Dear parents and carers,

Yesterday our first Advent Prayer Celebration for this year was led by 6 Blue. Our student leaders helped us to reflect on hope and the importance of preparing for the birth of Jesus. Thank you to Kerri Kerr for leading us as Acting REC, Vanessa Ross for educating our student leaders about our faith and to Year 6 for leading us in a most meaningful celebration.

Please join us at 9:15 each Wednesday for this special time of reflection.

Over the course of the year we work with system colleagues and external professionals as we grow in excellence. These were our invited guests at yesterday’s Prayer Celebration. Each guest commented on the reverence displayed by the students and the prayerful and focussed celebration.

SABBATH WEEK

This week at school has been Sabbath Week. Each term during Week 7 we celebrate Sabbath Week - a time to stop, refresh and rejuvenate by spending quality time with family and friends without the commitment of Home Learning. In the classroom teachers try to keep activities ‘low key’. During this restful week families are encouraged to spend time talking, reading, cooking, gardening, looking at photo albums, sharing stories, walking or just being together. We hope families have enjoyed a restful week.

P & F

Thank you and congratulations to Kylie Eves who has taken on the role of Treasurer for the P & F. The P & F executive is now complete and looks forward to working with all parents in 2017.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

One application for the School Board vacancies has been received. As a result, additional nominations will be accepted until Thursday 1 December. Please submit your nomination to Sue Dempsey, marked Confidential.

CLASS SHOWCASES

Following the Advent Prayer Celebration on Wednesday 7 December, Class Showcases will be held. This is an opportunity for students to report some of their learning to their parents, for parents to become more involved in their child’s learning and for parents to observe and participate in a contemporary learning space.

REPORTS

Reports for all students will be posted home on Wednesday 7 December. There will be an opportunity to meet with teachers after school on Tuesday 13 December, if required.

HANDING ON OF LEADERSHIP

At 12.00 pm on Friday 9 December Year 6 students will pass on the mantle of leadership to the Year 5 students and in turn the Year 5s will pass on to Year 4. Please join us for this very significant Mass. At this Mass we will also give thanks for the blessings we have received over the year and say farewell to those leaving us.

The recipient of the James Parkes Award and the new members of the School Board will be announced at this ceremony which will be held at the church.

UNIFORM

Please support us by ensuring your child continues to wear the correct uniform to school each day. Black and highly coloured sneakers are not part of our uniform so should not be worn. Thank you.

GOOD LUCK

To Matilda, 6 Blue, who will compete in Sydney this weekend in the Australian Track and Field Championships in the 100m, 200m and relay in the 11 years category.

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Nov</td>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>MAC Magenta Advent Prayer Celebration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Play and Pray</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>School Board meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Celtic Arts concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Walk to School and Community Cuppa</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Dec</td>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>1 Teal Advent Prayer Celebration and Class Showcases</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>End-of-year and Farewell Mass, Leadership Ceremony and James Parkes Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Dec</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Parent / teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Foundation Advent Prayer Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>BBQ, picnic and carols</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Dec</td>
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<td>Community Day</td>
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Thank you everyone. May God bless you in all that you do.

Sue Dempsey
Principal
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Social and emotional learning

Social and emotional learning is about learning how to manage feelings, manage friendships and solve problems. These are essential life skills that support wellbeing and positive mental health. Social and emotional skills promote children’s ability to cope with difficulties and help to prevent mental health problems. Children who have developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, resolve conflict, and feel positive about themselves and the world around them.

KidsMatter emphasises teaching social and emotional learning as a way of promoting children’s mental health. Social and emotional learning provides practical skills that all children can learn and apply to everyday situations. Learning skills such as self-awareness, effective communication and conflict resolution can also help to prevent the development of mental health difficulties in children who might otherwise be vulnerable. In this way teaching children social and emotional skills helps to promote resilience – the capacity to cope and stay healthy in spite of the negative things that happen through life.

School-wide classroom teaching of social and emotional learning allows staff and students to share a common understanding of what it is all about. Importantly, the emphasis of its teaching needs to be not just on learning about emotions and relationships but on practical skills that students can apply across a range of situations at school, at home and in the broader community. In 2017, St Joseph’s will integrate social and emotional learning with our Christ-centred community focus. We aim to take a holistic approach to ensure our students will grow in excellence.

Vanessa Ross
Co-ordinator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Using the Seed of Being to reflect on the first week of Advent

The hope we have in Jesus Christ
Brings love into our heart
And when we know the joy of Jesus
His Peace He will impart

Hello and welcome to Week 7.

This week our school community has been learning about the first week of Advent through a Prayer Celebration and reflective prayer. Students at St. Joseph’s were introduced to the first week of Advent by Year 5 leading morning prayer in each classroom. On Wednesday morning, Year 6 leaders presenting a reverent and moving Advent Prayer Celebration to the school community. Mrs Dempsey lit the first candle of Advent. The candle of HOPE. Thursday morning, Year 6 led students in a reflective prayer on the Gospel reading.

Our Advent celebrations continue next week with MAC Magenta presenting the second week of Advent on Wednesday 30 November at 9:15. All members of St. Joseph’s community are warmly invited to attend.

The final Play and Pray session for the year is this Wednesday at 3:30-4:30, please see the attached invitation. We hope to see you there!

May peace and blessings be with you,

Kerri Kerr
Religious Education Coordinator (Acting)
kerr.kerr@cg.catholic.edu.au
Happy Birthday
This week to:

Kavi S
Monika S

Merit Awards - Week 7 Term 4

Congratulations to the following students who will receive an award at tomorrow’s Morning Gathering

Using the Seed of Being to reflect on the first week of Advent

Foundation Red: Loko F, Jack J
Foundation White: Bridget M, Kipling G
Year 1 Silver: Mia R, Nilashan S
Year 1 Teal: Noah D, Roshni N
MAC Magenta: Sophia D, Cooper W
MAC Purple: Isabel E, Chloe C
MAC Yellow: Noel B, Leo Q
Year 4 Orange: Isaac A, Cushla D
Year 5 Lime: Edward E, Maurice B
Year 6 Blue: Jessica M, Matilda J

Uniform Shop

Hours of Operation
Wednesday 2:30pm—3:15pm
Friday 8:45am—9:15am

Please direct any queries to:
Uniformshop_stjosephs_oconnor@yahoo.com.au

Marcela Leon

Parentline ACT

6287 3833
Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT
is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

• To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
• Help with some ideas on raising children.
• Support in the important job you are doing.
• To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
• To build better relationships in your family.
• Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.
• Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.
Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.
Phone: 6287 3833

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION FOUNDATION FAMILIES

All Foundation families are invited to Black Mountain Peninsula playground on Sunday 27th November from 11am to celebrate the end of a successful first school year. Please bring a plate to share (no nuts).

Look forward to seeing you there.

Sonia Howarth
Wish list: Paper hand towels, dish cloths, plastic containers in various sizes and small metal tongs.

Sausage Sizzle: We desperately need help with the sausage sizzle. Can you help? Please contact the Canteen ASAP if you can.

Stock: We are coming to the end of the year so we are running stock down. Over the coming weeks some items won’t be available. If the item you ordered isn’t available, your child will be asked to choose something else to the same value.

VOLUNTEERS: Help is needed for the sausage sizzle and end of year clean. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help. If we don’t have enough help we will have to cancel the sausage sizzle.

Volunteers for next year’s roster. If you would like to help, please contact the Canteen.

CANTREEN ROSTER WEEK 8
30/11/2016 to 02/12/2016

Wednesday 30/11/2016
Mary Sajler

Thursday 01/12/2016
Wanda Kauxz

Friday 02/12/2016
Andrea Murphy-Foot
Kathy Bartone

Jackie – Canteen Manager
E: stjosephscanteen@gmail.com
M: 0490 399 694 (during Canteen open hours only 9:00am to 1:30pm Wednesday to Friday )

Please join us for
Community Cuppa
Friday 2 December
after Walk to School

ST JOSEPH’S
MEMORY BOOK
$20.00 EACH
AVAILABLE FROM
FRONT OFFICE

Remembering
St Joseph’s Primary School O’Connor
1956 to 2016

ST JOSEPH’S MEMORY BOOK
$20.00 EACH
AVAILABLE FROM
FRONT OFFICE
Guitar, Piano & Violin Lessons starting week 2 Term 1 2017

Celtic Arts Agency offers private 1/2 hour music lessons at St Joseph's Primary School and is currently taking enrolments for new and returning students for 2017. We have new spots available for violin.

Dave O'Neill will commence teaching violin. Dave is an internationally recognized multi-instrumentalist and has been a professional musician and teacher for over 35 years. He is well known in the Australian folk scene, both as a musician and as a former Artistic Director of the National Folk Festival. Dave's students find him fun and easy to understand.

Lessons are booked on a per term basis and are conducted during school hours on a rotating timetable.

More information is available on our website: www.celticartsagency.com

Contact Sharon Casey on
E: musicfun@jocresswell.com or
T: 0404 217 528

The ACT Heritage Council welcomes you to comment on the proposed heritage registration of St Joseph’s Catholic Church.

The ACT Heritage Council provisionally registered St Joseph’s on the ACT Heritage Register on 17 November. Before the Council makes a final decision whether to heritage list the church, it wants to find out the views of the Canberra community. Have your say by visiting the ACT Government’s consultation website, www.yoursay.act.gov.au, from 22 November through to 19 December 2016.
Term 4 Week 7

It has been very hot this week so the Blue Geckos decided to get out the water trough to have some fun with water. They were really interested in how the water slid through the sieve and down through the water wheel. We also celebrated Ben’s birthday on Monday. Congratulations, Ben, on turning 5!!

On Wednesday, we went over to the school to join in the first Advent Prayer Celebration where Mrs Dempsey lit the candle of ‘Hope’. We then came back and discussed what ‘hope’ means (waiting, wishing, wanting) before beginning to make our own Advent wreaths.

Natalia Ciuffetelli

In preparation for school and as part of Protective Behaviours, the teachers will be reviewing with the children the early warning signs that tell us a situation feels unsafe. These signs may include nausea or butterflies in the stomach, sweaty palms, feeling a bit wobbly or having an increased heart rate. It is important children learn to recognise these feelings and develop strategies to protect themselves and feel safe on the playground, toilets and moving around the school and in the wider community.

For your diaries please note the following dates:

30 November - 9:15 Advent Prayer Celebration
30 November - 3:30 - 4:30 Play and Pray at the ELC
16 December - Last Day of School (No Vacation Care in January)

Enjoy your week,

Molly Henson