Dear Parents

October is Catholic Mission’s World Mission Month and this week, the students will be learning how we can help those in need.

This will be an opportunity for students to engage with the real-life stories of children, their families and local missionaries all working together to build healthy communities who are able to joyfully receive the ‘living water’ the Gospel brings. It will encourage them to deepen their understanding about issues of mission and justice, and think about ways we can help as a school community.

The focus is on Madagascar. Although surrounded by water Madagascar lacks access to clean water for washing, cleaning, cooking and most importantly, drinking. This forces the community to use dirty water, which is making them seriously ill. Alarmingly, each year, thousands of children die from preventable diseases like diarrhoea because of the lack of clean water and proper sanitation.

Each of us is invited to be involved in the work of global mission and share the loving grace of God with all.

Let us remember and celebrate the work of our Church as it strives to improve the lives of children throughout the world. As followers of Jesus let us be ready to transform ourselves so that we may transform the world. As a community let us be ready to be nourished by God’s word:

“Whoever is thirsty”, says Jesus, “should come to me and drink… and streams of life giving water will pour out from their heart.” Jn 7:37-38

We welcome back Kerrie with her photos and exciting stories of her adventures overseas. I would like to thank Mary and Bianca for filling in over the last few weeks in her absence.

Anne Kelly has needed to extend her leave from school into this term, however, I can tell you that she, too, thoroughly enjoyed her trip overseas. Rochelle Joyce will continue to work with Kelly Walters in Anne’s absence.

This term we started a new student to our school, Sienna Bastian. Her sister, Ruby, will commence Kindergarten in 2016. The Bastian family are warmly welcomed to our school and we hope their time with us will be full of happiness and success.

Next Wednesday, we welcome five new students to our school as they begin attending our Kindergarten Transition Program. This will prepare them for a smooth start into Kindergarten in 2016. This program will run over six weeks.

Next Wednesday, all students will be attending a Circus workshop as part of the Thunderbolts Festival activities. Kathy Dodd has kindly offered to bus the children to Uralla Central School for this workshop. Please find the accompanying permission note for further details.

Best wishes to Daniel Murrell who is competing at NSW PSSA Athletics in Sydney this week. Daniel has had a big year representing his school, Diocese, Polding Region and State at Cross Country and Athletics. We are very proud of you, Daniel.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips
SCHOOL MASS
There will be a whole school Mass this Friday 16th October at 9:15. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

ASSEMBLY
Our next Assembly will be held on Friday 16th October at 2.45pm. All are welcome.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
The next board meeting will be 19th October in the school hall at 6pm.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM
Next Wednesday 21 October we will be commencing Kindergarten Transition for the students starting school at St Joseph’s next year. It provides a great opportunity for the children to become familiar with academic and social aspects of school life.

MORNING TEA
Gerard Ryan is coordinating a morning tea in the church grounds after 8am Mass on Sunday 18th October. All are welcome.

THUNDERBOLTS CIRCUS WORKSHOP
On Tuesday 20th October from 1:00pm to 2:30pm all students K-6 will be attending a circus workshop at Uralla Central School hall. Students who show an extra flair for acrobatics may be included in a performance for Saturday’s festival. Students are asked to wear their sports uniform on the day. Please return the permission note included with today’s newsletter. A huge thank you to Kathy Dodd who will be transporting the students to and from the venue.

PT&F CORNER
Our next meeting will be tomorrow 15th October in the school hall from 5:30pm (please note change of date). Every year the PT&F work tirelessly to provide our children with the latest technology and resources. Please come along. All families are welcome to attend.

Thunderbolt Festival
St Joseph’s PT&F will again be operating the BBQ at the Thunderbolt festival on Saturday 24th October. A note requesting helpers is included with the newsletter. Please consider how you can give your time and help as this is a major fundraiser and we will be needing all of our families to make the day a success.

Fete
The annual St Joseph’s school and parish fete will be held this year on Sunday the 6th December. Fresh ideas and helpers will be needed so keep a lookout in the newsletters for fete meeting times. 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
REQUEST FOR CRAFT ITEMS FROM HOME

In the Infants and Primary Learning Studios we will be making our entry for the Thunderbolt Festival Parade. This year's theme is 'Sustainability'. Students will be engaged in making their costumes and props out of recyclable materials.

Could you please send in any interesting items that may be used to create hats and costumes. Please consider various shapes, texture, materials and colour when sending in items. Please place your items in a large garbage bag and send into school ready for creating next Wednesday.

Thank you in advance!

Marie Slattery, Rochelle Joyce and Kelly Walters

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CURRICULUM CORNER

Assisting your child with Numeracy Skills

It is regular practice for parents to be provided with resources, guidance and opportunities for discourse on ‘How to help your children with reading’. However, numeracy skills aren't so readily discussed. This week I would like to share with you some ideas and resources that will support ‘teaching moments in everyday life’ by asking even the simplest question of your child’s inquiring mind.

Your home, your daily activities, and places that you visit are full of opportunities to explore maths and numeracy concepts with your child. Activities in the kitchen, signs on the road, piles of washing, fuel for the car, shopping at the supermarket are like gold mines for you to ask a question that would require a ‘mathematical response’. This is a chance for you and your child to “talk maths”, that is, to communicate about maths while discovering relationships between numbers, spaces and places. At the same time, this builds your child’s self-confidence and understanding of mathematical ideas, enabling them to naturally apply their knowledge in the most common occurrences.

At St Joseph’s in both the Infants and Primary Studios, the students regularly participate in discussion (out of the classroom) with teachers that often start with “Well it is always time for Maths, so let’s think about why …”. Students make connections with abstract concepts and skills in maths lessons with real life situations in their world. You as a parent are able to talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns as well. Here are some very simple ways you can begin to help your child to get you started:

- find numbers around your home and neighbourhood – clocks, letterboxes, speed signs
- count forwards and backwards (clocks, fingers and toes, letterboxes, action rhymes, signs)
- observe patterns and describe patterns in the natural environment
- make patterns e.g. when counting "clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4, clap 5..."
- do sums using objects such as cups, plates, sandwiches, apples, loaves of bread etc
- make up number stories – “you have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. There are 4 of them"

I have provided a handout taken from the Curriculum Support Website that goes into further detail about Counting which is foundational for early numeracy skills. These can, however, be extended to older students. As parents you could ask ‘how many groups of...’, or ‘how many more/ less is...’ which challenges their understanding of operations (multiplication, division, addition and subtraction).

Maths is an important part of everyday life and there are lots of ways you can make it fun for your child!

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

The following awards were presented at our assembly for the end of Term 3 and the commencement of Term 4 on 9 October.

Term 3 Week 10

*Principal’s Awards for a responsible and caring attitude to the school environment*

Charlotte Baker
Brittany Doran

*Infants Learning Studio Award*

Kaitlyn Walters—for her habitat work in Inquiry.

*Primary Learning Studio Awards*

Jordan Redmond—a huge improvement in presentation of work and handwriting.
Adrian Walters—outstanding application using new Inquiry skills.

*Minilit Awards*

Mariah Carlon—for attentive listening.
Malakye—for understanding the bossy ‘e’ rule.

Term 4 Week 1

*Principal’s Award for an enthusiastic start to Term 4*

Brittany Doran
Zoe Walters

*Infants Learning Studio Award*

Malakye—for having a go always.

*Primary Learning Studio Award*

Alex Baker - High level of application in the Inquiry Task

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**Dates to Remember**

**Thurs 15th Oct:** PT&F meeting 5.30 pm.

**Fri 16th Oct:** Mass 9:15am
Assembly 2:45pm

**Mon 19th Oct:** School Board Meeting

**Tues 20 Oct:** Circus workshop

**Sat 24th Oct:** Thunderbolt’s Festival

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

MON 19 Oct: Amanda Murrell

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

15th Oct: Charlotte Fletcher

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