GRANDPARENTS DAY/OPEN DAY
Everyone is invited from the very young to the very old next Wednesday, 6 April to celebrate Grandparents Day. The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with morning tea in the weather shed. Following morning tea the students of St Joseph’s will entertain you with a mini concert at approximately 10:30 a.m. To conclude the activities everyone is invited to inspect the classrooms. So, if you have a grandma, grandpa, nan, pop, an elderly next door neighbour or in fact know any person, young or old, please invite them to our Grandparents Day. We will be needing cakes and slices etc. for morning tea, so please bring a plate.

SENSATIONAL SPellers
Congratulations to our sensational spellers who competed in the St Jo’s Spelling Bee Finals held this week. The audience was amazed at the students’ super spelling. Well done! Special mention to Dylen Murray and Layney Godber in the Years 3/4 section and Jennifer Ibe and Bradley Kilday in the Years 5/6 division. Dylen, Layney, Jennifer and Bradley will now represent St Joe’s at the Diocesan Spelling Bee to be held in Wellington on Thursday, 26 May.

JUNIOR JOEY’S COOEE VISIT
Yesterday at lunch time the Junior Joey’s donned their badges and walked up to Coonee Lodge. During their visit they made paper chains and had a good chat with the residents. The visit was enjoyed by young and old and is a great opportunity for the children to demonstrate their compassion and care to others.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION
Year 3 is preparing the Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation to be held on Monday, 4 April. The feast celebrates Mary saying ‘Yes’ to becoming the mother of Jesus. We hope many of you can join us for this special celebration at 10:30 a.m. in the church. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea which will follow the Mass.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be taken this Monday, 4 April. Each child has been given an envelope with full details regarding price and products available. They have also sent us the following information for online school photo ordering.

Step 1: Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter our school code: 7Q9 5JT KQZ. Step 2: Enter your child’s details. Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs. Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page). You do not need to return your child’s envelope if ordering online. You can also make payments by cash or cheque and must be returned in the envelopes provided. A separate envelope must be used for each child. ALL PHOTOS NEED TO BE PAID FOR PRIOR TO PHOTO DAY. The money for photos may be returned to school at any time. If you have more than one child at school and would like a family photo taken, special envelopes are available from the office.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
Training for the school cross country has commenced. Cross country is for any students in Years 3-6. Nine and ten year olds run 2 kilometres while eleven and twelve years olds run 3 kilometres. The Joey’s trial will be held next Thursday, 7 April at 9:00 a.m. The Diocesan Cross Country will be held in Coolah on Tuesday, 3 May.

CHAIR COVER WASHING
We need some volunteers to help wash the chair covers that we used at the Ball on Saturday night. There are 300 to wash and many hands make light work! So come and get a dozen or grab 100! It all helps.

ICAS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES COMPETITION (formerly Computer Skills Competition)
The International Competition and Assessments for Schools is holding its Digital Technologies Competition on Tuesday, 17 May for children in Years 3-6. If you would like your child to enter this competition please complete the tear-off slip attached to last week’s About (or send in a note to school) together with the $8.00 entry fee by this Monday, 4 April.

ROAD CLOSURE – ENTRANCE TO ST JOSEPH’S
Gilgandra Shire Council has advised us that Wrigble Street, between Wamboin and Dudley Streets (which is right at our school entrance) will be closed next week (4 April – 8 April) for the purpose of laying new pipes. During this week we would ask everyone to use either the Dudley Street gate, the Noreen Street gate or the driveway on the Wamboin Street entrance to enter the school.

HEAR OUR HEART EAR BUS DONATION
Last Wednesday, during the visit to our school by representatives from the Hear Our Heart Ear Bus project, our Year 6 students made a donation to the project, on behalf of the P & F Association. This donation was for the sum of $200.00 which is a fantastic contribution to a very worthwhile cause that benefits many of our children. We thank our P & F for their generous donation.

PORTFOLIOS
All children will take home their Term 1 Portfolios next Friday, 8 April. We encourage all families to take the time to look at the children’s work. All portfolios need to be returned to school early next term so the Term 2 work can be placed in them.

RAISING MONEY FOR RYLEY
Gilgandra Sporting Club invites you to a Prawn, Chicken & Pasta Night on Saturday, 16 April to raise money to support Ryley and his family. Buy a ticket or book a table. $40.00 per adult/$20.00 per child. Bookings can be made at the club phone 68472105. RSVP by Wednesday, 13 April. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Lucky door prize valued at $500.00. So come along for a great family night out and at the same time supporting Ryley and his family.

ANZAC DAY
Our school has once again been invited to participate in the annual ANZAC Day March and an invitation is extended to all students from Years 2-6 to represent our school on ANZAC Day. St Joseph’s has traditionally had a fantastic representation at this march and hopefully as many students as possible will give up an hour or so of their time to represent their school on such an important occasion and show respect for those who served our country. Children need to assemble in Bridge Street at 10:30 a.m. or they could come to Mass at 9:00 a.m. after which I will walk them down to Bridge Street. The march will proceed down Bridge and Miller Streets to the War Memorial for the service at 11:00 a.m. Students are required to wear full summer uniform. If any parents have a special request for any Kinder or Year 1 children to march, please contact the office and I’m sure there will be no problems.

APRIL P & F MEETING
The April P & F Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26 April at 7:30 p.m. in the staffroom at school. This will be the first day back at school next term. So pop the date in your diary and come along, everyone is always most welcome.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL – FRIDAY, 6 MAY
Each year parents are asked to donate gifts which the children can then purchase at the Mother’s Day Stall. The stall will be open after the school holidays this year, so why not start buying and creating now! Your contributions can be sent in at any time and left at the school office. If the gifts could be wrapped in clear cellophane, that would be greatly appreciated. The Mother’s Day Stall is a fundraiser for the P & F Association but most importantly it gives the children the opportunity to bring in their own money to purchase a gift for their mothers and grandmothers that they have selected themselves. Prices at the stall range from 50¢ to $5.00 and we aim to have enough gifts for each child to purchase at least two gifts. Thank you to Mrs Toni Fuller who has again
agreed to organise the stall.

**CANTENE VOLUNTEERS**

As our canteen volunteers may be required to undertake manual tasks the Catholic Education Office and our school recommend that all volunteers complete the CSOHS Manual Tasks e-learning module online. If you wish to undertake this module please contact the school for the online instructions.

**MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Tuesday:

**KINDER**

- **Brooke Beaton** for giving of her best when writing numbers,
- **Chandler** for super counting in Maths Warm Up, **Alyssa Ferguson** for giving of her best in Story Writing, **Jack Gibson** for contributing to discussions in shared reading, **Kenedi Hazelton and Hayden Nichols** for being happy and cheerful members of Kindergarten, **Xanthe Gable** for being a cooperative member of Kindergarten and **Jacqueline Hutchinson** for being a helpful member of Kindergarten.

**YEAR 1**

- **Adison Thomas** for a super improvement in reading, **Isabelle Muddford** and **Eliza Muddford** for excellent research about their family trees and **Amity Chapman** for being a great classroom helper.

**YEAR 2**

- **Sienna Zell** for beginning work quickly and carefully, **Ethan Morris** and **Lilla Oehm** for beautiful expression and fluency in reading and **Lochie Hen** and **Nick Kirssop** for great St Joe’s Day recounts.

**YEAR 3**

- **Lucas Gleadhill** for great improvement in reading, **Jasmine Zell** for correct use of verb tense in Grammar, **Casey Gaff** for being a kind and considerate member of Year 3 and **Elten Walker** for working hard in Operations.

**YEAR 4**

- **Breanna Foster** for an enthusiastic approach to home reading, **Jacob Harland** for a positive attitude towards singing practice for Grandparents Day and **Dennis Gale** for drawing some great 3D shapes.

**YEAR 5**

- **Mason Fryers** for a consistent effort in all Maths Operations, **Isaiah Gleadhill** for asking intelligent questions to help clarify understanding in Maths and **Jack Purvis** for being a cheerful member of Year 5.

**YEAR 6**

- **Heidi Purvis** for always being a great classroom helper, **Tyler Evans** for clever work with dot plots in Maths, **Ella McNally-Elwin** for consistent achievement in Problem A Day and **Madison Hourigan** for excellent work with apostrophes.

**WHAT’S ON**

**WEEK 11**

- Monday, 4 April - School Photos - The Annunciation Mass – Year 3 (K-6) – 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, 6 April - Grandparents Day
- Thursday, 7 April - School Cross Country Trials – 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, 8 April - Last Day Term 1
- Saturday, 16 April - Fundraiser for Ryley Smith

**WEEK 1**

- Monday, 25 April - ANZAC Day
- Tuesday, 26 April - Staff and students resume for Term 2
- - Whole school Mass – 9:00 a.m.
- - P & F Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 28 April - Polding Winter Sports Trials – Bathurst - Pat Spora, Mason Fryers, Lachlan Riley
- Friday, 29 April - Polding Winter Sports Trials – Bathurst

**WEEK 2**

- Tuesday, 3 May - Diocesan Cross Country – Coolah
- Wednesday, 4 May - School Learning Review & Development
- Thursday, 5 May - Polding Winter Sports Trials back-up date
- Friday, 6 May - School Learning Review & Development

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER**

In Kindergarten this week we have been reading “Little Miss Muffet” and learnt some new words that were unfamiliar and we also matched pictures to sentences. Next week is revision week with all the sounds we have learnt so far. In Mathematics we learnt about direction concepts and have been revising 2D shapes and the months of the year. During Sentence A Day we have been making sure we remember our capital letters, finger spacing and full stops. In Science we have been discussing how weather and the time of the day affect our every day activities at school and at home. During Art we made dinosaurs that can move and in Religion we have been reading about the Easter story. Just a reminder to students to bring in a paint smock for Art. If anybody has old newspapers that they want to recycle these would be much appreciated for Art as well. Take care.

**Miss Belinda Bourke**

**YEAR 1**

It was lovely to see you all back at school after our Easter break. It sounded like the Easter bunny was very generous to everyone in Year 1! This week is flying as we continue to work on our portfolio tasks. We have written a super description of the Easter bunny and revised our understanding of nouns, adjectives and verbs. In Maths we completed our diagnostic review and have enjoyed looking for number patterns on our 100’s chart. We are very excited about Grandparents Day and are practising our songs and some groovy dance moves! “Shoes from Grandpa” by Mem Fox is our big book this week and we have tried to remember what each family member gave Jessie to go with her new shoes! Have a great weekend.

**Mrs Alison Newstead**

**YEAR 2**

This week in Grammar we are revising nouns and have continued to work on plural nouns in Spelling. In Maths we are testing our mathematical knowledge with a term’s diagnostic review. In Writing we are still enjoying writing narratives as well as learning the structure of a description. During the week we were able to watch the Primary Spelling Bee. There were many tricky words but Year 2 cannot wait to join in next year. In Art we have been working on various mini art works which we will display at the Gilgandra Show this weekend. Hope to see you there! Mrs Meichelle Schier & Miss Lisa Harvey

**YEAR 3**

It sounds like everyone had a lovely Easter weekend with lots of tasty treats! This week in Maths we have been completing our assessment task and revising our three, four and ten times tables. During History we have looked at some new and old photographs and searched for clues as to how things have changed in our community. In English we have continued writing our expositions and learnt about using some persuasive language that helps reinforce our point of view and makes our arguments more convincing. We are really looking forward to our class Mass on Monday where we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. Well done to all those who have been practising their readings with expression.

**Mrs Dominica Banks & Mrs Melinda Morris**

**YEAR 4**

I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter long weekend. In Year 4 this week we have learnt about prepositions and composed a cinquain poem about our grandparents. During Maths we explored strategies for addition and multiplication along with am and pm time. In History we discovered why Europeans decided to settle in Australia and we enjoyed the presentation from storyteller, Stig Wemyes this afternoon. Have a lovely weekend.

**Miss Philippa Smith**

**YEAR 5**

This week in Year 5 we have been doing lots of amazing things. On Wednesday we all went to Cooce Lodge and made paper chains on our first visit as Junior Joey’s. In Maths we looked at mixed numerals and division strategies while in Writing we have been on the clock revising our text types and writing with a time limit. This year’s CWA Project Competition was explained to the children and we are looking forward to starting this as a class next week. Have a great weekend.

**Mr Tim Kealy**

**YEAR 6**

This week Year 6 has been busy finishing off portfolio tasks. The standard of work is great! In Maths we have worked with grid references and converting mixed numerals to improper fractions. Our Grammar activities have focused on synonmys and antonyms. In Religion we discussed how particular people have had a mission in their life to help others. We learnt about how Mother Teresa and Mary Mackillop helped those who were less fortunate. We have been busily finishing off various artworks for our show display. Year 6 is very excited for our performance next week for Grandparents Day! Keep up the enthusiasm Year 6!

**Mr Damien Soares**

**CANTED ROSTER**

- **Friday, 1 April** – Nicole Chapman & Katherine Gaff
- **Monday, 4 April** – Sally Beveridge & Carol Alchin
- **Wednesday, 6 April** – Kylie Carlow & Jacinta Ferguson
- **Friday, 8 April** – Kristy Gaff & Phillipa Saunders

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

- **Sunday, 3 April** – James O’Neil, Rhys O’Neill, Olivia McClelland, Oli Schier