



# ABOUT

## St Joseph's School Gilgandra

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Term 4 Week 9

4 December, 2014

### 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.*

#### **ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

St Joseph's Catholic Church was blessed and opened by Bishop Thomas on 22 December, 1974. Accordingly the parish held a beautiful anniversary celebration Mass on Sunday. It was also a Mass of Thanksgiving for all the priests who have served at St Joseph's, as our first parish priest, Fr Parker, arrived in Gilgandra 101 years ago. It was a lovely way to say thank you to Fr Martin and all past priests who have worked tirelessly in our parish during the last 100 years. The Parish was pleased to welcome back former assistant priest Fr Pat Ruane who concelebrated Mass with Fr Martin. We really appreciated Fr Ruane's presence. Thank you also to the parish and school communities who made the celebration possible; to John Morris and Barry Chandler who spoke so well on behalf of the parish and to June Bell who was the inspiration behind the celebration.

#### **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 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 Caves 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 new waterslide. Thank you to Miss Harvey for organising the excursion and taking such good care of the children. Thanks also to the parents, Mel Phillips, Kathryn Skinner, Rob Purvis, Andrew Schier, Jason Tate, Jane Westwood, Jo Buckland, Chris Riley, Dean Ferguson, Kylie Carlow, Toni Tarrant, Ken Purvis and Maree Raglus, for their fabulous help and lastly to the children, for their excellent behaviour and being such great ambassadors for our school.

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

Come and celebrate coming together as a community at Carols in the Park on Sunday, 7 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 Tuesday, 9 December as they visit Cooee Lodge. We're sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

#### **ST JOHN'S COLLEGE YEAR 7, 2015 ORIENTATION MORNING**

The Year 7, 2015 Orientation Morning will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to come for morning tea and join a school tour from 11:00-11:30 a.m. Morning tea will be provided for both students and parents. Students are asked to bring a hat, water and wear comfortable clothing and footwear.

Students are to meet at the College office at 9:30 a.m.

#### **YEAR 6 GHS PEER SUPPORT TRAINING**

#### **CHANGE OF DATE-NOW Thursday, 11 December**

Gilgandra High School has changed the date of the Year 6 Peer Support Training day to Thursday, 11 December. This will be held in the high school hall from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Unfortunately there are still a lot of overdue library books that need to be returned. I need to have them back by Monday, 8 December so that stocktaking can commence. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

*Mrs Kilby*

#### **LEAVING FAMILIES BBQ**

Those families leaving St Joseph's this year are invited to our Leaving Families BBQ to be held next Thursday, 11 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 5 December.

#### **K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL – Thursday, 11 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** next Thursday, 11 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.

#### **YEARS 3/4 WINDMILL COTTAGE VISIT**

Our Years 3 and 4 classes will be visiting the residents of Windmill Cottage at the Gilgandra MPS next Friday, 12 December where they will entertain the residents. We hope this will be a lovely experience for both the residents and the children.

#### **SCHOOL REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS**

The children's end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home next Friday, 12 December.

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

#### **Monday, 15 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.

#### **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, 16 December**

All classes will have their annual pool party on Tuesday, 16 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, 16 DECEMBER.**

### **GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL FETE**

The Gilgandra Public School will be holding their Mega Christmas Fete this Friday, 5 December in the school grounds from 3:00-5:00 pm.

### **MERIT AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards at Assembly on Monday: **KINDER:** Lilla Oehm for writing a thoughtful letter to Santa, Emmie Peart for a big improvement in Maths, Trinity Zell for enthusiastically participating in class discussions, Carter Chapman for being a responsible member of Kindergarten, Declan Gale for being kind to others in the playground and Kimbalee Gilmour for being a considerate member of Kindergarten. **YEAR 1:** Hayden Ferguson for super work identifying properties of 3D shapes, Casey Gaff for writing a great exposition about why he would like to be a pirate, Nick Gale for a top effort sharing objects into equal groups, Nick Tanced for 'Giving of his Best' during swimming and Jasmine Zell for working hard to answer comprehension questions. **YEAR 2:** Bailey Wykes for fantastic elaboration when describing your dragon, Kyzack Corcoran for fantastic use of commas, Jade Elsom for beautiful reading at our class Liturgy and Chloe Mudford for being a kind and thoughtful member of Year 2. **YEAR 3:** Anton Davis for answering tricky questions with confidence, Mason Fryers for carefully placing apostrophes to show possession, Olivia McClelland for trying hard to work out difficult questions in Maths, Tayarna McKenzie for great work in Comprehension and Rhys O'Neill for working well with others. **YEAR 4:** Billie Buckland for a super effort to write neatly, Tom Eason for improved results in English assessments, Amelia Murray for super work in grammar and spelling tasks, Emily Skinner for perseverance with challenging Problem A Day activities, Amber Tarrant for beautiful work in Religion and Ella McAnally-Elwin for a super effort in Handwriting. **YEAR 5:** Lily Naden for a consistent effort in homework throughout the term, Martin Fryers for always being willing to contribute to class discussions, Alex Beveridge for working well in creating a procedure on how to make a paper boat and Lachlan Fairey for thinking mathematically to solve challenging questions. **YEAR 6:** Kayla Bonus-Straub for being a cheerful and well mannered member of Year 6 and Deklyn Lummis, Daimon Horne and Mitchell Carlow for asking questions to clarify understanding.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<b><u>WEEK 9</u></b>		
Sunday, 7 December	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
	-	Christmas Carols – 6:00 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 10</u></b>		
Monday, 8 December	-	The Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, 9 December	-	Kinder Cooee Visit
	-	Hearing Bus
Wednesday, 10 December	-	Hearing Bus
Thursday, 11 December	-	Year 6 to GHS – Peer Support
	-	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
	-	Leaving Families BBQ – 5:30
	-	for 6:00 p.m.
	-	Social – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, 12 December	-	Year 6 Picnic
	-	Years 3/4 - Windmill Cottage –
	-	10:00 a.m.
	-	Reports and Portfolios home
	-	Infants swimming ends
Sunday, 14 December	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b><u>WEEK 11</u></b>		
Monday, 15 December	-	St John's College Orientation
	-	Morning
	-	End of Year Mass and
	-	Presentations – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 16 December	-	Pool Parties
Wednesday, 17 December	-	Last Day Term 4
Sunday, 21 December	-	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

### **AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER** children are getting into the Christmas spirit by writing some very thoughtful letters to Santa and reading the hilarious story about "The Naughtiest Reindeer". In Religion we have sequenced the Christmas Story and discussed the significance of the Nativity Scene and its relationship to the story of Jesus' birth. We have tried really hard in Maths to share collections of items, copy and continue number patterns and model numbers to 30! Our swimming lessons are lots of fun and we are all doing our best to float, enter the pool safely and swim unaided. We are looking forward to our Cooee Lodge visit next week and a big thank you to those parents who have volunteered to come with us. Have a restful weekend everyone! *Miss Bourke & Mrs Newstead*

**YEAR 1** has been very busy learning to swim this week and revising our spelling sounds. In Grammar we have continued identifying adverbs and including them in our Sentence A Day. We have written an exposition about our favourite season and have begun composing a letter to Santa telling him not only what we would like for Christmas but what we have done this year to deserve these gifts. In Maths we have been revising concepts such as subtraction using a number line, place value and reading calendars. Have a safe and happy weekend. *Miss Smith*

**YEAR 2** Thank you to those Year 2 students who joined in the celebrations for the 40th anniversary of our church on Sunday. It was wonderful to see you there. This week we've begun our intensive swimming and everyone is certainly enjoying the chance to cool off in the pool. We continued practising our dances for the social and are helping the infants classes with the dance steps. In class we are learning about the structure of the discussion text and in Grammar we've focused on the apostrophe of ownership. We have been revising in Maths and in HSIE are looking at 'Wet and Dry Environments'.

*Mrs Schier & Mrs Morris*

**YEAR 3** Thank you to all the family and friends who came to our Year 3 'Forgiveness' Mass this morning. It was also wonderful to see so many people at the church's anniversary Mass on Sunday. In the classroom we have been learning about 'Aussie Icons' for our Comprehension activity. In Grammar we have revised synonyms and antonyms. Our Maths activity this week led us to work on our problem solving skills to solve tricky questions. In PDH we discussed why it is important to 'Click, Clack, Front and Back'. It looks like our dancing practices are paying off for the social next Thursday. Keep up the great work Year 3! *Mr Soares*

**YEAR 4** Wow – what a wonderful excursion we had last week! Year 4 visited many interesting places on their overnight adventure including the Wellington Caves, Phosphate Mine, Fern Gully and the spillway at Burrendong Dam. We had a fantastic time at the Cultural Centre and painted portraits of ourselves using abstract colours on canvas – they look terrific! A wonderful time was had by all (including the big kids!) at the Dubbo Waterslide and it was a great way to end a fabulous trip. A huge thank you to all the mums and dads who helped to prepare meals and ensure we got to our destinations safely. Year 4 represented their school in an outstanding manner and are to be commended for their school spirit, beautiful manners and 'Giving Of Their Best'. It was a pleasure to take Year 4 on the excursion! Have a great weekend – next week is a busy one!

*Miss Harvey*

**YEAR 5** Our classroom has been busy this week as we have prepared our portfolio tasks for the end of the term. Thanks to everyone who has sent their child's portfolio back but there are still some outstanding. Could you please send them back to school as soon as possible. In class we have been revising all our Term 4 concepts in Grammar and Spelling while in Maths we completed an investigation in chance, playing a game of snakes and ladders. Our dancing is looking fabulous as we get ready to show our groovy moves next week at the social. Have a great weekend. *Mr Keady*

**YEAR 6** has been working diligently this week. The students have written some excellent free choice narratives using a vocabulary stimulus. They have really used their imaginations and created some terrific and some terrifying stories! 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 started our Advent unit by reflecting on the Advent wreath and its meaning. Our art activities have also taken on a Christmas theme, which we are all thoroughly enjoying. *Mrs Banks & Mrs Thomas*

### **CANTEEN ROSTER**

Friday, 5 December – Mel Phillips & Leanne Glover  
Monday, 8 December – Katherine Gaff  
Wednesday, 10 December – Nicki Church & Emma Meyers  
Friday, 12 December – Deanna Ferguson & Leanne Glover

### **ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

Sunday, 7 December – Martin Fryers, James O'Neill, Lachlan Fairey  
Montana McGrath