

ABOUT

St Joseph's School Gilgandra

Term 1 Week 1

1 February, 2018

www.stjosephsgilgandra.nsw.edu.au

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Thought for the Week

A NEW YEAR AT SCHOOL:

Get ready to learn, see, do, read, explore, listen, pray, question, laugh, grow, try, improve, talk, smile, share, imagine, connect and GIVE OF YOUR VERY BEST!



WELCOME BACK

A very big welcome back to a brand new school year. We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and also look forward to a prosperous year. A special welcome to our new Kinder class and new students in other classes. We also welcome new staff members – Miss Prue Giffin (Teacher Year 4), Mrs Helen McIsaac (RFF/Library), Mrs Toni Fuller (Clerical Assistant) and Miss Keely-Jai McKenzie (AEW Assistant). We hope all the new members of our school family find their time at St Joey's enjoyable and rewarding. Please keep Mrs McIsaac and her family in your thoughts and prayers as her father, John Irving, passed away on the weekend.

STAFF FOR 2018

Kinder	-	Miss Phillipa Smith/Mrs Alison Newstead
Year 1	-	Mrs Meichelle Schier
Year 2	-	Miss Lisa Harvey
Year 3	-	Mrs Melinda Morris/Mrs Donna Colwell
Year 4	-	Mr Tim Keady/Miss Prue Giffin
Year 5	-	Mrs Dominica Banks/Mrs Nikkola Thomas
Year 6	-	Mr Damien Soares
Parish Priest	-	Fr Greg Kennedy
Principal	-	Mr Tony Musgrave
Assistant Principal/Religious Education Coordinator	-	Mrs Dominica Banks
Support Teacher	-	Mrs Sheree Spora
Executive Release/Library	-	Mrs Nikkola Thomas
RFF/Library	-	Mrs Helen McIsaac
Literacy/Numeracy Assistants	-	Mrs Cheryl Batten, Mrs Margie Stewart, Mrs Sue Alchin, Mrs Jacinta Ferguson
Aboriginal Education Workers	-	Mrs Marg Pearce, Miss Keely-Jai McKenzie
Secretary	-	Mrs Heather Hodge
Clerical Assistant	-	Mrs Toni Fuller
Cleaner	-	Mrs Dawn Cooper

NEW CLASSROOM

Our Year 4 students were very excited on Tuesday morning when they were introduced to their brand new classroom. We thank builder, Peter Hazelton and all the local tradesman who worked very hard during the holidays refurbishing the old library and computer room into a very modern double classroom, making sure everything was ready to go on the first day of the new school year. The funds for this project were made available from the Diocese of Bathurst's Capital Works Fund. Please feel free to call in when you're at school to have a look.

KINDER/YEAR 6 BUDDIES

It was an exciting time on Tuesday when the Year 6 students were introduced to their Kinder buddies. The Year 6 students now have a big job in front of them making sure our new Kinders settle in well at St Joseph's. The Year 6 students and Kinder children will do things like visit the church together, have lunch together and be there for one another. A full list of the buddies is included in today's newsletter.

VALE HANNAH FERGUSON

There was great sadness in the holidays with the tragic death of ex-student, Hannah Ferguson. Hannah and her partner, Reagen Skinner, were killed while travelling to Dubbo. Here at Joey's we always remember Hannah as a happy, bright and beautiful person. We keep Hannah in our thoughts and prayers as we do Hannah's parents, Ian and Deanna, sister, Sarah, brother, Matthew and extended family and the Skinner family who have all been deeply shocked and saddened by this devastating accident.

STUDENT LEADERS' INVESTITURE MASS

It was a wonderful celebration at Mass this morning when we joined with our Year 6 leaders as they received their leaders' badges. We thank Mr Wes Morris, who attended the Mass and gave a wonderful address regarding the attributes of successful leaders. Congratulations to our Year 6 class and we all look forward to working with them as they lead us through 2018.

School Captains: **Bailey Wykes and Kate Woollams**

Vice Captains: **Jack Oehm and Camilla Beveridge**

Minister for the Environment: **Darcy Neeves**

Minister for Communications: **Emily Zell**

Minister for Health: **Rhys Bonnington**

Minister for Catering: **Layne Godber**

Student Leaders: **Kyzack Corcoran, Thomas Dunn, Emma Durrant, Jade Elsom, Molly Fairey, Breanna Foster, Dennis Gale, Isaac Grimshaw, Jacob Harland, Ry Heffer, Daniel Kirsop, Isaiah McKenzie, Chloe Mudford, Dylon Murray, Luke O'Neill, Madison Riley, Oscar Spora, Sarah Temple, Aiden Walker, Emma Westwood, Molly Wilson, Jerome Woodrow.**

TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year's twilight swimming carnival will be held next **WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY**. The following timetable for the carnival will be in operation:

1. Children come to school on Wednesday at the usual time for a normal day's school.
2. Children wear their sports uniform and bring their swimming gear to school with them.
3. The end of school bell rings at 3:00 p.m. but the children **DO NOT GO HOME**.
4. The canteen is open and the children can buy an afternoon snack or bring it with them. (Cordial and watermelon will be provided).
5. If the children wish, they can change into clothing representing their house colour. This is optional. *No crepe paper please.*
6. At 3:25 p.m. the children will go to their Sports House Meetings to be held in the classrooms.
7. At 3:40 p.m. the staff and students walk down to the carnival together.
8. **The carnival begins at 4:15 p.m.**
9. A sausage sizzle tea will operate between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. (cost \$2.00 – please don't send money to school before the carnival – just pay on the night).

10. The infants' events will cease at 6:30 p.m. At this time the parents of the infants children can either take their child home, or keep them at the pool for the sausage sizzle and the remaining carnival under their own supervision.

11. The carnival will finish by 8:15 p.m.

Once again there will be a Staff, Ex-Student, Parent Relay and also a free swim at tea time for everyone, so bring along your swimmers. To help make this carnival a success we will need **YOUR HELP!** Attached to this newsletter is a tear-off slip asking for people to assist as judges and cooks. Also, to assist with catering, we would like to know how many sausages your family will require. ***Please return these notes by Monday, 5 February. As we have such a short preparation time, we will need to order the food and send home rosters next Tuesday.*** The staff look forward to seeing you for a family night out at the pool on Wednesday.

NO CANTEEN AT THE POOL

Please be aware that there is no canteen at the pool this year. The sausage sizzle is available for tea at the swimming carnival but if you would prefer, you may like to bring a picnic tea.

STAFF/PARENT/EX-STUDENTS RELAY

The staff team is again in solid training and we'd appreciate some opposition. So come on, get your team organised and get into the water. We encourage our kids to have a go at lots of different things, so let's lead by example. The teachers promise to go easy on you!

SWIMMING HEATS

Heats for the length of the pool races for children in Years 2-6 have commenced and will continue tomorrow and Monday and Tuesday next week with different strokes being held on different days. **All children are timed during these heats and the fastest six will swim in the final at the swimming carnival. At the carnival the first race of each event will be the final. Those children who do not make a final will still be given the opportunity to swim in the length of the pool races.** Students will be advised which stroke we will be doing on a particular day. All students entering length of the pool races should bring their swimmers on these days. The Western Region Swimming Carnival will be held in Coonamble on Thursday, 22 February.

PUPIL FREE DAY – Thursday, 8 February

The day after the Twilight Swimming Carnival next week, ie, Thursday, 8 February, will be a pupil free day. During this day staff members will participate in two areas of professional development. Firstly, to familiarise themselves with Google Apps for education on chrome devices. Secondly, teachers in each stage will develop new assessment strategies as part of our PLC focus.

NEXT WEEK'S ABOUT

Next week's About will go home on Friday due to the Pupil Free Day on Thursday.

2018 SCHOOL FEES

The Term 1 School Fee Accounts will be sent out next Friday. The Fee Statements will be emailed to those people who have supplied us with an email address and those who don't have access to email will be given to the eldest child with the About.

GOOD LUCK LUKE

We wish Luke O'Neill the best of luck as he represents the Diocese of Bathurst in the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Polding Basketball Championships to be held in Newcastle next week. It is a fantastic achievement to reach this level of competition. Well done Luke!

P & F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our P & F AGM will be held at school on Tuesday, 20 February at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

ST JOSEPH'S P & F DEBUTANTE BALL **Saturday, 24 March, 2018**

The P & F Debutante Ball will be held at the Shire Hall on Saturday, 24 March. This is a wonderful evening and raises funds for our P & F Association which in turn is then spent on much needed and very worthwhile resources for our school. There are always lots of jobs in the

lead up to the ball with working bees to be held at school. We will advise details of these working bees in the coming weeks.

LIBRARY

Library classes will commence next week and the timetable is as follows:

Monday: Kinder, Year 3, Year 4.

Tuesday: Year 1, Year 2, Year 5, Year 6.

Each child must have a library bag. School library bags may be purchased from the school for \$4.00 each. The children received their first Book Club brochure this week.

CRUNCH & SIP PROGRAM

Our 'Crunch & Sip' Program will continue this year in each classroom at 10:00 a.m. every day. At this time students take a five minute break in their class to have a drink of water and to eat some fruit. This is a voluntary activity and the water and fruit is brought from home. All fruit must be cut into bite-size pieces. Acceptable foods include apple, grapes, banana, carrots, celery sticks, sultanas, dried fruit, strawberries, cherry tomatoes. The purpose of this activity is to encourage healthy eating and to give the children an energy boost in the morning.

SEVERE REACTION TO NUTS

As some of our students have a 'nut' allergy, we ask that you refrain from sending nuts and nut products as part of school snacks and lunches. We appreciate your help in this matter.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

School banking will commence next Tuesday, 13 February. All Kinder students will receive an application to open an account with the CDF as soon as we receive them. If anyone else would like to start banking with the CDF please let Mrs Hodge know and she will give you an application.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL SMARTPHONE APP

Thanks to the generosity of our P & F Association we have a school app to enable parents to receive school information instantly and directly to their smartphone. This app has newsletters, general school information, details of upcoming events and also has an absentee form which enables parents to let us know the reason for their child's absence. Simply search for School Stream from the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android) and download the app to your phone. Make sure you agree to push notifications. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type St Joseph's School Gilgandra into the search and select. If you have any problems, contact Mrs Hodge in the office. We strongly recommend this app to all our parents/caregivers.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

Just a reminder that if your child is absent from school, it is important that you let us know either via our school app, by phone or by note to the child's teacher, the reason for the absence. We are required by law to report any child who has more than 10 unexplained absences. We would be grateful for your assistance in this matter.

FAMILY INFORMATION/PERMISSION NOTE

Every child received a Family Information/Permission Note on Tuesday. These forms need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible. Please note, a separate form must be completed for each child.

BUS TRAVEL APPLICATIONS

Our school has partnered with Transport for NSW to use the new online process for parents to submit school travel applications. The previous blue bus forms are no longer available. Applications for 2018 bus travel are now open via www.transportnsw.info/school-students

SCHOOL DRIVE SUBSIDY

The old private vehicle conveyance subsidy has now changed to the new School Drive Subsidy. This subsidy is available for students who travel by private vehicle from home to the bus stop. It is paid twice a year. Applications may be made online at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive or phone 131500 for assistance.

CANTEEN

Our school canteen operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When your child is ordering his/her lunch, please include only the lunch order on the lunch bags. Any 'extras' eg chips, ice blocks etc can be purchased by the children after lunch. For the benefit of new parents to our school this year, when ordering lunches please include on the lunch order your child's name, class and the order. The lunch bag, together with money, is then placed in the basket in the classroom when the children arrive at school.

NEW PRICE LIST

A new canteen menu and price list went home on Tuesday. There have been a couple of price changes, so please destroy all previous canteen lists.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

A note went home on Tuesday asking for helpers in the canteen this year. If we get enough helpers, it usually means helping only once a term from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. When we get all the notes back a roster will be prepared. If anyone can help out in the first couple of weeks, please let Mrs Hodge know.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter, the 'About', is sent home with the eldest child in each family every Thursday. Please make sure you ask for your 'About' each Thursday to enable you to keep informed about what's happening at the school. The newsletter is also available each week on the school app.

NO HAT, NO PLAY

If your child does not have a hat, he/she will not be permitted to play on the playground. Please dress your child in a maroon school hat. All classes have been distributed with sunscreen.

PICKING UP CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL A SAFETY ISSUE

Just a reminder that when picking up children from school to use the Wrigley Street entrance and not the Dudley Street entrance. The Dudley Street entrance is for buses only in the afternoon and it is too dangerous for children to be ducking between buses to leave school.

BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY TIPS

It has been six weeks since road users have had to remember to slow down and look out for children around schools and forgetfulness and complacency can affect us all after an extended break. Drivers and riders should allow for children who may act unpredictably on the road as uncertainty and excitement over the new school year overrides otherwise sensible behaviour. Please remember to abide by School Zone speed limit of 40 km/h from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 and 4:00 p.m.

WASTE TO ART

Waste to art entries are now open for Gilgandra residents and groups. Entry forms are available at the Cooee Heritage Centre, the Gilgandra Shire Council main office and the Library. Entry forms and artworks are to be delivered to the Cooee Heritage Centre before Monday, 30 April. For more information contact Melissa Ryan at council on 68178800 or council@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au.

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 1 (so far!)

WEEK 1

- Friday, 2 February - Swimming Heats – 1:15 p.m.
- House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.

WEEK 2- Year 6 Reconciliation

- Monday, 5 February - Swimming Heats – 1:15 p.m.
- House Meetings – 2:00 pm.
- Tuesday, 6 February - Swimming Heats – 1:15 p.m.
- House Meetings – 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 7 February - Twilight Swimming Carnival – 4:15 p.m.
- Thursday, 8 February - Pupil Free Day
- Friday, 9 February - Polding Summer Sports Trials – Luke O'Neill

WEEK 3

- Tuesday, 13 February - Pancake Tuesday
- Wednesday, 14 February - Ash Wednesday Mass (K-6) – 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, 16 February - Principals' Meeting – Compliance
- Polding Summer Sports Trials back-up date

WEEK 4- Year 4 Reconciliation

- Tuesday, 20 February - P & F AGM
- Thursday, 22 February - Western Region Swimming Carnival – Coonamble – St Joey's to host

WEEK 5

- Thursday, 1 March - Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- AP Meeting
- Friday, 2 March - Clean Up Australia Day
- Sunday, 4 March - Years 1 & 4 Sunday Mass – 9:45 a.m.

WEEK 6- Catholic Schools Week Year 5 Reconciliation

- Monday, 5 March - Moorambilla Trials
- Tuesday, 6 March - School Spelling Bee Trials – written tests (Years 3-6)
- Thursday, 8 March - Kinder Welcome Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.
- Support Teachers Meeting
- Friday, 9 March - Support Teachers Meeting

WEEK 7

- Wednesday, 14 March - PLC Day Dubbo
- Thursday, 15 March - ICT Contacts Network Meeting
- Friday, 16 March - St Patrick's Day Mass – Year 5 (Years 3-6) – 10:30 a.m.
- Year 5 to Cooee Lodge – 2:00 p.m.
- Principals' Meeting

WEEK 8

- Monday, 19 March - St Joseph's Day Celebrations – Mass (K-6) – 12:00 p.m. followed by celebrations at the pool
- Wednesday, 21 March - NSW CPS Swimming
- Thursday, 22 March - Principals' Meeting
- Friday, 23 March - Diocesan Winter Sports Trials
- Shell Questacon – K-2 – 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., 3-6 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, 24 March - St Joseph's P & F Debutante Ball
- Sunday, 25 March - Palm Sunday

WEEK 9

- Monday, 26 March - School Photos
- Tuesday, 27 March - School Spelling Bee Finals – Years 3/4
- Wednesday, 28 March - School Spelling Bee Finals – Years 5/6
- Thursday, 29 March - Holy Thursday
- Stations of the Cross (Years 3-6) – 12:30 p.m.
- Infants Easter Egg Hunt
- Friday, 30 March - Good Friday
- Sunday, 1 April - Easter Sunday

WEEK 10 - Year 3 Reconciliation

- Monday, 2 April - Easter Monday
- Thursday, 5 April - Year 2 Liturgy – 10:30 a.m.

WEEK 11

- Monday, 9 April - The Annunciation of the Lord Mass – Year 3 (K-6) 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 10 April - Grandparents Day
- Wednesday, 11 April - PSSA Swimming Homebush
- Thursday, 12 April - PSSA Swimming Homebush
- Friday, 13 April - Last Day Term 1

HOLIDAYS

- Wednesday, 25 April - ANZAC Day

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

KINDER Welcome to Kindergarten! It was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces ready for school on Tuesday morning. We would like to also welcome all our new parents, grandparents and friends to the Joey's family. In Kinder this week we practised writing our name and matching numbers to the correct group. We loved reading "Little Miss Muffet" and sequencing the events in order. In Science we completed our title page 'Weather In My World'. We were all very proud to see our buddies receive their leaders' badges at Mass today. Please remember to avoid bringing nuts to school as we have some children who will have a severe reaction. Thank you. We hope you all have a lovely, restful weekend so we can be ready for another busy week in Kinder. *Miss Phillipa Smith & Mrs Alison Newstead*

YEAR 1 Welcome back everyone! It was wonderful to see so many happy faces on Tuesday. A special welcome to Isla and her family who join our St Joey's family this year. In Spelling we are learning words with the short vowel 'a' and in Grammar we are looking at sentences. During Maths we have added numbers, investigated halves and used paper clips to measure objects. We have also spent some time colouring our book covers and will be bringing these home over the next few days to be covered. It was wonderful to see our Year 6 school leaders receive their special badges today and we are all super excited about our school swimming carnival next Wednesday. Go Gums!! *Mrs Meichelle Schier*

YEAR 2 Welcome back everyone to what is shaping up to be another busy and exciting year. We also welcome Lachlan and Olivia to Year 2. We are sure they'll enjoy their time at St Joey's. During the week we've been revising nouns and verbs in Grammar and using capital letters in Sentence A Day. I've been very pleased with the children's approach towards their work and being able to quickly learn new rules and routines. The swimming carnival is next Wednesday and we can't wait! Have a great weekend everyone. *Miss Lisa Harvey*

YEAR 3 What a wonderful start we have had to the school year! Congratulations to our Year 6 leaders on a beautiful Mass this morning. In class we've begun our Dr Seuss Literature unit and we've completed some posters depicting 'All About Me' to display in our classroom. Our class welcome letter has gone home outlining routines and class organisation. Let us know if you haven't received one. Some books have been sent home this afternoon to be covered and more will go home tomorrow. Please ensure ALL books are returned on Monday even if they are uncovered. We look forward to a fun and rewarding year in Year 3! *Mrs Melinda Morris & Mrs Donna Colwell*

YEAR 4 Wow - what can we say about our fantastic new room? It is awesome and Year 4 has thoroughly enjoyed working in a bright new learning space. In class this week we have begun to look at punctuation and using it correctly as we write very interesting recounts of our holiday adventures. In Maths we have learnt some new warm up activities and begun to revise addition and multiplication strategies to get us going. We cannot wait for the mighty Cedars to take on the Kurras, Peppers and Gums at the swimming carnival next Wednesday. Let's hope the Cedars make it 3 in a row! Have a great weekend. *Mr Tim Keady and Miss Prue Giffin*

YEAR 5 How wonderful it was to see all the smiling faces on Tuesday morning and hear about the exciting adventures of the school holidays. After a lovely discussion about what lies ahead for us in 2018 and writing some personal goals, we got straight to work organising our books and learning how things should be set out. Books will be sent home on the weekend to be covered and returned on Monday. Homework will start next week and we look forward to working with everyone this year. *Mrs Dominica Banks & Mrs Nikkola Thomas*

YEAR 6 Welcome back! I've heard many stories about lots of holiday fun and it sounds like everyone is excited to start the school year. In preparation for our Investiture Mass today we examined our 'Leaders' Pledge', discussed the importance of us all being leaders of St Joey's and our responsibilities. The Year 6 students are now officially the school leaders for 2018. Thank you to everyone who came along this morning and helped us celebrate. The students have been busy learning the ropes this week in order to keep our school running so well. There was lots of excitement when we found out who our buddies were on Tuesday and we sure knew how to lead by example. Books will be sent home on Friday to be covered. Please ensure all books are returned to school on Monday covered or uncovered so we can continue with our work. Year 6 is off to a wonderful start to the year! *Mr Damien Soares*

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday, 2 February - Nikki Church

Monday, 5 February - Ash & Lib Walker

Wednesday, 7 February - Janine Ferguson & Catherine Neeves

Friday, 9 February - JB & Ali Tancred

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

Sunday, 4 February - Zac Ferguson, Emily Zell, Jacob Harland, Dennis Gale

2018 KINDERGARTEN/YEAR 6

BUDDIES

Chloe Alexander	-	Emma Westwood
Akihiro Baker	-	Isaac Grimshaw
Arabella Chandler	-	Chloe Mudford
Oli Chandler	-	Jack Oehm
Heidi Colwell	-	Jade Elsom
Mitchell Cosier	-	Rhys Bonnington
Bayley Dent	-	Bailey Wykes
Lottie Duffy	-	Layne Godber
Bella Ferguson	-	Molly Wilson
Claudia Harrison	-	Emily Zell
Kellie Hutchison	-	Breanna Foster
Connor Jones-Copelin	-	Jacob Harland
Clamide Kuku	-	Daniel Kirsop
Keaghan Lummis	-	Isaiah McKenzie
Thomas Melsaac	-	Aiden Walker
Milla Morris	-	Breanna Foster
Eva Mulligan	-	Molly Fairey
Ella Murphy	-	Madison Riley
Harrison Newton	-	Oscar Spora
Ben O'Brien	-	Aiden Walker
Joe O'Brien	-	Kyzack Corcoran
Jessie O'Connor	-	Sarah Temple
Isabelle Peart	-	Kate Woollams
Oliver Peart	-	Tom Dunn
Lucy Profke	-	Molly Fairey
Lucas Riley	-	Darcy Neeves
Bill Ryan	-	Tom Dunn
Mackenzie Skinner	-	Jade Elsom
Alana Spora	-	Emma Durrant
Andrew Standing	-	Luke O'Neill
Izakk Tarrant	-	Jerome Woodrow
Indy Thomas	-	Camilla Beveridge
Harry Thurlow	-	Dylen Murray
Archie Valler	-	Ry Heffer
Peregrine Volkofsky	-	Dennis Gale
Ivy Zell	-	Molly Wilson
Lucy Zell	-	Emma Westwood



