

# St Joseph's Newsletter

Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community.



**Week 8 Term 4**  
**29 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

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 6 December.

## ADVENT

This afternoon we were led by 2 Magenta in a most reverent and meaningful Prayer Celebration to mark Week 2 of Advent. This week we focussed on love. Please join us at **9:15 am next Wednesday** for this special time of reflection.

## CLASS SHOWCASES

Class Showcases will be held on Monday 4 December at 9:00 am. 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 to see their child's final GRASP task for 2017. Please join us if you can.

## SCHOOL BOARD

Tonight the School Board will meet for the final time for 2017. Brad Walters, Jane Childs and Ruth Arkell will be thanked for their significant contributions to our school as members of the Board. They will be 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 will also be given to continuing members, David Specker and Iain Slatter.

## P & F

On behalf of the staff and students, this year's P & F is thanked for its time, dedication and support extended over the year. Assistance in the classrooms, on excursions, at carnivals, donations to fund raising and working in the Canteen and Uniform Shop have all been appreciated and contributed much to our Christ-centred community.

Thanks to the 2017 P & F Committee:

President – Sasha Billett  
Vice President – Kate Osborn  
Secretary – Misel Lucic  
Treasurer – Kylie Eves  
School Board Rep – Ruth Arkell  
Uniform Shop Coordinator – Marcela Leon  
Canteen Coordinator – Alison Marks  
Fund Raiser Coordinator – Tiffany Fletcher

## ST JOSEPH'S WALK TO SCHOOL

St Joseph's own Walk to School will be held on Friday 1 December. Teachers will walk from the O'Connor and Lyneham Shops. They will begin walking at 8:15 am. We'd love you to join in if you are able. This event will be followed by Community Cuppa in the Learning Hub.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

The annual stock take of library books is being completed at

the moment. Please return **ALL** library books by next **MONDAY** to assist with this process.

## END-OF-YEAR AND FAREWELL MASS and HANDING ON OF LEADERSHIP

We will celebrate the end-of-year and farewell those leaving us at Mass next Tuesday at 9:15 am. During the Mass we will also give thanks for the blessings we have received over the year. Mass will be followed by a Leadership ceremony when 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. This will be held in the School hall. The recipient of the James Parkes Award and the new members of the School Board will be announced at this ceremony.

## END OF YEAR PICNIC AND CAROLS

To celebrate the end of the school year we will hold our annual picnic and carols evening on Wednesday 13 December in the grassed area between the ELC and the school.

- 5:30 – 6:30 pm BYO Picnic
- 6:30 – 7:30 pm Nativity play and Christmas carols.

## UNIFORM

An increasing number of students are wearing highly coloured sport shoes to school. Please support us by ensuring your child wears the correct uniform to school each day right up to 15 December. Black sneakers and highly coloured sneakers are not part of our uniform so should not be worn.

## COMING EVENTS

29 Nov	6:00 pm	School Board meeting
1 Dec	8:15 am	SJO Walk to School and Community Cuppa
4 Dec	9:00 am	Class Showcases
5 Dec	9:15 am	End of Year and Farewell Mass and Handing on of Leadership
6 Dec		Reports posted home
	9:15 am	Advent Prayer Celebration and Thank You Morning Tea
	7:00 pm	Fete Meeting
12 Dec	3:30 pm	Parent / teacher interviews, if required
13 Dec	9:15 am	Advent Prayer Celebration
	5:30 pm	End of Year Picnic and Christmas Carols
14 Dec		Year 6 Big Day Out
15 Dec		Last day

Thank you everyone. May God bless you in all that you do.

**Sue Dempsey**  
**Principal**

# COMMUNITY FAREWELL

## THANK YOU SPEECH ON BEHALF OF THE P&F

Dear Sue

Today, on behalf the parents and friends of St Joseph's, we wish to thank you for all the time, effort, energy, positiveness, enthusiasm, strength, support, leadership, vision, wisdom, love, laughter and care that you have so willingly and freely given to us here at St Joseph's.

Living directly across from the school, I can testify to the early mornings, long nights, countless weekends and all the time in between that you have spent at this school. Through your example and by your lead you have created 'the best school in Canberra'!

Your time at St Joseph's has been most productive. Upon reflection, the school has undergone many changes with you at the helm! St Joseph's students have said goodbye to the green and gold and have welcomed new sports uniforms, with dazingly white sports tops, highlighting our school colours red, green and purple. The school symbol of the tree stands bold and firm throughout the school and welcomes people at the front office. It reminds us of our mission as a Christ Centred community where we grow together. Our new basketball courts and carpark design have modernised the school and allow for an effective, safe and most popular drive through, second only to Maccas, the restaurant! Our school building has undergone renovations, with a vibrant new library and contemporary classrooms for little minds to shine in. Gold band lunches with the principal are legendary amongst the students. The community has survived and thrived with the introduction of BYOD's, our school tuckshop has undergone many models and, with your support, has successfully evolved into the healthy and popular business we have always hoped and imagined it to be. Last year we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school, we danced the night away at Old Parliament House and in the morning planted a time capsule for later generations to rediscover. These are but a few of the examples of your vision for St Joseph's.

Today, although maybe a little teary, is a celebration for you Sue. While your time with us here is coming to an end, we are all excited for what the future holds for you. I have attended many an orientation morning here at St Joseph's and I have always been struck by your honesty when you talk about your love of children and learning and that in your hands, St Joseph's provides that safe and nurturing environment for new families. I know, having spoken to many families at St Joseph's, that their choice of school came down to the fact that they believed in you Sue and that their children would be safe, valued and respected here at St Joseph's. To that end, you have looked after our children. You have cared, protected, loved and enriched them. But it's not only our children you have cared for. You have supported and nurtured the parent community. You have celebrated precious moments with us and you have also been there during challenging and difficult times we've faced. You've treated families with compassion and respect. Through your leadership, you've built a wonderfully compassionate and supportive school community, which has made this school a unique and special place.

It is now time for you to spend time with your family, your children and your grandchildren. It is a wonderful time in your life and a blessing. We wish you much happiness and joy for the future. Relax, laugh, eat, drink and be merry. This is your time.

**Kate Osborn**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **Advent Prayer Celebrations**

Today 2 Magenta continued our celebration of Advent introducing the theme of love. Next week 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**

We would like to invite all of you to the End of Year and Farewell Mass next Tuesday at 9:15 in the Church. An invitation is attached to this week's Newsletter and RSVP will be due by Monday of next week. We look forward to celebrating with all members of our Christ-centred Community.

### **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal for 2017 was launched this week. Teachers will communicate with you regarding 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)



We will bring the hope of Jesus to the World  
When we share love we are sharing God  
We were made for joy  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.



## 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 8 Term 4

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

### Being Mindful

**Foundation Red: Vasili P, Jetsun T, Atem M, Hayden S**

**Foundation White: Lily P, Akaelah W, Pavleen V**

**Year 1 Purple: Imogen A, Dev J, Benjamin L**

**Year 1 Teal: Jack J, Joseph E**

**Year 2 Magenta: Frieda C, Angela L**

**Year 2 Yellow: Juliana L, Elise M**

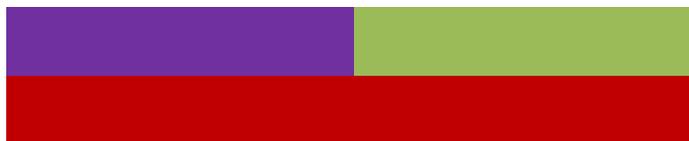
**Year 3 Lime: Sabeen A, Lachlan McG**

**Year 3 Silver: Poppy S, Noel B**

**Year 4 Blue: Renee M, Cooper W, Nicholas R-L**

**Year 5 Orange: Lewis A, Allegra E, Lhea N**

**Year 6 Green: Adele C, Joshua N, Alysha L**



## Happy Birthday

*This week to :*



Rea N  
Emma H  
Cooper W



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



## Term 4 Week 8

Over the last couple of weeks we have been reading the Advent story and about the wonder of Christmas. The children have asked many questions about what life would have been like during the time of Jesus' birth.

We have started Christmas craft with ideas the children have chosen. As the weather has heated up, we are starting our day outside. The veranda space has become useful as it stays in the shade so car mats and building are very popular.

Elizabeth Hargrave and Deanne Barnes



Preschool begins at 9:00am and many children are still arriving late, missing out on the special time in the morning when the children develop a sense of belonging to the group. This is also the time of the day when special news or information about the day ahead is explained. It is very important for the children to get into a routine of arriving on time as this will be enforced when they reach primary school.

Each group will have their end of year celebration in Week 10. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements in preschool this year. Each child will receive a portfolio with their work and documentation about their preschool year. Also included is their report and a CD with photos from Term 1 to Term 4. We would love you to join us for this special occasion.

### Important Dates:

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

**December 5** - 9:15 End of Year Whole School Farewell Mass

**December 6** - 9:15 Advent Prayer Celebration

**December 6** - Thank you Morning Tea (invited guests)

**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 and Carols

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

**December 15** - Last Day of Term

**February 5** - Term 1 2018

Enjoy your week,

Molly Henson  
ELC Director