



St Joseph's Primary School Schofields



Term 1

Week 2

3 February 2016

THE WEEK AHEAD

<i>Week</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>5th Feb</i>	<i>Whole school</i>
<i>2</i>			<i>Assembly 1.30pm</i>
			<i>Community Space</i>
<i>Week</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>9th Feb</i>	<i>Meet & Greet with</i>
<i>3</i>			<i>Teachers & Parents</i>
	<i>Wed</i>	<i>10th Feb</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday—</i>
			<i>Liturgy 12noon</i>
			<i>Community Space</i>
	<i>Fri</i>	<i>12th Feb</i>	<i>Beginning School</i>
			<i>Mass 12noon</i>
			<i>Community Space All</i>
			<i>Welcome</i>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mk 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given to him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place among his own kin and in his own house." So he is not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

This is Jesus' reaction to the attitude of the people in his native place. In spite of his teachings and miracles, the people remain skeptical; they refuse to believe in Jesus. The people who have heard him are actually astonished at his wisdom and the mighty deeds he performs, yet they do not believe in him because Jesus is just "the carpenter," an ordinary person in the village. Their prejudices blind them to the extraordinary of Jesus' words and deeds.

In our daily life, we can be blind to the goodness of our fellow human beings because of our prejudices. Social, economic, cultural, and political biases can be hindrances to the building up of our family, community, and society.

How open am I to the goodness and talents of people of different race, color, religion, and economic status in life?



Source: 366 Days with the Lord 2016

This Weeks Newsletter

From the Principal

The Term Ahead

From the Assistant Principal

From The REC

Need To Know

Community News

Week 3 GOSPEL— ACTION Doing my best using my gifts and talents

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome Parents, Carers and Friends to the new school year for 2016. This is the time of year where we begin to plan and schedule events throughout the year to ensure we all experience a wonderful school year of achievement and celebration.

In this newsletter I wish to highlight key events and items of information that will be part of our new beginnings for 2016.

System Leadership Day – 21st January, 2016

Last week, the leadership team, Mrs Farhat, Mr Atkins and myself attended the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta System Leadership Day at Rosehill. It was a very big day where school leadership teams of eighty (80) Catholic schools in the Diocese came together to listen to Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools, Fr Chris Desouza, Vicar General of Parramatta Diocese and other inspiring speakers.

Each year our work has been inspired by a theme that serves as a touchstone for the work we do across our schools. These themes have been critical signposts for our system in determining a coherent way forward in today's world. Over the past few years, our evidence shows that we are not only heading in the right direction but the work in schools is improving teaching practice and student learning outcomes.

This year's theme is an extension of Renew and Adapt, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*: 'everything is connected'. The encyclical challenges us all – the People of God – to walk in a radical new direction by 're-imagining' what it means to be human and connected in the context of our natural world.

St Joseph's Staff Community Orientation to 2016

On Wednesday, 27th January the St Joseph's school staff gathered together with the staff of St John Paul II and Mary Immaculate Primary School to celebrate Eucharist with Fr Ruben at the Beginning of the School Year Mass at Quaker's Hill. Afterward St John Paul II provided a morning tea for all staff.

After Mass the St Joseph's staff returned to school and we gathered together and I shared the System Leadership agenda introduced a challenge for us to re-imagine how we can:-

- promote quality Catholic learning and teaching
- structure professional learning opportunities to ensure it is focused on student and teacher needs
- ensure there is time to reflect on the learning, teacher and student voice
- develop models for parents to connect with their child's learning data
- include parent voice and expertise as key elements of student learning

These key goals will be reflected on line with the School Implementation Goals which Mrs Delvecchio has included in the Professional and Student Learning in our school.

Our curriculum leaders, Mrs Delvecchio, Mrs Farhat and Mr Atkins, will collaboratively engage with all staff in leading the professional learning to ensure our school community will achieve the 2016 goals.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Throughout this year our students will learn more about the importance of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

This year is an important year for Catholic Schools and the Church.

The Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. It is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. There are no walls or distances which can prevent the Father's mercy from reaching and embracing us.

Pope Francis states.. We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord's words: *Merciful like the Father*. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (*Lk 6:36*). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus's command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. *Lk 6:27*). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SPORT FOR 2016...AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOFIELDS...

The official sport's day is THURSDAY. Every student will engage in Sport Activities programmed by Miss Lauren Wheeler, Qualified Sports Teacher and Mrs Teresia Sobb.

The new sport's program is based on

- developing a sequenced and incremental sport activities to enable the gradual acquisition and application of skills.
- experiencing a high level of activity, with all students engaged in the activity through inclusive strategies and with opportunities to experience success.
- fostering resilience and appreciation of achievements.
- providing opportunities e.g. Sport Clinics for enrichment activities and/or training workshops for gala days, sporting events at lunch breaks.
- generating a level of wellbeing, encompassing fitness and enjoyment of physical activity.
- building interest among students in sporting pursuits.
- opening up the opportunity for interested parents to volunteer their time in supporting our student in sporting activities and training.
- building a strong sporting community which encourages students to enjoying being a member of our sporting houses - Tenison, MacKillop, Fitzroy and Penola.

We aim to encourage our students to strive to achieve their full sporting potential and to share their sporting talents and interests within and beyond our school community.

World Youth Day 2016

World Youth Day Krakow 2016 will be a pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland for a week-long festival of faith with millions of youth from around the world joining Pope Francis for an encounter with Jesus. The Diocese of Parramatta is hoping that over 350 young people (16-35) from Western Sydney will attend.

It is a part of a tradition initiated by the late Pope John Paul II (now St John Paul) for the Church to be with the youth, for the youth. Pope John Paul II described World Youth Day's objective as: "...to make the person of Jesus the centre of the faith and life of every young person so that He may be their constant point of reference and also the inspiration of every initiative and commitment for the education of the new generations."¹

2016 will be a very special WYD. Krakow is where the founder, Pope John Paul II, studied and was Archbishop. World Youth Day is now the largest regular gathering of young people for in the world.



This year two of our staff will be attending the 2016 World Youth day – Ms Denise Chircop and Miss Zara Boudib. The St Bernadette Parish Castle Hill will be sponsoring Miss Zara Boudib and the Parramatta Diocese and the St Joseph's Schofields School community will sponsor Ms Denise Chircop. During Term 1 and Term 2 there will be fundraising events planned so our whole school community can get involved in this great experience. Both teachers will share their experiences and learning to their respective communities when they return from the Pilgrimage.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Catholic Care Social Services

St Joseph's has been allocated a Catholic Care Clothing Bin which is located in the school car parking area. Help us support individuals and families in Western Sydney. This facility is sponsored by the Diocesan Works Fund (DWF). It has been great to see many parents using the bin by passing on clothing. The unit is for clothing only Bin Enquiries Call 1300 737 166



Chess is Back!

See Mrs Delvecchio's update on Thursday's Chess Afternoon included in this Newsletter.

Student Banking

The latest update on banking details is:

Wednesday – Sarah Vagas & Maria Borazio will be banking coordinators for 2016. Thank you very much to our wonderful parents who are volunteering to take over from last years parents – Mrs Saunders, Mrs Taylor.

Both Mrs Saunders and Mrs Taylor promoted the banking opportunity very week and liaised closely with the Commonwealth Bank representatives. We are very grateful for your commitment and support of our students and parents.

Positive Behaviour Strategies for Learning (PBS4L)

The PBS4L committee have been very busy in organising lesson plans for teachers to teach the school rules:-

I am Safe

I am Respectful

I am a Learner

The PBS4L team will be meeting today and next Monday afternoon to prepare information to be distributed to our parents and to plan an information parent session in the near future.

On behalf of the PBS4L committee I wish to thank the many parents who laminated the 'Joey's' tokens during the days the MAI assessment was being carried out by the teachers. A very special thank you to Mrs Crane, Mrs Turner and Mrs Bates for organising the materials e.g. token sheets, laminating sheets and laminator. Well done!!

Meet and Greet Evening

On Monday all parents would have received the 'Meet and Greet' Letter, Getting To Know Your Child Form and Booking on line instructions for the Meet and Greet Evening on Tuesday 9th February. ***I wish to remind you that the Getting To Know Your Child Form is due back to your child's teacher by Friday 5th February.*** Thanking you in anticipation.

Welcome Families Dinner

New families are invited to the **Welcome Families Dinner on Friday 26th February, at 6.30 pm.** A letter went home on Monday. Please note that the date has changed from the Calendar update previously mentioned in Week 1 newsletter update.

Regards

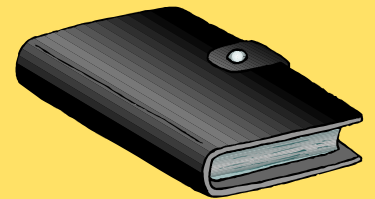
Cheryl Brown
Principal

CALENDAR OVERVIEW

2016

Term 1

Week 2	Fri	5th February	Whole school Assembly 1.30pm Community Space
Week 3	Tues	9th February	Meet & Greet with Teachers & Parents
	Wed	10th February	Ash Wednesday—Liturgy 12noon Community Space
	Fri	12th February	Beginning School Mass 12noon Community Space All Welcome
Week 4	Thurs	18th February	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival
	Fri	19th February	Whole School Assembly 1.30pm Community Space
Week 5	Tues	23rd February	Enrolment 2017 Information Evening 7pm Mary Immaculate Parish
	Fri	26th February	Diocesan Swimming Carnival Welcome BBQ new families 6.30pm
Week 6	Fri	4th March	Whole School Assembly 1.30pm Community Space
Week 7	Wed	9th March	School Cross Country
Week 8	Wed	16th March	School Photos
	Thurs	17th March	St Patricks' Day in class liturgy
	Fri	18th March	St Joseph's Feast Day Mass 12noon Whole School Assembly 1.30pm Community Space
	Sun	20th March	Palm Sunday
Week 9	Mon	21st March	Kindy Palm Sunday Liturgy 1.30pm
Holy Week			
	Tues	22nd March	Year 1 Last Supper Liturgy 1.30pm
	Wed	23rd March	Year 2 Praying in the Garden 1.30pm
	Thurs	24th March	Year 3/4 Good Friday Liturgy 1.30pm
	Fri	25th March	Good Friday Public holiday
	Sun	27th March	Easter Sunday
Week 10	Mon	28th March	Easter Monday Public holiday
	Tues	29th March	Stage 3 Resurrection Liturgy 1.30pm
	Thurs	31st March	Stage 3 Canberra Trip
	Fri	1st April	Stage 3 Canberra Trip Whole School Assembly
Week 11	Fri	8th April	Last Day of Term 1



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

After the goal has been identified, the teachers then put together the Implementation Plan which outlines what we will do as a school community to ensure that the goal is met by the end of the year. This Implementation Plan is continually referred to as part of Professional learning and monitored and reviewed throughout the year to ensure its success.

This year we have been buddied up with two other school; Our Lady of Lourdes at Seven Hills and St Bernadette's at Lalor Park. Each term we will visit each other's school to discuss and share what we have been doing in Literacy, Numeracy and Formation in achieving our goals. We are excited about this and look forward to working with the teachers from other schools.

Mathematical Interview Assessments (MAI)

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. Over the coming weeks, the staff will collate 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 and Visualiation.

EXTENDING MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING (EMU)

Our school will continue to be part of the EMU project. We use the data from the MAI to inform our teaching in mathematics. Mr Atkins and Mrs Farhat have been trained as the EMU Lead Teacher so that they can support staff in delivering effective teaching strategies in mathematics. This will involve them, along with the leadership team, 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 Sarah Bartolo is being trained as EMU specialist teacher. This will enable her to work in a small group with these students each day for 30 minutes. She will be undertaking training and will start these lessons in the coming weeks.

Mrs Anne Watson will be the EMU specialist teacher for primary and will be working with the vulnerable students in Stage 2 and Stage 3. Both Mrs Watson and Mrs Barolo will also work with Mr Atkins and Mrs Farhat in supporting the staff.

READING RECOVERY

I will continue to be the Reading Recovery teacher for 2016. Each day I work with four Year 1 students for 30 minutes. During each session we engage in reading, letter identification activities and writing. The students are taught strategies to problem solve when they come across an unknown word through specific prompts and questions by the teacher. I am currently assessing students in Year 1 to determine which students will access the program this year.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CHESS LESSONS

We are pleased to be offering chess lessons on Thursday afternoon from 2.45 – 3.45 in the library at St Josephs again this year. Please find attached the letter with all the information about the chess lessons if you are new or are interested in starting this year. If you have any questions please feel free to come and ask or come and check out a lesson this Thursday afternoon.

HOUSE COLOURS

This Friday at assembly, the school colour captains will be officially launching the St Joseph's house colours. The house colours are;

Blue – Penola
RED – MacKillop
Yellow - Tenison
Green – Fitzroy

They will be doing a presentation on why these house colours have been selected along with a Cheer.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING and STUDENT LEARNING IN OUR SCHOOL

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Each year the schools in the Parramatta Diocese are required to identify a learning goal in Literacy, Numeracy and Formation (Religious Education). These goals are identified based on the needs of the students in the school and project where we would like the students to be at the end of the following year.

Our School Implementation plan goals are;

Formation Goal; To deepen students understanding of their faith, through greater knowledge of the scriptures. We expect to achieve growth across all strands in comparison to all 2015 RLA data and growth in assessment data.

Literacy Goal - For students to view and compose well structured, varied and effective sentences with increasing complexity as evidenced by 2 point growth on the St Joseph's/NAPLAN writing continuum.

Numeracy Goal - For all students, by the end of Term Three, to use visualisation and reasoning skills to solve multiplication and division problems, with 80% of students beginning the year at or below GP3 in Multiplication and Division to achieve GP4 or beyond, and 80% of students beginning the year at or above GP4 to achieve GP6 or beyond.

We are excited about this and look forward to working with the teachers from other schools. These goals were devised at the end of last year. The teachers analysed data, particularly NAPLAN and the Religious Literacy Assessment data (completed by Year 4 and 6) as well as classroom and other assessment data. Teachers spent a lot of time analysing the questions and student responses to identify the needs in our school. From this exercise, teachers describe what they would like the students to be achieving by the end of the year consequently naming our learning goals in these three areas.



Opening School Mass and Induction of the New School Leaders Ceremony

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Friday 12th February 2016 at 12pm in the School Community Space. All are welcome to attend and celebrate the start of the new year.



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy will be held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 12pm in the School Community Space. All are welcome to attend and celebrate the beginning of Lent with our school community.

NEED TO KNOW

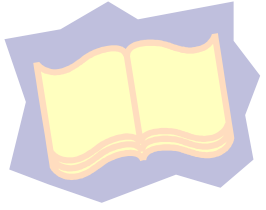
Change of Clothes for Kindy

Can you please ensure your Kindy child has a change of clothes (underwear, trousers, tunic and socks) in case of an accident at school. It avoids embarrassment for your child if they have their own clothes.

Visitor Sign in Book

It's very important that anyone helping in the classrooms or visiting inside the school grounds signs the register in the foyer and collects a visitor's badge prior to entering the premises.

It is equally important that on leaving the school grounds you return your badge and sign off on the register. This allows us to keep an accurate record of the number of people on the premises at any time.



Tears and Tissues

Many thanks to Nicole Grima, Kylie Smallacombe and team and for their wonderful hospitality on Monday with a welcoming morning tea for Kinder families.



Child Protection for Volunteers

It is a system requirement that child protection training be completed by all volunteers commencing work at St Joseph's.

An online training module for use by volunteers is now available. After successfully completing the module, an email notification will be sent automatically to the volunteer's email address and to the school email address. This email is a confirmation that the training has been successfully completed by the volunteer.

Child Protection for Volunteers may be accessed via the following link located in the Child protection Kit, Section 10, Child Protection Training for Volunteers.

<http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>

Using Child Protection for Volunteers

1. Open the module by clicking the Start link
2. Read through the presentation
3. Complete and submit quiz questions – this will take approximately 45 minutes
4. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school.
5. A notification of successful completion of the module will be sent via e-mail to the school and also to the volunteer's email address.

If you would like to assist in the classrooms, at carnivals and our excursions you will need to complete this training module online. If you completed the online Child Protection Training Session in 2014 you will need to redo the training module as your training is only valid until 2016.

Playgroup

Playgroup meets every Wednesday at 8.30– all welcome.

Student Banking

Student banking once again will be Wednesday mornings 8-8.30am. A Comm Bank representative will be at St Joseph's on Wednesday 17th February for all new bankers and to answer any questions you may have.

School Fees

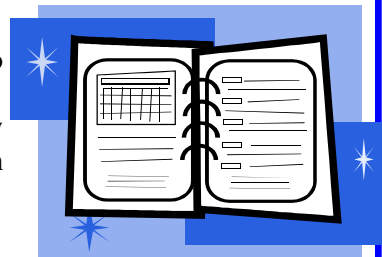
Term 1 School Fees will be sent home via mail next week. You will notice that all fees are now divisible by 3 and they will be spread evenly over three terms (Term 1, 2 & 3). This includes the Activity/Gymnastics Program and Canberra Excursion (whatever is applicable to your child's grade). This has been done to make it easier for families to manage the payments.

Together with your Fee statement there will be an offer for you to make an arrangement to pay the fees by instalments (if you wish) by either BPay or Direct debit. If you decide to take the offer of Direct Debit you will need to have the paperwork completed and sent into the Catholic Education Office by 26th February. Alternatively, if you do not need an arrangement, the fees will be due 30 days after they have been sent.

NEED TO KNOW

Appointments

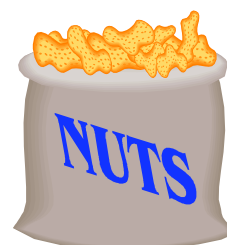
You can make an appointment to see your child's teacher by writing a note to them or by contacting the ladies in the office who can pass on a message. Please note that it is very important that an appointment is made at a mutually convenient time. Interviews "on the run" are not possible or practical. We aim for quality communication and this can't happen unless we take quality time.



St Joseph's is Nut Free and Allergy Aware

Just a reminder that St Joseph's is **strictly a nut free** school. So please keep this in mind when packing your child's school recess and lunch.

- No Peanut Butter
- No Nutella
- No Nuts or Nut Products



Access Through St John Paul 11 Catholic College

If your child needs to come through from St John Paul 11 Catholic College into St Joseph's via the back gate, please provide a written letter requesting permission to do the same.

Car Park

Just a reminder that the car park is for staff parking only. A request can be made for permission due to special circumstances. This is to ensure the safety of all children using the pedestrian walkways.

Change of Routine

If your child's pickup routine is to be altered please advise the class teacher in writing of the new details. Also any messages to children need to be at the office by 2.00pm, so that the student can be notified in time. If you haven't already done so please take the time to complete the Pick up Arrangement form attached to this newsletter and return it to the school office.

Medication

Parents please note we are unable to give Panadol to students. If your child requires medication you need to provide written authority and the Panadol. Prescribed Medication needs to be labeled and handed into the office with the appropriate details.



Second Hand Uniforms

Open Thursday mornings 8.30-9.00am or contact Tina on 0417457417 we have plenty of stock and would be excellent as a spare uniform or one to place in your child's bag in case of an accident.

The current modes of communication are:-

Weekly Electronic News Communication - Odd week – News update.
Even week – Official Newsletter
Please note - News update was posted last Wednesday 27/1/16 including

A paper copy of the Newsletter is available in the foyer of the school for parents convenience.

Skoolbag App
Smartphone school to parent communication



Skoolbag App - download the School Bag App and search for the
St Joseph's Primary School, Schofields

St Joseph's Primary School – Community Facebook Page. This is our school's official Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-Primary-School-Schofields> This page is updated regularly and is a site for information regarding the school events etc and celebrations of learning.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Student transport—New Opal Cards

Students who already have 2015 bus passes will soon receive their 2016 Opal card through school. Other eligible students, including: - new applicants, students changing school or campuses or updating their personal details, Students moving from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7, who have already applied or who still need to apply will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address in the first two weeks of term one 2016.

Parents or guardians, and students who are eligible for SSTS travel and have not already received a card, should be directed to apply online at <http://transportnsw.info/school-students>.



Parents will need to fill out the online application form and bring it to you for endorsement. Please endorse the application forms and return these to Transport for NSW within the first two weeks of Term One to ensure eligible students can get their School Opal cards as quickly as possible. **Remember:** you are only required to endorse the enrolment status, grade and home address of the student. You are not required to endorse the nominated transport mode and operator, as Transport for NSW is responsible for managing SSTS compliance.

Important information about travelling with Opal

The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school on approved modes of public transport.

The School Opal card doesn't cover travel to activities away from school, such as, after school care, sport and school excursions.

Remember: a grace period applies at the start of each new school year, where school students who have been approved for SSTS travel can travel without a valid pass while new passes are being issued. Students must be in school uniform or be able to provide evidence (such as a school ID or school books) that they are travelling to or from school during this time.

Students should use a Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends, during school holidays or activities away from school.

Behaviour matters

Please remind students that free travel is a privilege that can be taken away if official Codes of Conduct aren't followed. In summary, students should remember to:

- Tap on and tap off every time.
- Offer their seat to paying customers without being asked.
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers.
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey.
- Always travel with a valid ticket.

Student Codes of Conduct are available at <http://transportnsw.info/school-students>

