**Notes:** Parents please. Could you please check your child’s bag each day for school notes and sign and return them the following day if possible. It seems that there is something out of the ordinary. E.g. Excursions, we are chasing notes at the last minute and this is creating a large amount of extra work in the front office. Thank you in advance.

Mrs Kilisch and Mrs Thompson

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**St Patrick’s Day:** Wednesday 17th March
Children may wear a touch of green for a gold coin donation. Green socks, ribbon or something small would be appropriate.

**St Joseph’s Day:** This year St Joseph’s day falls on a Saturday so we will be celebrating on Friday, 17th March. Please join us for lunch at Rose Lee Park at 1pm to help us celebrate our school feast day.

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**Happy, Happy Birthday!**
Wishing all of these children a very happy birthday for January: Nate Aspinall, Clayton King, Harmony Tyler, Faith Bennett, Nicholas Partridge, Jasmin Stackman, Jade Wilson. February: Stella McMahon, Emma Walton, Isaiah Keys, Jazmyn Marshall Moore, Charlie Kelly, Darcy Devine. We hope you enjoyed your special day.

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**Friends of Children with Special Needs Annual Fundraiser**
Friends of Children with Special Needs Quirindi Group raises funds to assist children with special needs in our local community. The money we raise each year is divided between our local schools: Quirindi Primary, Quirindi Public School, St Joseph’s and Quirindi High School, enabling schools to purchase resources to assist students.

This year our major fundraising event is a wonderful Hamilton Island Holiday Raffle. First prize includes 5 nights’ accommodation for 2 adults and 2 children (Garden View room at the Reef View Hotel with full buffet breakfast daily and many more inclusions) plus a $1000 Virgin Australia airfare voucher.

Tickets are $2 each and available from Quirindi Goodness & Gracious in George Street Quirindi, ($40 for a book of 20 tickets).

Tickets will also be available at the St Joseph’s front office.

The raffle will be drawn at 4pm on Saturday 5th March, 2016 at the Terminus Hotel.

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**Dates to remember**

**Week 5**
- 22nd: Patty Cakes; Rachel Aspinall, Rikki Tetley and Melissa Carroll
- 23rd: Whole school history excursion
- 25th: Diocesan Swimming Moree
- 26th: Swimming 11.30-1.00
- 27th: Canteen: Vicki Flett and Rachel Coward

**Week 6**
- 29th: Patty Cakes; Ame Bennett, Kelly Stackman, Odile Saad
- Wil Gaey Residential School

**March**
- 2nd: Board and PTF AGM 6.30pm School Library
- 4th: Swimming 11.30-1.00
- 6th: Children’s Focus Parish Mass

**Week 7**
- Catholic Schools Week
- 7th: Kate, Lee Duncan, Coral Seymour, Jess Slade
- 10th: Selective High Schools Placement test
- 12th: McCarthy open day

**Week 8**
- 14th: Patty Cakes; Rachel Coward, Erica Keays, Cindy Teuma
- 16th: Board Meeting 6.30pm
- 17th: St Patrick’s Day
- 18th: St Joseph’s Day Celebration. Please join us for Mass and lunch in the park at Rose Lee park.
- 19th: St Joseph’s Day

**Week 9**
- 21st: Patty Cakes; Rikki Tetley, Melissa Carroll, Tanikka Moore
- 25th: Good Friday
- 26th: Holy Saturday
- 27th: Easter Sunday

**Week 10**
- 28th: Easter Monday
- April: Daylight savings ends

**Week 11**
- 1st: Patty Cakes; Odile Saad, Allison Neyle, Kelly Stackman
- 6th: PTFA Meeting
- 8th: Cross Country Carnival

**Week 4 Award Winners**
- **Principal’s Award:** Consistent efforts with school work by: Humayl Luqman, Hayley Rheinberger, Lily Canham, Harrison Pain, Charlie Kelly
- **Student of the week awards:**
  - **Brandon Thompson:** Fantastic work in telling the time during Mathematics.
  - **Hayley Hall:** Trying her hardest all week.
  - **Paige Hanigan:** Fantastic effort with sight words.
- **Araya Darrell:** excellent responses to questioning and persevering during our literacy focus.
- **Elle Flanagan:** Excellent class discussion contributions.

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**Swimming Carnival Results**
Congratulations to all our winners on the night
**Sub-Junior boy:** William Bartholomew
**Sub-Junior girl:** Rebecca Teuma
**Junior boy:** Jacob Seymour
**Junior girl:** Jade Wilson
**11 Year boy:** Charlie Kelly
**11 Year girl:** Isabella Stinson
**Senior boy:** Brad Forsyth
**Senior girl:** Amelia Seymour

**Winning House:** Penola
**50 m sprint:** Charlie Kelly
**School Spirit:** Ruby Allan & Darcy Devine

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**Centacare News**
Please note that Centacare runs a Family Rural Resilience Program as well as parentino courses through their agency. If you are interested in any of these courses please come into the office to collect a flyer.

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**Swimming Champions for 2016**

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**Lent**

**Prayer for Lent**

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us by your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increased charity and the disciplines of this sacred season, draw us closer to you. Purify the intentions of our hearts so all our Lenten observances give you praise and glory. Grant that through our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the gospel message to world in need of the hope of your mercy. Amen.

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**Swimming:** Final swimming sessions for Term 1 will be held on Friday the 26th of February and the 4th of March. We need volunteers to help on these days between 11.30 - 1.00pm. This assists with supervision, extra help with small groups for our beginners and also our more able swimmers.

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**From the canteen:** We still need helpers urgently so please contact Linda McCulloch if you can help. Also orders need to come in brown paper bags with correct money, if possible. No more than $3.00 spending money over and above the children’s lunch order.

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**Sacramental Dates for 2016**

**First Communion:** In St Joseph’s School Library and lessons commence at 3.50pm. Tuesday 26th April, 3 May, 10 May, 17 May, 23 May and Reflection Day is 27 May.

**First Communion is Sunday 29 May**

**First Confession:** St Joseph’s School Library and lessons commence at 3.50pm. Tuesday 2nd August, 9 August, 16 August, 23 August and 30 August.

**First Confession is on Wednesday 31st August 2016.**

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Parents, we have had another case of head lice reported to school so please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair.
Welcome to Week 5, Term 1!

Congratulations to everyone on a brilliant Swimming Carnival last Thursday night. Due to meetings that required me in Armidale for the day, I arrived at 4.30pm and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces from Staff, students and parents. The swimming carnival is another example of how St Joseph’s promotes a healthy and active lifestyle. Congratulations to all swimmers on a memorable night. A particular thank you to Mrs Wilson for her organisation and any parent volunteers who supported this carnival. The very best of luck to our 8 students, who make up the 2016 St Joseph’s Swimming Squad, as they travel to Moree on Thursday to compete in the Diocesan Carnival.

Today our children enjoyed a very successful local history excursion. With last years’ introduction of the NSW History Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum, particular attention has been paid to local history and having children’s ‘experiences’, rather than simply acquiring dates and facts. This excursion is just another example of St Joseph’s commitment to contemporary learning.

St Joseph’s students will today have brought home with them a Catholic Schools Office “Media and Communications Consent Form”. If you are happy for your child’s image to be used in productions such as the local paper (St Joseph’s weekly report) or St Joseph’s website etc. please complete and return asap. If you would prefer your child’s image is not used, please drop a note to school also outlining this.

The School Board plays an integral role in the development of St Joseph’s as an advisory body to myself and Fr Vic. After completing a term, Mrs Rikki Tetley is stepping down from her elected position on the Board. On behalf of the Board I am therefore calling for nominations. If interested please find attached to today’s newsletter a St Joseph’s Board Nomination Form. Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge Rikki for the work she has done in helping the students of St Joseph’s.

Have a great week!

John Clery
Principal

“Humility saves man: pride makes him lose his way.” Pope Francis

Please remember to visit our website: www.stjosephsquirindi.nsw.edu.au