



# ABOUT

## St Joseph's School Gilgandra

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Term 4 Week 8

1 December, 2016

### Thought for the Week

*Do your little bit of good where you are.*

*It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.*

#### **YEAR 4 CAVES AND DAM EXCURSION**

The Year 4 students, parents and teachers had a fabulous time last Thursday and Friday during their major excursion to the Wellington Caves and Burrendong Dam. The first stop was the Western Plains Cultural Centre where they got to inspect the facility and participate in some fun activities. Then it was back in the cars and off to the Wellington Caves and Phosphate Mine. Following guided tours of the magnificent Cathedral Caves and the phosphate mine the group visited the Japanese Garden and Bottle House. Everyone was accommodated for the night at the caves and after checking in, it was time for some fun in the pool. To conclude Day 1 the students entertained the group with a very entertaining concert. Day 2 was as exciting as Day 1 with visits to the Giant Chimes, Fern Gully and the dam spillway, which included a very informative guided tour. To finish the excursion they stopped off in Dubbo for lots of fun at the waterslide. Thank you to Miss Smith for organising the excursion and taking such good care of the children. Thanks also to the parents, Danielle Bonnington, David Corcoran, Tim Gale, Luke Godber, Rachel Kirsop, Mel Phillips, David Neeves, Ruth Westwood and Penny Zell for their fabulous help and lastly to the children, for their excellent behaviour and being such great ambassadors for our school.

#### **YEAR 6 RELIGION TEST**

There were again some excellent results achieved in the annual Bathurst Diocesan Religion Test which is sat by all Year 6 students in the diocese. Special mention to **Amelia Murray** who received a High Distinction. This places Amelia in the top 5% of Year 6 students in the Bathurst Diocese. A wonderful achievement! The full list of our students' results are as follows:

**High Distinction:** Amelia Murray

**Distinction:** Hamish Beveridge, Ashleigh Carlow, Olivia Ferguson, Madison Hourigan, Ella McAnally-Elwin, Amber Tarrant

**Credit:** Billie Buckland, Thomas Durrant, Tom Eason, Tyler Evans, James Ferguson, Jett Grimshaw, Aliza Purvis, Heidi Purvis, Lachlan Riley, Emily Skinner, Laura Smith, Abby Tate, Mary Westwood, Jacob Wilson

#### **YEAR 6 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NIGHT**

The Year 6 Personal Development evening will be held at school this evening at 6:00 p.m. All Year 6 students and their parents are invited.

#### **SUMMER SPORTS TRIALS CORRECTION**

In last week's About we reported that Rhys O'Neill and James O'Neill both made the Possibles v Probables games in basketball for the Summer Sports Trials. This should have read Rhys O'Neill and Luke O'Neill. We apologise to Luke for mixing him up with his older brother!

#### **KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION**

The Knowledge Explosion, for all children in Years 3 – 6, will be held tomorrow, Friday, 2 December and next Friday, 9 December. The Knowledge Explosion exposes the children to new activities that they may not otherwise have the chance to experience. This year the activities include: Woodwork, Mosaic Tiling, Cooking – Garden to Table, Cooking – Bon Appetite, Art, iPads, Robotics, Drama, Calligraphy and Welding. A special thank you to our community and school volunteers, Roy Duncan, Joe & Judy Shalhoub, Jenny Kilby and Michael O'Neill for giving up their time and sharing their expertise in these activities.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Come and celebrate Carols in the Park this Sunday, 4 December at Hunter Park. The evening will commence with a free sausage sizzle from 5:30 p.m. with the carols commencing approximately 7:00 p.m. Bring a chair or rug, bring your carols sheet. Our school has been invited to perform an item at the carols and we thank those children who have volunteered to be a part of our choir. We

can't wait to hear you sing! In case of wet weather the venue will be changed to the Youth Club.

#### **EAR BUS**

Unfortunately the representatives from the Ear Bus were unable to attend our school this week. They will now come on Monday, 5 December.

#### **KINDER COOEE LODGE VISIT**

Kinder will be spreading some Christmas cheer next Wednesday, 7 December as they visit Cooee Lodge. We're sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

#### **GILGANDRA HIGH SCHOOL PEER SUPPORT**

Gilgandra High School has invited our Year 6 students to join their Year 10 students for a Peer Support session followed by an early BBQ lunch and treasure hunt on Wednesday, 7 December from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The high school peer support is a very important program which aims to support the wellbeing of the new Year 7 students. We thank the high school for including our students in this program.

#### **LEAVING FAMILIES BBQ**

Those families leaving St Joseph's this year are invited to our Leaving Families BBQ to be held next Thursday, 8 December at 5:30 for 6:00 p.m. in the school grounds. This is our way of saying thank you to those families for their involvement with the school over the years. So bring the family for tea and please feel free to stay on while the children go off to the social. For catering purposes please RSVP to the school on 68472828 by tomorrow, Friday, 2 December.

#### **K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL - Thursday, 8 December**

All students are invited to our school social to be held at the **Gilgandra High School Hall** next Thursday, 8 December 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 next Friday, 9 December.

#### **END OF YEAR MASS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Wednesday, 14 December**

Our End of Year Mass and Presentations will be held on Wednesday, 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.** If children are unable to attend, could you please advise your child's class teacher as your child may be receiving an award.

#### **ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL YEAR BOOK**

Just a reminder that the school year books will be available **at school** after Mass on Wednesday, 14 December. A huge thank you to Lara Zell and her helpers 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.

#### **MRS STEWART - SICK LEAVE**

Mrs Stewart is currently on sick leave recovering from eye surgery. Mrs Elaine Foran is filling in for Margie while she is away. Our best wishes go to Margie for a speedy recovery and we hope Elaine enjoys her time at St Joey's.

#### **HEAD LICE**

There have been reports of head lice at school. Could you please check your child/children's hair and please treat if necessary.

## **FINAL ABOUT FOR 2016**

Next week's About will be the final newsletter for 2016.

### **IRLEN SYNDROME SCREENING**

Irlen Syndrome is a visual processing problem which appears to be caused by a defect in one of the visual pathways that carries messages from the eye to the brain. This defect causes a timing fault in processing visual information. How does Irlen Syndrome affect people? They will show one or more of the following – reading difficulties, poor handwriting, poor depth perception, light sensitivity, underachievement, headaches, migraines and other physical symptoms. For more information visit [www.aaic.org.au](http://www.aaic.org.au). For a \$99.00 screening fee please contact Brenda Purvis on 0424536223 or email [brenda.purvis2@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.purvis2@gmail.com).

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is back! The Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bathurst. Students need to independently read 10 or more age-appropriate books during the summer school holidays to go in the draw to **win one of four iPad minis**. The challenge began on Monday and finishes on Monday, 6 February, 2017. Information packs are available from Mrs Kilby in the library.

### **GILGANDRA POOL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Gilgandra Pool Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, 17 December. The pool will be open from 10:00 a.m. with activities from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. including Mr & Mrs Claus, inflatable slide, jumping castle and lucky door prizes. DJ Kylou will follow from 4:00 p.m. Free entry. Strictly **no** free BBQ.

### **MERIT AWARDS**

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

**KINDER:** **Brooke Beaton** and **Sophia Peart** for listening eagerly in class and working diligently, **Alex Cosier** for asking intelligent questions in Science and Technology, **Toni Ford** for diligently applying herself to her writing, **Poppy-Grace Newton** for her consistent standard of work in all areas, **Sailor Ryan** for asking excellent questions during News and **Violet Whitehouse** for her kind and caring nature in the classroom and on the playground.

**YEAR 1:** **Hudson Duffy** for an excellent effort in Maths, **Jessica Ibe** for writing a super narrative using elaborations, **Bonica Henry** for a consistent effort with homework and **Molly Temple** for trying hard in Spelling groups.

**YEAR 2:** **Rani Diamond** for fantastic work in Spelling, **Nick Kirsop** for a marvellous effort with addition and subtraction, **Grace Tancred** for a consistent effort in reading and comprehension, **Molly Nichols** for trying hard in writing activities and **Millie Spora** for a great effort in Maths.

**YEAR 3:** **Lucy Kilpatrick** for working hard in Grammar, **Mattea Purvis** for beautifully presented book work, **Ben Standing** for showing great interest and enthusiasm in Science and **Casey Gaff** for sharing his wonderful knowledge of plants during Science.

**YEAR 4:** **Jade Elsom**, **Daniel Kirsop**, **Bailey Wykes** and **Sarah Temple** for fantastic behaviour on our excursion.

**YEAR 5:** **Bradley Kildey** for showing a thorough interest in our class novel, **Joshua Purvis** for showing a keen interest in creating a unique Christmas artwork, **Samantha Miller** for having great manners in class and **Laura Younghusband** for reading confidently during class activities.

**YEAR 6:** **Tom Eason** for great work with Order of Operations, **Amber Tarrant** for excellent work in Problem A Day and **Mary Westwood** for writing a well structured narrative.

### **WHAT'S ON**

#### **WEEK 8**

Thursday, 1 December	-	Year 6 PD Evening – 6:00 p.m.
Friday, 2 December	-	Knowledge Explosion
Sunday, 4 December	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
	-	Christmas Carols in the Park

#### **WEEK 9 - Year 6 Reconciliation**

Monday, 5 December	-	Ear Bus
Wednesday, 7 December	-	Kinder Cooee Visit – 11:00 a.m.
	-	GHS Peer Support – Year 6 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, 8 December	-	AECG Meeting
	-	Leaving Families BBQ
	-	Social
Friday, 9 December	-	Windmill Cottage Christmas Carols – 10:30 a.m.
	-	Knowledge Explosion
	-	Infants Swimming concludes
	-	Reports and Portfolios Home
Sunday, 11 December	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### **WEEK 10**

Monday, 12 December	-	Year 6 Picnic
Wednesday, 14 December	-	End of Year Mass and Presentations – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, 15 December	-	Pool Parties
Friday, 16 December	-	Last Day Term 4

## **AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER** has had a very busy week with their daily swimming lessons with the children enjoying the new skills they are learning. This week Kindergarten wrote some fantastic stories about Santa Claus visiting them for Christmas and leaving something special under their Christmas trees. It was wonderful to see such great imaginations at work. We have been revising all our sounds that we have learnt this year and been writing the middle and end sounds of words. We have been reading "Aussie Jingle Bells" in preparation for Christmas and discussing what happens in different families at Christmas time. In Geography we looked at different shops and facilities in our Gilgandra community. We discussed what service each location gave the community. In Mathematics we have been revising volume and subtraction and in Religion we have started our Advent and Christmas unit. As a class, we brainstormed things that we might wait for and read a story about the first Christmas. Take care. *Miss Bourke*

**YEAR 1** This week in Religion we have discussed the Advent wreath and its significance in the lead up to Christmas. We gather around the prayer table each day to light the candle and offer our prayers as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. We have enjoyed reading "Stick Man" by Julia Donaldson and were pleasantly surprised by the ending where Santa came to the rescue! It was great fun writing about what we would do if we met Stick Man and his family! In Maths we have been collecting data and calculating the length of objects using a metre ruler. We are continuing to prepare our portfolios that will be sent home next week. Have a great weekend! *Mrs Newstead*

**YEAR 2** It's been a 'hot' start to the infants swimming this week and everyone is participating very well in their groups. In the classroom, we've been working hard on our Christmas craft and talking about the real meaning of Christmas as we began discussing Advent. Dance practices for the social are well under way and we are all looking forward to next week. Have a great weekend everyone. *Mrs Schier & Miss Harvey*

**YEAR 3** has been working hard in Maths on multi-step problems, recording measurements using decimal notation and extended multiplication. During Religion we have started our Advent unit by looking at the doctrine statements and learning that this is a wonderful time to renew our faith. Our writing challenge this week is to write a humorous narrative about an animal that gets into mischief. There are some fabulous ideas and we can't wait to read about all the funny adventures. Dancing practice has begun and Year 3 is enjoying learning all the new primary dances. *Mrs Banks & Mrs Morris*

**YEAR 4** A big thank you to all those parents and friends who came to Mass this morning to help us celebrate Advent - a season of hope, longing, joyful expectation and peaceful preparation. This week we've been revising sounds we've looked at throughout the term in Spelling and prepositions in Grammar. During writing we wrote a recount of our trip to the Wellington Caves and Burrendong Dam, ensuring we included at least three main events. In Maths and Religion we've completed our portfolio tasks. I must also thank all the parents and guardians who came along on our excursion last week. Your help was very much appreciated. Have a lovely weekend. *Miss Smith*

**YEAR 5** This week in Year 5 we have been looking at abbreviations and listing as many that we can think of as possible. During our writing we have been finishing off our procedures on how to write an effective speech, while in reading time we have become fascinated with the journey of Tom Appleby as a convict to Australia. In Maths we have investigated challenging word problems and spent time looking at how we can make the game of snakes and ladders a fair and accurate activity. The countdown is on with less than three weeks remaining – keep up the great work Year 5. Have a great weekend. *Mr Keady*

**YEAR 6** This week we have peer edited our narratives about an 'unknown gift' and we discussed the imagery that we have used. In Maths we practised reducing fractions, revised the Cartesian plane and learnt about side-by-side column graphs. Our Grammar activity focused on the correct use of abbreviations. In Religion we compared Christmas stories from Matthew and Luke. We listed the main events in each and discussed and recorded the differences. In Geography we have started to design tourist brochures to attract visitors to Antarctica. Keep up the excellent work Year 6! *Mr Soares*

### **CANTEEN ROSTER**

Friday, 2 December – Briony Mills & Alicia Heffer  
Monday, 5 December – Lara Zell & Stacey Thomas  
Wednesday, 7 December – Sheree Staggs & Sarah Gordon  
Friday, 9 December – Paula Purvis & Mel Phillips

### **ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

Sunday, 4 December – Charlie Banks, Jett Grimshaw, Laura Smith, Amber Tarrant

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