Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome one and all to a new year of living and learning at St. Joseph’s. I hope that you have all enjoyed the break and spent some quality family time. We are all very excited to be back and working with students, parents and the whole school community to help the students in our care be the best they can be.

**Parental Involvement**

There will be many opportunities over the coming year to participate in your child’s education and I encourage and welcome all to come in whenever you can. If you have a particular area of interest or a talent we would love you to share it with us. It is also vital to the ongoing life of our school that people are supportive of our parent groups. The Parents and Friends are crucial in raising funds that provide the resources and maintain the facilities for the students. They also coordinate social functions to promote the community spirit that St. Joseph’s has always prided itself on.

An important role of the parents of any school is to positively promote the school within the wider community. When speaking to new families it is most often through word of mouth and the shared experiences from current families that encourage them to come to St. Joseph’s. We thank you for all that you do for the greater good of our school.

All are welcome to come along to Parent and Friend Meetings which are held monthly in our school library. This Month: Tuesday 15th February ~ 8pm.

**Welcome New Families**

This year we welcome Ricky and Angela Sibraa and their family, Isabella Sibraa is beginning Kinder today. We also welcome from Melbourne, Scott and Rebecca Culhane and their children Brayden (Year 5) and Makayla (Kinder). We hope that you enjoy your time here with us and look forward to getting to know you all.

**Congratulations to Ruth & Ashley Haynes & Family**

Over the holidays we had a very special occasion in the lives of one of our families. Congratulations from us all to Ruth and Ashley on their wedding last Saturday 29th January.

**Twilight Swimming Carnival & Welcome BBQ**

This Thursday is our school twilight swimming carnival when we will see if McAuley can once again claim victory! The children will come along to school as normal and we will head down to the pool at 2pm. From 2:30 onwards we will run the carnival. We will need many hands on deck to run the day and in particular we will need some parent helpers to assist in the junior area with Patsy Doyle and timekeepers in the senior area. As this will be an enjoyable but long day and the weather is expected to be very warm, please feel free to keep the children home for a rest on Friday. For full details and a program of events see inside.

For the BBQ could each family please bring along a salad to share and meat will be provided.

**Parent Information Evening**

Keep in mind that next Thursday the 10th of February will be our Parent Information Sessions. They will begin at 6pm ~ K/1 class, 6:30pm ~ 2/3 class, 7:00pm ~ Year 4 and &:30pm ~ 5/6 class.

On a personal note, I am very excited to be taking on the position of Acting Principal for 2011. I have always been very aware of the supportive and caring parents and friends that we have at St. Joseph’s and look forward to working closely with you all to take our school forward over the next twelve months. I understand and appreciate that the job of Principal is also in conjunction with the Year 2/3 class teacher. Both these roles are crucial but I will approach both with the belief that all decisions are to be made with the children of our school as the highest priority. If you wish to meet with me, my office time will be all day Tuesday and also every second Wednesday. I will also be available before and after school most days. Please contact our secretary Wendy Brooks if you require an appointment.

Yours in Christ,

Veronica Braybon
Hello Everyone,

As you would probably know it is 2011!!! We hope that everyone had a great holiday and are ready to have a great term 1.

On Thursday its our school swimming carnival and lets hope McAuley will not win [again] and lets hope everyone has a really fun night. We know that everyone will try their best because that’s all that matters.

We would also like to welcome the new kinders who had their first day today. We also welcome a new grade 5 student and his name is Brayden.

Next week, we will make our commitment to lead St. Joseph’s in 2011 at our Captain’s Induction Mass. We want to lead the school to the best of our ability and help other students in whatever way we can.

Courtney & Blake

After School Activities
After school Activities will be taking place again this year with a new focus activity each term. The program starts on Wednesday the 16th of February this term and runs for 7 weeks. The focus for Term 1 is Ultimate Frisbee which will be challenging but a lot of fun!

Students will have afternoon tea straight after school each week and will participate in skills, games and activities until 5pm (with a drink and snack break at half time). Any K-6 student who would like to participate can get a permission form from me over the next two weeks (there are 18 places available each term).

Swimming Carnival
This Thursday students and teachers will walk (and sing team songs!) on our way to the Finley Pool for our annual swimming carnival, starting at 2pm. If the weather is too hot we will organise a bus. Today students selected the races they would like to participate in and they will earn points for their teams by participating in these races on the day (including the K/1’s and non-swimmers who will be participating in activities in the shallow end).

Students will need to wear their sports uniform on Thursday and bring their swimmers, towel and thongs in a bag. Sunscreen, a hat and a water bottle are also a must.

If anyone is available to help with various jobs on the day such as time-keeping, that would be fantastic.

Renée Steward (Sports Coordinator)

St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival-Thursday 3rd of February

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Junior Girls Relay
Senior Boys Relay
Name: Sarah Haynes

Date of Birth: 22nd May  
Class: 3

Favourite things to do at school:
The athletics carnival! Especially when Xavier wins.

Best memory at St. Joseph's:
When I started school because we did lots of fun things like dancing and music.

Favourite thing to do when you get home:
Playing outside if it’s not too hot!

Best memory of a time with your family:
My birthday because I get lots of presents and have lots of fun!
Important Dates To Remember:

- Wed 2nd ~ Kinder Rest Day
- Thurs 3rd ~ Twilight Swimming Carnival & Welcome BBQ
- Fri 4th ~ Whole School Rest Day
- Tues 8th ~ Teachers Beginning of Year Deanery Mass
  Finley 5:30pm
- Wed 9th ~ Kinder Rest Day
- Wed 9th ~ 10:15am ~ Captain’s Induction/ Beginning of School Year Mass
- Thurs 10th ~ Parent Information Evening
- Fri 11th ~ Deanery Swimming Carnival
- Tues 15th P&F/Council Meetings ~7pm/8pm

Uniform Shop:
Open Hours
Monday 8.30am—9.15am
Thursdays 3pm—3.30pm

Community News

Finley Tennis Club
Season will recommence Thursday Feb 3rd from 3.30pm as per 2010 times. Further information can be obtained by contacting Allan Clarke on 58831686.

Tafe Riverina Institute Course List
- Intro to Computers, MYOB/Quickbooks,
- Using Digital Camera, Cert 111 in Aged Care,
- Disability, Agriculture, Cert 11 in Skills for Work and Training, Agriculture.
- Contact Finley Campus for further Information on 0358839700

AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

We bless you, God of the universe, for this land; for it’s contrasts of landscape and climate, for it’s abundance of wealth and opportunity.

We bless you for our history, with all it’s struggles in adversity, it’s courage and hope.

Give us, in our diversity, tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all.

Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SNACKBOX IDEAS

Fruit Butterflies
Make these attractive butterflies for the kids or provide the cut fruit and let the kids make their own butterflies.
Cut pieces of peeled rockmelon or pineapple to use for the butterfly wings and body, and slices of strawberries for the antennas.
Assemble and decorate using sliced blueberries, slices of strawberries or peeled kiwifruit.
Be creative, use any fruit that’s in season and the results will be delicious.

By: Miss Renée

Absent Notes

Just a reminder that all student absences need a note sent into school (at your next possible convenience) explaining the reason for absences.

Unexplained absences will be followed up by the teacher and or our secretary Wendy Brooks.

With Thanks, SJF Staff