Dear Parents

With All Saints Day being celebrated this Sunday, it is worth just thinking about what saints mean to us as Catholics. The saints are always calling us back to our Christian roots. They are real human beings like us with their own personal problems but who battle on to achieve extraordinary deeds. Because of this, we should not leave them as lifeless statues or stained-glass windows and excuse ourselves from our responsibilities to other people on the pretext that we aren’t perfect. The very fact, that they are human like us, is a reminder to us of our responsibilities even if we are flawed and imperfect persons.

The following two observations highlight the “ordinary person” of St Mary Mackillop: “We want our saints to be inspiring but to understand the pathways we walk. Mary is a model of human possibility and she worked with what she had available to her and made things happen in a practical, humanly sensitive way.”  Sister Carroll. “The real Mary Mackillop was, in her youth, a rather photogenic, nice nun who grew up to be a remarkable woman of toughness and imagination in the way she lived her faith. But she was also an old lady in a wheelchair nursing her little dog after her active days were over.”  Fr Tony Kelly.

Father Damien of Molokai was a Belgian missionary priest who worked with Hawaiian people who had leprosy. About 8000 people had been separated from the rest of their society and isolated on the island of Molokai where they were abandoned. It was mostly missionary volunteers like Father Damien who cared for them in three-monthly shifts. After several shifts, Father Damien volunteered to stay permanently and take up the work that needed to be done on behalf of the lepers.

Not surprisingly, after a period of living, working and sharing with the lepers, he caught the disease himself and at only 49 years of age the disease caused his death. His tireless and selfless efforts caught the attention of many who shared his Christian beliefs and people like the famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, eventually forced official assistance to be given to the lepers.

The life of St Damien of Molokai holds out a powerful message that one single life properly motivated and directed to the needs of others, can make a lives-altering difference.

Not everyone can be a Mary Mackillop or a Damien of Molokai, but we can all do something, if only of a minor nature, to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged and neglected people.

St Mary Mackillop of Australia and St Damien of Molokai, may the spirit of your lives live on in the lives of Christian people right now. May we, ordinary people like you, be inspired to reach out to needy people as you did. May God’s Spirit be powerful in us as it was in the both of you.

Amen.

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It was great to see the community of Uralla unite to celebrate Thunderbolts Festival last Saturday morning. Our school was very excited and proud to be part of the parade. Well done to the teachers and students for preparing their “sustainable clothes” as part of their theme for the parade.

Many thanks to all our school community members who volunteered tirelessly, their services, to run the BBQ stall. It was a wonderful way to promote our school within the community and also to raise funds.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips
Positive Benefits Of Reading and How it Improves our Life  

As young children our mind is fed with stories and information. As we grow older we can at times neglect one of the most important tools in life - Reading. Reading is not just something we do, it has more far-reaching advantages that we as adults and parents of young children keep in mind. We, as teachers, are constantly reminding students of the benefits of being able to read, and encouraging them to persist in their skills by making connections with real life advantages. The next time your child may be reluctant to read, remind them about some of the interesting advantages that reading can offer a person in their life!

- **Reading Takes Your Mind Off Things** - Burying your head in a book is great way of taking your focus of attention off your everyday events for a while, transporting you to better places of fantasy worlds.
- **Reading Feeds The Craving Mind** - Our brain is like super powerful advanced computer and like all good computers the better the information in the better the information out.
- **Reading Improves Your Quality Of Conversations** - Your vast array of new found knowledge will help you to become more involved in discussions, you will be more able to instigate much more variable and interesting levels of conversations.
- **Reading Engages Your Imagination** - Story books can engage you in a world which is miles apart from our own, here you can have a glimpse of what goes on in the lives of many fictional characters.
- **Helps You To Tap Into The Mind Of The Creative Thinkers** - Some of the greatest books have been written by some of the best and most creative minds, you can delve into what goes on in the inner world of the great thinkers.
- **All Leaders And Successful People Read** - Books are very powerful, they change and transforms lives. Nearly all successful people will tell you that there is at least one book that they read that completely transformed their life.
- **Reading Stimulates Your Creativity** - Not many people have achieved success without knowledge and learning and the best way to absorb and acquire knowledge is through reading.
- **Reading A Book Can Improve Your Health** - A lot of people find that reading can help them unwind and relax at night, it can help you to drift off to sleep more easily because your living behind your troubles of the day as you allow your immersion in your book to relax you.
- **Reading Can Help You Solve Your Problems** - Many of the answers and solutions to our problems can be found or solved by reading and learning, accessing a wealth of knowledge and information that is limitless and readily available to us.
- **Reading Helps You To Grow** - Some books will inspire you as you read about other people’s success stories or how they have overcome near seemingly impossible feats which have required immense courage and determination, giving you great inspiration.
- **Being a reader means you’re more likely to learn something new every day** - It has been discovered that reading frequently does actually make you smarter. Not only does it help you retain knowledge, but it helps you to remember that knowledge later on in life. Whether or not you realise it, reading stockpiles your brain with new information, and you never know when it may come in handy.
- **People who read are more likely to vote, exercise, and be more cultural** - A study by the National Endowment for the arts concluded that reading makes you more engaged throughout life, taking advantage of any activities that may spring up during your life.
- **Reading enhances your memory** - Every time you read something new, your brain ‘makes room’ to fit it in. With these new spaces, you can take advantage of any new information that may arise.
- **Fiction books increase your ability to empathize with others** - A study done by the University of Buffalo has concluded that access to possible realities and fictional story lines opens you up to new emotions and feelings. It also helps you to empathize with people, by understanding different cultures.
- **People who read are more likely to get ahead when it comes to their careers, and life in general** - Honor Wilson-Fletcher said that reading “opens doors and makes life easier, so at the end of the day it doesn’t matter what you read. What’s more, it really can make you feel good!” This is very true, and it outlines how important it is to read, if you want to live a successful life.


Kelly Walters—Project Teacher
PT&F CORNER

Thunderbolt Festival:
Thank you to everyone who helped out with our BBQ stall last weekend. It was a great day!

Raffle: Attached to this newsletter is a book of tickets in raffle for a Four Burner BBQ. This BBQ was originally donated as a raffle prize to the school by the Reddon family — it was consequently won by the Baker family who kindly donated it back for further fundraising! Thanks to the generosity of these families we are raffling this great prize AGAIN! Please return your tickets and money as soon as possible.

Fete: Our annual Parish & School Fete will be held on Sunday 6 December in the school grounds from 11:00am to 2:00pm. St Joseph’s School families are kindly asked to begin sending in items suitable for the Tombola Stall and the Arts & Crafts Stall — any non-perishable food (must be in date); sweet treats; small toys; bath and beauty products; anything a child or adult would like to win or buy… be imaginative! If you have a green thumb and could prepare potted plants that would be great — send them in as close as possible to fete day. We will be looking for volunteers to man the stalls and will be sending home volunteers notes in due course — please give a little of your time for this once-a-year fundraiser.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12 November in the school hall from 5:30pm. Please come along. All families are welcome to attend. 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

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE

Our annual Parish & School Fete will be held on Sunday 6 December in the school grounds from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Stalls and convenors for this year’s fete are as follows:

Cakes and Produce — Parish Ladies
BBQ — Des Harris, Bob Locke, Gerard Ryan
Chocolate Wheel — Peter Kelly, Tim Bower, Fergus Fitzsimons, Owen Ryan
Tombola — Di Scott
Arts & Crafts — PT&F
Jumping Castle/Rides — Gerard Ryan
Family Numbers — PT&F
Tea & Coffee — PT&F
Hamper Raffle — School Staff
Crazy Hair & Face Painting — Julie Hayes & Youth
Plant Stall — Sue Bamden, Shelly McMillan
White Elephant Stall — Peter Feitz, Jane Leggatt
St. Joseph’s School, Wood Street, Uralla
Ph 0267 784063  Fax 0267 783010 Email: admin@stjosephsuralla.catholic.edu.au

THUNDERBOLTS FESTIVAL PHOTOS

Dates to Remember

Fri 30 Oct: Mass 9:15am
Skip-a-thon
Assembly 2:45pm
Wed 4 Nov: First Reconciliation
5:00pm
Wed 11 Nov: Remembrance Day
Thur 12 Nov: PT&F Meeting 5:30pm
Tue 17 Nov: Yr 6 STEP Day
Wed 25 Nov: Transition ends
Mon 30 Nov: School Board Meeting
6:30pm

Mon 30 Nov—Fri 11 Dec:
School Swimming Program
Sun 6 Dec: Parish & School
FETE
Thur 10 Dec: School Play
Tue 15 Dec: Presentation
Night
Wed 16 Dec: Last day for
students
Fri 18 Dec: Term 4 ends

CANTEEN ROSTER
Mon 2 Nov: Amanda
Murrell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
27 Oct:
Bailey Redmond