Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all our students for their spectacular performances in Jump Start. It was a massive effort in preparation and in particular, for students performing over the two matinees and two evening performances. I know we are all immensely proud of the way they took to the stage displaying their acting, movement and dance skills. I thank the teachers for their time and effort put into preparing and supervising the students over many very long hours. They were looking very tired on Saturday night but their enthusiasm and patience remained strong! I especially thank Mrs Walters for her efforts in creating, co-ordinating and coaching this student performance.

Congratulations to Daniel Murrell for coming third in his division in the National Cross Country Championships. What an outstanding effort! We are all very proud of you Daniel. I thank the school community for their fundraising to support Daniel’s cost in competing in this event.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped prepare their children for Book Week activities last week. Book Week is about encouraging children to read. Those who read for pleasure have active imaginations and enjoy learning; indeed, reading is a gift that will last forever: “I can’t get around much anymore. When I go somewhere, I have to go in a wheelchair. But when I read, I can go anywhere, anytime I want. And no one has to help me.” Mavis Gleeson. 98 years old!

Reading is the avenue through which children learn just about everything; it is reading that will broaden children’s horizons and take them into new and exciting worlds that are paved with endless wonder and imagination. Reading is an interactive activity, for when children read they are involved with the book, imagining the characters and scenes and painting images in their minds which enable them to be creative and to think for themselves.

Of course, there are academic benefits as reading allows children to see words in different contexts which can assist comprehension, the correct use of grammar and correct sentence structure. The more children see how a word is used, the more likely they are to use the word correctly in their own vocabulary. Seeing words spelt correctly will help children to be more correct with their spelling. Likewise, writing skills will benefit by reading well-formed sentences and observing how paragraphs link together. There is evidence to suggest that children who read for pleasure will perform well in written exams, because they are likely to understand the phrasing of the questions and be able to write their answers with clarity.

In addition to academic learning, reading offers a wide range of life skills as children learn about the world around them. Although reading is mostly a solitary activity, it encourages an understanding of how people relate to each other as the book characters form relationships and deal with questions of morals, friendship, love and family. Also, reading can help cope with stress and anxiety as it provides a form of relaxation and escapism.

“Lord, we give thanks for the gift of Your love and for the gifts we have that distinguish each of us as a unique person. We are grateful for the gifts of sight and touch that enable us to experience the joys of books and reading. Amen.”

This Friday afternoon, we say bon voyage to Mrs Kerrie Biddle as she begins her LSL and prepares to travel to Europe. Our best wishes are with Kerrie for a well deserved holiday and we will look forward to hearing about her adventures when she returns in the second week of Term Four.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips—Principal
SCHOOL MASSES
There will be a whole school Mass this Friday at 9:10am. All welcome.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Our school is participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion. Thank you to those families who have been sending in their stickers. We can provide copies of the sticker sheets if you wish to stick them in yourselves before you bringing them in to school. Don’t forget to ask your friends and extended family to give you their stickers too. The program concludes on 8 September. We will then send in the stickers to purchase educational resources for the school.

ASSEMBLY
We have missed the last two weeks of Assembly due to other commitments—Diocesan Athletics and the JumpStart performances. We will have our next assembly this Friday at 2:45pm.

POLDING ATHLETICS
As a result of their performance at the recent Diocesan Athletics, five of our students have qualified to represent the Diocese of Armidale at the Polding Athletics Championships at Glendale, Newcastle, this Friday 4 September. Congratulations and best wishes to: Alex Baker (Relay Team & Shot Put), Charlotte Murrell (Relay Team), Angela Ryan (Relay Team), Zac Walters (Relay Team) and Daniel Murrell (AWD 100m, 200m, 800m, Long Jump, Shot Put & Discus).

ST JOSEPH’S STUDENTS’ DISCO
Our school leaders Makaala and Bailey have organised a “Neon Disco” night on Friday 11 September in the school hall from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The entry fee of $3 per person includes a glow stick, neon face paint, slushy, drink and a sausage sandwich. This is sure to be a FUN night!

PUPIL FREE DAY
Term 3 concludes on Friday 18 September. There will be a pupil free day on Tuesday 6 October which is the first day of Term 4. Therefore students will return to school on Wednesday 7 October.

SOFTBALL
Softball Armidale Inc. will be holding a registration day on Saturday 5 September at Sportspower in store from 9:00am to 12noon. The new 10 week season starts on Friday 9 October at Moran Oval. Cost is $60 for ages 5—11; $75 for ages 12—16. For further information contact Naomi Bassett on 0408 022 779 or Amy Kliendienst on 0434 610 795.

ARMIDALE LITTLE ATHLETICS
Armidale Little Athletics will hold its registration days on Thursday 10th and 17th September from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Harris Park Clubhouse in Kirkwood Street, Armidale. Cost is $80 per child plus uniform. Must provide proof of age. For further information phone 0427 752 022.

GIRLS MiniRoos SOCCER PROGRAM
Northern Inland Football will be conducting a MiniRoos soccer program for girls aged 4 to 12 years of age in Term 4. It will run for 10 weeks from 10 October to 12 December each Saturday morning from 9:30am to 10:30am at the Rologas Fields in Armidale. Cost is $120 which includes a backpack, ball and drink bottle. Each session consists of 30 minutes skills and 30 minutes matches with an emphasis on fun and friendship. For further information email norm.lockett@gmail.com
“Jumpstart” the Creative Arts

With ‘Jumpstart’ performances occurring last weekend, it is timely to consider how this experience and opportunity contributed to the learning and development of your child. The Creative Arts is one of the key learning areas and provides teaching and learning experiences in Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. Hence, Jumpstart forms part of the Dance curriculum under the umbrella of the Creative Arts syllabus.

Students engage in learning experiences in visual arts, music, drama and dance as part of their natural growth and development. However, learning in each of the art forms does not occur automatically. Regular learning experiences that are thoughtfully planned, sequenced and related are essential for developing students’ skills and knowledge and understanding within the art forms. In Dance, students develop knowledge, skills and understanding:

• in composing their own dances using the elements and contexts of dance: In the initial stages of the dance, students were invited to contribute to the choreography of the dance to creatively express the intent of movements.
• in performing their own dances and the dances of others from different times and cultures using the elements and contexts of dance: The dance itself has required the students to move in a variety of ways to a collection of different songs and beats, while interpreting movement to communicate moods, feelings and ideas to tell a story.
• in appreciating their own dances and those of others: Part of the dance practice has been to watch the dance filmed and identify parts of the dance that need more practice. In addition to this, students will audience members on the Friday and be able to watch and appreciate other creative art performances.

Within the syllabus there are also values and attitudes that are embedded to contribute to the ways in which students develop. Teachers, parents and people in the wider community can be significant role models for students in how they value the arts. Through the opportunity to participate in ‘Jumpstart’, this is a tangible way teachers, parents and people in the wider community promote the significant value of the arts.

Over the term the students have developed their physical competence and confidence using the elements of dance with challenging expressive qualities. They have used safe dance practices; developed physical skills such as coordination, gross motor movement and general body awareness; and improved their rhythm, timing, space and structure within the elements of the dance. I was so very excited to see how amazing the students perform, how confident they have become, and how they worked as a large group. I hope you too appreciated their smiling faces as they took the stage to showcase all their hard work and creativity over the last term!

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

PT&F CORNER

The next PT&F meeting is on Thursday 17 September 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 17th 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
Mon 7 Sep: Board Meeting 6:30pm
Fri 11 Sep: School Disco 5:30pm
Thurs 17 Sep: PT&F Meeting 5:30pm
Fri 18 Sep: Term 3 ends
Tue 6 Oct: Term 4 begins—PUPIL FREE DAY
Wed 7 Oct: Students return

JUMPSTART
DVD ORDER FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER.
SPARE ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Mon 7 Sep: Julie Ryan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
8 Sep: Meredith Hannaford
14 Sep: Kaitlyn Walters

Dates to Remember