Welcome to a new school term. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and we look forward to another fruitful term.

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 we 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 shall wear summer uniform with a jumper. 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.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL – FRIDAY, 8 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 held on Friday, 8 May, and we are desperate for gifts. 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 50c to $5.00 and we aim to have enough gifts for each child to purchase at least two gifts.

MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE
In conjunction with the Mother’s Day Stall there will be a raffle with three wonderful prizes. Tickets are $2.00 each and a book of 5 tickets is going home to each family today. The raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of the stall.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL WORKING BEEs
There will be two working bees leading up to the stall, on Friday 1 May and Thursday, 7 May, both commencing from 9:00 a.m. If anyone can help wrap presents, please come along. You may be able to come for an hour or two or stay all day. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

DIOCEsan CROSS COUNTRY
We have twenty runners competing in the Diocesan Cross Country event to be held in Coolah next Tuesday, 28 April. The nine and ten year old competitors run two kilometres while the eleven and twelve year olds run three kilometres. Just writing that is exhausting! Good luck to our squad that consists of Will Fuller, Luke O’Neill, Kyzaack Corcoran, Ry Heffer, Laura Farragher, Jade Elsom, Olivia Amiet, Rhys O’Neill, Pat Spora, Zac Ferguson, Kelsey Hutchison, Rani Diggs, Tayarna McKenzie, Sophie Hassall, Lachlan Riley, James Ferguson, Charlie Banks, Ashleigh Carlow, Madison Hourigan, Harry Spora, William Sandford, Stuart Larsen.

KINDER LITURGY
Kinder will celebrate a class Liturgy next Thursday, 30 April at 10:30 a.m. in St Joseph’s Church. Everyone is welcome and morning tea will follow the Liturgy so please bring a plate to share.

APRIL P & F MEETING

FETE COORDINATOR NEEDED
Thank you to those people who attended our April P & F Meeting on Tuesday. We need a coordinator for our fete this year which will be held on Friday, 30 November. The fete is a wonderful day for the children and a major fundraiser for the school so if you, or a group of people, are able to assist it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office if you are able to help. It was also reported that the Ball raised $8,680.00! A fabulous effort. Congratulations again to our hard working committee and all their helpers.

UNIFORMS
Due to the varying weather conditions at the moment children are permitted to wear either their summer or winter uniforms.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING
There will be a meeting next Monday, 27 April in the school computer room at 6:00 p.m. for those parents whose children will receive their First Holy Communion this year. First Holy Communion will be celebrated in St Joseph’s Church on Sunday, 7 June at 9:45 a.m.

RECEIVING A BLESSING DURING MASSES
At St Joseph’s we encourage parents to participate in our Masses and Liturgies. We warmly invite all parents to come forward during the Communion procession. Catholics may receive Communion and those that are not Catholic may receive a blessing. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing Fr Martin asks that you cross your arms across your chest. If you have any questions please feel free to ask us.

PORTFOLIOS
All children took home their Term 1 Portfolios for the holidays. Hopefully you have been able to look at the children’s work. Could all the portfolios be returned to school as soon as possible so we can start putting the Term 2 work into them.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is again being held this year for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the agreed national benchmarks of student achievement. The tests will be conducted in the areas of Language (including spelling, punctuation and grammar), Writing, Reading and Numeracy (including Number, Algebra – function and pattern, Chance and Data and Measurement and Space). These tests will be conducted in Gilgandra on Monday, 18 May, Tuesday, 19 May and Wednesday, 20 May. If you require any information about the NAPLAN tests please contact the school.

CHAIR COVER WASHING
We are still looking for volunteers to help wash the chair covers that were used at the Ball. So come and get a dozen or so! It all helps.

CPR AND FIRST AID UPDATE
After school next Wednesday, 29 April, all staff will be completing CPR and First Aid training. We thank Barb Bignall and Geoff Kiehne for providing this essential training.

MOTHER DAUGHTER INFORMATION NIGHT
An information night for mothers and daughters will be held at the Gilgandra MPS on Wednesday, 6 and 13 May commencing at 6:00 p.m. for girls in years 5 and 6. Presented by Nicky Giddens (Women’s Health Nurse) and Lou Gillman, these sessions are designed to provide factual information that is easy to understand. Please contact the MPS on 6885900 as numbers are limited.

KUCA CLUB
Kuca starts on Monday, 27 April and is held at the Uniting Church on the corner of Myrtle and Wambom Streets from 3:15 – 4:45 p.m. each Monday for children aged 5 – 12 years. The cost is 50c. Kuca is a fun afternoon with afternoon tea, craft and games. Come along and join in the fun. For more information contact Mary on 68472931.

WHAT’S ON THIS TERM (so far!)

WEEK 1
Saturday, 25 April - ANZAC Day

WEEK 2
Monday, 27 April - First Communion Parent Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 28 April - Diocesan Cross Country – Coolah
Wednesday, 29 April - Staff CPR/First Aid Skills Update
numbers come before and after nine. We started our new Science and Technology topic, ‘Living Alive’ with a discussion on what we need to stayalive. In Religion we have been busy preparing for our class Liturgy next week and hope to see you there. During HSIE we have remembered the brave soldiers that went off to war and discussed what the soldiers wore and how they may have felt. Take care – Miss Bourdou

Year 1 Welcome back everyone. It sounds like everyone had a great holiday. We wrote recounts about our Easter break and holiday. A special welcome to Dakotah Gilmour and Maddie Amiet who have joined our class. During the week, our focus in the classroom has been on ANZAC Day. We’ve discussed the importance of remembering the brave men and women who fought for our country during the wars and how we can honour them. We made ANZAC cards. In Maths we focused on place value of tens and ones, counting patterns and comparing similar shapes. Mrs Colwell began the new Science unit for the term “All Mixed Up” which will be lots of fun. Have a great weekend. Lest We Forget.

Miss Harvey & Mrs Newstead

Year 2 Welcome back! We hope everyone had a refreshing break. It was straight back to work with Year 2 revising multiplication, number patterns and area in Maths. We have investigated adjectives in Grammar and looked at irregular plurals in spelling. Everyone wrote a wonderful recount of their holidays and is enjoying sharing them with the class. As part of our ‘monster’ theme we drew pictures of marvellous monsters which will be used in a class collage. On Saturday we observe ANZAC Day and would love to see many students attend the march as part of the 100 year anniversary. We hope to see you there. Mrs Schier & Mrs Morris

Year 3 It sounds like everyone enjoyed a happy Easter and holiday from school. We welcomed Eli Fullbrook and Endi Durrant to our class on Monday. We hope they enjoy their time at St Joe’s. It’s been wonderful to hear how many boys and girls are going to the ANZAC Day march on Saturday. It’s a great way to remember and give thanks for the wonderful country we live in. In class we have been looking at and writing narratives, learning direct speech and reviewing our spelling rules. In Maths we have learnt angles, counting by tens and the metre. In Religion this week we began our new topic ‘The Sacrament of the Eucharist’. We discussed belonging to a Christian community which begins with the special ceremony of Baptism. In Science we have started the topic ‘Wrap It Up’ as our new unit of work. I’m looking forward to the First Holy Communion parent meeting on Monday. It’s a great opportunity to discuss how important this sacrament is and to inform you about what your child is learning in class to prepare them for this sacrament.

Mr Sources

Year 4 Welcome back to a new term and a special welcome to Heidi Holliday and Olivia Amiet who have joined our class. Year 4 is straight back into it this term by learning about the ‘f’, ‘ff’, ‘pf’, and ‘gh’ sounds in Spelling. We have revised nouns in Grammar and looked at two different poems for Comprehension. With the eisteddfod coming up this term we will be spending time examining our eisteddfod poems, ‘The Adventures of Isabel’ by Ogden Nash and ‘The Wind’ by David Campbell. During writing we discussed poetry, in particular limericks, and have written our own limericks using our names. In Religion we have discussed ANZAC Day and have read the poem ‘In Flanders Field’ and illustrated the image that comes to mind upon reading it. Have a nice weekend. We hope to see you at the ANZAC march on Saturday.

Miss Smith

Year 5 Welcome back to Term 2! We welcomed a new class member, Thomas Durrant, on Monday. I hope Thomas enjoys being part of the St Joe’s family. I’m sure you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and are now well prepared for the busy term ahead. This week in Year 5 we have been looking at our new novel “A Banner Bold” by Nadia Wheatley - investigating life during the Eureka Stockade. In writing we have been practising our timed writing responses and the improvement is continually showing. During Maths we have investigated prime and composite numbers whilst also revising our understanding of triangles - listing the types and having a go at drawing our own. With Mr Musgrave we continued our new topic ‘The Sacrament of the Eucharist’. We discussed belonging to a Christian community which begins with the special ceremony of Baptism. In Science we have started the topic ‘Wrap It Up’ as our new unit of work. I’m looking forward to the First Holy Communion parent meeting on Monday. It’s a great opportunity to discuss how important this sacrament is and to inform you about what your child is learning in class to prepare them for this sacrament.

Mr Sources

Year 6 A big welcome back to Term 2! In Year 6 we all have our batteries recharged and are ready for an action packed term! We have started our new class novel ‘Chinese Cinderella’ which we are reading as an iBook on the iPads. In Maths we have reminded ourselves about percentages, fractions, long division and circumference and area of a circle. We reminisced about our holidays as we wrote a short recount using a rubric to guide us. We have also been focusing on the importance of ANZAC Day and how forward to seeing our Year 6 leaders at Mass and the march. It is great that so many people have been working on their CWA Projects over the holidays. Keep up the great research.

Mrs Banks & Mrs Thomas

Canteen Roster

Murray Rankin, on Monday. I hope Thomas enjoys being part of the St Joe’s family. I’m sure you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and are now well prepared for the busy term ahead. This week in Year 5 we have been looking at our new novel “A Banner Bold” by Nadia Wheatley - investigating life during the Eureka Stockade. In writing we have been practising our timed writing responses and the improvement is continually showing. During Maths we have investigated prime and composite numbers whilst also revising our understanding of triangles - listing the types and having a go at drawing our own. With Mr Musgrave we continued our new topic ‘The Sacrament of the Eucharist’. We discussed belonging to a Christian community which begins with the special ceremony of Baptism. In Science we have started the topic ‘Wrap It Up’ as our new unit of work. I’m looking forward to the First Holy Communion parent meeting on Monday. It’s a great opportunity to discuss how important this sacrament is and to inform you about what your child is learning in class to prepare them for this sacrament.

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