunities for all staff in the newsletter.
- Whilst it may be seen as a disruption to your child's learning, what we must remember is that each professional learning opportunity that teachers engage in will improve the learning for your child.

Thank you for your trust and support with everything we do.

I am very excited to talk about the wonderful fundraising project that the Parent Group Meeting are promoting in the coming week. Many thanks to Mrs Kylie Opdam for sourcing out the project and preparing the resources and presenting the idea to the staff and parents at the recent Parent Group Meeting.

A Tea Towel Fundraiser is the idea so get ready to put in your orders for yourself, your family and friends. The purchase of the tea towel would be a great idea for Mother's Day gifts and even for a Christmas present, think ahead!

All the students will be drawing their face on a piece of card, even the teachers too.

These will be sent away and a beautiful tea towel with all the faces of the students and teachers will return ready for ordering by you. ***Order forms are coming home early next week.***



We started Crunch and Sip this week. It was a great experience for all. The children really enjoyed being able to have a piece of fruit during their learning time. Please note that fruit items can't be ordered through the Canteen.

Meet and Greet meetings have been happening this week. There are still a number of parents who have not registered to meet with their child's teacher. I encourage all parents to meet with the teacher for many reasons, here are a few:-

- knowing your child's teacher is important because your child will feel important that you make the time for them.
- building a professional relationship with your child's teacher will help in creating an open and honest relationship where you can feel confident that your child's teacher is able to talk to you about your child's learning and behaviour.
- you are the first educators of your child and by enrolling at St Joseph's you have invited our staff to be part of your child's life and learning.

Last Friday the Parent Community Group demonstrated St Joseph's hospitality by inviting all the Kindergarten parents and children, as well as the new families to our school, to celebrate the beginning of their learning and social journey with St Josephs. The evening was well attended and it was great to see so many parents networking with new families.

The Parent Community Group is planning so many wonderful events for this year. I look forward to working with them in ensuring our school community is a welcoming, safe and orderly environment that promotes quality learning and collaborative partnerships between parents, students and teachers.

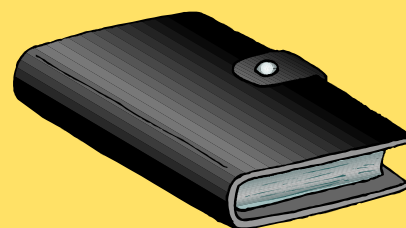
Be safe,
God Bless
Cheryl Brown

IMPORTANT DATES

Check out the new calendar on our website!

2015

Term 1



Week 4	Mon	16th February	Parents / Teacher Chats 2.45-7pm
	Wed	18th February	Ash Wednesday
	Thurs	19th February	Blacktown Zone Swimming
	Fri	20th February	School Assembly 1.30pm Community Hall S3W Hosting
Week 5	Tues	24th February	Stage 2 Reconciliation 12.00
	Tues	24th February	2016 Enrolment Information Evening Mary Immaculate Parish 7pm
	Thurs	26th February	Stage 3 Reconciliation 12.00
	Fri	27th February	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Week 6	Fri	6th March	St Joseph's Cross Country
	Fri	6th March	School Assembly 1.30pm Community Hall S3G Hosting
Week 8	Thurs	19th March	St Joseph's Day Liturgy 11.00am Community Space
	Fri	20th March	School Disco
	Fri	20th March	School Assembly 1.30pm Community Hall S3B Hosting
Week 10	Mon	30th March	Kindergarten Palm Sunday 1.30pm
Holy Week			
	Tues	31st March	Year 1 Last Supper 1.30pm
	Wed	1st April	Year 2 Praying in the Garden 1.30pm
	Thurs	2nd April	Year 3 & 4 Good Friday 1.30pm
End of Term			

Important Information

EMAIL. The school sends most notes and all newsletters home via email. Newsletter and updates are sent weekly. If you do not receive an electronic copy of this newsletter today then you will miss out on receiving important information in the future. Please take the time to complete the attachment below by providing an up-to-date email address. You may also need to check your spam folder in case we are delivered to it. Should your email change or you stop receiving weekly newsletters please contact the school office immediately.

SKOOLBAG APP. Please take the time to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just look for our school name "St Joseph's Primary, Schofields" in the Apple App Store for iPhone" or Google Play Store for Android. This is an important form of our communication that is used regularly.

FACEBOOK. Like us on Facebook to follow what's happening in the St Joseph's community.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CHESS LESSONS

An Expression of Interest note went home a couple of weeks ago regarding Chess lessons at St Josephs on Thursday afternoon. If you have not had a chance to send in the letter please do so by this Friday 20th February. You do not need to know how to play chess to be a part of it. Attached to this newsletter is the note if you didn't get it.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

During the first two days back at school, the teachers conducted Mathematical Interview Assessments on all students in the school. The data that we gather from this interview is used to inform our teaching as it gives us valuable information about where the students are in mathematics and where they need to go in their learning. As a staff we came together last week and collated all this data and put it together on our data wall. This gives us a visual picture of where all the students in our school are along a continuum of growth points in the areas of Place Value, Counting, Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication and Division.

EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING (EMU)

Our school is part of the EMU project. We use the data from the MAI to inform our teaching in mathematics. Mr Atkins was trained last year as the EMU Lead Teacher so that he could support staff in delivering effective teaching strategies in mathematics. This year Mrs Leanne Farhat will also be trained as EMU Lead Teacher to support Mr Atkins in his role. This will involve them leading professional learning sessions with the staff, classroom visits to support teachers during the teaching and learning and providing feedback to teachers in order to improve student learning.

In order to support our vulnerable Year One students in Mathematics, Mrs Anne Watson is being trained as EMU specialist teacher. This will enable her to work in a small group with these students. She is currently undertaking training and will start these lessons in the coming weeks. She will also work with Mr Atkins and Mrs Farhat in supporting the staff.

Regards

Joanna Delvecchio
Assistant Principal

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Following are the professional learning opportunities that our teachers have attended over the past three (3) weeks:-

Lyn Sharratt 'Putting Faces on the Data' Workshop – Miss Mizzi, Mrs Turner, Mrs Slater and Mrs Farhat

iLearn Workshop – Mrs Slater, Mrs Farhat, Miss Mizzi, Miss Chircop, Mr Atkins and Mr Adams.

Personalised Plans Workshop – Mrs Bates and Mrs Brown

Extending Mathematical Understanding Leaders Course – Mrs Farhat and Mr Atkins

EMU Specialist Teacher training – Mrs Watson

Reading Recovery Training – Mrs Delvecchio

Targeted Learning Program Teacher Training – Mrs Chircop

Hearing Impairment workshop – Mrs Bates and Miss Fodra

Vision Impairment workshop – Mrs Bates, Mrs Earl and Mrs Henshaw

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR



Mary Immaculate Parish,

Quakers Hill - Schofields

Postal Address: PO Box 267, Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Church ~ 125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill

Parish Office: 9626 3326 Fax: 9626 1613

Email: parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au



Sacramental Program First Eucharist 2015

Children Year 4 and Older

Enrolment forms will need to be collected from the Parish Office prior to the Information and Registration Evening, and submitted with payment on the night.

26th March – Thursday Information and Registration Evening

23rd April 7:30pm – Thursday Parents Only Meeting

2nd/3rd May - Saturday or Sunday Enrolment Masses (Sat 6pm and Sun 9am ONLY)

2nd/3rd May - Saturday or Sunday First Class

9th/10th May - Saturday or Sunday Second Class

14th May 7:30pm - Thursday Practice Evening

16th- 17th May - Saturday to Sunday First Eucharist (Sat 6pm, Sun 9am, 11am and 6pm ONLY)

23th- 24th May - Saturday to Sunday Certificate Masses (Sat 6pm, Sun 9am, 10.30am and 6pm ONLY)

Gerald "Ged" Oblea and Stephanie Sahni
Sacramental Team
Mary Immaculate Parish Quakers Hill – Schofields
Ph: 9626 3326 (press '7')
Mobile: 0477 151 279
Email: sacramentalcoordinator@maryimmac.org.au

Assembly Awards

Student of the Week—Week 2	Gospel Values Award Week 3
Emma Grace Ting	Gabriella Borazio
Kade Ellims	Maximos Fredericks
Summer Collins	Brock Richmond
Summer Warren	Kayla Apap
Jonah Mondragon	Shane Caroll
Lachlan Allsop	Sienna Junkiewicz
Matthew Martelli	Taeya Hogbin
Tana Va'a	Brianna Jamie
Maddison Cauchi	Charli-Belle McCammont
Jarod Farrugia	Justin Alcasas
Gabriella Papallo	
Tyran Brown	



Playgroup

Meets every Wednesday morning 8.30 –10.30. Come along and have some fun. Make some friends and share ideas. They always have a great time.



2016 Enrolment Information Meeting Tuesday 24th February, 2015 - Mary Immaculate Parish 7:00pm

If you are seeking enrolment for 2016 please come along and if you know of any other families who may be interested in enrolling at our school, please bring them with you. An enrolment package will be handed out at the meeting.

Swimming News

Congratulations to the students who are our
Swimming Age Champions and Runners Up:-

	Age Champion	Runner Up
Junior Girl	Rubie Constable	Kaitlyn Chapman
Junior Boy	Aaron Rillera	Charlie Liddicoat
11 years Girl	Brianna Jamie	Charli-Belle McCammont
11 years Boy	Jai Ellims	Darcy Lynch
Senior Girl	Abbey Zahra	Tara Hughes
Senior Boy	Jack Roche	Dante Miles

The following students will be representing St Joseph's at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival tomorrow at Mt Druitt swimming pools.

Stephanie Attard
Rubie Constable
Samuel Griffin
Branden Holmes
Emma Laycock
Daniel Lizzio
Dante Miles
Lily Platten
Nikisha Rogers
Maddison Cauchi

Isaac Beacroft
Cooper Ellims
Natasha Grima
Tara Hughes
Jade Lennox
Darcy Lynch
Cooper Opdam
Aaron Rillera
Isaac Wilson

Kaitlyn Chapman
Jai Ellims
Lachlan Hawkes
Brianna Jamie
Charlie Liddicoat
Charli-Belle McCammont
Lya Outschoorn
Jack Roche
Abbey Zahra

Best of luck to all our swimmers!!!

Anne Watson
Sports Co-Ordinator



Check out our website for more great photos



St Joseph's Primary School Schofields

Principal: Mrs Cheryl Brown

School Phone: 9626 1328 Fax: 9626 3066

Dear Parents,

Sydney Academy of Chess is looking at running chess coaching at our school. The coaching lesson will be held on a THURSDAY afternoon **from 2.45 – 3.45pm**. A teacher from the school will be supervising the lessons. You will need to pick up your child immediately after the lesson.

Chess is a valuable activity for children, developing their logical thinking skills, concentration and discipline, as well as being a source of much enjoyment!

What better way to combine learning and fun!

We are currently seeking expressions of interest of children who would like to take part in the chess club/coaching.

These classes begin with an interactive lecture by one of the experienced coaches. During the second half of the lesson children play games against each other, putting newly learned strategies into practice. As the term progresses and the children become proficient in all the basics, the lectures will move on to more complex ideas such as strategy, middle game ideas and chess technique.

The cost for the coaching is \$7 per child per lesson. The lessons will run for the ten weeks of the term. Payment is not required at this stage.

This is an optional school activity. If you are interested in your child taking part in this activity, please fill in the form below and return it to school no later than Friday 13th February.

A demonstration lesson can be arranged so that you and your child can get an idea what happens in each lesson. If you would like this, please indicate this on the form below.

Regards,

Joanna DelVecchio

Cheryl Brown

Assistant Principal

Principal

St Joseph's Primary School Chess Classes (2015)

I am interested in my son/daughter taking part in the chess coaching organised by the Sydney Academy of Chess.

Student's name _____ Class _____

I **am /am not** interested in a demonstration afternoon (please indicate)

Parent's name and signature _____

My child **has/has not** played chess before. (Please Indicate)