



ABOUT

St Joseph's School Gilgandra

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

Term 4 Week 9

13 December, 2018

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, 19 December. School resumes for all students on Wednesday, 30 January 2019.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Monday, 24 December	Tooraweenah	6:00 p.m.
	Gilgandra	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 25 December	Gilgandra	9:30 a.m.

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 from 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. We look forward to an enjoyable evening and please feel free to stay on while the children go off to the social.

K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – Tonight, Thursday 13 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, 13 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.

YEAR 6 PICNIC – Tomorrow, Friday 14 December

Our Year 6 students are sure to have lots of fun at the Dubbo Waterslides 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.

SCHOOL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS

The children's end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home tomorrow, Friday, 14 December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS CHOIR – COOEE LODGE VISIT

Next Monday, 17 December, the Joey's Christmas Carols Choir will bring some festive cheer to the elderly residents of Cooe 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.

GILGANDRA HIGH SCHOOL INTERVIEWS – YEAR 6

Interviews for Year 6 students attending Gilgandra High School will take place at St Joseph's School next Monday, 17 December. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend. A letter regarding the interviews went home with the Year 6 students today.

END OF YEAR MASS AND PRESENTATIONS

Monday, 17 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.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL YEAR BOOK

Just a reminder that the school Year Books will be available at school after Mass on Monday, 17 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, 17 December – So the children's uniforms are clean for the Mass and Presentations.

Wednesday, 19 December – Last day of school.

POOL PARTIES – Tuesday, 18 December

All classes will have their annual pool party next Tuesday, 18 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, 18 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 have 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.

FAREWELL MRS KILBY

After twenty-six years of teaching at St Joseph's, the last twenty-one years as teacher/librarian, Mrs Kilby has decided to retire. Jenny has been a fabulous teacher at our school, particularly in the library. As well as ensuring there was an abundance of new books being purchased, Jenny could always be counted on to come up with exciting new projects such as the bird garden, Book Week parades, hosting visiting authors, introducing quizzes on the computers, Book Fairs and no one could forget visits from Gabi Hollows and Suzie O'Neill. We won't be totally losing Jenny from our school as she will continue to coordinate our garden which so many of our students love. Thank you Jenny for many, many years of exemplary service to St Joseph's School. God bless and thank you from all of us at St Joey's.

LIBRARY BOOKS

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

LAST DAY OF TERM – Wednesday, 19 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

- Monday, 4 February – Year 6 Investiture Mass.
Wednesday, 6 February – Twilight Swimming Carnival.
Thursday, 7 February – Pupil free day.

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 is open now and entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 February, 2019. Reading logs were sent home with the children last week. Further copies are available from Mrs McIsaac or Mrs Thomas in the library.

CONGRATULATIONS MR RABBETT

Congratulations to Neil Rabbett, grandfather of Molly (Year 6) and Blake (Year 4) on being received into full communion within the Catholic Church on Tuesday.

Sr Robyn

MERIT AWARDS

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

KINDER: Bella Ferguson for writing a great story about Santa, Ella Murphy for great effort during Sounds, Ben O'Brien and Bayley Dent for working well in MiniLit and Bill Ryan for writing three great reasons why he likes Christmas.

YEAR 1: Elsie Adams for a super effort in Operations, Ruby Ryan for a lovely Christmas exposition, Tilly Tancred for being a kind and considerate class member, Ivy Murphy for good knowledge of states and capitals and Caine Bugmy for great effort in Handwriting.

YEAR 2: Jacqueline Hutchison, Xanthe Gale and Alexia Riley for great effort and enthusiasm in swimming groups, Georgia Tancred for super problem solving in Maths, Layla Wykes for a fabulous effort in Christmas craft activities, Poppy-Grace Newton for excellent work in Art and Riley Hutchison for a more consistent effort to check Maths work.

YEAR 3: Emma Mills for being a fabulous classroom helper, Stella Valler for using detailed elaborations in her writing, Orlando Ryan for a fabulous effort with Literacy Pro reading and Lauren Thurlow for completing artwork with great flair.

YEAR 4: Tahleigh Davey, Declan Gale and Dakotah Gilmour for creating a lovely Advent wreath in Religion, Taylor Hayes and Rhyann Hutchison for writing an informative review about our Year 4 excursion, Indi Murphy for treating her peers and teachers with respect, Grace Tancred for making improvements in a range of areas in Maths and Trinity Zell for great participation in Maths warm up activities.

YEAR 5: Lucy McIsaac for impressive research on bushfires, Will Spora for excellent contributions to class discussions, Nick Gale for great work in Problem A Day and Operations and Ava Meyers for being a kind and thoughtful friend.

YEAR 6: Isaiah McKenzie for maintaining a high standard of bookwork, Bailey Wykes for excellent work with side-by-side column graphs and Emily Zell for using her proofreading and editing skills with accuracy.

WHAT'S ON

WEEK 9

- Thursday, 13 December - Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30 for 6:00 p.m.
- Social – High School Hall - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Friday, 14 December - Year 6 Picnic
- Infants swimming finishes
- Reports and Portfolios home
Sunday, 16 December - Third Sunday of Advent

WEEK 10

- Monday, 17 December - Year 6 – GHS Interviews
- Christmas Carols Choir to visit Cooe Lodge – 2:15 p.m.
- End of Year Mass and Presentations – 5:45 p.m for 6:00 p.m.

WEEK 10 (continued)

- Tuesday, 18 December - Pool Parties
Wednesday, 19 December - Last Day Term 4

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

KINDER Who can believe our first year of school is nearly over? It has been a fantastic year in Kinder watching everyone grow and learn so many new things. We are all looking forward to our social tonight so we can show off our groovy dance moves. Kinder would like to wish their buddies all the best for high school next year and thank them for being such wonderful, kind friends. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support and help during the year. It has been a privilege to teach your beautiful children! To all our Kinder children thank you for working so hard and making our job such a joy. We would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and safe Christmas and a fantastic 2019!

Miss Smith & Mrs Newstead

YEAR 1 We are all very excited about the school social tonight and cannot wait to show our groovy dance moves to everyone! This week we have investigated the meaning of the Advent wreath and read about the story of the first Christmas. We have continued our work on speech marks in Grammar and completed a worksheet on the sound "air". In Art we have completed work on our Christmas Elf and decorated a Christmas card for our family. Next Monday we celebrate our End of Year Mass and Presentation night and we hope all our families can join us for this special occasion. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas and thank you for your wonderful support throughout the year. I could not have done it without you! Have a wonderful holiday. *Mrs Schier*

YEAR 2 Where has the year gone? What a busy time we have had in Year 2. We are all looking forward to our social tonight although we are really tired after two weeks of swimming. We have learnt a lot of new skills and we thank Bonnie, Alicia and Emer for teaching us. A big thank you to Mr Mus for driving the bus everyday and to the Gilgandra Panthers for the use of their bus. Thank you parents for your support throughout the year, I have really appreciated it. Finally, thank you Year 2 for a great year! All the best in Year 3. *Miss 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 Science we finished looking at growing seeds and how warmth, light, moisture and temperature affected the growing of our peas and beans. We have continued exploring the theme of humanity by reading 'The Littlest Refugee' by Ahn Do and 'Mirror' by Jeannie Baker. We learnt the difference between refugees and migrants and also watched a short clip about some children who have come to Australia as refugees. It certainly made us realise how lucky we are to live in such a safe country. 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 Morris & Mrs Colwell*

YEAR 4 What a fantastic year we have had in Year 4! We have so many memories to cherish, including our excursion, the eisteddfod, the social, hut day and many more. We have learnt a lot and enjoyed ourselves along the way. Students have been enjoying doing something nice each day for their KK's this week and being given something nice in return. Year 4 has also been working on Christmas booklets and Christmas craft. We are looking forward to the end of year social tonight and our pool party next week. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Thanks for a wonderful year! Merry Christmas!

Mr Keady & Miss 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 reflect on the reading from Isaiah, which reminds us we are preparing our hearts for Jesus. 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!

Mrs Banks & Mrs Thomas

YEAR 6 had a wonderful time today at Gilgandra High School for the Peer Support Program and are looking forward to the school social tonight to show off some of their cool moves! Then it's off to Dubbo tomorrow for the Year 6 picnic, where I hope to show the students some of my moves ten pin bowling! Our Kinder buddies have grown so much over the year and we wish them every future success. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 6 the best of luck next year as they venture into high school. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a happy, and holy Christmas. *Mr Soares*

CANTEEN ROSTER

- Friday, 14 December – Sarah Hickey & Lorraine Thurlow
Monday, 17 December – Katherine Gaff
Wednesday, 19 December – **NO CANTEEN – cleaning!!**

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

- Sunday, 16 December – Dennis Gale & Jacob Harland
Christmas Eve – Emily Zell, Molly Fairey
Christmas Day – The O'Neill Family

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