



# St Joseph's Primary School School News

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Wednesday 4 December 2019

## December 2019

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners

Week 8 1/12	2/12	3/12	4/12	5/12	6/12	7/12
1st Sunday of Advent	Kinder transition 9am-12noon  2.40pm Liturgy/ Assembly	Library	Canteen Newsletter  School Captains Speeches 10.30am	Swimming  4pm Attachment in Teens presentation	Swimming  Reports on Compass	
Week 9 8/12	9/12	10/12	11/12	12/12	13/12	14/12
Mass 8.30am  7pm Town Christmas Carols Apex Park	Year 6 Retreat  2.40pm Liturgy/ Assembly		Presentation Night 6pm School of Arts	Swimming	Swimming Carnival	Mass 6.00pm
Week 10 15/12	16/12	17/12	18/12	19/12	20/12	21/12
	11.00am Liturgy  6pm End of Year Mass 7pm Year 6 Dinner	Gummun Place/ Hostel Visit  Family disco social night—Anglican Hall	Canteen Carols in Bettington Street Secret Santa exchange <b>STUDENTS' LAST DAY</b>	PUPIL FREE DAY	PUPIL FREE DAY Last day for staff  School closes	
<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 23/12/19—27/1/20</b>						
Week 1 26/1	27/1	28/1	29/1	30/1	31/1	1/2
Mass 8.30am  AUSTRALIA DAY	AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>	<b>STUDENTS YRS 1-6 RETURN</b>  KINDER BEST START	KINDER BEST START	Mass 6.00pm



*Stay awake and stand ready! Take time to look.  
Take time to listen. Take time to be still and reflective.  
Take time for yourself. Take time to unwind and slow down.  
Put aside the busyness, the chaos, the dramas. Put on the cloak of calmness. Be still.  
Take time to remember.  
Take time to reconnect with the people and events of significance. Take time.  
Take time to explore the unexpected.... Take time.  
Take time to listen to the voice in the wilderness. Take time.  
Take time to remember. Take time to reflect. Take time....*

*Sacred Celebrations for Advent & Christmas ~ Rina Wintour*

# From the Principal . . .

We are only two full weeks away from the end of the school year. It is amazing to have travelled so far, in such a short space of time.

Thank you to the staff, students, parents and wider community for all your support this year.

## Reports

Student reports will be uploaded to Compass on Friday afternoon, if all goes according to plan.

Please take the time to not just look at the grades your child receives, but also the comments. The teachers work very hard to write about the effort, demeanour and capacity your child has for learning.

I have always felt that the comments give a greater insight into how a child performs than the actual grade, although we know that the grade is important.

We are very proud of all that our students have achieved this year and you should be too.

There is an opportunity to discuss your child's report with your teacher. Please ensure that you contact your teacher directly to make an appointment.

## Staffing 2020

We have almost concluded our recruitment processes for 2020 in terms of staffing. We interviewed for a teacher to work with us on a 0.5FTE (5 days per fortnight) basis, to work with Mrs Hagley.

We will still be working with an Infants class, however, for the most part, will be operating as two separate entities, in order to maximise learning opportunities for students.

I am pleased to announce our classes for 2020 will look as follows:

**Kindergarten:** Mrs Hagley / TBA

**Stage One:** Miss Sammi Love

**Stage Two:** Miss Naomi Rodwell

**Stage Three:** Mrs Anne Marie Peebles / Mr Ashley Borg

**Library:** Mrs Laura Smede

**Learning Support:** Mrs Tania Ninness

## Diocesan Public Speaking Success

**Abbey Rostron** (Kindergarten), **Jeremiah Raines** (Stage One) and **Jeremy Hopkins** (Stage Two) represented St Joseph's at the recent Diocesan Public Speaking competition, held at the Victor Peters Suite at the Catholic Schools Office in Newcastle.

Students in Kindergarten and Stage One prepared and delivered one speech, where as Stage Two and Three students not only had to prepare and deliver a first speech, but an impromptu speech as well!

Preparation time for the regular speeches was one hour, where our older students had only ten minutes to prepare a short speech on their impromptu speeches.

Abbey presented a speech on "Grandparents" and by all accounts was outstanding! She finished in third place overall, a sensational effort!

Jeremiah presented a speech on "Honesty" and finished in an excellent fourth place, having impressed the adjudicators with his voice projection.

Jeremy also finished in overall fourth place with his two speeches on "Respect" as well as his impromptu speech on "Forgiveness".

We are very proud of all our students for their great efforts. St Joseph's continues to "punch above our weight class".

We are, by enrolment, the third smallest school of 55 schools in the Catholic Schools Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. The results we have achieved this year in Public Speaking, Maths and Spelling Bees and our efforts in the debating competition are testament to our ever-changing approach to student learning coming first.

# From the Principal . . . (continued)

## School Captains

This year will see the first election of a School and Vice-Captain in some time. The Year Five students have been working to a Leadership Criteria throughout the last three terms in order to better understand the high standards we are trying to reach as a collective group of students for our leaders.

On Wednesday, students will have delivered their speeches, outlining the many reasons why they believe they should be voted in as the school captain, or vice-captain.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will vote for their preferred candidate, as well as the staff vote.

The School Captain and Vice-Captain will be announced at the Presentation Night, to be held at the School of Arts, on 11 December.

## Swimming Lessons

It was great to get in the water with the students and assist them in their learning to swim journeys.

We thank all of our parents and teachers, especially Mrs Peebles, Mrs McLaren and Mrs Collins, who have specific training in this area. St Joseph's is very lucky to be blessed with so many qualified swim teachers!

## Calendar

- 5 December – Attachment in Teens Presentation 4pm
- 6 December – Reports on Compass
- 9 December – Year Six Retreat
- 11 December – Presentation Night
- 12 December – Swimming Lessons
- 13 December – Swimming Carnival
- 16 December – End of Year Mass /Year 6 Dinner
- 17 December – Gummun Place / Hospital visit
- 18 December – Carols in the Main Street / Student's Last Day
- 20 December – Last Day for Staff (School Closes)

## Attachment in Teens Presentation – Thursday 5 December

Has your pre-teens/teen's behaviour changed and you don't understand why?

Are you struggling to relate to them or understand them at times?

Is social media and the use of devices becoming a daily struggle?

Our Upper Hunter school counsellor, Hayley Maeder, will be presenting information about what happens to a child's brain between the ages of 10-14 years.

She will talk about how a child's attachment changes in adolescents and how that can impact their relationships.

Hayley will talk about social media and how to keep kids safe online.

Lastly, Hayley will provide clear examples of how to maintain a secure relationship with your child as they work towards and transition into high school.

### DETAILS

**Date:** Thursday 5 December

**Time:** 4pm - 5pm

**Venue:** Joey's Room

**All community members welcome.**

Ashley Borg

Principal

[ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Friendly  
Reminder

**FAMILY DISCO SOCIAL NIGHT**  
**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**ANGLICAN PARISH HALL**  
**More information tomorrow**

## To staff, parents and students of St Joseph's



I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for making me feel so welcome and included in our school environment. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years teaching at our wonderful school and I have learnt so much from all of you. I am grateful for the extra opportunities and experiences I have had whilst being here. At times it was challenging but was also very rewarding. St Joseph's has been a terrific start for my teaching career.

To the staff (current and previous), I cannot express how appreciative I am of all of you. Your guidance and wisdom has shaped me into the teacher I am today. I have always felt supported, listened to, encouraged and part of the team. You have all been very approachable and more than happy to help me. Thank you for nurturing me and making me a part of your families since day one.

Parents, thank you for trusting me with your child or children's education. Your ongoing support is something I will always be grateful for. Thank you for being approachable and working with me.

Finally, to the students, thank you for allowing me to grow with you and for trusting me to teach you. You have taught me a lot along the way which has also made me a better teacher. You are the reason I love my job. I enjoyed getting to know you all and am grateful for the strong relationships that we built together.

I will be forever grateful and will always remember and cherish my experience here at St Joseph's Merriwa and the friendships I have made.

I am looking forward to my new adventure and experience in Townsville.



**Rachel Houlahan**



*Stars and Strengths*



Would you like to relive the fun and entertainment of our school play—Stars and Strengths?



We will have copies available on DVD for \$5 each.

If you would like one (or more!), please place your order with Sally in the office by Friday.

# VISIBLE WELLBEING

The Strength focus **this week** is – **HUMILITY**



**What does it look like in our classroom?**

- We don't need to show off when we do well
- When we are in the wrong we don't need to distort the information to make ourselves appear better

**What does it look like in our playground?**

- We don't brag even when we play really well
- We notice if we speak more than others in a group and try listening more

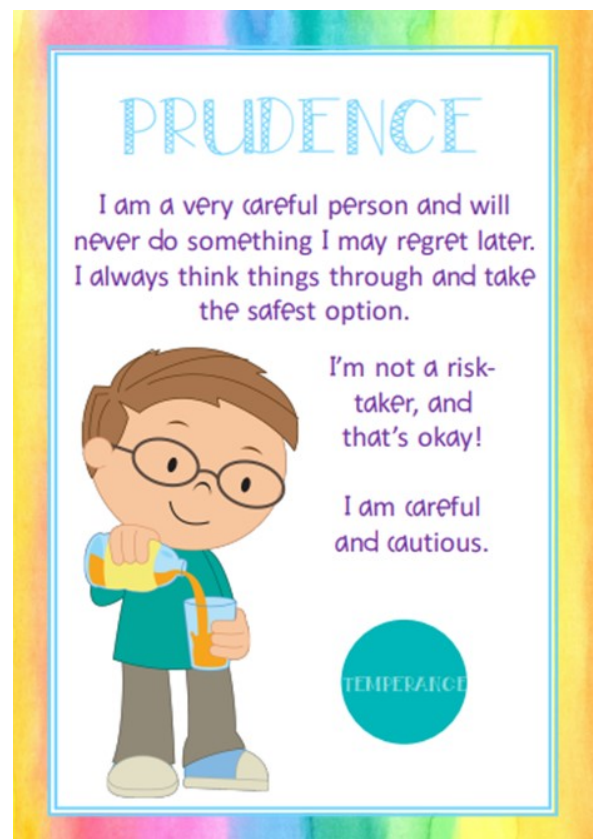
Strength focus for **next week** is – **PRUDENCE**

**What does it look like in our classroom?**

- We have our hand up to answer a question and everyone seems to be getting picked before us.
- We remain calm and wait for our turn

**What does it look like in our playground?**

- A game doesn't go our way and we accept we cannot always control everything



# Awards

## *Congratulations to our award winners for Weeks 6 & 7*

### **Kinder**

**Archy Wallace** – for always being a leader of learning through being on task and engaged in learning tasks.

**Abbey Rostron** – for demonstrating bravery and commitment in all aspect of her learning.

### **Stage 1**

**Jett Turner** - for displaying decoding strategies when writing unfamiliar words during writing tasks.

**Isabel Williams** – for demonstrating forgiveness in her daily actions

### **Stage 2**

**Emma McLaren** – for demonstrating leadership by always listening to other people's points of view and being fair in group work.

**Caitlin Harrison** – for displaying terrific effort, improvement and enthusiasm in gymnastics.

**Archie Constable** - for outstanding effort with his homework this year and always completing it and handing it in on time.

**Jeremy Hopkins** - for outstanding effort with his homework this year and always completing it and handing it in on time.

**Lula Peebles** - for outstanding effort with her homework this year and always completing it and handing it in on time.

**Annabelle Hunt** - for outstanding effort with her homework this year and always completing it and handing it in on time.

**Rihanna Hunt** - for outstanding effort with her homework this year and

always completing it and handing it in on time.

**Jye Bates** – for regularly demonstrating forgiveness by forgiving people and giving them second chances.

### **Stage 3**

**Emily Wright** - for outstanding effort in all aspects of gymnastics

**Matthew Grady** - for facing a challenge and doing it with a positive attitude to achieve great results

**Bethany Wightman**- for demonstrating leadership in a quiet confident manner

**Pia Henderson** - for demonstrating forgiveness when dealing with her friends in difficult situations

**William Collins** - for great participation during spelling activities demonstrating morphological knowledge

### **Principal's Awards**

**Bethany Wightman** – for her excellent research in Science

**Jeremy Hopkins** – for his hard work in all areas of the curriculum

**Eden Barry** – for her efforts, in particular, improvement of reading

**Lily Schmidt** – for her positive greetings in the mornings

**Arfan Isam** – for being an outstanding example of leadership at St Joseph's.

**Abbey Rostron** – for representing the school brilliantly at Diocesan Public Speaking.

**Jeremiah Raines** – for his efforts at Diocesan Public Speaking.

**Jeremy Hopkins** – for his efforts at Diocesan Public Speaking.

*Congratulations!*

# Religious Education News

## It's Advent!

### Advent began on Sunday.

Advent is a time when we are reminded to be prepared and ever watching for the sign of God in our lives. It may mean that we might have to change direction and change our thoughts to listen to what God wants us to do.

The Christian season of Advent is becoming more and more counter cultural. As the world speeds up in the race to Christmas, and as Christmas decorations and carols abound, Advent invites Christians to slow down, to pay attention to our deepest longings and hopes, to pray and reflect, to be uncluttered and unhurried, as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's birth at Christmas.

For a joyful and quirky explanation of the relevance of Advent today watch [Advent in 2 minutes video](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/) by BustedHalo.com. The stage 3 students watched this and really enjoyed the messages and quick explanation. <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Once again let us be Christ to others by contributing to our local Vinnies appeal. Children are invited to donate money to our local Vinnies team. This money will go towards assisting our locals make Christmas special. A box will be placed in the front office for any donations.



### You can help a family put food on the table this Christmas

You can help families like Laura and Sam's and provide assistance with food. Your donation today will give the gift of freedom from hunger to thousands of Australian parents and their children. Can you think of a better present than that?

*"I had no idea how I was going to feed Sam. I was in despair. It was such an amazing relief to know that someone really cared."* - Laura

# Religious Education News

## Year 6 Retreat - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Next Monday Year 6 will participate in a Year 6 retreat which will give them time to reflect on their primary years and look forward to what the future has in store for them, knowing that St Joseph's and the friends they have made along the way have contributed to the person which they are becoming. Please keep Year 6 in your prayers.

## End of Year Mass

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** we will be celebrating our End of School Year Mass. This is a wonderful celebration where we are given the opportunity to thank God for the year which is quickly coming to an end. During this Mass Year 6 will also officially graduate from primary school. We invite everyone to be part of this celebration commencing at 6pm at St Anne's Church.



<https://www.stritasparish.org/events/advent-pope-francis/>

Anne Marie Peebles  
REC



## SAVE THE DATE

### **St Joseph's Primary School Annual Belonging Day**

**Friday 24th January 10am ~ 12 noon**

Students & teachers in classrooms from

10:00 ~ 11:30

Parents & students invited for lunch

11:30 ~ 12 noon

We would like one or more volunteers from our parent community to coordinate a gathering for our parents to reconnect with a coffee at a local café.

Please contact the school if you are able to help.



Students had their last library lesson for the year yesterday as the following two Tuesdays will be devoted to administration and stocktake.

### **We ask all families to check around the home for any outstanding library books.**

Students with outstanding loans have been given many reminders over the past few weeks and we thank all those who have found and returned their books. There are still a few out there and we would love you to help find and return them by next week.

Students who have returned all their books (and are returning to school here next year) will have the opportunity to borrow for the holidays during the last week of term. Summer reading is fun, relaxing and helps your child avoid the “summer reading slide” - the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session and which is attributed largely to the lack of reading.

Last week we farewelled Ms Bradshaw who, along with husband Tim and children Bradley and Billy, will shortly be welcoming their new baby into the family. We will miss Ms Bradshaw immensely but look forward to seeing her out and about as the new year progresses. We also look forward to working with Mrs Smede next year.

**Sally Gilbey**  
School Library Officer

Why Do We...

**READ TO  
SOMEONE?**

It is FUN!

It helps our fluency.  
We can practice our  
reading skills and  
strategies.

We can help each  
other.

So we can become  
better readers.





# ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

## CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT

<https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter from the Artistic Director

ASPIRE is again collaborating with internationally recognised Newcastle-based company Catapult Dance in 2020.

Building on the success of previous programs, the Create Choreographic Project will offer students enrolled in schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle the opportunity to participate in an intensive contemporary dance and collaborative choreographic program.

Students will be provided with a dance and performance art experience that is inclusive, non-competitive, creative and collaborative, and that reflects the working processes of the professional industry. Students will be encouraged to have a voice, and present their thoughts and ideas in a studio setting at the end of the program.

The Create Choreographic Project will run from Monday 9 March 2020 to Friday 13 March 2020.

Dancers will be split into Junior (Years 4-6) and Senior (Years 7-12) groups to create an original piece to perform. They will work alongside professional choreographers at Catapult Dance's studio in Newcastle West.

Secondary students need to have dance training. Primary students must have a genuine interest in and flair for dance, but don't necessarily have to attend dance lessons outside of school.

Students can register for the program by filling out an application form, which must be signed by a parent/carer and teacher from their school. Please forward completed forms via email to [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Atkins for further information.

### PROJECT DATES

<b>Junior</b>	Monday 9 March 2020 – Tuesday 10 March 2020	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$60.00
<b>Senior</b>	Wednesday 11 March 2020 – Friday 13 March 2020	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$90.00

### COST

To register please complete the form overleaf and return to Anne Atkins [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au) or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

# ASPIRE

# ASPIRE

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## CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT

### REGISTRATION FORM

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/carer name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to be part of the ASPIRE Create Choreographic Project?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What dance experience do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Carer): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application supported by (school teacher within the diocese)

Signed (Teacher): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To register please complete the form and return to Anne Atkins [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au) or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

# ASPIRE



# ASPIRE

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## JUNIOR THEATRE MAKERS 2020

<https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter from the Artistic Director

### Thursdays in Terms 2 and 3 in five different locations across the Diocese

Locations:	St Pius High School Adamstown	St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm	St Joseph's High School Aberdeen	St Clare's High School Taree	St Paul's Catholic College Booragul
Time:	4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

ASPIRE's Junior Theatre Makers Ensemble for Years 5 – 8 is again offering creative drama programs across the Diocese in 2020 throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Term 2 will be all about learning and skills with a focus on play building. Ensemble members will work through an array of exercises relating to character, physical and image based theatre. The ensemble will be led by a local theatre expert and will also receive a workshop from ASPIRE Artistic Director Anna Kerrigan.

Term 3 will be spent creating an original short performance piece which will be performed on **Thursday 24 September 2020 at the Civic Playhouse, Newcastle**. All five groups will come together to rehearse for the day before performing an integrated piece that evening.

This is a great opportunity to learn in a fun environment with like-minded students. Places in the program are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**Course Cost: \$250 (scholarships are available for those in financial need)**

To reserve your place please complete a booking form online at the ASPIRE website <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au> or call Anne Atkins on **02 4979 1331** for more information.





# St Joseph's Merriwa P&F Association

4 Marquet Street, Merriwa NSW 2329

President  
Mr Andrew Luke

Secretary  
Mrs Fiona Wightman

Treasurer  
Mrs Megan Constable

7 Dec	Towell family
14 Dec	Turner family
21 Dec	Wallace family
1 Feb	Walters family

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Leanne Hunt, Maree Goodear, Berna Gabriel & Tess Williams



## CANTEEN ROSTER

4 Dec	Berna Gabriel & Tess Williams
13 Dec	Swimming Carnival
18 Dec	

If you are able to assist in canteen please contact Teresa Williams on 0437 944 353



## THANK YOU

to the Rostron & Smith families who gave up some valuable time recently to clean the Aberdeen bus.



Best wishes to the members of our school community who celebrate their birthday over the next two weeks ...

**Shyanne Beeney**

**Matthew Grady**

**Pia Henderson**



*Thank you to all our families who supported our Redgum Book Fair.*

*Your generous purchases have eared us well over \$200 in commission to purchase new books and resources for our library.*

*Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.*

