HAPPY, HOLY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS
As this is the last About for the year I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has supported our school during the year. School resumes for all students on Thursday, 28 January, 2016.

K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – Tonight, Thursday, 10 December
Gilgandra High School Hall 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
All students are invited to our school social to be held at the Gilgandra High School Hall tonight from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Parents are most welcome to stay or to leave their children at the social and collect them at 9:00 p.m.

SCHOOL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS
The children’s end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home tomorrow, Friday, 11 December.

YEAR 6 PICNIC – Tomorrow, Friday, 11 December
Our Year 6 students are sure to have lots of fun at the Dubbo Waterslide and tenpin bowling tomorrow. This outing is the school’s way of saying thank you to our Year 6 student leaders for leading our school so well this year. We thank you for ‘Giving Of Your Best’ and may God bless you.

LAST DAY OF TERM – Wednesday, 16 December
As next Wednesday is the last day of term for the students there will be lots of cleaning. If any family or friends are able to help it would be great. We’ll start at 9:30 a.m. and finish by 2:00 p.m. If you can spare any time between 5 minutes and 5 hours, come along! Jobs include scrubbing desks and chairs, dusting and general cleaning.

ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL YEAR BOOK
Just a reminder that the school year books will be available at school after Mass next Monday evening. A huge thank you to Michelle Wooliams and her helper, Mel Phillips for the tremendous amount of work that has once again gone into the year book. All Year 6 students will receive a book as a farewell gift and our P & F Association generously provides one copy for each family. If someone would like an extra copy, please contact Mrs Hodge.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS
Monday, 14 December – So the children’s uniforms are clean for the Mass and Presentations.
Wednesday, 16 December – Last day of school.

END OF YEAR MASS AND PRESENTATIONS
MONDAY, 14 December
Children are to wear full summer uniform and the format will be as follows:
5:45 p.m. Students assemble in school square.
6:00 p.m. Mass and Year 6 Graduation Ceremony in St Joseph’s Church
7:00 p.m. Supper in St Joseph’s School grounds. Please bring a plate
8:00 p.m. Presentations at Gilgandra High School Hall.
All students are expected to attend both the Mass and Presentations.

POOL PARTIES – Tuesday, 15 December
All classes will have their annual pool party next Tuesday, 15 December. Children should bring a plate of party food to share and those children in Years 3-6, their Kristkindle present. Children from Kinder to Year 2 will be having a special Christmas visitor who I’m sure will brighten their day. They may even receive a little gift.

CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM AND BRING THEIR SWIMMERS NEXT TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER.

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Monday, 21 December Penitential Rite 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, 24 December Tooraweenah 6:00 p.m.
Gilgandra 8:00 p.m.
Friday, 25 December Gulargambone 8:00 a.m.
Gilgandra 9:45 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS CHILDREN’S CHOIR
Miss Harvey and Mrs Banks are organising a choir to sing at the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Everyone is invited!

EXCURSION SNIPPET
We enjoyed Scenic World where we went on the steepest railway in the world- you could change the seats to make the ride more interesting! The waterfall was also great to see because the rain made it so challenging to get to.

Abby Tate

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN HUNTER PARK
A wonderful evening was enjoyed on Sunday night singing Christmas Carols in Hunter Park. A terrific group of children from our school performed two songs, “It’s Christmas Time” and “The Irish Blessing”. They certainly ‘Gave Of Their Best’ and sang beautifully. Thank you to the organisers for inviting our school to participate in such a lovely community event.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
Rejoice in the Lord!
Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.
May Christmas be a time of peace and love for all families.
Merry Christmas
**SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE ELDERLY**

Our students are busy this week spreading some Christmas cheer to the elderly residents of Gilgandra. On Wednesday, the Kinder students visited Cooege Lodge and sung Christmas carols in their Santa hats to entertain the residents, while tomorrow, Friday, our carollers from Sunday will visit the residents of Windmill Cottage at the Gilgandra MPS singing more Christmas carols. We’re sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

**NO CANTENE NEXT WEEK**

There will be no canteen next Monday or Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our canteen volunteers who have manned the canteen this year. It is a wonderful service our P & F provides for the families of our school and it couldn’t happen without your help.

**EXCURSION SNIPPET**

The Maritime Museum was really interesting. Being the first school to experience the new battle stations exhibit was very special. Walking through the ship and submarine was amazing as we were able to see what it must be like to work on board. We think it would be great to go back and see it all again in the future.

Nash Marchant, Aiden Ryan, Lachlan Fairey, Lauchlan Bash

**FREE ORGAN**

Father Martin is giving away an organ free of charge. First in, best dressed. Just ring the school.

**JYE DAY COLOURING IN COMPETITION**

Everyone received a colouring in sheet today. All entries are due in on Monday, 14 December.

**MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday: **KINDER**: Riley Fiddes for being a kind member of Kindergarten, Boni Henry for her efforts in Story Writing, Hope Jones-Copelin for being a conscientious member of Kindergarten, Eliza Larkin for great expression in Reading, Abbie Skinner for ‘Giving of Her Best’ in all areas and Lauren Thurlow for being a kind and considerate member of Kindergarten.

**YEAR 1**: Rani Diamond for outstanding improvement in Reading, Kimbela Glímour for making great progress in comprehension and reading tasks, Sienna Horne, Nick Kirso, Emilia Peart and Jessie Riley for wonderful enthusiasm in swimming, Eva Bonnong and Brooke Wollams for an excellent effort in spelling and dictation and Alex Gaff and Rachel Ryan for fantastic ideas in their letters to whale!

**YEAR 2**: Nick Gale for being a conscientious student, Lucy Kilpatrick for always trying to complete work accurately, Samantha Naden for beautiful Christmas art work, Ben Harland for a conscientious effort with his reading and Ryan Ferguson for improved presentation of work.

**YEAR 3**: Daniel Kirso and Molly Wilson for using their observation skills carefully in Science, Isaac Grimshaw for carefully using commas in Sentence A Day, Emily Zell for contributing truthful responses in Comprehension, Jacob Harland for working well with other classmates and Kate Wollams for fantastic results in Operations.

**YEAR 4**: Marshall Fairey for great contributions to class discussions, Ella Wykes for ‘Giving Of Her Best’ in every task, Rani Digg for writing a top recount of our excursion and Jennifer Ibe for fantastic work completing her Maths portfolio task.

**YEAR 5**: Thomas Durrant for always contributing to class discussions, Charlie Banks and Aliza Purvis for excellent reading during our class Liturgy and James Ferguson for being a super speller.

**YEAR 6**: Jye Dye for fabulous Christmas excursion, Tara Foran for ‘Giving Of Her Best’, Rebecca Gaff for being a diligent member of Year 6, Stuart Larsen for amazing line artwork, Aiden Ryan for enthusiastic dance moves and Harry Spora for an enthusiastic approach to all tasks.

**WHAT’S ON**

**WEEK 10**

**Year 6 Reconciliation**

- Thursday, 10 December - Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30 for 6:00 p.m.
- - Social – 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, 11 December - Year 6 Picnic
- - Christmas Carols at Windmill Cottage
- - Infants Swimming ends
- - Reports and Portfolios home
- Sunday, 13 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

**WEEK 11**

- Monday, 14 December - NO CANTENE
- - St John’s College Orientation – 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- - End of Year Mass and Presentations – 6:00 p.m.
- - Swimming
- Tuesday, 15 December - NO CANTENE
- Wednesday, 16 December - NO CANTENE
- Sunday, 21 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

**2016 TERM 1 WEEK 1**

- Wednesday, 27 January - Staff Resume
- Thursday, 28 January - Students Resume

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER**

This week Kindergarten had the opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents at Cooege Lodge by singing Christmas carols and making small hampers! We have enjoyed reading the book “The True Cat’s Of Christmas”. The students thought if there were that many cats under a Christmas tree it would be chaos! We have also been practising for our school social and learning some fancy dance moves. During Religion we read about the first Christmas and discussed what Christmas is really about. We finished our HScie unit, ‘What Are Our Needs?’ by summarising what we have learnt and making sure we know the difference between a want and a need. We finished our Science and Technology unit, ‘On The Move’ by brainstorming different types of vehicles that travel on land, water and in the air. In Mathematics we matched digital and analog time. As we draw to a close for the year, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and new year. Take care – Miss Bourke

**YEAR 1**

Who can believe this year is nearly over? We are really looking forward to our social tonight and we have practised some really great dance moves. This week we heard the story of the ‘Elf on the Shelf’ and were amazed at some of the mischievous tricks he played. We are very grateful to Jye Dye who drew us an amazing picture of the elf for us to colour and paint. We would like to wish all our Year 6 friends the best of luck in high school and we will certainly miss them. A big thank you to all our Year 1 parents for their support this year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children who have worked so hard and helped to make our job so enjoyable. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Miss Harvey & Mrs Neudeast

**YEAR 2**

This has been getting in the Christmas spirit. We’ve completed lots of Christmas craft – a reindeer using our foot and hand prints and a patty pan Christmas tree. We’ve also written letters to Santa. In HSIE we looked at rainforests and the layers of the rainforest along with plants and animals we would find there. The children seem to be enjoying intensive swimming and it’s great to see the progress they’ve made. Thank you to those children who attended the Carols in the Park, you all sang beautifully. We are all looking forward to the social tonight, then our Mass and Presentations on Monday, pool parties on Tuesday and last day Wednesday! Wow, hasn’t the year flown! We’d like to thank all our wonderful Year 2 students for a fun and enjoyable year. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday. God bless. Mrs Schier & Mrs Morris

**YEAR 3**

This has been very busy finishing off work this week. In Maths we have covered multiplication, division and time. We worked with sentences and exclamations in Grammar. Year 3 read a narrative in Comprehension titled ‘The Black Crow’. We have had lots of fun working on our Christmas artworks this week and they’re looking great! Year 3 is very excited about our school social tonight; we are looking forward to dancing the night away (well some of it anyway). I hope everyone has a safe and peaceful holiday. Mr Source

**YEAR 4**

This has been a lovely second last week in Year 4. We have been busy finishing off our novel “Nanberry”, wrapping up units of work and revising concepts covered throughout the year. During Writing we have discussed the reasons why we should be on Santa’s ‘nice list’. We then wrote a letter to Santa asking him to bring us something. In Mathematics we focused on problem solving and number skills while our work in Religion this week has centred around various stories of journeys from the Old Testament of the Bible. It has been a pleasure working with you all this year and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas. Miss Smith

**YEAR 5**

The year is nearly over. When you think back on everything we have managed to do in twelve months, it is amazing. From our fantastic achievements in NAPLAN, bringing home first place in the Dubbo Eisteddfod, our groovy concert creations and finally our Sydney excursion we have managed to do a lot. Well done to everyone in Year 5 on a fantastic year and best of luck for a successful 2016. Thanks to the parents for your support and assistance throughout the year as well. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas. Mr Kealy

**YEAR 6**

Students are enjoying their final days at St Joseph’s and they are to be congratulated on the way they have continued to work hard and give of their best. In Maths we have looked at percentages, revised long division skills and discussed various strategies to justify solutions to problems. Yesterday we had an excellent morning at the Peer Support session at Gilgandra High School. We thank the Year 10 students for organising the activities that will help us next year. A big thank you to all Year 6 for such a wonderful year and we wish you all the best as you take the next step in your life journey. Have a happy, holy and safe Christmas!

Mrs Banks

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Friday, 11 December – Lesley Ryan & Kirstie McKenzie

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

Sunday, 13 December – Charlie Banks, Jett Grimshaw, Olivia Newstead, Amber Tarrant