Dear Parents,

This Sunday, is a very special celebration for Rumiya McGuinness Bullock and Zoe Walters as they will be making their First Holy Communion with other children from St Joseph’s Parish at the 8:00am Mass.

When children receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time, they know, through their preparation, that Jesus becomes food for their soul under the appearance of bread and wine. They are encouraged to receive Communion afterwards, as often as they can, in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus. This is because, when we receive Communion, we receive Jesus and all that he stands for: his compassion toward the sick and disadvantaged, his forgiveness of those burdened by guilt, his call on people to share their wealth, his teaching of the true meaning of love.

The reality for many, who made their First Communion at an early age, is that they did not continue to nurture that friendship with Jesus. However, the friendship is still there but, for any number of reasons, it is no longer a two-way friendship; Jesus is the only one keeping it going. Maybe, as we matured as people, work ambitions or perhaps problems and worries consumed our attention and energy and our Spiritual development got left behind. Maybe anger, hurt or disappointment soured us in some way. Maybe we forgot about prayer, Mass and the Sacraments and thought that we were completely self-sufficient.

In the last chapter of Luke’s Gospel is a story of two disciples who were on their way from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. As they journeyed, they were joined by another traveller and the conversation turned to the events of the previous Friday when: “Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, was betrayed by our chief priest and leaders and handed over to be condemned and crucified.” Luke 24:19,20.

When, eventually, they arrived at Emmaus, the two disciples invited the other traveller to stay with them. “When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then, their eyes were opened and they recognised him.” Luke 24:29-31. Jesus had been travelling with them but they were so involved in the recent events of their own lives that they did not recognise him. Jesus became real to them through the blessing and breaking of bread, in other words through the Eucharist.

When our children receive their First Communion, we might imagine them as the disciples who walked the road to Emmaus. Imagine them as leading us to recognise Jesus, who has never left the friendship we had with him.

Good luck to all our students who will be competing in the Armidale Diocesan Athletics Carnival on Friday!

I look forward to sharing our Book Week celebrations with you all this Monday 24 August. Our theme of “Alice in Wonderland” is sure to make for an interesting and entertaining parade of costumes by the children. The parade commences at 9:00am and will be followed by a “T” Party at recess.

We are also very excited about our participation in the upcoming “JumpStart” production by our Catholic schools in the Armidale region (Glen Innes, Guyra, Armidale, Uralla & Walcha). We will be transporting the students up to UNE Armidale on Monday 24 August at 12:30pm (after our Book Week celebrations) for their full dress rehearsal. Matinee performances will take place on Thursday and Friday and the students will once again be transported by bus. The evening performances on Friday and Saturday promise to be entertaining for everyone. If you wish to see these performances and have not yet purchased your tickets please visit the O’Connor Catholic College website www.oconnor.nsw.edu.au. Permission notes for the bus are included in this newsletter - please return them as soon as possible. The school is covering the cost of the bus trips.

In Christ's peace,

John Phillips
Principal
SCHOOL MASSES
There will be NO school Mass this Friday.

DIOCESAN ATHLETICS
Best wishes to the following students who will represent St Joseph’s School at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival to be held in Tamworth this Friday 21 August: Jordan Redmond, Jack Reddon, Alex Baker, Zac Walters, Ronald Boxsell, Daniel Murrell, Georgia White, Kaitlyn Walters, Matilda Boxsell, Charlotte Murrell, Angela Ryan, Zoe Walters and Bailey Redmond. Any outstanding permission notes and levies should be returned to school tomorrow.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Our school is participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion. Please collect the stickers and send them in to the office. Get your friends and extended family to give you their stickers too. There are double points being offered this weekend. At the conclusion of the promotion we will use the stickers to purchase educational resources for the school.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Week 4
Principal's Awards
Setting a great example in attitude to work
Primary - Jack Reddon

Class Awards
Primary - Zoe Walters - For excellent Sportsmanship at the Athletics Carnival
Primary - Charlotte Murrell - For persistence and dedication in reading activities

Sascha Wright - Completion of the Reading Tutor Program

Week 5
Principal's Awards
Consideration of others to help their learning
Infants - Mariah Carlon
Primary - Adrian Walters - In dance activities

Class Awards
Infants - Meredith Hannaford - For her Sentence Writing
Primary - Daniel Murrell - For confidence and a “have-a-go” attitude in Reading groups

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their Athletics Awards:
Infants Boys Encouragement Awards: Ethan Walters; Jack Young & Malakye Wright

Infants Girls Encouragement Awards: Callie White; Montana Hayes & Mariah Carlon

Junior Boys Champion: Jordan Redmond; Runner-up: Jack Reddon
Junior Girls Champion: Charlotte Murrell; Runner-up: Angela Ryan

11 Yrs Boy Champion: Alex Baker; Runner-up: Zac Walters
Senior Girls Champion: Bailey Redmond; Runner-up: Makaala Dodd

Monsignor Peters Cup for Athlete of the Carnival: Alex Baker
Winning House: Koolyangarra
CURRICULUM CORNER

Going Google

A few weeks ago I attended a two day ‘Google Bootcamp’ hosted by the Armidale CSO and facilitated by ‘Using Technology Better’. It was a very valuable experience to be surrounded by other educators who are like minded, and have a keen interest and deep desire to use Technology better in the classroom to improve student achievement. Over the two days, we covered a plethora of tools, tips, apps, methods of using the suite of Google products to facilitate improved learning environments, positive educational outcomes and more efficient work spaces. However, we are not alone... “More than 40 million students, teachers and administrators rely on Google Apps for Education to learn, communicate and work together more efficiently.” (cited https://www.google.com/edu/trust/)

Currently across our school, the student to device ratio is over 1:1, whereas other schools may have a handful of iPads for a large class. The use of technology has been an important focus in the both the studios in our school this year. This has visibly enhanced and ignited curiosity in our learners across the school, in a variety of learning activities across all the Key Learning Areas. The advantage of using Google based educational apps has been tangible, achieving innovative educational outcomes for the students.

Students have engaged in such activities as: collaborative projects, edited peer work, completed map work, constructed whole group writing pieces, explored a variety media outputs such as making magazines and movies, applied graphic organisers to ideas, used spreadsheets and created graphs, watched clips for research purposes, created forms for surveys and the list goes on! By using technology in the classroom and in particular the Google-based tools we are using, students are able to employ the following to enhance and improve their learning experiences:

- Fast, easy collaboration capabilities bringing students, teachers and groups together in real time.
- Access files anytime on any device with an Internet connection;
- Work offline with documents;
- Share files/ documents with students and teachers, and collaborate in real time;
- Share resources with students quickly and easily
- Provide feedback on work and assessments;
- Allow read-only access on documents and share with students as a resource, with no photocopying;
- Save/ export a document in a variety of formats including those used by MS Office;
- Work with other Google Apps to provide a platform for forms, surveys, projects, spreadsheets, powerpoints, videos, etc;
- Save all work in the cloud without it ever getting lost;
- Integration of many iPad apps;

We as teachers look forward to continue to look for ways to better use technology in learning experiences, inspiring our students to inquire and learn!

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

PT&F CORNER

The next PT&F meeting is on the 20th August at 5:30pm where we will be discussing the upcoming Thunderbolt festival and the Fete.

Everyone is invited to come along and help with ideas.

Hoping to see you on the 20th with some great ideas!

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like to know what is going on, copies of the minutes from our meetings are available in the office at any time.

Kathy Dodd (President)    Phone 6778 4774 or Mob. 0423 418 467
CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH’S
Monday 24th August, 2015

Here at St. Joseph’s, we are going to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Alice books by asking students to come to school dressed as a character. There are lots of characters to choose from that require just a little imagination and a little time to make or put together. Students could come as Alice, the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts, the King of Hearts, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the Duchess, a playing card, a frog footman, a fish footman, a caterpillar, a dormouse, a flamingo or team up with a friend and come as Tweedledee and Tweedledum!! (Just remember that the costume must allow the students to be able to sit and to use facilities!)

Parents are welcome to watch the parade of costumes at 9.00am. After the parade, students will be engaged in a number of classroom activities related to the theme. At recess, to conclude our special celebrations, the students will have a “T Party”! We won’t be drinking tea. Instead, students are encouraged to bring food that they think their character would enjoy, foods that begin with T: Tuna sandwiches, Tim Tams, T cakes, Tasty cheese ...and I’m sure they could think of lots of other foods too. Perhaps sandwiches could be cut in the shape of a T!

Looking forward to sharing this day with you
With Cheshire cat grins,
Mr John Phillips

ATHLETICS AWARDS ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2015

Dates to Remember

Fri 21 Aug: Diocesan Athletics
Sun 23 Aug: First Eucharist 8:00am
Mon 24 Aug: Book Week Parade 9:00am
Mon 24 Aug: “Jumpstart” Dress Rehearsal 12:30pm
Thurs 27 & Fri 28 Aug: “Jumpstart” Matinee
Fri 28 & Sat 29 Aug: “Jumpstart” evening performances

Mon 7 Sep: Board Meeting 6:30pm
Fri 18 Sep: Term 3 ends
Tue 6 Oct: Term 4 begins

CANTEEN ROSTER
Mon 17 Aug: Julie Ryan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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