Dear parents and carers,
Thank you for your help in keeping the students settled and calm during these last weeks of school. Teachers are keeping routines in place and our usual high expectations for good behaviour choices will continue till the end of the year. With teachers completing the final aspects of the students’ reports it is important that the students remain focussed. Reports will be posted home on 7 December.

ADELE WALTON
A Prayer Celebration will be held at school on Thursday 8 December at 9:15 am for Adele Walton. The Celebration will begin for everyone in the Hall and then the ELC students will return to the Centre to plant a shrub in Adele’s honour.

We would like to create a garden bouquet on the day so are wondering whether students with home gardens could bring a small array of flowers to add to a community floral tribute?

All parents are warmly invited to attend this Prayer Celebration.

CLASS SHOWCASES
Following next week’s Advent Prayer Celebration, 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.

SCHOOL BOARD
Last night was the final Board meeting for 2016. At that meeting Peter Whowell, Kadi Taylor, Kieran Fordham and Lauren O’Callaghan were thanked for their significant contributions to our school as members of the Board. They were thanked for the support they have given, for their ability to examine topics from all perspectives and for their leadership within the school community. Thanks were also given to continuing members – Caz Perryman, Molly Henson, Brad Walters and Jane Childs.

Items discussed at the meeting included:
- Revision of our Home Learning Policy,
- The car park redesign,
- 2017 School Fees, (These will be confirmed in next week’s Newsletter),
- The 2017 ICT Plan and
- Stage 2 of our school refurbishment.

ST JOSEPH’S WALK TO SCHOOL
A reminder St Joseph’s Walk to School will be held tomorrow, from 8-15. Teachers will walk from the O’Connor and Lyneham Shops. This will be followed by Community Cuppa.

LIBRARY BOOKS
Please return ALL library books by next MONDAY.

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.

END OF YEAR PICNIC, SONGS AND CAROLS
To celebrate the end of the school year we are going to try a different location for our Picnic, Songs and Carols on Wednesday 14 December. This year we will gather on the oval with the classes singing from the Learning Hub end. Bring your picnic rugs, chairs, snacks and dinner for a family meal. The program will be:

5:30 – 6:00 pm Picnic
6:00 – 7:00 pm Nativity play, Christmas carols and songs

Should we have wet weather we will cancel the picnic and will have the songs and carols in the church.

CANTEEN
Help needed for the Sausage Sizzle and end of year clean. Please let Jackie know if you can help. Sausage sizzle note is attached.

CONGRATULATIONS
To Amelia (MAC Magenta) who competed in last weekend’s Queanbeyan Gift as one of the youngest competitors in the U9-U11 girls 120m sprint. Amelia won her heat and the final. Well done Amelia.

IT’S A GIRL!
Yesterday Daisy Auri was welcomed by Sarah and Rhett Eldred.

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Ciao a tutti,

Over the next few weeks students will learn about the exciting things that happen in Italy at Christmas time. Special food, greetings, celebrations and stories that make Christmas in Italy so wonderful.

This week students have learnt about the Legend of La Befana, a kind old lady whose story is as follows:

La Befana was approached by the Three Wise Men a few days before the birth of the baby Jesus. They asked for directions to where he was, as they had seen his star in the sky, but she did not know where to find him. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was considered the best housekeeper in the village, with the most pleasant home.

The Three Wise Men invited her to join them on the journey to find the baby Jesus, but she declined, stating she was too busy with her housework.

Later, La Befana had a change of heart, and tried to catch up with the Three Wise Men and search for baby Jesus. That night she was not able to find them, so to this day, La Befana is searching for the little baby. Whenever she sees children, she leaves them gifts in the hope that she will find that special baby, Jesus.

I wish you and your family “Buon Natale” Merry Christmas and “Felice Anno Nuovo” Happy New Year

Maria Sergi

How can we share LOVE in this second week of Advent?

Hello and welcome to Week 8.

How can we share love in this second week of Advent? We can share love with others by committing to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This week families have started to donate to this worthy Appeal. We have many hampers to fill. Thank you to the families who are supporting this cause and sharing love with others. Please refer to the attached pages for further information.

MAC Magenta displayed reverence and love as they led our community in the second Advent Prayer Celebration on Wednesday. Miss Ellis lit the second candle of Advent. The candle of LOVE.

Our Advent celebrations continue next week with Year 1 Teal leading the third week of Advent on Wednesday 7 December at 9:15 in the school hall. All members of St. Joseph’s community are warmly invited to attend.

There was plenty of Christmas fun making cards for the Christmas hampers at our last Play and Pray session for the year. Thank you to the families who were able to join us and thanks to the ELC for hosting the session.

May peace and blessings be with you,
Kerri Kerr
Religious Education Coordinator (Acting)
kerr.kerr@cg.catholic.edu.au
**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

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**Merit Awards - Week 8 Term 4**

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

**Class Award**

- **Foundation Red:** Harry C, Nathan N
- **Foundation White:** Nate R, Hamish D
- **Year 1 Silver:** Skye P, Kristina S
- **Year 1 Teal:** Ashera D, Josephine S
- **MAC Magenta:** Alli P, Tom J
- **MAC Purple:** William P, Antonio S
- **MAC Yellow:** Thomas O’K, Joaquin S-R
- **Year 4 Orange:** Lewis A, Atem M
- **Year 5 Lime:** Alysha L, Tshokeel D
- **Year 6 Blue:** Giana F, Diing M

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**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

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**Street Orienteering**

with Orienteering Australia

**Monday 12 December**

Registration from 5.45pm in St Joseph’s School Car Park

Briefing at 6.10pm for 6.15pm start

- Adults $5
- Children $2
- Family $10

Newcomers and beginners most welcome
Contact Chris Andersen on 0466 287 567 if you have any queries

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**Happy Birthday**

*This week to:*

- Rea N
- Emma H
- Ekaterina L
- Cooper W
**Canteen Phone:** Due to circumstances out of our control the Canteen mobile number will be out of action until further notice. Please contact the Front Office if you need to contact the Canteen or you could email the Canteen.

**Stock:** As you may be aware, we are very low on stock for First Break and once we have run out of stock is when the Canteen will close for the year. There are still items available for Second Break.

**Sausage Sizzle:** Orders must be returned by **Tuesday 13 December**. No orders will be accepted after this date due to catering restrictions.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Help 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 get enough help we will have to cancel the sausage sizzle.

**ELC:** ELC will be visiting the Canteen on Wednesday 7 December. We need a few extra hands to help just for an hour when the ELC children arrive. If you can help please contact Jackie in the Canteen ASAP.

We need volunteers for next year’s roster. If you would like to help please contact the canteen ASAP.

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### Canteen Roster Week 9
07/12/2016 to 09/12/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 07/12/2016</th>
<th>Thursday 08/12/2016</th>
<th>Friday 09/12/2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krys Saclier</td>
<td>Kelly Fordham</td>
<td>Fiona Glover</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Sarah Robinson</td>
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</tbody>
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Jackie – Canteen Manager

E: [stjosephscanteen@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephscanteen@gmail.com)

M: **0490 399 694** (during Canteen open hours only 9:00am to 1:30pm Wednesday to Friday)

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

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**ST JOSEPH’S MEMORY BOOK**

$20.00 EACH

AVAILABLE FROM
FRONT OFFICE

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

**St Joseph’s Primary School O’Connor**
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 8

The Blue Geckos and Green Frogs enjoyed an excursion to the Canberra Zoo last week. We participated in a guided tour where we had an opportunity to hold a snake, hand feed an emu and some deer before enjoying a picnic morning tea and visiting some of the other animals at the zoo. Our favourites were the giraffe, penguins, lions and tigers and the shark in the aquarium. The bus ride was also a highlight.

We very much appreciated the presence of some parents who helped with the supervision of some very excited children.

As the end of year approaches we are now beginning to enjoy some Christmas craft and discussing the birth of Jesus with the children.

Jill Lambert

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The ELC will be holding a Prayer Celebration in memory of Adele Walton on 8 December at 9:15. All families and community members are welcome to attend. We are inviting all children in the school from Foundation to Year 6 to bring in a flower from their garden, if they would like to contribute, in order to make a bouquet of flowers for the Prayer Celebration.

For your diaries please note the following dates:

7 December - 9:15 Advent Prayer Celebration
8 December - 9:15 Prayer Celebration for Adele Walton (All Welcome)
13 December - 1:30 BOW Blue Geckos End of Year Christmas Presentation
14 December - 5:30 Whole School Carols and Picnic (All ELC Children Participating)
15 December - 1:15 Green Frogs and EOW Blue Geckos End of Year Christmas Presentation
16 December - Last Day of Term (No vacation care available after the last day of school)

God Bless

Molly Henson