Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term Three, I hope you all had the opportunity to spend more time with your children during this last holiday break. What a spectacular way to begin the term with nature providing us with a blanket of snow. Even though it did mean that regular classes did not commence on Monday, it was a wonderful time for us to appreciate the beauty of our environment while acknowledging the sheer power of mother nature over our lives.

I know many families took the opportunity to get out of the comfort and warmth of their homes to explore and play in the snow. These types of experiences should be a regular part of children’s lives, as research tells us that today’s children, glued to video screens and other electronic outlets, are losing touch with nature. Paediatricians warn that this generation of children could be the first to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Obesity, stress and depression are on the increase in our young people, while research has shown that getting outdoors and into real contact with nature, will reduce stress, anxiety and depression.

“Unlike television, nature does not steal time, it amplifies it.” (Richard Louv)  Today’s children can talk about rainforests and wetlands and their importance as habitats to some of the rarest animals on earth; young children can even explain the difference between endangered and extinct. Children today have more information about nature and the environment than we had at their age but, sadly, they have little or no relationship with nature. If they are deprived of time outdoors, they are deprived of nature.

Another coined term is “Controlled Risk”, whereby parents go outdoors with their children but allow their children unencumbered time to roam around, explore and make contact with nature. We can’t keep our children so “safe” and controlled that they can’t experience with all their senses the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Nature has restorative qualities and can give busy families a sense of rebalance and connection. Much does not happen to our children’s imagination and inner-life, if we always keep them indoors.

There is something in encounters with nature that nourishes us from the inside out, that builds reverence for life and allows us to rejoice in our own aliveness. Time outside allows us to see that we are part of the unfolding of something beyond ourselves; we are part of the great story of creation and savouring the natural world can be a healing prayer of gratitude.

“God, our Father and Creator of us all, help us to be better aware of our connectedness with the earth and our natural environment and of the relationship between visitor and host. Help us to cherish the earth’s treasures and to be grateful for the wonder of it all. Amen.”

Next week, our staff will be engaged in a number of professional development opportunities: a Mathematics workshop on Monday; a History Syllabus introduction on Wednesday; and Technology training days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These professional development days are essential for our teachers to keep up to date as the new NSW Board of Studies curriculums are continued to be introduced and implemented in all schools. Relief staff have been employed to cover staff on the days of their attendance.

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

**REC NEWS**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**
Last night, parents of students making their First Holy Communion attended an enrolment evening in the School Hall. Monsignor Ted was delighted to see the students and their parents and relayed to them the beauty and importance of their Sacramental development.

Monsignor spoke about the following:

- the word ‘communion’ is a made up of a prefix com - which means ‘to be with’ and the word union - which means ‘to be united and joined’,

- therefore, students making their First Holy Communion are ‘joining with’ the Church, the global Church

- The Church is not just a building, but more importantly it is the people

- Holy Communion draws us closer to Jesus and to each other as people.

- Holy Communion builds up the Church, the people and makes them stronger, more loving, more kind, more helpful, more respectful and so on.

- A strong Church becomes a shield, a protection for all.

This week our Friday mass has a theme of The Eucharist, as we look forward to the students making their First Holy Communion on Sunday morning 23rd August at the 8:00am Mass.

Please pray for all Communicants as they embark on this very important phase of their Sacramental development.

Anne Kelly
REC

**PT&F CORNER**

Our annual **Street Stall** is running this week up until **Sunday 19 July**. Thank you to those who have offered to help on the stall. Thank you also to those busy mums who have offered to supply cakes & slices for the stall—we would be very grateful for more cooking and other saleable items. **YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

**Raffle Books** have been attached to this newsletter for the Street Stall Wood Raffle. 1st Prize is 2 tonnes Wood; 2nd Prize is a ute load of wood; there will be 4 minor prizes. Tickets are $1 each. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday at the conclusion of the street stall.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 20 July at 5:30pm.
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*
At St Joseph’s in Term 3 we are engaging in collaborative learning sessions in the afternoons as a whole school. The students will use the Inquiry process of learning to explore Science and Technology, Creative Arts and HSIE content using the big picture idea - Habitats. Students are learning from their peers when they are surrounded by each other’s questioning and insights which creates a dynamic and exciting environment for young inquisitive minds.

The school has ordered two ‘Museum in a Boxes’ which include real museum specimens, casts, artefacts, dioramas, images, DVDs, CDs, books and resources on the topics ‘National Parks’ and ‘Life on the Ocean Seashore’. This should provide excellent stimulus to energise deep inquiries from the students. The teachers are very excited to be able to work with all students in our school in building learning environments that satisfy their curiosity, inquiries and inspiration! Look forward to some interesting questioning coming from your child!

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Our school photo day will be on Tuesday 4 August. Order envelopes and further information will be sent home with each child on Friday. Prices range from $15 to $40 for various packs.

UNE SCHOOLS ACQUISITIVE ART PRIZE FINALIST
Congratulations to Mariah Carlon whose artwork has been selected as a finalist in the 2015 UNESAP Art Competition. Our school has been entering our students’ artworks in this competition for many years and we have had finalists chosen on many occasions. This year, Mariah is one of 15 students in her category (Infants) to be selected from hundreds of entries throughout the region. The artworks will be judged by artist James White and will be on display at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) from 17 July to 2 August in the Let’s Hang It Exhibition. The exhibition opening and prize-giving ceremony will be held at 6:00pm on Friday 17 July at NERAM in Kentucky Street, Armidale. Families and friends are most welcome to attend. Well done, Mariah! Thank you to our dedicated teachers who always ensure Creative Arts opportunities are provided for our students.

MUSIC SOIREE
A music soiree celebrating the musical talents of the Uralla community will be held in the Uniting Church Hall on Wednesday 29 July commencing at 5:30 for 6:00pm. Entry is free and $2 will buy you a cup of soup and a bread roll. For further information contact Fran Kaberry on 6778 4143.

PIANO TEACHER
Piano lessons are available after school each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the St John’s Anglican Church hall. For further information please contact Janette Woodbridge on 6778 7117.
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at the final Assembly of last term.

The Principal's Awards for "A successful term of learning & consistent application to studies" went to:

- **Primary** Zac Walters
- **Infants** Charlotte Fletcher

Class Awards went to:

- **Primary** Alex Baker for “Persistent dedication in his learning”.
- **Infants** Montana Dodd for “Improved efforts in writing”.

MiniLit Awards went to: Mariah Carlon, Brittany Doran and Charlotte Fletcher

Our first assembly for the term will be held this Friday at 2:45pm. All welcome.

**Dates to Remember**

- **Mon 13 Jul**: Term 3 begins
- **Mon 13 Jul—Sun 19 Jul**: Street Stall
- **Mon 3 Aug**: Grandparents Day & Book Fair
- **Tue 4 Aug**: School Photos
- **Thurs 6 Aug**: School Athletics Carnival (Walcha coming to Uralla)
- **Sun 23 Aug**: First Eucharist 8:00am

**BEST WISHES**

**DANIEL MURRELL**

**AT STATE CROSS COUNTRY THIS FRIDAY!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- **Sat 18 Jul**: Ronald Boxsell & Daniel Murrell
- **Sun 19 Jul**: Zac Walters