

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**\*\*SEE TERM PLANNER ON COMPASS FOR FURTHER DATES\*\***

**\*\*Newsletter published fortnightly –Fridays on odd weeks**

**School Band  
Every Monday  
8:15am**

**French Language Club  
Every Monday  
11:10am**

**Tuesday 16th Feb.  
Lakes Regional  
Swimming Carnival**

**P & F Meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Staffroom  
6:30pm All welcome!**

**Sports Uniform Days  
for K- 6 will be  
Monday and Friday.**

**ALL UNIFORM  
ENQUIRIES:**



**ORDER VIA QKR APP**

**All enquiries to email:**

**chl.uniformshop@mn  
.catholic.edu.au**

**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN  
FRIDAY MORNINGS  
FROM 8:45AM –  
9:15AM**



# St Joey's News

## 'Truth in Christ'

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,  
32 Shelton Street, Charlestown NSW 2290  
Ph 02 4943 5414 Fax 02 4942 3218  
Email: [admin@charlestown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@charlestown.catholic.edu.au)  
Website: <https://www.charlestown.catholic.edu.au/>

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people.  
We pay our respect to their elders past and present.*

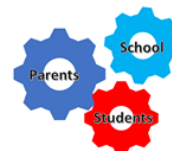


**12th February 2021**



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrated the new school year with a liturgy lead by Fr. John Kedari from our MacKillop parish. Fr. John blessed our new Kinder students and commissioned and blessed our 2021 Student Leaders. We prayed together for a year filled with enriching learning, care for each other and for our environment. Fr. John spoke to the students about the importance of respect for each other, for parents and for teachers. He reminded us all to keep Jesus close to our hearts, to pray for our needs and the needs of others. It has been a great start to 2021 and we all look forward to the wonderful year ahead.  
**Congratulations to our School Councillors:** Laura, Molly, Charlee, Owen, Leo and Jett.



### **Congratulations to our Sports Captains:**

Bradman- Will and Hope, Irwin: Maddi and Sam, MacKillop: Lucy and Xanthia  
Beachley: Fraser and Macy. These students will continue to uphold our school values to Strive High, Live Like Jesus and Care for our Environment.



Last week we welcomed our beautiful Kinder students to SJC. They have settled in amazingly and are so clever at following the routines of the classroom and the playground. It has been delightful watching them arrive each day and I've been so proud of the many students who are entering the school gates with their siblings or even on their own with a happy smile. Parents of Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 may still walk into the school for drop off and pick up being mindful of social distancing protocols. Thank you to all parents for continuing to follow our pickup and drop off arrangements. If your children are not picked up in the afternoons by the last bus around 3:20pm they will need to wait at the school office for parents. Any later than this please access our St Nic's OOSH services.



This week we also welcomed a new enrolment to Year 5/6 Red. Francesco and his family have recently moved from Melbourne. We hope that they feel welcomed into our community and meet many new friends. Our school's population is growing with a pleasing 250 students enrolled this year. We will open Kinder enrolments for 2022 next month. Please pass on our details to family and friends for those seeking to enrol at St Joseph's.

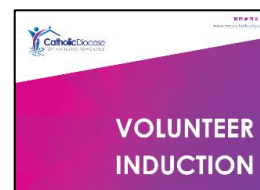
This year we have become involved in the Diocesan **Successful Foundations Research Project**. This project supports the positive transition to school of 2021 Kindergarten children and supports system wide implementation of the Early Learning Policy for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Tomorrow Kim Moroney, Project author and leader will be visiting our Kinder classroom to work with Kinder teachers and students to enhance the rollout of the project.

2021 also sees St Joseph's become a **Gifted Education Lead School (GEL)**, with the appointment of a Gifted Education Mentor (GEM) in Stephanie Tranter and connections to the Lakes Region Gifted schools and St Mary's High School. We are excited to be a part of this Diocesan initiative and are eager to improve differentiation practices, assessment, and identification strategies to enhance learning for our gifted students. Last Monday night our teachers participated in the first of our professional learning opportunities in this area. In the coming weeks, all students in Year 1-6 will participate in assessment tasks to help identification of strengths and weaknesses for all learners with highlighting of gifted students. These assessments will assist our teachers and GEM to plan for and cater for these students learning needs.

There have been many **improvements and maintenance** projects at SJC over the holidays including the installation of flyscreens and air conditioning to the OOSH and canteen areas, cleaning and maintenance to all air conditioners across the school, plumbing works, annual external and internal pest treatments, carpet and window cleaning and tree maintenance and major gardening and landscaping work. The most exciting project is the major refurbishment to our old Multi-Purpose Room. This room has been totally renovated and will become the new classroom for Year 2. New furniture has also been purchased for this space. Official handover will take place next week and then Year 2 will move into this wonderful new learning space. We will post photos next week!

**Many new resources** include the purchase and installation of 3 interactive screens for Year 5/6 and Year 2, new sport equipment, sandpit toys and a new water bottle filling and drinking station to be installed in the coming weeks. We are also very grateful to the SJC Parents and Friends Association who have funded the purchase and upgrade of 30 new laptops to the value of \$23 000 for our Learning Hub. See the poster at the end of the newsletter. This funding comes from the efforts of P&F fundraisers, canteen and uniform shop profits and are only possible with the support of our families and the wonderful volunteers we have across our community. Our next P&F meeting is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. in the staffroom, 6:30pm. Please join us if you would like to assist in some way throughout the year.

**The Office of Safeguarding** has been set up by the Bishop, with the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students, staff and parents. Our latest version of the Volunteer Handbook (Version 1.5) is now available and has some changes to volunteering procedures at school. All volunteers are required to have a National Police Check (NPC) registered and full clearance to be approved by the Catholic Schools Office. Each volunteer is required to complete a Statutory Screening Selection Tool which determines if a Working with Children's Check is required (now only required for overnight camps if you are a close relative).



The instructions regarding identification and obtaining the NPC have also changed and this is also included in the handbook. The handbook is available from the school office. Any volunteer that has already completed the NPC last year are still cleared to volunteer, however everyone else will need to resubmit their handbook and receive clearance.

We appreciate that there have been many changes over the last few years regarding this process and we thank you for taking the time to read this and to complete the process for volunteering. We truly appreciate our St. Joey's volunteers!

**School Fees** will be issued in the coming weeks with changes to the billing procedures. Parents will have more flexibility to set the weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments via Bpay, Direct Debit, Credit Card etc. The Catholic Schools Office will be sending updated information to all families next week.

God bless,  
**Kate Drake**  
**Principal**

### Assistant Principal's News

*A focus on Learning, Collaboration & Improving Student Outcomes*



Dear Parents,

The School Year has started with an exciting and industrious vibe and students are settling into their new environments. It is wonderful to walk around our classrooms and see the pupils engaged in their learning.

The first few days of a new term year are always filled with many emotions as students and teachers settle to their new classes and get to know each other and their new working relationships. This year I can say I am included in this "settling in" period.

For students it is a new step up, with work more challenging and greater expectation on students becoming more mature and gaining greater independence.

Each student will handle these new challenges and relationships in different ways and we, as adults, must give them time and reassurance as they handle these situations.

Thank you to the beautiful school community who have welcomed me so warmly. Adapting to change is always made easier with a friendly smile and chat!

I am looking forward to working with you, your children and the staff this year to ensure St Joseph's continues to nurture the potential of each student in a quality Catholic learning environment.

With every best wish,

**Assistant Principal**  
**Nikki Norley**



## Religious Education News

The Sacramental Program will be recommencing soon for students in year 4 or above.

If you would like your child to be a part of the sacramental program please make contact with the Parish office on 4943 4153.

Ash Wednesday, on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, will be marked a little differently this year at school just with students and teachers and without the distribution of the ashes due to Covid. Despite this, we will continue to work together as a community to recommit our focus on turning our hearts back to God as we prepare for the season of Lent.



Many Blessings,












*Clare Paff*  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

## News from the Primary Coordinator

### **PBL (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING) AT ST JOSEPH'S**

In 2021 our school will continue to implement our PBL policy which is underpinned by our SJC values. Over the coming weeks our newsletter will explain how PBL works at St Joseph's, and how we encourage all our children to...

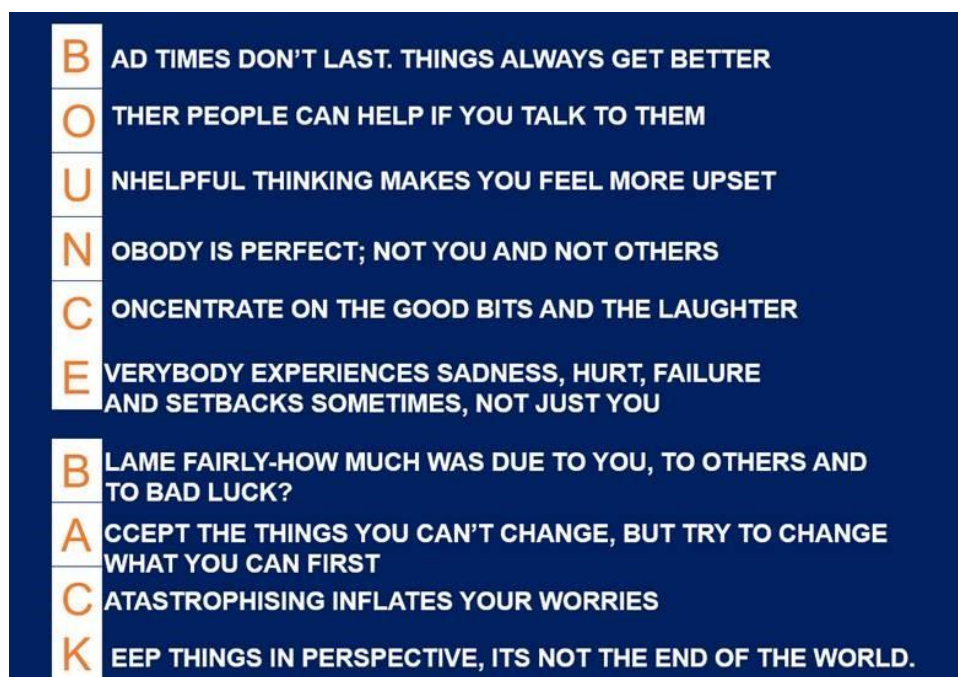


	Do your best		Be honest		Care for all belongings
	Learn and let others learn		Include others		Keep our school clean
	Make good choices		Play fairly		Care for our surroundings
	Care for your appearance		Use kind words and actions (hands off)	SJC is the way to be!	



## BOUNCE BACK

This year our school will also continue to implement the Bounce Back program to instil resilience. Resilience is the capacity to cope well in times of adversity or hardship. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from difficult times while retaining a positive sense of self. The newsletter will also continue to focus on this each fortnight.



**VCOP & Big Write:** Last year St Joseph's began implementing VCOP and Big Writes across the classrooms. Each newsletter, we will add information to help you discuss VCOP and Big Writes in your home.

### **What is VCOP and Big Write?**

VCOP and Big Write is a teaching approach based on the research of Ros Wilson, an expert based in the UK. It focuses on four main aspects of the writing process (VCOP) and provides children with the skills to improve their own writing through self-assessment. We have four mascots that represent each section of VCOP.

#### **V is for Vocabulary:**

Vinnie Vocabulary is our vocabulary mascot. He assists students in the use of 'WOW words' in their writing. Wow words are words that are also known as ambitious vocabulary, this is based on the students' age and ability.

#### **C is for Connectives:**

Connie Connectives is our connectives mascot. She supports students in using connectives (joining words) to change their simple sentences into complex sentence.

#### **O is for Openers:**

Ollie Opener is our openers mascot. Ollie encourages students to use varied openers to ensure their writing doesn't appear 'boring'.

#### **P is for Punctuation:**

Penny Punctuation is our punctuation mascot. Children are taught the names of the different types of punctuation and they learn to use them in their writing.



### **BIG WRITE:**

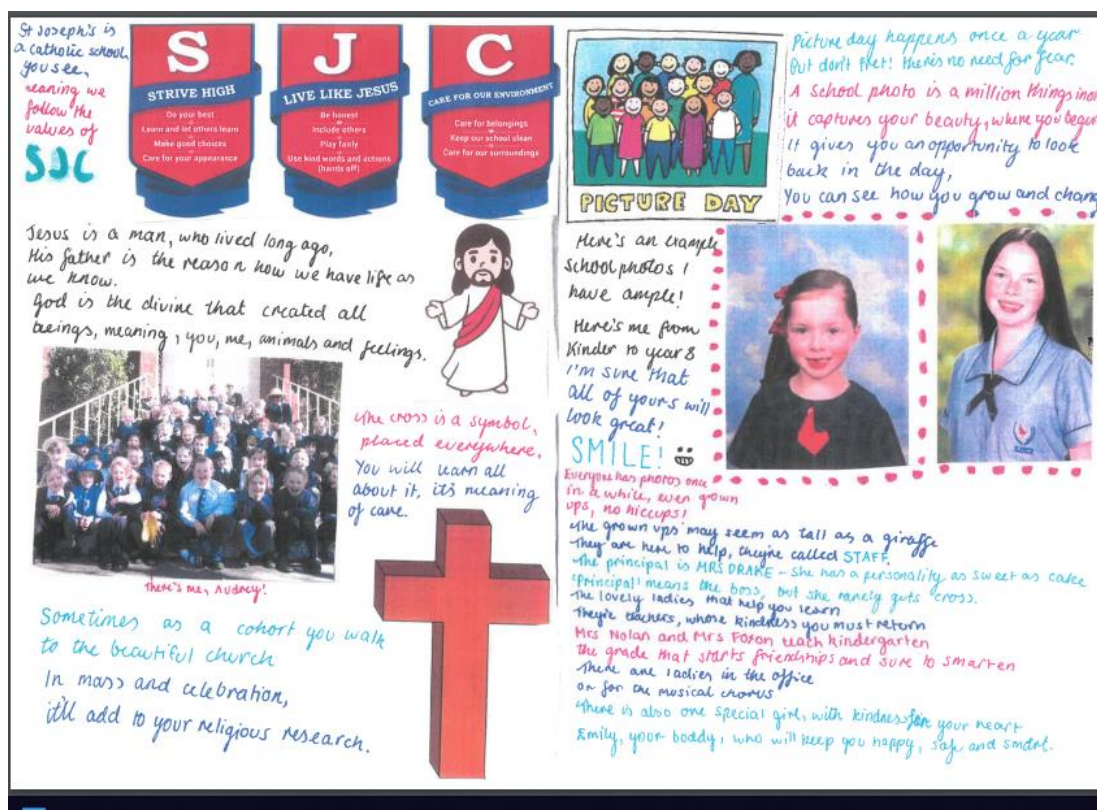
Big Write is a celebration of students' learning. The biggest difference between Big Write and the 'everyday' writing session is the environment. The classroom has a different atmosphere. The lights are tuned off or down, candles are used, and quiet music is playing. Students are not allowed to talk to each other, and the teacher takes this time to conference with students one to one and look at their individual writing goals.

### **Why is talking so important?**

Talk becomes critical when students discuss tasks or ideas and question one another, negotiate meaning, clarify their own understanding, and make their ideas comprehensible to their partners. It is during collaborative tasks that students must use academic language if they are to focus on the content.

### **St Joseph's is the place to be!:**

A former student has made a special book about how wonderful St Joseph's is to be a student. Audrey graduated from Year 6 in 2018 and this year her sister Ashlyn has started Kindergarten here at Joey's. Audrey kindly made her sister a detailed hand-made book with all the information Ashlyn will need to know about St Joseph's. Apart from the exceptional drawings and images, this book was filled with excellent examples of high-level vocabulary and emotive text. This is just another example of the amazing writing that flows from our St Joseph's students (both current and from our graduates). What a special keepsake!



### **WORD OF THE WEEK**

The word of the week is an opportunity for our classes and families to expose the students to an example of high-level vocabulary. This word will be discussed in class and used throughout conversations in the school.

#### **Term 1 Week 4-5:**

**Word of the Week for K-2: Success**

**Word of the Week for 3-6: Accomplish**

### **Ice Blocks for Sale!!**

We are selling ice blocks for our Year 6 fundraiser every Monday for \$1. Thank-you for your support. The warmer weather is the perfect excuse to cool down with an ice block.

**Warmest regards,**

**Kathryn Hill**

## WELCOME Kinder 2021

We were so happy to welcome our new Kinder students to St Joseph's for 2021. Our first weeks have been filled with special buddy time and lots of play. We are so proud of the wonderful start our Kinders have made, and we are enjoying getting to know these amazing, creative and enthusiastic learners. Well done Kinder (and of course Kinder parents)-we are so proud of you!



W e l c o m e



## MEET OUR KINDER TEACHERS 2021

Each newsletter we will showcase our teacher and support staff profiles. This week we introduce Ms Karen Nolan and Mrs Angela Foxon.

# MEET THE TEACHER

**Meet your Teacher for 2021!**


**Karen Nolan**  
*Kinder Blue*

**Teaching Experience & Education**

I am excited once again to teach Kinder at St Joseph's in 2021. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year here and I love the wonderful community feel of our school.

I have taught all grades, but especially enjoy teaching Kinder. It is a privilege to be there when children start their school journey, and to nurture and share their sense of wonder about the world. I have a special interest in Early Years education and the importance and inclusion of play based pedagogy for our Kinder learners.

My qualifications include: Bachelor of Education, Master of Education and Master of Educational Leadership.



**Class Goals for 2021**

I firmly believe that education is a partnership between school and families, and that we both share a common goal of creating an environment where children feel valued, cared for and given opportunities to grow in all areas.

Kinder really is the best year, and I look forward to working with you in 2021 to support your child's learning and create wonderful memories.

**About Me**

As I get to know your child they will probably come home and tell you things about me (don't believe everything you hear!).

But, if they tell you I like a good joke, reading, cake for breakfast and make lots of cups of tea that I never finish you can have confidence they are not making it up.

**Contact Information:** [karen.nolan@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:karen.nolan@mn.catholic.edu.au)

# MEET THE TEACHER

**Meet your Teacher for 2021!**

**Angela Foxon**  
*Kinder Red*


**Teaching Experience & Education**

I have been teaching for over 15 years with this being my 6<sup>th</sup> year at St Joseph's.

I have experience teaching in both rural and city schools and have taught all grades, but find kindergarten to be one of the most rewarding grades to teach.

Every year I am amazed by the growth of our kindergarten students, they achieve so much in one short year.

My qualifications include: Bachelor Teaching/Bachelor Arts, Master of Educational Leadership and Certificates in both Gifted and Special Education.



**Class Goals for 2021**

I hope to give our kinder students the best possible start to their schooling and give every child the opportunity to experience success.

I enjoy getting to know each student and what their interests are outside of the classroom and look forward to meeting and working with all of you this year too.

**About Me**

I love to spend time with my children, family and friends.

I enjoy a good book, traveling and the occasional Netflix binge ☺

I like to keep active so teaching kindergarten suits me to a tee!

**Contact Information:** [angela.foxon@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:angela.foxon@mn.catholic.edu.au)

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to the following children who celebrate their birthdays in February.

Hugo C- 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Leo M- 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Harrison S- 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Lila W- 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Molly W- 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Billie H- 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Leo M- 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Jodi J- 27 <sup>th</sup> February





## **SPORTS NEWS**

**Congratulations to our Swimming Age champions for 2020-2021**

**Junior Girl:** Sophie A.

**11years Girl:** Sybella W.

**Senior Girl:** Macy E.

**Junior Boys:** Flynn L. and Jeremy H.

**11 years Boy:** Levi G.

**Senior Boy:** Lukas T.



### **Lakes Regional Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

We have a large team of students representing St. Joseph's at the Lakes Regional Swimming Carnival on Tuesday. Congratulations and good luck to the following students: Alice D., Charlee F., Danny G., Emily J., Emily S., Flynn L., Hamish K., Harrison S., Hugo C., Isaac A., Isla E., Ivy Mitchell., Jack N., Jake S., Jeremy H., Jydon C., Kalea H., Lachlan C., Leo M., Levi G., Lukas T., Mackenzie F., Macy E., Marcus H., Miliana D., Molly W., Nyah C., Olive W., Oscar E., Owen P., Sophie A., Sophie W., Sybella W., Thomas P.

\*Please refer to notes sent home last week.

\*Mrs Norley will be the team manager and will meet the children outside Lambton Pool at 8:30am.

### **Regional Winter Sports Trials**

Students in Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) have the opportunity to trial for Diocesan representative places in the following winter sports: netball, rugby league, AFL, touch football, rugby union, hockey and soccer.

Students must be talented and experienced in the chosen sport and ideally play at a representative level as these trials are NOT a gala day. Regional trials have commenced and students have the opportunity to progress to Diocesan and State trials. Parents must also commit to travelling with their child to trials at all venues, such as Lismore or Dubbo, throughout the year.

Due to the numbers of talented players school trials with an outside selector have taken place for Netball and Cricket. Congratulations to the successful students who will be attending these events.

16th Feb. Regional Swimming Carnival - see previous list

12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Regional Cricket – Jydon Crossley, Matt G., Sam V.

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Regional Netball – Alice D., Laura S.

Thank you to the P & F for our

# NEW COMPUTERS IN THE HUB AND LAB



**WE LOVE OUR NEW TOUCH  
SCREEN COMPUTERS!**

THANK YOU TO THE P & F FOR PROVIDING  
FUNDING FOR 30 NEW COMPUTERS. THEY ARE  
USED FOR MOST HUB LESSONS AND BY  
CLASSES DURING THEIR LAB TIME. WE ARE  
LOVING THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY.



OUR NEW COMPUTERS ARE USED IN MOST SESSIONS EACH DAY. HUB  
LESSONS INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY IN MOST LESSONS AND CLASSES ARE  
TIMETABLED TO IMPLEMENT THEIR TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS ON  
THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS. MRS TRANTER ALSO RUNS GROUPS SUCH AS  
MINECRAFT CLUB AND VIDEO EDITING AT LUNCH TIMES.  
THESE COMPUTERS ARE FASTER AND A PLEASURE TO USE. THANK YOU!



**How can I learn more about ways to help my child learn?**

So, you're wondering how you can find out more about Cybersafety? Maybe you want to listen to national and international experts on anxiety, building resilience in children and young people and learn more about keeping your kids safe or listen to experts share tips on supporting young people approaching the HSC?



***You need to join the Federation of P & F Association Facebook page.***



**What does the "Federation of P & F Association" do?**

The Federation works to strengthen the participation of all parents and carers in Catholic schools in the Diocese and to promote and advance Catholic Education and its excellence. Along with our work in advocacy and supporting Catholic education generally, we regularly invite you to events (currently via Zoom) where you can build your understanding of lots of issues that impact our children....and it's all **FREE!**

***Use this QR code to get onboard!***

***For further information E: [cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au)***