School Board and PT&F AGM Meetings
Tomorrow night: 2nd March 6.30pm
Please come along to support our school

Wii Gaay News
Miss Allan has accompanied our Wi Gaay students to the residential school this week. We hope they all enjoy this fantastic opportunity to extend their learning in such an amazing setting.

Swimming: The final swimming session for Term 1 will be held on Friday the 4th of March.

McCarthy Open Day: Saturday 12th of March.

From the canteen: HELP!!!
We do not have any helpers for the canteen on Fridays, as of this coming Friday. Please let Linda know if you can help or we will not be able to run the canteen for the rest of the term, which would be very sad for all of our children who regularly order their lunch or just want to buy a small treat.

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 the 18th of March. Please join us for lunch at Rose-Lee Park at 1pm to help us celebrate our school feast day. Please find the note attached to this newsletter, sign and return to school as soon as possible.

HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Wishing all of these children a very happy birthday for March: Bill Flett, Clancy Flett, Riley Hall, Hayley Hall, Matt Manzano, Max McMahon, Hannah Seymour, Riley Fleming, Amelia Kelly, Joshua Hall
We all hope you enjoy your very special day 😊

Office Notes:
Normally notes go home to families on Tuesdays with the newsletter, however occasionally we need to send extra notes home through the week. Could you please check your child's bag each day for school notes and sign and return them the following day if possible. We understand if there is payment to be made that this may not always be possible but for simple permission notes etc we would really appreciate your assistance.
Thank you in advance.
Mrs Klitsch and Mrs Thompson 😊

Children's Focus Parish Mass
This Sunday, 6th March! It is a very special Children's Focus Parish Mass. As you know every Saturday and Sunday is an opportunity for you to attend Mass and this particular mass has a special focus for your children.

'Friends of Children with Special Needs Annual Fundraiser'
Friends of Children with Special Needs Quirindi Group raise funds to assist children with special needs in our local community. The money we raise each year is divided between our local schools: Quirindi Preschool, 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 Quantum X or Goodness & Grace 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.

Dates to remember

Week 6
29th Patty Cakes: Ame Bennett, Kelly Stackman, Odile Saad
Caritas Visit
Wii Gaay Residential School

March
1st Board Nominations due to John
2nd Board and PT&F AGM: 6.30pm School Library
3rd Quirindi Rugby 7's
4th Swimming 11.30 – 1.00
5th Diocesan Touch: Tamworth
Willow Tree Horse sports entries due
St Joseph's Day Notes due back to school

6th Children's Focus Parish Mass

Week 7: Catholic Schools Week
7th Patty Cakes: Katie-Lee Duncan, Coral Seymour, Jess Slade
10th Selective High Schools Placement test
12th McCarthy Open Day

Week 8
14th Patty Cakes: Rachel Coward, Erica Keyes, Cindy Teuma
Cookie Dough orders are due back to school.
16th Yr 5/6 Parents Exclusion Meeting Board Meeting 6.30pm
17th St Patricks Day
18th St Joseph's Day Celebration. Multi day...plain clothes. Please join us for Mass and lunch at Rose-Lee Park. (Note attached to the newsletter)
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
3rd Daylight savings ends

Week 11
4th Patty Cakes: Odile Saad, Allison Neyle, Kelly Stackman
6th PT&F Meeting
8th Cross Country Carnival

School supervision hours
8.30am - 3.45pm

Library Days: Mondays; 1/2 and 5/6.
Tuesdays; K/1, Thursdays; 3/4

Willow Tree Horse sports
Friday 18th March.
If you haven't already received forms, they are available from the office.

Week 5 Award Winners
Principal's Award: Wearing my uniform with pride: Clancy Flett, Zackery Morris, Isaiah Keys, Enrika Suh, Darcy Devine.

Student of the week awards:
Bill Flett: Excellent participation in the History Excursion.
Isabella Morley: Listening to and following instructions.
Jack Canham: Hard work with completing all activities in literacy rotations.
Clare Canham: Taking initiative to support students in need.
Cody Pain: Demonstrating support and friendship towards his peers.

Sacramental Dates for 2016
First Communion: In St Joseph's School Library and lessens 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 lessens commence at 3.50pm. Tuesday 2nd August, 9 August, 16 August, 23 August and 30 August. First Confession is on Wednesday 31st August 2016.

Attachments:
• St Joseph's Day note
• Focus Mass
• Rugby League/Soccer
• Hunter New England Health
Welcome to Week 6, Term 1!

Recent assessment and testing of students has once again provided value-added data proving the wonderful learning happening at St Joseph’s every day. St Joseph’s emphasis on value-added data, growth, is because “…it remains the most robust approach to accurately and fairly measure real changes in school performance” (2015, High Value-Add Schools, pg. 19). Significant results include:

- Year 4 PAT Comprehension: **St Joseph’s growth average: 13.2** (National average: 9)
- Year 5 PAT Comprehension: **St Joseph’s growth average: 8.3** (National average: 5)
- Year 6 PAT Comprehension: **St Joseph’s growth average: 5.0** (National average: 3)
- Year 4 PAT Mathematics: **St Joseph’s growth average: 15.0** (National average: 6)
- Year 5 PAT Mathematics: **St Joseph’s growth average: 7.1** (National average: 7)
- Year 6 PAT Mathematics: **St Joseph’s growth average: 7.0** (National average: 3)

What this data illustrates is St Joseph’s children are learning significantly more than the average Australian child of the same age.

St Joseph’s commitment to learning and individual student growth is on display in our Data Corridor. Please take the time to walk through the corridor and discuss with your child their 2016 learning data.

Congratulations to the St Joseph’s Swimming Team who travelled to Moree to compete in the Diocesan Carnival. Their behaviour, dedication and sportsmanship was exemplary as they represented our school with distinction. Mrs Wilson spoke of the pure delight in taking away children who are a credit to themselves, their families and St Joseph’s.

Finally, I invite everyone to tomorrow night’s PT&F and Board AGM. These two important parent bodies are vital to St Joseph’s and I encourage every family to play their part. I look forward to seeing you at 6.30pm.

Have a great week!

John Clery
Principal

“None of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice.” Pope Francis

Reference


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