



# St Joseph's Primary School

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*A community inspired by Christ, striving for excellence*

## Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3

10th February 2020

### What's On at SJD

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>10/2</b> Parent Information Meeting 5pm nibbles, 6.15pm start	<b>11/2</b>	<b>12/2</b> Opening School Mass 12pm	<b>13/2</b>	<b>14/2</b>
<b>17/2</b> Regional Cricket Trials at Merriwa 9am	<b>18/2</b>	<b>19/2</b> Regional Swimming Carnival at Scone	<b>20/2</b> Steve Simpson Shield at Singleton	<b>21/2</b>
<b>24/2</b> Back up date for Regional Swimming Carnival	<b>25/2</b> Shrove Tuesday	<b>26/2</b>	<b>27/2</b> DIO Swimming Carnival  Life Education	<b>28/2</b>  Life Education
<b>2/3</b>	<b>3/3</b>	<b>4/3</b>	<b>5/3</b>	<b>6/3</b> Regional Rugby League Trials at Muswellbrook 11 & 12 yrs

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

## ***From The Principal, Mrs Helen Whale.....***

We thank God for the wonderful rain with which we have been blessed over the last week. I hope it has raised your spirits. We offer our prayers and thoughts to those who have not received rain yet.

I am looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible tonight at the parent information meeting. Arrive any time from 5pm for a meet and greet with the teachers and then at 6.15 move into the hall for the formal meeting. This is a great opportunity to show your support for the school and your commitment to working in partnership with us for the sake of your child's education.

### **CAR PARKING:**

With the commencement of the new school year & in the interests of safety we would like to remind everyone of the rules of the front carpark.

#### **KISS AND DROP ZONE— (area 5 & 6 on the map)**

There is to be **NO PARKING** in the KISS AND DROP ZONE. Cars should NOT nose into the KISS AND DROP ZONE but be parallel with the concrete sleepers to enable vehicles to exit this area without the need for reversing. Your vehicle will still be running & parents do not exit the car, this will allow for a continuous flow of vehicles and assist with reducing congestion during the busiest time of the morning. The rules of the KISS & DROP zone apply up to 9.30am & includes OOSH drop offs.

**NORTHERN SIDE OF THE CARPARK— (area 3 on the map)** This area is general car parking for approximately 8 cars. Please park nose into the concrete sleepers & then walk to the front of your vehicle onto the grassed path area behind the concrete sleepers **(area 4 on the map)**. No pedestrians are to walk across the middle of the carpark.

**OVERFLOW CARPARK—(access via area 11 on the map)** will be closed during inclement weather.

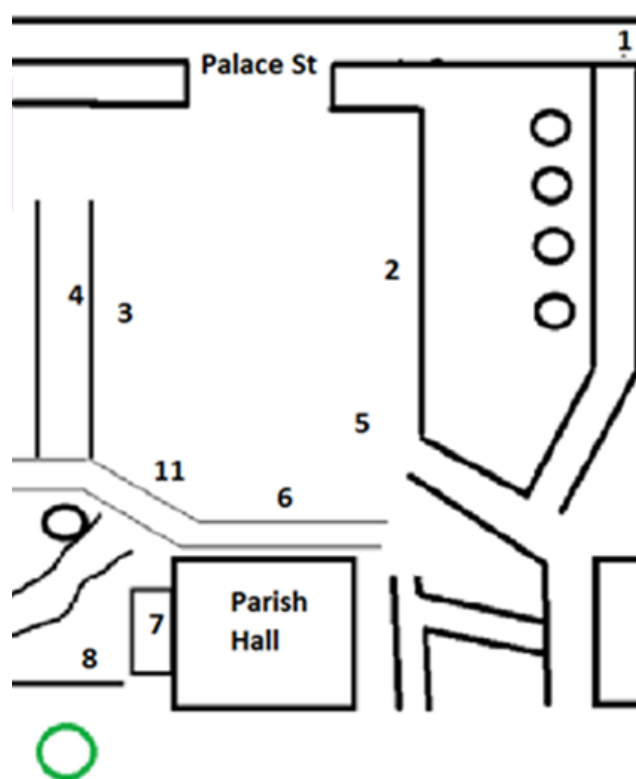
**SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE CARPARK— (area 2 on the map)** Staff parking only.

**CARPARKING NEXT TO THE HALL—(area 7 & 8 on the map)** There are 2 parks in this area & is reserved for families with babies & toddlers only. It provides direct access to the pedestrian path across the front of the hall which helps to make it safer for little people.

Please familiarize yourself with our carpark rules. It is for the safety of our students , families & visitors that we need to obey the carpark rules at all times.

See you tonight!

Have a great week.



## ***From The Assistant Principal, Mrs Michelle Lovegrove.....***

This week and in coming week's I will revise the Visible Wellbeing SEARCH Framework. This framework enables us to identify as a Positive Education school where we endeavour to create a positive environment with flourishing for all.

**S-Strengths**

**E-Emotional Management**

**A-Attention & Awareness**

**R-Relationships**

**C-Coping**

**H-Habits & Goals**

### **S - Strengths**

#### **Why do we need to know our Character Strengths?**

"Knowing your character strengths isn't just interesting information. When skilfully applied, character strengths can actually have a significant positive impact on your life. Research shows that using your character strengths can help you: Buffer against, manage and overcome problems; Improve your relationships; Enhance health and overall well-being" (VIA Institute on Character)

#### **Using your strengths:**

- Encourages insight and perspective in our lives
- Makes you less sensitive to stress
- Generates optimism and resilience
- Provides a sense of direction
- Helps to develop confidence and self-esteem
- Generates a sense of vitality and energy
- Engenders a sense of happiness and fulfilment
- Helps achieve one's goals
- Enables one to be more engaged at work/school and perform better

(Clifton & Anderson as cited in Boniwell, 2012) (Boniwell, 2012, p. 104)



#### **Are you new to our school?**

If you are new to our school, we will be sending home a booklet for you this week which outlines the 24 Character Strengths. Each student at school has or will be identifying their top 5 strengths and the use of these strengths by the students is encouraged by the staff in all school activities.

#### **How can you work to your child's strengths at home?**

There are many ways you can help your child at home:

Discuss your child's strengths with them and try to notice and comment when they are using that strength to help them cope with a situation.

Read the strengths booklet to understand what the strengths are and discuss with your child how they would identify this strength being used in someone else and/or how they may use in their life.

Professor Lea Waters has written a book 'Strength Switch' which I have read and highly recommend. They can be purchased from the website below or good book stores.

The Strengths Switch website also has resources that you can use to help you work with your child and their strengths - <http://www.strengthswitch.com/>

You might also like to find out your own top 5 strengths by completing the survey on the VIA Character website - <https://www.viacharacter.org>

If you have any questions regarding wellbeing at SJD please do not hesitate to ask.

Enjoy your week!

## **REC, Miss Natalie Walters.....**

### **Sunday Gospel**

*Jesus said,*

*'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven.'*

(Matthew 5: 16)



### **Questions of the Week**

**Adults** — In what way might you be hiding the light of Christ from others? What could you do to improve this?

**Young People** — When was a time that you really made a difference by letting the light of Christ shine through you?

**Children** — How can you let the light of Christ in you shine for others this week?

## **Opening School Mass**

Our Opening School Mass will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February (Week 3). Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to join us at St Bernard's Church at 12pm to help celebrate the new school year.

## **Leadership Speech Presentations**

This Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, after the Opening School Mass, students in Stage 3 will be presenting their leadership speeches to the primary students. Students will present a speech on their leadership qualities and how this will apply to their chosen role. We would like to invite everyone to come and watch the students take part in this process of the leadership program. Students will then be awarded their leadership badges the following week. I wish all the students the best of luck in presenting and am looking forward to hearing all their ideas and thoughts.

## **School Fees**

Billing for school fees will occur this week & it's important that we have all the 2020 Family Discount & Diocesan Pastoral Contribution Forms returned ASAP, these were distributed late 2019. This document is vital in determining exactly how much (if any) DFSBL & DPC is charged to families, if we don't receive a signed document from each family, each year, we are required to pass on the full costs. Additional copies will be sent home today to families who have not yet submitted a form & it is required back to school **NO later than Wednesday 12th February**.

HCC Discounts are available for eligible families. If you are the holder of an Australian Government Health Care/Pension card please call into the office to complete the required documentation. A copy of your current card is also required.

Did you know that regular contributions to the Parish Planned Giving fund can equal a reduction in your DFSBL? Please see Virginia in the office to find out more about this initiative.

Families with Parish Planned Giving statements for the 2019 Financial Year, please send them into the office by this Wednesday to ensure you receive your reduction in your 2020 DFSBL.

Active direct debits will have re-commenced for 2020. After the school fees are generated, Virginia will re-calculate instalment amounts & contact those families who may need to make changes to their amount.

## Alumni

St Joseph's are very proud of all of our students, past & present. Every December we wave goodbye to our Yr 6 students as 12 years olds & often wonder what life has in store for them in their future years. The past helps to shape the present & in 2020 we would like to introduce our school community to some of the students who have wandered our playground in years gone by. Some you may know, some you won't but we hope you will enjoy learning about our alumni & celebrating their achievements since leaving SJD.



### *Class of 2012—Clodagh Bray*



Clodagh is the 3rd child of Kim & Gavin Bray & graduated from St Joseph's in 2012. After working and travelling in Canada for 9 months last year, Clodagh is very excited to be starting at the University of Newcastle this year, studying Medical Radiation Science (Diagnostic Radiotherapy), a four-year degree with placements throughout the entire course. Clodagh will be moving to Newcastle to live on campus for the first year and is really looking forward to the adventures ahead.

Good luck Clodagh with your university studies, perhaps we may see you at one of our sports carnival days cheering on your little sister Caoimhe.

## Gifted Education Lead School

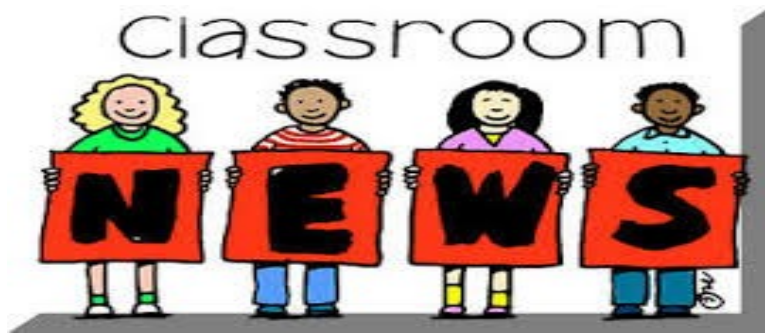
The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) has nominated gifted education as an area of priority as evidenced in the strategic planning documentation (Disciple, Learners and Leaders). Diocesan schools have also highlighted this as an area for further investigation and development, and many teachers seek professional development and resources to address the needs of the high-ability students in their classes. The CSO is implementing a strategic, system-wide approach to supporting gifted education in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

In 2017, an increased focus on gifted education began in the diocese with the implementation of the new Gifted Education K-12 Policy and Procedures documents for all schools. Additionally, in phases of implementation, selected number of secondary and associated primary schools work collaboratively and with CSO support to strengthen their capacity to provide meaningful opportunities for students. These schools are known as Gifted Education Lead Schools (GELS).

St Joseph's Denman is taking part in this initiative and will be working in collaboration with St James Muswellbrook, St Catherine's Singleton and St Joseph's Aberdeen. Part of the focus of this new approach is to provide a framework to ensure that our schools provide learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students, enabling them to reach their full potential.

A key component of this framework is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). CogAT is a group-administered K-12 assessment intended to estimate students' learned reasoning and problem solving abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items. The CogAT is used with other school data to assess student's learning and to provide guidance around instruction decisions and strategies.





## Year 5/6

Last week, Stage 3 students worked with Mrs Whale and Miss Walters, to identify and develop the skills needed to be a great leader. The day aimed at preparing students for their leadership roles this year. An important aspect of leadership is the service to others in order to make the world a better place.

Students reviewed the different characteristics of successful leaders in a variety of roles, including world, Australian and local leaders. We also reviewed the characteristics of leaders and themes of leadership in the movie 'The Lion King' and the characteristics that Jesus possessed as a leader. In the afternoon session, we reviewed each of the school leadership roles and students came up with a job description for each one.



## *Awards for week 2*

***Congratulations to all of our award recipients, keep up the good work!***

Kinder	Dexter Ayre – for his excellent counting in Mathematics. Charlotte Caruana – for working well in group activities and for always being kind to others.
Year 1	Fidelia Ochoumare – for the strength of bravery when starting at a new school. Chase Freeman – for the strength of bravery when starting at a new school
Year 2	Jamie Ochoumare – for a great start to his schooling at SJD Stella Medhurst – for her enthusiasm & dedication to her learning
Year 3	Jay-T Flack – for using his strength of persistence Matilda Gardner – for always being ready to learn
Year 4	Deaglan Finn – for creating a complex sentence using lots of adjectives Claudia Medhurst – for always making good learning choices, resulting in beautiful bookwork & learning of new things
Year 5/6	Emmitt Medhurst – starting the new year with a committed attitude Luther King Ochoumare – settling quickly into a new school environment
Principal	Evie LeGrange – for keeping the school environment clean & tidy Jed Summers – for beautiful manners Archie Johnson – for friendly guidance of younger children

## ***Regional & Diocesan Sports News***

We are approaching a busy time for sport in Term 1. The Regional Winter Sports Trials (also Cricket) will soon be commencing. At this point in time we have two dates to provide you with:

17<sup>th</sup> February – Cricket Trials at Merriwa

6<sup>th</sup> March – Rugby League 11's and 12's at Highbrook Park Muswellbrook

We are still awaiting more information regarding soccer and netball trials, we will hopefully be able to get this information to you soon. There is also an opportunity for students to trial for hockey and AFL.

Please keep in mind that to be eligible to attend these trials your child must have the appropriate qualifications i.e. Play at a representative level, or equivalent and preferably be in Year 5 or 6. Also please note that all costs associated with these trials are the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

If your child would be eligible for any of these sport trials, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Walters or Miss Watson for more information.

## ***Sports Days***

Sport will be held across 2 days, students will wear their sports clothes on their allocated days **ONLY**

Thursday = Infants (Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2)

Friday = Primary (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6)



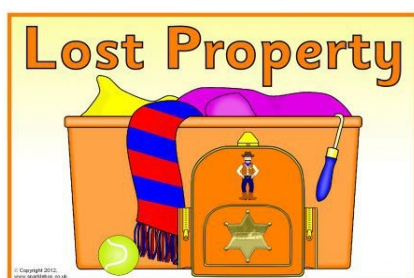
*From the P & F.....*

**Uniform Shop will be open  
this Thursday morning from  
8.45am.**

**Starting Week 4 it will be  
open every Friday morning  
times to be advised**

**CANTEEN IS EVERY  
FRIDAY**

**ORDERS ARE DUE  
BY 3PM EACH  
WEDNESDAY**



Please remember to label ALL of your children's school clothing, including their hat. There is a lost property box located in the office for unclaimed items left on the playground. If your child loses something, please remember to check the lost property box.

### **P & F Meeting 4/2/2020**

Thank you to those parents who attended our first P & F Meeting for 2020, below is a summary of items discussed.

**Canteen**—now on Friday with orders to be in by Wednesdays 3pm.

**Church Cleaning**—general induction needed, to be included in school volunteer induction

**Uniform Shop**—high turnover recently.

**Playground Upgrade & Working Bee**—Sunday 8th March & will include a BBQ lunch, more info to follow.

**Parent Information Night**—P & F will provide some catering.

### **Fundraising**

- 1) Andrew will make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday (25/2), \$1 each at recess.
- 2) Trivia Night & Family Bingo

### **General Business**

- 1) Footpath to front gate, quotes being gathered, idea of a tread stone with inspirational quote.
- 2) Osborn's Transport—Muswellbrook & Dalswinton buses are full, no unauthorised student travel to Muswellbrook will be allowed.

**Next meeting**—Tuesday 3rd March at 3.15pm