



ABOUT

St Joseph's School Gilgandra

www.stjosephsgilgandra.nsw.edu.au
Email: stjoeygil@bth.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 Week 9

12 December, 2019

Thought for the Week

*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.*



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. The last day of term is next Wednesday, 18 December. School resumes for all students on Wednesday, 29 January 2020.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, 24 December	Gilgandra	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 25 December	Gulgargambone	8:00 a.m.
	Gilgandra	9:30 a.m.

There will be no Christmas Mass held in Tooraweenah.

LEAVING FAMILIES BBQ – This Evening

Those families leaving St Joseph's this year are invited to our Leaving Families BBQ to be held this evening 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.

K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – Tonight, Thursday, 12 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, Thursday, 12 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

The children's end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home tomorrow, Friday, 13 December.

YEAR 6 PICNIC – Tomorrow, Friday, 13 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS CHOIR – COOEE LODGE VISIT

Next Monday, 16 December, the Joey's Christmas Carols Choir will bring some festive cheer to the elderly residents of Cooee Lodge by paying them a visit and singing the songs that they sang at the Christmas Carols in the Park. We are sure that this visit will bring smiles to many faces.

LIBRARY BOOKS

A final reminder for ALL library books to be returned to the library urgently.

END OF YEAR MASS AND PRESENTATIONS

Monday, 16 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 you child is not attending can you please notify your child's teacher.



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL YEAR BOOK

Just a reminder that the school Year Book will be available at school after Mass on Monday, 16 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. For those families of Year 6 students who have ordered an extra copy, your extra book will also be available for collection. We thank our P & F Association who generously provides one copy for each family.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS

- Monday, 16 December – So the children's uniforms are clean for the Mass and Presentations.
- Wednesday, 18 December – Last day of school.

FUNDRAISING BY ST JOSEPH'S OATLEY

We were very excited to receive an email today from the staff of St Joseph's Oatley advising that they held a fundraiser at their school Christmas concert and raised just over \$1,000.00 to be put towards food and drink for our pool parties to be held next Tuesday, 17 December. Thank you so much for your generosity St Joey's Oatley – we are sure to have a great pool party!

POOL PARTIES – Tuesday, 17 December

All classes will have their annual pool party next Tuesday, 17 December. As **St Joseph's School Oatley are kindly donating the food for our pool party, the children are NOT required to bring a plate of food this year – thanks again St Joey's Oatley for your generosity and support during this ongoing drought!** Children in Years 3-6 should bring 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, 17 December.**

KRISTKINDLE

Kristkindle is a German Advent custom which means 'Christ Child'. This custom helps us prepare during Advent for the coming of the Christ Child by seeing him and serving him in others. In the spirit of Christmas every child in Years 3-6 has been given the name of one of their classmates. Until the end of the year each child is asked to be extra kind to their Kristkindle by leaving little notes and surprises, helping and caring for them, but not telling them who they are. Also each child is asked to bring in a small gift, no more than \$5.00 in value, with their KK's name on it to be handed out at our pool parties next week. The important thing about Christmas is not the gifts but the way we treat one another. The children in Kinder to Year 2 are expected to care for one another and there will also be a little surprise for them at the pool party.

BUST THE DUST

The Years 5/6 class from St John's Trangie have invited us to join in their Bust the Dust Raindance. Over 600 schools have registered and we will send in our video to us dancing to the "Git Up" song. The purpose of the dance is to lift the spirits and bring smiles to all of us during this drought.

INFANTS SWIMMING

Infants swimming ceases tomorrow and we would like to thank Alicia, Eleisha and Caitlynn for being incredible instructors and also to the Gil Panthers for the bus. The swimmers need to bring their PJ's to put over their swimmers tomorrow.

FAREWELLS

We farewell Miss Seaman who is expecting her second child very soon. We thank Jess for the wonderful way she has guided our Year 6 leaders this year and look forward to hearing the exciting news of the safe arrival of the newest member of her family. Mrs Spora has been providing fabulous support to our children and teachers in her role as an aide. Hopefully we will still get to see Lorna lots of times next year in a casual capacity.

LAST DAY OF TERM – Wednesday, 18 December

CLEANING! CLEANING! CLEANING!

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 will commence 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.

NO CANTEEN NEXT WEDNESDAY

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

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, 4 February – Year 6 Investiture Mass.
Wednesday, 5 February – Twilight Swimming Carnival.
Thursday, 6 February – Pupil free day.

RAPID RELIEF TEAM – OPERATION CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Rapid Relief Team are donating \$250 food gift vouchers to farming families struggling with the drought, however families must register by **tomorrow, Friday, 13 December** by visiting www.rapidreliefteam.org/operation-christmas-dinner/ or text 0417 698 533. The vouchers can be collected from Gilgandra High School on Tuesday, 17 December from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

MERIT AWARDS

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

KINDER: Regan Johnson for always "Giving Of Your Best", Parker Leven and Oscar Medd for great improvement in reading and Caitlin Younghusband and Jakirah McKenzie for the best colouring of our Christmas Elf.

YEAR 1: Connor Jones-Copelin for always having a positive attitude, Mackenzie Skinner for always being willing to help others, Andrew Standing for fantastic progress in swimming, Harry Thurlow for always contributing to our class discussions and Isabelle Peart for great enthusiasm during our dance practices.

YEAR 2: Max Fiddes, Ashley Gilmour and Ruby Ryan for taking great care with Christmas craft, David McIsaac and Tilly Tancred for great enthusiasm in social practices and Chloe Harris for writing entertaining stories.

YEAR 3: Hayden Nichols, Dimity Wykes, Layla Wykes and Lara Younghusband for fantastic imagination and creative thinking when writing a free choice narrative.

YEAR 4: Emma Mills for "Always Giving Of Her Best", Darron Mulligan for being a kind and friendly member of Year 4, Jonas Naden for applying his knowledge of spelling rules to his written work and Tom Staggs for achieving fantastic results in Reading.

YEAR 5: Tahleigh Davey for being a cheerful member of Year 5 with a great sense of humour, Grace Jones-Coplin for having a positive attitude towards class activities, Jessie Riley for a consistent effort in Spelling and Rydah Whitehouse for being a wonderful representative of the Junior Joey's.

YEAR 6: Cameron Davis for designing an excellent floor plan using a scale in Maths, Will Spora and Nick Tancred for savvy budgeting skills during Maths investigations and Ryan Ferguson for successfully planning a sports program displaying his knowledge of statistics and probability.

WHAT'S ON

WEEK 9

Thursday, 12 December – Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30 for 6:00 p.m.
– Social – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Friday, 13 December – Year 6 Picnic
– Infants swimming finishes
– Reports and Portfolios home
– 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 15 December

WEEK 10

Monday, 16 December – St John's College Orientation morning – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
– Christmas Carols Choir to visit Cooe Lodge – 10:30 a.m.
– End of Year Mass and Presentations – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 17 December – Pool Parties
Wednesday, 18 December – Last Day Term
Friday, 22 December – 4th Sunday of Advent

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

KINDER Our last About for 2019! What a year we have had in Kindergarten. This week we have been finishing off our Christmas craft and learning all about the true meaning of the season. We are all very excited about the social tonight and we can't wait to show off our groovy dance moves. It has been a real pleasure watching you all grow up and learn so many new things. We have had lots of fun together and I would like to thank you all for your hard work and gorgeous smiles. Mrs Alchin and I are so proud of each and every one of you! I would also like to thank the Kinder parents for your support and the encouragement you have given your child. It has been a privilege teaching your child and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!
Mrs Alison Newstead

YEAR 1 We are all very excited about the school social tonight and cannot wait to show off all our groovy dance moves to everyone! This week in Religion we have been learning about the Annunciation and how the angel Gabriel came to visit Mary. In Art we have completed work on our peacocks and Christmas Elf drawings. Tomorrow will be the last day of the intensive swimming program and the children have all acquired new skills whilst having fun. Next Monday we celebrate our end of year Mass and presentation evening and we hope all of our families can join us for this special occasion. We would like to wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas and thank you for your wonderful support throughout the year. We could not have done it without you! Have a wonderful holiday and travel safely.
Mrs Melinda Morris & Mrs Mia van der Walt

YEAR 2 I can't believe the year is almost over! It has been a fabulous final few weeks for infants swim school and the weather certainly didn't disappoint. We are all looking forward to the social tonight and our pool parties next Tuesday. Best wishes to the Year 6 students, we hope you strive for your dreams in the future and remember your days at Joey's fondly. I want to say a big thank you to all the wonderful and supportive parents of the students of Year 2. It has been a busy year and I hope that you have a well deserved holiday and a rainy Christmas! Thank you Year 2 – what a fantastic year it has been. All of the best in Year 3. Merry Christmas!
Miss Lisa Harvey

YEAR 3 Wow, the end of the term already! Where has the year gone? This week during Religion Year 3 has looked at the Advent wreath and the meaning behind the circular wreath which symbolises God's unending love and the four candles of love, peace, hope and joy. During Art we have completed our Christmas portfolio task and made some cute reindeer cards. In Grammar we continued to look at articles – 'a', 'an' and 'the' and complete our Aaron Blabey unit with the children recounting their favourite book. Finally we would like to thank Year 3 for such a wonderful year. It has been lovely watching each and every child grow in confidence. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and best of luck in Year 4. Merry Christmas everyone!
Mrs Donna Colwell & Mrs Meichelle Schier

YEAR 4 Wow, what an amazing year we have had in Year 4! It is all coming to an end too quickly! All students should be very proud of the outstanding effort they have put into their learning throughout the year and the way they have shown fantastic school spirit, always 'Giving Of Their Best'! Students are very excited for our social tonight and had a great time doing our Bust the Dust dance today! It has been lovely to see students doing nice things for their KK's this week and we look forward to our pool party next Tuesday and guessing who our KK is! We have been busy putting together our portfolios to take home tomorrow. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and thank you all for a fantastic year in Year 4!
Miss Prue Giffin

YEAR 5 is to be congratulated on their hard work this week. In Grammar we have focused on past, present and future tense. During Maths we have been working in groups on mathematical investigations involving probability, interpreting graphs and measurement. During Religion we have continued to look at the season of Advent and completed some interactive activities on the Understanding Faith website. We really enjoyed reliving our Sydney excursion at our Expo on Tuesday. We are also very excited about the social tonight where we can show off our groovy moves! We would like to thank Year 5 for a fabulous year and we wish everyone a happy, holy and safe Christmas!
Mr Tim Keady, Mrs Dominica Banks & Mrs Nikkola Thomas

YEAR 6 What an exciting week! We have been busy preparing for the Social and end of year Mass. On Wednesday we had a wonderful day at Gilgandra High School where we participated in a Scavenger Hunt with our future leaders and challenged our thinking with team trivia. We were proud to be a part of the 'Bust the Dust' performance today in the hope to brighten our local and wider communities dusty days! We are looking forward to the Year 6 Picnic tomorrow and can't wait for our Graduation Mass and pool party next week! Finally, I would like to thank all of the Year 6 students for being wonderful leaders and I wish them all of the best as they begin their high school journey.
Miss Jess Seaman

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday, 13 December – Tanya Hutchison & Amandeep Kaur
Monday, 16 December – Sarah Hickey & Lorraine Thurlow
Wednesday, 18 December – **NO CANTEEN**

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

Sunday, 15 December – Declan Gale, Abigail Davis, Grace Tancred, Charlie Zell

