



# St Joseph's Primary School School News

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Wednesday 18 December 2019

## December 2019 – February 2020

Week 10 15/12	16/12	17/12	18/12	19/12	20/12	21/12
	School clean-up 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 Merriwa RSL 10.30am	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
Week 2 2/2	3/2	4/2	5/2	6/2	7/2	8/2
	Kinders commence	Library	Canteen			
Week 3 9/2	10/2	11/2	12/2	13/2	14/2	15/2
Mass 8.30am	9am Opening School Mass— Commissioning of leaders & staff	Library				Mass 6.00pm

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners



## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

6.00pm St Bernard's Denman  
9.00pm St Anthony's Gungal

### Christmas Day

8.30am St Anne's Merriwa  
10.15am St Joseph's Cassilis

# From the Principal . . .

To the **staff, students and families** of St Joseph's Merriwa, thank you for an excellent year! We have done some terrific things as a unit this year and I am very proud of every person who contributed to our school in 2019.

To our families and staff who are leaving, all the very best on your respective journeys. Know that you have made a significant contribution to the life of the school, be proud of your achievements. May you walk gently along the path of life. God Bless.

To the community of Merriwa, thank you for your support in 2019, for making me feel welcome and part of a terrific rural community. May your Christmas be safe and happy.

See you in 2020!

## Staffing Update

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Miss Georgia Brazier was the successful applicant for the 0.5FTE position on the Kindergarten / Infants class for 2020. Georgia completed her Bachelor of Teaching Degree from the University of Newcastle this year with Honours, and has very positive and glowing references from her former Internships and Principals. The majority of her family reside in Merriwa, which was one of the reasons Georgia was attracted so much to St Joseph's.

She is very excited to begin her teaching journey with us and we look forward to seeing her gifts and talents on display in the classroom.

With our teaching puzzle completed, our classes look like this:

**Kindergarten:** Mrs Hagley / Miss Georgia Brazier

**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 Tanya Ninness

**Learning Support Assistants:** Mrs Cassandra McLaren, Mrs Melissa Collins, Mrs Georgina Fairfull

We are also on the lookout for a **Pastoral Care Worker** to work 3.5 hours per week.

This is a new position created by the Catholic Schools Office to support families and students in need.

## Presentation Night Major Award Winners

Thank you to all the families, staff and special guests who attended the St Joseph's Presentation Night last Wednesday.

A note of appreciation to our valued sponsors and financial contributors to awards.

Below is a list of all the major award winners:

**Horse Sports Award** (Sponsored by Merriwa Pony Club) – **Ben Patterson**

**Sportsperson of the Year** – **Rachael Hunt**

**ASPIRE Award** – **Lula Peebles**

**Environmental Award** – **Aidan Hunt**

**Science and Technology Award** – **Jeremy Hopkins**

**Mathematics Award** – **Cody Bates**

**Literacy Award** (Sponsored by Amanda and Lachlan Kemp) – **Levi Hourn AND Olivia Purcell**

**Academic Achievement Award** (Sponsored by Neville and Leanne Hook – Merriwa Newsagency) – **Cody Bates**

**Citizen of the Year** (Sponsored by Upper Hunter Shire Council) – **Bethany Wightman**

**Tom Rawlinson Memorial "Actions Not Words" Trophy** (Sponsored by Robyn Rawlinson and Family) – **Rachael Hunt**

# From the Principal . . . (continued)

## Swimming Carnival

A terrific summer's day greeted us for our Swimming Carnival, which acts as a selection trial for the Upper Hunter Swimming Carnival, to be held at Scone in 19 February, 2020.

Thank you to Miss Houlahan and Mrs Smede for organising the day, the staff and volunteers for helping.

The following students are Age Champions, congratulations!

**Junior Girls – Annabelle Hunt**  
**11 Years Girls – Lula Peebles**  
**Senior Girls – Emily Wright**  
**Junior Boys – Chad Booth**  
**11 Years Boys – Ben Patterson**  
**Senior Boys – Cody Bates**

## Disco Thanks

A wonderful night was held on Tuesday night for the Family Disco Social. So many students, parents and teachers socialising and having fun together was a great way to end a very successful year!

Thank you to our hard-working P & F and the many volunteers for making it happen. Your support is invaluable.

## Christmas Carols in the Street

What a great way to finish the year on Wednesday morning with Carols in the main street of Merriwa! Thank you to all of the businesses who allowed us to entertain them and bring a little Christmas Cheer!



## Dates for 2020

**28 & 29 January** – PUPIL FREE DAYS (Staff Training)

**30 January** – First Day Years 1 to 6

**30 & 31 January**– Kindergarten Best Start Assessments

**3 February** – Kindergarten First Day

**10 February** – Opening School Mass – Commissioning of School Leaders and Staff (9am)

**18 February** – World of Maths Incursion

**19 February** – Upper Hunter Swimming Carnival – Scone

**20 February** – Australian Reptile Display Visit



We received the wonderful news yesterday of the birth of Audrey Bradshaw, a beautiful daughter for Bianca and Tim and sister for Bradley and Billy. Congratulations and God's blessings on you all.

**JESUS, GENTLE SHEPHERD,  
KEEP THIS CHILD  
CLOSE BY YOUR SIDE;  
LET YOUR LIGHT  
BE HER COMPANION  
AND YOUR LOVE  
HER CONSTANT GUIDE.  
HOLD HER HAND  
THROUGHOUT LIFE'S JOURNEY,  
BE HER FRIEND AND GUARDIAN, TOO;  
TEACH HER WELL  
AND BLESS HER ALWAYS  
AS SHE FOLLOWS AFTER YOU.**

© enduringarts

# Awards

## *Congratulations to our award winners for Weeks 8 & 9*

### Early Stage 1 & Stage 1

**Tommy Booth** – for demonstrating commitment to identifying high frequency words in reading and writing

**Cooper Smith** – for demonstrating humility when successfully reaching academic goals in all Key Learning Areas

**Samuel Williams** – for his commitment to learning and striving for excellence.

**Jeremiah Raines** – for demonstrating prudence when completing set work.

### Stage 2

**Shykih Walters** – for terrific effort and improvements during swimming lessons.

**Emma Grady** – for displaying humility in Science lessons when planning and completing experiments.

### Stage 3

**Ava Peel** – for outstanding effort during swimming lessons

**Ben Patterson** - for working on a difficult task to achieve a great result during basket weaving

**Bethany Wightman** - for demonstrating humility in all areas of her school life

### Principal's Awards

**Peter Hagley, Rowdy Walters, Samuel Williams, Noah Ridding, Lula Peebles, Shykih Walters, Jeremy Hopkins, Olivia Purcell, Lilly Towell, Isabel Williams** - for giving their time to participate in the Town's Christmas Carols.



## Spirit of St Joseph Term 4

### Emma McLaren

Emma is always kind and thoughtful. She is an advocate for social justice, seeking out those who need social support in the classroom or on the playground. Naturally intuitive, Emma gently offers her company to those that need a friend. She can be consistently relied upon to help students or staff in any situation. Emma puts maximum effort into her studies, being an excellent role model for her peers. She is involved in many community events over the year, with a smiling face and a sincere willingness to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

Emma embodies the Spirit of St Joseph with her mature perspective and her deep care for those around her.



# Religious Education News

## SANTA SAYS, "TEACH THE CHILDREN"

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened...I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree.

He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone.

Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement. "TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled; what did he mean?

He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled from his bag and ornament of HIMSELF. "Teach the children that I, Santa Claus symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Saviour. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him."

Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave..." "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the holy babe and presented him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Saviour's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolises guidance and return."

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the centre, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, our Lord, our God."

--- Author Unknown ---



# Farewell and best wishes to our Year 6 students of 2019

Ava, Cody, Emily, Isam, Matilda, Pia, Rachael, Rowdy

May God bless you with health, happiness and success as  
you travel through your  
journey of life.



## 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

Parents are invited to gather and reconnect at a local café while the kids spend time at school and then join us for lunch from 11.30.

Thank you Mrs Melissa Collins for kindly offering to coordinate the parent gathering.

**Sunday 26th  
January  
10.30am  
Merriwa RSL  
Club**



**Australia Day**  
Celebrate what's great!

We have again been invited to join other local students to perform the National Anthem at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony to be held this at Merriwa RSL Club.

If your family is available we would love you to join us for the ceremony which begins at 10.30am.

Smart casual clothes.



Library helpers, canteen workers, carnival helpers, reading helpers, Campdraft and Fete workers, P&F meeting attenders, clothing pool helpers, bus cleaners, barbecue, morning tea, afternoon tea and supper cooks, classroom visitors, school supporters and all other volunteers -

## **Thank you !**

Whatever your contribution we appreciate it. We look forward to working with you again in 2020.

*Ashley, Anne Marie, Sally, Samantha, Sally, Laura, Rachel, Bianca, Tanya, Melissa, Cassandra, Georgie, Karin and Rebecca.*



# 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

## **BUS CLEANING ROSTER**

21 Dec	Wallace family
1 Feb	Walters family
8 Feb	Wightman family
15 Feb	Williams family

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — all who helped at the swimming carnival!



## **CANTEEN**

Thank you to all of our fabulous canteen helpers throughout the year and a huge thank you to our Canteen Coordinator Teressa for all your hard work and inspiring menus!



## **THANK YOU**

to the Towell and Turner/Pye families who gave up some valuable time recently to clean the Aberdeen bus.

*The P&F executive would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday.*



Best wishes to the members of our school community who celebrate their birthday over the holidays ....

**Archy Wallace**

**Charlie Barry**

**Jeremiah Raines**

**Samuel Williams**

**Chad Booth**

**Archie Constable**