CEDARS CLAIM THE TROPHY!
It was another sensational swimming carnival held at the Gilgandra Pool last Friday evening. Congratulations to all our students for their magnificent swimming and school spirit. You were all fantastic. It was with much excitement that Cedars were announced the champion house, breaking a 14 year drought since their last win. Well done Cedars! Many thanks to those parents, family and friends who helped. Without your support these type of activities don’t happen. A huge vote of thanks to our staff for preparing the carnival and ensuring that everything ran so smoothly. We’d also like to thank Bonnie Tink and Bill Welsh and all the staff at the pool for their assistance leading up to and during the carnival itself.

PROJECT COMPASSION
This is a Lenten Programme that Caritas Australia focuses on each year. Caritas Australia is a Catholic agency for overseas aid and development. Project Compassion boxes will be going home as soon as we receive them. Whenever you are emptying your pockets perhaps you could drop a few coins into your Project Compassion box. Your donations could go towards improving health and education or aiding an emergency crisis somewhere in the world. Send your Project Compassion box back to school by Monday, 21 March so we can present all our donations during the Holy Thursday Mass. Please encourage your child to give to this worthy cause as it is a wonderful opportunity for children to share what they have with those less fortunate.

BALL WORKING BEE – Commencing NEXT Saturday, 20 February
The Ball Committee has decided to commence the Ball Working Bees NEXT Saturday, 20 February, NOT this Saturday as advised in last week’s About. The working bees will continue each Saturday, so even if you can only spare an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated. Please try and be a part of this wonderful fundraiser for our school.

YEARS 1 AND 4 MASS
Year 1 and Year 4 are preparing the Mass to be celebrated at St Joseph’s Church on Sunday, 21 February at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

TERM 1 FEES
This term’s fees accounts are with today’s About. Included with the statements is a letter from Mrs Jenny Allen, Executive Director of Schools for the Bathurst Diocese to all parents. If you haven’t already done so, could you please return the School Fee Agreement that went home with last week’s About. If you require another copy, please let us know.

GILGANDRA HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING
On Tuesday, 23 February at 6:00 p.m. Mr Paul Alchin, President of the Gilgandra High School P & C Association, will give an address in the St Joseph’s School Computer Room to all parents informing them what Gilgandra High School has to offer your children. Paul will speak about many aspects of the school and answer any questions you may have. All interested parents are invited to this meeting.

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

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WESTERN REGION SWIMMING
From our swimming carnival Friday the following students have been selected to represent St Joey’s at the Western Region Swimming Carnival to be held at Coonamble next Thursday, 18 February. Congratulations to all these sensational swimmers: Billie Allan, Camilla Beveridge, Hamish Beveridge, Eva Bonnington, Ashleigh Carlow, Rani Diggs, Sam Dunn, Emma Durrant, Thomas Durrant, Tom Eason, Jade Elsom, hayden Ferguson, James Ferguson, Olivia Ferguson, Ryan Ferguson, Zac Ferguson, Isaac Grimshaw, Jacob Harland, Kelsey Hutchison Ryan Hutchison, Bradley Kildey, Olivia McClendon, Chloe Mudford, Amelia Murray, Dylen Murray, Samantha Naden, Jack Oehm, Luke O’Neill, Rhys O’Neill, Henry Purvis, Mattea Purvis, Mike Raglus, Jessica Scholte, Emily Skinner, Laura Smith, Millie Spora, Patrick Spora, William Spora, Grace Tancred, Nick Tancred, Amber Tarrant, Sarah Temple, Jacob Wilson, Bailey Wykes

DINOSAUR SCIENCE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
With lashings of humour, loads of audience participation and huge scale models, Dinosaur Science is designed to ‘wow’ the students and unearth their inner palaeontologist. The presenter will attempt to assemble the bones of first a plesiosaurus and then a brachiosaurus. All students will attend this informative and fun performance on Monday after lunch.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The staff will be participating in professional development activities on Monday, 15th and Monday, 22nd February from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. During this time staff will analyse the 2015 NAPLAN results identifying what is being taught well at St Joseph’s in Literacy and Numeracy and more importantly where we may be able to improve our teaching and learning practices. All staff members agree that these professional development activities will further enhance the fine educational opportunities already present here at St Joseph’s.

P & F ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Our P & F AGM will be held at school next Tuesday, 16 February at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to attend.
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.

**GILGANDRA REPRESENTATIVE NETBALL TRIALS**

Gilgandra Netball will hold representative trials on Sunday, 14 February at 9:00 a.m. at the netball courts at McGrane Oval. Any girls turning 12, 13 or 14 in 2016 are eligible. For further information please contact Libby Carr on 0456801839.

**MERIT AWARDS**

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

**KINDER**
- Mia Ferguson for beautiful manners during class,
- Sailor Ryan for his listening skills during Art, Layla Wykes for giving of her best during News, Mana Diamond for following instructions during Handwriting, Evie Peart for great reading skills during shared reading and Sophie Gilmour for being kind to others.

**YEAR 1**
- Kaycee Bugmy for super work in Maths, Adison Thomas for trying hard to give of her best and Emily Standing and Amy Chapman for writing imaginative responses to the Magic Hat!

**YEAR 2**
- Sam Dunn for fantastic work in maths, Blake Fairey for wonderful expression when reading, Eva Mudford and Brooke Woolrams for writing detailed weekend recounts and Charlie Zell for being a settled and mature worker.

**YEAR 3**
- Casey Gaff and Lucas Gleedhill for a great effort in handwriting and Meatva Purvis and Ava Meyers for being happy and helpful members of Year 3.

**YEAR 4**
- Jerome Woodrow for settling in well to school life at St Joseph’s, Tom Dunn for making a big effort to contribute to class discussions, Ry Hefer for making a super effort to include detail in his writing and Emily Zell for wonderful contributions to discussions about the Ten Commandments.

**YEAR 5**
- Bradley Gibson for always being willing to share ideas with the class, Kelsey Hutchison for outstanding handwriting in all subjects, Jennifer Ibe for trying hard to improve expression when reading aloud and Ryhs O’Neill for participating in Maths Warm-Up activities with enthusiasm.

**YEAR 6**
- Jett Grimshaw for asking clever questions in Maths, Madison Hourigan for showing kindness and consideration towards others, Michael Raglus for displaying enthusiasm during Maths Warm-Up and Hamish Bevedere for working well with fractions and decimals.

**WHAT’S ON**

**WEEK 3** - Year 6 Reconciliation
- Friday, 12 February - Principals’ Meeting

**WEEK 4**
- Monday, 15 February - Dinosaur Science School Performance
- Staff NAPLAN Analysis 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, 16 February - P & F AGM
- Thursday, 18 February - Western Region Swimming Carnival Coonamble
- Saturday, 20 February - Ball Working Bee
- Sunday, 21 February - Years 1 & 4 Sunday Mass – 9:45 a.m.

**WEEK 5** - Year 4 Reconciliation
- Monday, 22 February - Staff NAPLAN Analysis 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, 27 February - Ball Working Bee

**WEEK 6**
- Wednesday, 2 March - Diocesan Swimming Carnival
- Support Teachers Meeting
- Thursday, 3 March - Support Teachers Meeting
- Kinder Welcome Liturgy – (K-6) – 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, 4 March - Clean Up Australia Day
- Saturday, 5 March - Ball Working Bee

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER**
- Kindergarten has been very busy this week learning about the sound ‘Mm’ with the jolly phonics song and hearing the sound of ‘Mm’ in many words. In our shared reading, we read ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’ and thought of lots of words to describe stars. During our History unit ‘Personal and Family Histories’, we discussed different types of families and what type of things families do together. In Mathematics we have been practising counting to 20 and learning about straight and curved lines in shapes. During Religion we learnt and wrote what promises are for Lent. Just a reminder to Kindergarten that homework will start next week and each week students will present news on their given news day. Take care. **Miss Belinda Bourke**

**YEAR 1**
- This week has been hard at work this week learning lots of great things.
- In Grammar we have been learning all about nouns and trying to think of as many as we can. We have applied this knowledge to sentences in our Sentence A Day book. Looking for a change of heart is what Year 1 students are aiming for this Lent. We have made our Lenten promises and will try very hard to remember them and carry them out each day. Our Maths focus has been place value, subtraction and identifying features of 3D objects.

**YEAR 2**
- Congratulations everyone on your terrific school spirit at the swimming carnival last Friday. It was great to see everybody participating in lots of races. Well done Cedars – a great win that broke a 14 year drought. During the week we wrote a recount about the carnival.
- Yesterday we went to the Ash Wednesday Mass. In Religion lessons we wrote our Lenten promises and began talking about the meaning of Lent and how we are going to try and be more like Jesus and turn away from sin.

**YEAR 3**
- We are having a busy week in Year 3!
- In Religion we have been learning about the importance of Ash Wednesday and during the season of Lent we can become closer to God. During Maths we have been looking at subtraction, inverse operations and bridging numbers to make ten. Our writing task has been describing a toy we have brought from home. We have tried to follow the structure and include as much detail as possible.
- During Art we enjoyed finishing our pictures of Puck Wudige – a very strange alien looking creature!
- Year 3 has had a great start to the year with homework and reading. Keep up the fabulous work!

**YEAR 4**
- This week we’ve been busy learning about different types of sentences in Grammar. For writing we have self assessed our ‘Beach Adventure’ recounts. During Maths we have practised 2 and 3 digit subtraction and learnt about place value and symmetry.
- We marked the beginning of Lent by attending the Ash Wednesday Mass and received ashes on our forehead to show that we are sorry for our sins.
- Thank you to those who have returned notes for our Mass next Sunday.

**YEAR 5**
- Go the mighty Cedars! What a wonderful swimming carnival we had last Friday - thanks to everyone who came along to support our school.
- This week we have been looking at the beginning of Lent in Religion where we have discussed what Shrove Tuesday is all about followed by our fantastic pancakes at recess. On Wednesday Year 6 lead the school in a very reverent Mass for Ash Wednesday – thanks Year 6 for all your fantastic leadership this week. In class we have learnt a new chant to help us remember the different types of nouns as well as continuing our work on inferential questioning during comprehension lessons. Have a great weekend.

**YEAR 6**
- We all celebrated a lovely Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday.
- It was great to see everyone being so reverent.
- In Maths we have been learning about shapes, square centimetres and subtracting 4-digit numbers.
- In History we have been learning about Australia’s democracy. This week Year 6 got the opportunity to interview their Kinder buddies in order to write their Kinder buddy profiles. We are now busily drafting them so they are ready to present at our Kinder Welcome Liturgy.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**
- Friday, 12 February – Alicia Heffer & Sophia Ibe
- Monday, 15 February – Danielle Bonington & Penny Zell
- Wednesday, 17 February – Claudina Ryan & Simone Beaton
- Friday, 19 February – Amy Soora & Michelle Woolrams

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**
- Sunday, 14 February – Kate Gilmour, Martin Fryers, Ella McAnally-Elwin, Lachlan Fairey