



# ABOUT

## St Joseph's School Gilgandra

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Term 4 Week 9

3 December, 2015

### Thought for the Week

*Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the way for the coming of Christ by reflecting, praying and letting God into our hearts.*

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

The Year 4 students, parents and teachers had a fabulous time last Thursday and Friday as they travelled to the Wellington Caves and Burrendong Dam. The first stop was the Western Plains Cultural Centre where they got to inspect the facility and then 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 Cave and the phosphate mine the group visited the Japanese Garden and Bottle House. Everyone was accommodated for the night at the motel at the caves and after checking in, it was time for some fun in the pool. While we swam the parents busily prepared tea. To conclude Day 1 everyone enjoyed a very entertaining concert provided by the students. 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 we 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, Thi Bui, Stephen Diggs, Jacinta Ferguson, Toni Fuller, Katherine Gaff, James Hassall, Greg King, Tim McClelland, Rob Purvis, John Purvis and Nicole Scholte, for their fabulous help and lastly to the children, for their excellent behaviour and being such great ambassadors for our school.

#### **EXCURSION SNIPPET**

*White clouds were a nice view that we saw from the Sydney Tower. We were lucky enough to see some buildings when the cloud shifted but our favourite part would have to have been the 4D movie- what a great way to start our day!*

**Hamish Beveridge, Charlie Banks, Mike Raglus, Tyler Evans**

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN HUNTER PARK**

Come and celebrate coming together as a community at Carols in the Park this Sunday, 6 December at Hunter Park at 6:00 p.m. Bring a chair or rug, bring your carols sheet. Free sausage sizzle and other goodies. Our school has been invited to perform an item at the carols. If you would like your child/ren to be part of our choir please come along on Sunday evening. The more the merrier! We will meet in Hunter Park at 6:00 p.m.

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

Kinder will be spreading some Christmas cheer next Wednesday, 9 December as they visit Cooee Lodge. We're sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

#### **YEARS 5/6 SYDNEY EXCURSION EXPO**

Everyone is invited to relive the thrills and spills of our Years 5/6 Sydney Excursion at our expo to be held in the computer room at 2:00 p.m. next Wednesday, 9 December. Come along and watch the DVD, peruse the photos and browse through the booklets.

#### **FAREWELL MRS THOMAS**

We said farewell to Mrs Thomas today. Nikkola is going on maternity leave and our best wishes go to Nik, Ashley and Indi as they await the arrival of their new baby.

#### **LEAVING FAMILIES BBQ**

Those families leaving St Joseph's this year are invited to our Leaving Families BBQ to be held on Thursday, 10 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, 4 December.

#### **K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL - 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** on Thursday, 10 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, 11 December.

#### **EXCURSION SNIPPET**

*The Captain Cook Cruise was a fabulous experience. Standing at the front of the boat was extremely exciting as the wind was blowing in our faces and hair. We enjoyed speeding past famous landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. We all enjoyed it, as it was incredibly fun.*

**Lucy Davis, Kate Gilmour, Olivia Newstead, Tarah Foran, Emilie Hassall**

#### **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. 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 next Monday evening. A huge thank you to Michelle Woollams 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.

#### **FABULOUS FETE RESULT**

We can now report that our school fete made over \$8,000.00 this year. This is a fantastic effort and congratulations goes to Fete Coordinator, Rochelle Easman and to our school community for the effort that went into making the fete such a success.

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

All borrowing for this year has ceased so that the children can bring all their library books back to school to enable a stocktake to be done. There are a number of overdue books and I would greatly appreciate your co-operation in having these books returned by the end of this term. Thank you.

**Mrs Kilby**

#### **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 will be 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 during the last week of term. 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.

#### **POOL PARTIES - Tuesday, 15 December**

All classes will have their annual pool party on 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 ON TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER.**

**HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR NEW FREE SCHOOL APP?**

Thanks to the generosity of our P & F Association we now have a school app to enable parents to receive school information instantly and directly to their smartphone. This app has newsletters, general school information, details of upcoming events and also has an absentee form which enables parents to let us know the reason for their child's absence. A flyer went home recently giving details of how to download the app. Simply search for School Stream from the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android) and download the app to your phone. Make sure you agree to push notifications. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type St Joseph's School Gilgandra into the search and select. If you have any problems, contact Mrs Hodge in the office. We strongly recommend this app to all our parents/caregivers.

**POSITION VACANT**

An enthusiastic and flexible casual cleaner is required at a family run motel in town. Work within school hours. No experience necessary. If interested, please call Nicole on 68472404.

**MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday: **KINDER:** **Amity Chapman** for excellent story writing, **Alicia Fordham** for her use of punctuation in Story Writing, **Darcy Morris** for being a great role model for others to follow, **Tom Staggs** for being a helpful member of Kindergarten, **Jordan Wighton** for great sportsmanship on the playground and **Mitchell Fuller** for great improvement with his sight words. **YEAR 1:** **Sam Dunn** for excellent elaborating in Story Writing, **Declan Gale** for taking care with colouring and labelling diagrams, **Lochie Henry** for being a magnificent mathematician, **Beatie Davis** for thoughtful responses in our Julia Donaldson unit, **Lilla Oehm** for thinking creatively during Art and **Tia Allan** for a great effort in Maths Warm-Up. **YEAR 2:** **Jasmine Zell** for making an extra effort to present work neatly, **Mattea Purvis** for great work in Comprehension and **Hayden Ferguson, Harry Mumford and Tarinya Hannedege** for writing great expositions about why weekends should be longer. **YEAR 3:** **Richard Glover** for excellent contributions during comprehension, **Bailey Wykes** for reading carefully at Mass, **Aiden Walker** for showing reverence at our 'Forgiveness' Mass, **Dylen Murray** for magnificent work in measurement and **Ry Heffer** for reading with confidence. **YEAR 4:** **Bradley Kildey** for taking great care when creating his portfolio task, **Heidi Holland** for wonderful behaviour on our excursion and **Bradley Gibson** for listening attentively to policy speeches. **YEAR 5:** **Amber Tarrant** for always contributing to class discussions, **Olivia Ferguson** for a continued effort towards improving her learning, **Madison Hourigan** for outstanding results in Maths Operations and **Mary Westwood** for 'Giving Of Her Best' in every subject. **YEAR 6:** **Marshall Ryan** for completing tasks with enthusiasm and a smile, **Sinead Sutton** for working conscientiously on all tasks, **Zoe Welsh** for being enthusiastic about dancing practice, **Grace Alchin** for a dedicated approach to learning, **Lily Naden** for working hard in Maths and **Chloe Godber** for being a positive and enthusiastic member of Year 6.

**WHAT'S ON**

<b><u>WEEK 9</u></b>	<b><u>Father Martin away on Retreat</u></b>
Friday, 4 December	- Ear Bus
Sunday, 6 December	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
	- Christmas Carols in the Park
<b><u>WEEK 10</u></b>	<b><u>Year 6 Reconciliation</u></b>
Tuesday, 8 December	- Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, 9 December	- Kinder Cooee Visit – 11:30 a.m.
	- Years 5/6 Sydney Excursion Expo – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10 December	- Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30 for 6:00 p.m.
	- Social – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, 11 December	- Year 6 Picnic
	- Infants Swimming ends
	- Reports and Portfolios home
Sunday, 13 December	- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b><u>WEEK 11</u></b>	
Monday, 14 December	- NO CANTEEN
	- St John's College Orientation – 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
	- End of Year Mass and Presentations – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 15 December	- Pool Parties
Wednesday, 16 December	- NO CANTEEN
	- Last Day Term 4
Sunday, 21 December	- 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER** This week we have been busy going swimming each day and preparing for our Cooee visit by singing some famous Christmas carols. We have been reading "The Little Drummer Boy" by Bruce Whatley. During Story Writing the children wrote about their own Christmas tree and how it would be decorated. In Religion we discussed things that we wait for and how we feel when we have to wait for something. During Science and Technology we looked at different types of transport from long ago and compared it to the transport we have today and in Mathematics we revised numbers from 1 to 30 and how to count by two's. *Miss Bourke*

**YEAR 1** Another busy week has flown by in Year 1. We wrote a thank you letter to the whale for taking us on a fabulous journey around the world in our Julia Donaldson book and we also revised the difference between synonyms and antonyms. In Maths we looked at number patterns and place value of 2 and 3 digit numbers. We have enjoyed reading the Christmas story in Religion and retelling the important events. It's hard to believe the term is nearly over! We look forward to seeing lots of singers at the carols on Sunday evening. Have a great weekend. *Miss Harvey & Mrs Newstead*

**YEAR 2** This week we started our intensive swimming program and with this very warm weather, a dip in the pool each day is wonderful. In Maths we are testing our knowledge of all things mathematical and decorated a lovely page for our new Religion unit, 'Advent'. In PDH we investigated ways our bodies give us warning signals if we are nervous, excited or scared. In Art we are completing our portfolio task and sequenced the story of Sleeping Beauty in our Literature Unit. Next week is the school social so we have been busy practising all our groovy dance moves for this fun night. Have a great weekend. *Mrs Schier & Mrs Morris*

**YEAR 3** has had another busy week! In Maths we have learnt about square centimetres, position and missing numbers. We revised commas and apostrophes in Grammar. In Science Year 3 had lots of fun doing an experiment where we got to melt chocolate. We read about Pringle Cottage in Comprehension and we discussed how life would have been without electricity and running water. In PDH we learnt about the importance of wearing a correctly fitted helmet when riding a bike. Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Soares*

**YEAR 4** had a tremendous time during our excursion last week. They are to be commended on the way they conducted themselves. A huge thank you to those parents who came along, your company and assistance was greatly appreciated. As the year winds down we have been busy revising sounds and rules in Spelling, along with the use of apostrophes in Grammar. In Writing we have been publishing our portfolio task in Microsoft Word and composing a recount of our excursion. During Maths we have looked at timelines and have completed our portfolio task. For Religion we have read about and discussed Abram and Sarah's journey from Harran to Canaan while in HSIE we have reasoned why rules exist in national and state parks. Have a fabulous weekend. *Miss Smith*

**YEAR 5** Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate our Liturgy today and a special thanks to Sr Robyn for leading us during this reflection. With only a couple of weeks to go our classroom has been a hive of activity getting our portfolios ready to be sent home. In Maths we have been looking at challenging investigations and word problems that require us to think of more than one possible solution. In Grammar we have been revising verb tenses as well as prepositions. Have a great weekend. *Mr Keady*

**YEAR 6** has been working diligently this week. They have been publishing our free choice short stories, which we hope to make into a book to put in our school library. In Maths we have explored the properties of equilateral and isosceles triangles. We have also looked at number patterns and the cubic metre. During Religion we have continued our Advent unit and have also been practising for the end of year Mass. Our art activities have also taken on a Christmas theme, which we are all thoroughly enjoying. *Mrs Banks & Mrs Thomas*

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Friday, 4 December	- Jessica Whitehouse & Rachel Kirsop
Monday, 7 December	- Carol Alchin & Sally Beveridge
Wednesday, 9 December	- Kylie Carlow & Rosemary Larsen
Friday, 11 December	- Lesley Riley & Kirstie McKenzie

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

Sunday, 6 December – Laura Smith, Kate Gilmour, Jacob Wilson, Lachlan Fairey