



# ABOUT

## St Joseph's School Gilgandra

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Term 4 Week 9

8 December, 2016

### Thought for the Week

*Rejoice in the Lord!*

*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 Friday, 16 December. School resumes for all students on Monday, 30 January, 2017.

#### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

|                       |                  |           |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, 22 December | Penitential Rite | 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, 24 December | Tooraweenah      | 6:00 p.m. |
|                       | Gilgandra        | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, 25 December   | Gulargambone     | 8:00 a.m. |
|                       | Gilgandra        | 9:45 a.m. |

#### **K-6 SCHOOL SOCIAL - Tonight, Thursday, 8 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 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 tomorrow, Friday, 9 December.

#### **YEAR 6 PICNIC - Monday, 12 December**

Our Year 6 students are sure to have lots of fun at the Dubbo Waterslide and tenpin bowling on Monday. 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 IN HUNTER PARK**

A wonderful evening was enjoyed on Sunday night singing Christmas Carols in Hunter Park. A terrific group of children from our school performed two songs, "It's Christmas Time" and "The Irish Blessing". They certainly 'Gave Of Their Best' and sang beautifully. Thank you to the organisers for inviting our school to participate in such a lovely community event.

#### **SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE ELDERLY**

Our students are busy this week spreading some Christmas cheer to the elderly residents of Gilgandra. On Wednesday, the Kinder students visited Coee Lodge and sung Christmas carols in their Santa hats to entertain the residents, while tomorrow, Friday, our carollers from Sunday will visit the residents of Windmill Cottage at the Gilgandra MPS singing more Christmas carols. We're sure they will bring a smile to many faces during this special season.

#### **OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS**

Wednesday, 14 December - So the children's uniforms are clean for the



Mass and Presentations.

Friday, 16 December - Last day of school.

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

**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.

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

Just a reminder that the school year books will be available **at school** after Mass next Wednesday evening. 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.

#### **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 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.

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

All classes will have their annual pool party next Thursday, 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 next Thursday, 15 December.**

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

There are quite a few overdue library books that need to be returned this week to enable the library stocktake to be completed. Please ensure that your child returns any outstanding books. Thank you. *Mrs Kilby*

**LAST DAY OF TERM – Friday, 16 December**  
**CLEANING! CLEANING! CLEANING!**

As next Friday 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'll start 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 FRIDAY**

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

Next year our Twilight Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday, 8 February.

**PUPIL FREE DAY – Thursday, 9 February**

The day after the Twilight Swimming Carnival next year will be a pupil free day. Mathletics is an online Mathematics programme which we plan to implement next year. During this day Kellie Baker from Mathletics will instruct the staff on how to design lesson plans, the use of differentiation, the analysis of data and how to integrate this resource into our school.

**SUMMER READING CLUB AT GILGANDRA SHIRE LIBRARY**

"Children who read for pleasure are the best readers and families that read together provide the strongest model for future readers." To support families reading over the holidays, the Library is running a summer reading club for children. The Summer Reading Club is an Australia-wide programme, which this year has the theme "Heroes and Villains". There are cool activities online at <http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/theclub/>. To take part in the Summer Reading Club, which commences on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, all you need to do is:

1. Be a member of Gilgandra Shire Library.
2. Pick up a reading record sheet at the Library or print it from the Gilgandra Shire Library Facebook page.
3. Read ten books, or have ten books read to you, or read for ten hours before Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February and
4. Return to the library to collect a small surprise gift! You will also go in the **Gilgandra Shire Library draw to win one of three Lenovo Tab 2 7" Tablets!**

**MERIT AWARDS**

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

**KINDER:** **Scarlett Chandler** for her positive attitude and helpful manner, **Toby Davis** for his kind and caring nature in the classroom and on the playground, **Xanthe Gale** for her positive attitude and helpful manner, **Jack Gibson** for always wearing his uniform with pride, **Jacqueline Hutchison** for her enthusiasm during dance practice and **Hayden Nichols** for being a super problem solver in Mathematics. **YEAR 1:** **Tom Staggs** for sharing interesting news about wheat, **Orlando Ryan** for writing a great response about Stick Man, **Brody Heffer** for a super narrative about motorbikes and aliens and **Amity Chapman** for thoughtful responses in Religion about Advent. **YEAR 2:** **Rachel Ryan** for super spelling results in Term 4, **Tia Allan** for being a kind and considerate friend and **Ethan Morris** for super accurate problem solving in Maths. **YEAR 3:** **Chelsea Brand** and **Lucy McIsaac** for excellent creativity in Writing, **Paige Gilmour** for trying hard in Art and **Samantha Naden** for beautiful handwriting. **YEAR 4:** **Layne Godber** and **Jerome Woodrow** for writing fantastic recounts of our Wellington Caves Excursion, **Oscar Spora** for a great job completing contracted multiplication problems and **Emma Westwood** for neat and careful work when completing her Religion portfolio task. **YEAR 5:** **Finn Marchant**, **Olivia McClelland**, **Patrick Spora** and **Jinda Green** for a fantastic effort in Mathletics, **Tayarna McKenzie** for having a positive attitude towards all tasks, **Jack Purvis** for working well as part of a team during Geography and **Jessica Scholte** for being an enthusiastic member of Year 5. **YEAR 6:** **Jacob Wilson** for excellent work with reducing fractions, **Olivia Ferguson** for a dedicated approach in Mathematics and **Ashleigh Carlow** for producing a wonderful reindeer artwork.

**WHAT'S ON**

|                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>WEEK 9 -</b><br>Thursday, 8        | - | Leaving Families BBQ                              |
|                                       | - | Social  |
| Friday, 9 December                    | - | Windmill Cottage Christmas<br>Carols – 10:30 a.m. |
|                                       | - | Knowledge Explosion                               |
|                                       | - | Infants Swimming concludes                        |
|                                       | - | Reports and Portfolios Home                       |
| Sunday, 11 December                   | - | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent                  |
| <b>WEEK 10</b><br>Monday, 12 December | - | Year 6 Picnic                                     |
| Wednesday, 14 December                | - | End of Year Mass and<br>Presentations – 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, 15 December                 | - | Pool Parties                                      |
| Friday, 16 December                   | - | Last Day Term 4                                   |

**AROUND THE CLASSROOMS**

**KINDER** This week Kindergarten has been very busy with swimming lessons and practising for the school social tonight. In reading, we have been looking at lots of Christmas books including "It was the Night Before Christmas" and "Christmas Letters to Santa". In Geography and Science and Technology we have been revisiting things we have learnt in transport and places we know. Yesterday the Cooee residents enjoyed a performance from Kindergarten. The children sang 'Jingle Bells', 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer', 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' and 'Merry Christmas'. After the performance the children delivered Christmas shortbread to the residents. The children and residents enjoyed the happy celebration and occasion. We have also been finalising our books and work, so the children can take them home next week. As we draw to an end of a busy year, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas with your family and friends. Take care – *Miss Bourke*

**YEAR 1** It is hard to believe that our school year is nearly over. We have had lots of fun in Year 1 learning new and exciting things. In Religion we have read the story of Jesus' birth and completed our own nativity scene. This week we have finished all our portfolio tasks and look forward to sharing them with our family and friends. We have been practising lots of groovy dance moves in preparation for our social tonight, we can't wait. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and help this year and to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year! *Mrs Newstead*

**YEAR 2** This week we are investigating the apostrophe of ownership in Spelling and are having fun with anagrams in Grammar. We are also busy completing portfolio tasks and practising our groovy dance moves for the social tonight. In Religion we have looked at the parts of the Advent wreath and discussed the origins of the Jesse tree. We celebrate the end of the school year with a pool party next week and hope a special visitor from the North Pole might drop in! We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and wish you all a happy and safe Christmas. *Mrs Schier & Miss Harvey*

**YEAR 3** is to be congratulated on their hard work this week. In writing we have been creating some fabulous Christmas stories using a vocab chart. Our Maths focus has been on algebra, position and applying strategies to real life situations. During Religion we have continued to look at the season of Advent and reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. We learnt how to draw a cartoon face of Santa and finished our Maori designs in Art. We can't wait for the social tonight where we can show off our sensational dance moves! Thank you to everyone for a wonderful year and we wish you all a peaceful Christmas. *Mrs Banks & Mrs Morris*

**YEAR 4** We've continued reviewing sounds we've learnt throughout the term this week and we've also revised apostrophes and their various uses. In writing we wrote a response to the clip 'Lily and the Snowman' and in comprehension we've completed some practice NAPLAN Reading questions. During Maths we've been revising concepts such as 3-digit division and equivalent fractions. Art and Craft this week has been Christmas based activities. I've had a wonderful year teaching Year 4. I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday and I'll see you at the social tonight. *Miss Smith*

**YEAR 5** The final countdown is on! This week we have been finishing off our yearly revision of Grammar topics as well as getting towards the end of our great novel. In Maths we were set a challenge of designing and creating a Maths board game and sharing these with the class. The classroom is beginning to empty out as we start taking home books we no longer need. Well done on a fantastic term Year 5. I hope to see you all dancing up a storm tonight at our school social. Have a safe, happy and holy Christmas. *Mr Keady*

**YEAR 6** students are enjoying their final days at St Joseph's and they are to be congratulated on the way they have continued to work hard and give of their best. In Maths we have looked at diagonals, timetables and discussed various strategies to justify solutions to problems. Yesterday we had an excellent morning at the Peer Support session at Gilgandra High School. We thank the Year 10 students for organising the activities that will help us next year. A big thank you to all Year 6 for such a wonderful year and I wish you all the best as you take the next step in your life journey. Have a happy, holy and safe Christmas! *Mr Soares*

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Friday, 9 December – Paula Purvis & Mel Phillips  
Monday, 12 December – Tanya Hutchison & Sarah Hickey  
Wednesday, 14 December – Claudina Ryan & Donna Wheatley  
Friday, 16 December – NO CANTEEN

**ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER**

**Sunday, 11 December** – Pat Spora, Zac Ferguson, Will Fuller, Mason Fryers

