

# St Joseph's Newsletter

Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community.



Dear parents and carers,  
What a magnificent celebration we shared on Monday evening. I feel so proud to have led our beautiful school for the past 7 years and I thank you so very much for the thanks and affection bestowed on me at my farewell. The speeches given by Brad Walters, on behalf of the School Board, and by Kate Osborn representing the P & F were simply priceless to me. Thank you Brad and Kate. My sincere thanks to all who assisted in the preparation and running of the evening and to those who joined in the fun. The following is part of my speech for those unable to attend...

*So, how did a quiet, reserved introvert become a leader? As we know, introverts don't like being the centre of attention, they don't cope well with public speaking, they reenergise by being on their own and find large groups uncomfortable! Basically, the opposite to the requirements of a principal.*

*I've thought a lot about it over the years and I know I became a leader not because of me but because of you. In some form you encouraged me, you supported me, you befriended me, you gave me opportunities and you praised me. You loved me or you loved what I did.*

*Not only am I an introvert, I'm also an emotional one! I wear my heart on my sleeve. Having been to other Principals' farewells I knew I'd also be required to have such an event which had the potential to have me in sentimental tears however, I decided that to get through I'd make this about you too!*

*To the Catholic Education staff, I'm so grateful for your advice and assistance over the years. We have several of those people here this evening. Lyn, who has been on speed dial for 7 years, I have loved working with you in many different capacities. We've had fun and a few coffees in amongst the serious episodes we've worked through together. Thanks for being my go-to-girl.*

*Parents! You have let me into your families and your lives and I feel humbled and privileged by that. I have shared the intimacies of your lives quite literally from birth to death and all things in between. You have become my friends.*

*With your help and affirmation, I've seen a cohort though the school from Foundation to Year 6, together we've celebrated 60 years of St Joseph's school, a major soccer carnival, fetes, a refurbishment, the carpark redesign, new play equipment, the establishment of the ELC etc. Through the P & F and School Board we have advanced our school and together we've achieved great things. Thank you for letting me be myself and for trusting me with your most precious children.*

*There is no doubt in my mind that the staff of St Joseph's school are the cream of the crop, the best of the best and I couldn't be more proud of them. I know how hard you work and I've appreciated every single effort you've devoted to our school and to me. Everything you do is for the students and as a by-product of that you have each grown immensely. You'll be able to proudly claim that you worked at the best school in Canberra.*

*Thank you to the members of our Leadership Team who have always been there for me and have kept me realistic and sane. The success of our school has certainly been a combined effort. I want to make particular mention of Caz who has been with me since the beginning of my principalship. Many years ago we worked together for just one year and we clicked immediately because we shared the*

*same passion for curriculum and teaching and we talked and dreamed about running a school together sometime down the track. That dream came to fruition and we've worked in partnership to create all that St Joseph's is today. Caz, you've been the wind beneath my wings and you've made me look good!*

*I came across a note book from 2010 the other day with some thoughts written a few months before I started at St Joseph's. My jottings included: lead with people, inspire others by being with people, have a glass half full mentality, lead from the heart but have the strength to make the tough calls, be the next care taker and start something that others can carry on and have a school of excellence in a Christ-centred environment – not far off what we have today!*

*People have been saying to me 'I bet you won't miss such and such' which made me wonder what is it that I really won't miss? I won't miss blocked and overflowing toilets, calls from security during the night, working till midnight and beyond, eating lunch at 4:00 pm and the pressure of deadlines.*

*I will miss the children and their delightful ways and their affection, our robust conversations, the ebb and flow of school life, the funny episodes, the laughter but mostly my connections with people.*

*In preparing for retirement the advice is to have things already in place to do so you won't be bored and a list of what you hope to do with all the time you'll have on your hands. I have a growing list that includes learning the piano, learning Italian, travelling and gardening. The Foundation students gave me a card last week with what they think I should do: travel the world or play some golf, go camping, stay home and rest, work in IT, become a doctor but the most appealing suggestion is that I become the Queen of England. So, with that in mind I will finish on December 15, climb into my carriage, move into my new castle and be treated like royalty for the rest of my life.*

Thank you everyone.

## P & F

Congratulations to the following who have taken up roles on the P & F for 2018:

President: Tiffany Fletcher

Vice President: Janelle Patch

Secretary: Misel Lucic

Treasurer: Kylie Eves

Fete Coordinator: Lauren O'Callaghan

School Board Representative: To be determined

Fund Raising Coordinator: To be determined

Communication: Rochelle Patten

Uniform Coordinator: Sasha Billett

Canteen Liaison: Victoria Dolphin

## COMING EVENTS

27 Nov		Water Safety continues
29 Nov	2:30 pm	Advent Prayer Celebration
	6:00 pm	School Board meeting
1 Dec	8:15 am	SJO Walk to School and Community Cuppa
	3:00 pm	Mini Working Bee

Thank you everyone.

**Sue Dempsey  
Principal**

**Week 7 Term 4  
22 November 2017**

**St Joseph's School**  
Boronia Drive  
O'Connor ACT 2602

**Postal Address**  
PO Box 646  
Dickson ACT 2602

**School Website**  
www.sjo.act.edu.au

## EMAIL

### Principal

sue.dempsey@cg.catholic.edu.au

### Office

office.sjo@cg.catholic.edu.au

### Phone

6248 9818

### Fax

6247 1792

## SUPERVISION

Morning supervision begins at 8.20am. No children are to be left unsupervised before then. Playground equipment is out of bounds unless there is a teacher supervising.

## St Joseph's ELC Before and After School Care

Pre-school to Foundation

## EMAIL

director.elcsjo@cg.catholic.edu.au

## Phone

6257 2990

A Parish Mass is held in the church every Sunday at 9:00am.

6:00pm Saturday Vigil is also held in the church.

8.00am Weekday Mass is held in the church.

Parish Priest  
Fr Paul Nulley

Phone  
6247 7070

## UNIFORM SHOP

Wednesday 8:30-9:00am  
Friday 8:45-9:15am

## YMCA After School Care

Foundation to Year 6  
6242 4040  
0432 405 147

# COMMUNITY FAREWELL

On Monday evening over 120 people gathered in the Hall to celebrate and farewell our exceptional leader. Lyn Smith, Brad Walters and Kate Osborne all spoke on behalf of the many people whose lives have been touched by Sue. For those who were unable to attend the celebration this week, I have included Brad's speech this week and will seek permission to publish Kate's next week.

**Caz Perryman**

Congratulations Sue. Best School in Canberra!

Sue has done a fantastic job as a progressive principal and leader of St. J and it has been a privilege to have worked with you on the board.

In the 6 years that my family has been with St Joseph's, we've had a great experience. My children are happy to come to school, they enjoy it.

They are happily learning and becoming independent, confident little people.

They problem solve, consider options, experiment, use a variety of strategies to formulate their conclusion and are becoming digital natives.

The teaching staff, support staff and leadership team work cohesively to delivery these outcomes.

On many occasions, I have seen the teamwork of the St. Joseph's staff not only towards the day to day, but towards all the extra circular activities that we as a parental community expect from the teaching staff. Fetes and concerts, sporting carnivals and excursions - these are all the extra efforts we see from the staff. I think they should be commended for these.

St Joseph's is very progressive.

I, like many of you, had a different school experience. Chalkboards, seated in rows, learned by lines, text books and encyclopaedias.

IT was in a room, with a computer and a 5 1/4" floppy disc and the most expensive bit of equipment was a scientific calculator.

Our children now have smart boards, flexible work spaces, iPads, wifi, and the internet.

Our children are learning basic coding, and their teachers are having to teach basic coding. For every new tool or technology we see in the school, the teaching staff need to be trained in advance on how to teach it.

The pace of change is increasing. Technology is evolving faster now than at any other time in history. We have iPads today, who knows what we will have tomorrow. Our children will be learning these things before us. St Joseph's teachers will be learning before them and our school leadership will be, as it has been, considering each progression in turn.

It is a credit to Sue, her leadership and teaching team's progressive approaches that St Joseph's is in the position that it is today, having done the hard work to instil a culture of progression, to enable our children to move with confidence, learn what the future may hold and be excited to embrace it and look back fondly on their time at St Joseph's.

Congratulations Sue, job well done! Enjoy your retirement .

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Advent Prayer Celebrations

For the last 4 weeks of the school year we will be celebrating the season of Advent, a time in which we wait for the coming of Jesus. This afternoon Year 6 led us in a moving celebration focusing on the first theme of hope and encouraging us to bring the hope of Jesus to the world. Next Wednesday at 2:30, 2 Magenta will celebrate the theme of love. In Week 9 at 9:15, 2 Yellow will light the pink candle during the week of Joy. Finally, in Week 10 at 9:15, Foundation will present the final week of Advent, Peace. We welcome all members of our Christ-centred Community to join us as we celebrate the season of Advent.

## End of Year and Farewell Mass

On Tuesday 5 December at 9:15 we will gather in the Church for our End of Year and Farewell Mass. The mass is an opportunity to come together as a Christ-centred Community to reflect on our year of 'Growing through the Holy Spirit', launch the Christ-centred Community Focus for 2018 and farewell those who are leaving our tree. An invitation will be sent home on Friday.

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal for 2017 will be launched this Friday. Each class will be given a number of families to prayer for and collect hampers for. Teachers will communicate with families regarding the items they need to fill each hamper. We would encourage you to send donations of food, toys, books and Christmas items with your children on multiple occasions to instil the gift of giving to those in need during this season.

Yours in Christ,

Luke Donnelly  
Religious Education Coordinator  
[luke.donnelly@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:luke.donnelly@cg.catholic.edu.au)

## Uniform Shop

### Hours of Operation

Wednesday 8:30am—9:00am

Friday 8:45am—9:15am

Please direct all queries to  
Marcela Leon at:

Uniformshop\_stjosephs\_oconnor@yahoo.com.au

## P&F UPDATE

### St Joseph's School Fete 2018

Dear parents and carers

Could all parents/carers interested in joining the St Joseph's 'Fete Committee' come along on:

**Date:** Wednesday 6 December, Week 9

**At:** 7:00pm

**Where:** In the St Joseph's staffroom to commence preparations for this exciting event in 2018.

Everyone is welcome to attend and form part of the committee.

Regards  
P&F

## SOFTBALL/TEEBALL

### REMINDER

The \$30 club fee is now due.

Please bring to the Front Office or hand to Mrs McFarland.



Thank you.

## Merit Awards - Week 7 Term 4

*Congratulations to the following students who will receive an award at Friday's Morning Gathering*

### Seed of Collaboration

**Foundation Red: Esmee V-F, Hamish D**

**Foundation White: Christopher B, Dinugi W-D**

**Year 1 Purple: William P, Hannah P**

**Year 1 Teal: Anthony McP, Dominic S**

**Year 2 Magenta: Francesca Q, Henry D**

**Year 2 Yellow: Mia R, Joshua G**

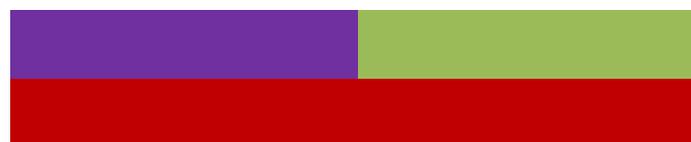
**Year 3 Lime: Chelsea P, Rose W**

**Year 3 Silver: Maxwell G, Antonio S**

**Year 4 Blue: Finn K, Leo Q, Savidu F-W**

**Year 5 Orange: Jonathan S, Scarlett W**

**Year 6 Green: Kylie C, Will A**



## Happy Birthday

*This week to :*



**Gurumehar S**

**Monika S**

**Amaani S**



# St Joseph's Early Learning Centre Blue Gecko BOW Newsletter



## Term 4 Week 7

Over the past few weeks the Blue Geckos have enjoyed meeting Leilani's and Riya's new sisters. The visit of these babies ties in beautifully with Advent and the Christmas story. We have been exploring the concept of waiting and the joy and sense of celebration when the wait is over. Today we introduced the Advent wreath in a Prayer Celebration shared with the Green Frogs and lit the first candle.

Yaanih's mum has been visiting to teach the children a Christmas song in Swahili. The children have now mastered it and are very pleased with themselves.

Jill Lambert and Belinda Kivela



The Working Bee for this Saturday has been cancelled. Thank you to all the families who have been able to help us out this year, we have accomplished many jobs and your assistance has kept the ELC looking beautiful! We have purchased many new resources with funds raised at the Trivia night, all of which arrived this week. The children are very excited and will be helping to put some of them together. The resources include; a mud table, climbing frame and ramp, new baby dolls and assorted doll clothes for the home corner, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woven floor mats, ladybird and butterfly wings for the outdoor environment as well as many special craft items. Thank you once again for the support you provide to our beautiful ELC. The last fundraiser of the year is the tea towels and they should be arriving at the ELC in the very near future, just in time for Christmas.

Birthday wishes to the following children: *Mary C., Madison A., and Annabel R.*

## Important Dates:

Library - Blue Geckos (Wednesdays), Green Frogs (Thursdays)

November 25 - Working Bee Cancelled

December 11 - 11:30 - 12:30 Blue Gecko BOW End of Year Celebration

December 13 - 5:30 - 6:30 Whole School End of Year Picnic

December 14 - Green Frog and Blue Gecko EOW End of Year Celebration

December 15 - Last Day of Term

God Bless,

Molly Henson  
ELC Director