

DATES TO REMEMBER

****Newsletter will be published fortnightly in odd weeks****

Mondays – Ice blocks for sale



Infants and Primary: Monday and Friday

Parent Teacher Meetings Wednesday 3/3 – book in on Compass

P&F AGM & Meeting Monday 8/3 6:30pm in the staffroom

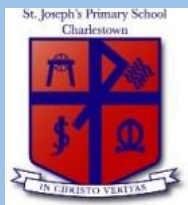
WELCOME BBQ – Kinder, Year 6 and new families. Friday 12/3 6pm-7:30pm

ALL UNIFORM ENQUIRIES:



ORDER VIA QKR APP

All enquiries to email: chl.uniformshop@mn.catholic.edu.au



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
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.*



26th February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have begun the church season of Lent and shared in a whole school liturgy last week. Our Year 4 Red class led us reflecting on ways we can be kind, share with others and live more like Jesus. Staff have been offered the opportunity to participate in contemplative dialogue and reflective prayer through the Maitland Newcastle Diocesan Lenten program, *Building the Kingdom of God*. Our parish St Mary Immaculate, Charlestown is also offering this opportunity if you are interested in joining. Please contact the parish on 4943 4153.

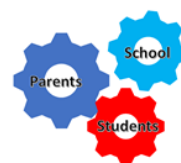


This week we welcomed 2 new students to SJC, Ivy W. in 4 Red and Khloe D. in 5/6 Red. We hope you and your families find St Joseph's to be a welcoming and caring place to learn and grow.

Next week we will be holding our **Parent/Teacher meetings**. Please book online through your child's Compass page or email your child's teacher for an alternate date. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with each other, discuss your child's needs and set some learning goals. Please be mindful of the 10-minute timeslot and if you find you need further time, make another booking for later in the term with your child's teacher. Please also maintain social distancing while waiting for your meeting and sign in with the QR code available at each classroom door.

On Friday 12th March we invite you to attend a school **welcome BBQ** hosted by our wonderful P&F Committee. This is an opportunity to meet other parents and for the children to have some fun after hours. Due to COVID -19 restrictions we are limited to 100 people in an outdoor gathering so at this stage we are inviting Kindergarten, Year 6 and our new families in other grades. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter. If you would like to attend, please RSVP on our QKR app and place your order for the free sausage sandwiches which will be provided by our P&F committee.

Last week we were very pleased to see our **Year 2** students and teachers move into the completely refurbished classroom which was the old Multi-Purpose Room. The room is a beautiful and contemporary learning space. It has also been fitted out with 2 new interactive screens, new furniture and furnishings. This has been made possible through school funds and substantial funding from the Catholic Schools Office building and facilities funding. Please see the class video posted on our Facebook page, Year 2 Seesaw and the photos below. Huge thanks to the Year 2



teachers for their dedication in getting their room set up and ready for learning as quickly as possible. Also, thanks to our groundsman Mr Davies for all his help moving the large furniture items!

The old Year 2 classroom has now been converted to a creative and inviting performance space, thanks to the hard work of our Creative Arts Teacher, Mrs Karyn Savage. The students will use this space for drama and music lessons, Performance Club, Band, French Lunch Club and as a meeting point for stage groups. Please see the photos below.

We have had several visitors from the Catholic Schools Office in the past few weeks including our **Director of Schools, Mr Gerard Mowbray**. Gerard was very impressed with our engaging classrooms, our beautiful grounds, friendly staff and students and the articulate way our students could share their knowledge about their learnings. I was happy to have the opportunity to showcase our school and to discuss our 2021 School Improvement Plan and the goals we have set for St Joseph's. I look forward to further support from the Catholic Schools Office and our head office team to enable us in our improvement journey into the future.



Congratulations to Connor in KB and the Shanahan family who welcomed the safe arrival of their new baby daughter, Evie. We wish you all much love and happiness as you watch her grow.

Kinder 2022

It's hard to believe we are already thinking about 2022 Kindergarten. But happily, we have already had a lot of interest in Kinder 2022 enrolments! I am offering tours and a meet the Principal and Kindergarten Teacher day on Monday 15th March for new families. If you know of any new families that may be interested, please share our school details so they can book in for a tour. If you have younger children ready to enrol for next year, please register their name with the office and ask for the enrolment pack to be sent home. I will offer tours and interviews again next term for existing families.

Congratulations to all our sport representatives who have been trialling and competing in various sports the last few weeks. See our **Sports News** below. Special mention to Jeremy H. in Year 2 who won the 8 Year 50m freestyle at a cracking speed, yesterday, at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Jeremy now advances to the POLDING carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park. A fantastic achievement Jeremy!

Finally, each week I have the pleasure of awarding students with a **Principal Award**. I am always on the lookout for beautiful manners and students demonstrating our school values. Congratulations to the following students who have received these awards in the last few weeks:

Levi F, Zivah G, Heath B, Ayrton G, Mefi T, Mia F, Olive W, Liam B, Nathalie M, Molly W.

God Bless,
Kate Drake
Principal

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



A focus on Learning, Collaboration & Improving Student Outcomes

Dear Parents,

One of our focus areas in 2021 is improving student writing capabilities.

Teaching staff will continue to participate in varied professional development opportunities this year, with a strong focus on improving student learning.

We will continue to discuss Learning Intentions and Success Criteria in the classroom. These assist our students around 'where to next' during their writing activities.

Parents are Partners in learning. Please take the time in the coming weeks to talk to your students about the areas they would like to develop in their Writing.

Best ways to support writing at home

Provide a place for your child to write.

The area should be an area that is quiet and well lit. Stock the "writing centre" with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also gather family photos and magazines in the centre that can be used as story starters.



Read, read, and read!

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be a better writer. Reading exposes students to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, students see a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.

Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal.

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what they saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your community that will interest your child and spark their writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments. When reading your child's journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas paired with positive feedback about your child's writing.

Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child.

Have your child write their own thank-you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Let your child make the grocery list. Finding a pen-pal for your child would make writing "real." Helping children make the connection between writing and the "real" world will increase an interest in writing.

Be a writing role model.

Make sure your child sees you as a writer. Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspaper, on billboards or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose of the writing and the target audience. When your child writes, you should write. You can schedule a day of the week that you will turn off the television and share your writing.

Start a vocabulary notebook.

Teach your child new words each week and encourage her to use them. Make it into a game and give points for using the new words. Your child can keep a vocabulary notebook and get rewarded for the number of new words learned. The words will begin to appear like magic in their oral language and writing.

Ask questions.

Always ask your child questions when they write. Ask specific questions about your child's writing such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that...?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?"

Supporting Writing in the classroom

Stage 2 have been working on their Sizzling Starts. This activity is designed to entertain and engage the reader. We watched a [sizzling start Toy Story 2](#) for inspiration, then set to task.

Our Topic : "The night the power went off."

Mia & Ava

"The night the power went off we were watching a horror movie in it the lights were flickering. Then our lights started to flicker. The halls were full of whispers, our little brother started to shake and scream and the eyes on the painting started to move."

Ivy & Daisy

"Arghh, where's the torch?' they yelled loudly as the power had gone out. Ivy and Isla were watching a scary movie when the powerbox exploded.

Mili & Evie

"What's this?" asked the huge, fat elephant. He wrapped his huge trunk around the power line and broke it. "Well, that's not broccoli!" he exclaimed and walked away. Meanwhile in the house, "Who turned off the lights?"



With every best wish,

Nikki Norley
Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This year's theme for Caritas Australia's Lenten appeal, Project Compassion, is drawn from the words of St Oscar Romero, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more".

Lent is a time to reflect on ourselves and the ways in which we can "be more" to positively impact the lives of others. Let us ask ourselves, how are we walking in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in our global family? How are we acting as stewards of creation in caring for our common home?

We are encouraged to give what we can to those in need and to equip them to be able to help their own communities by learning about different individuals each week of Lent.

Week 1

This week we learn about Jamilla in Bangladesh, who at 21, lived in a refugee camp raising small children on her own.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people, have crossed into Bangladesh since August 2017. Over 1.3 million people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

With the help of funds raised through the Project Compassion appeal, Jamilla has received an education and the skills to start a new life and help her community. Jamila now feels less alone and more supported - and she is able to 'Be More' to her family.



Sacramental News

The sacramental program has recommenced following it ceasing due to Covid restrictions. Catholic students from year 4-6 may participate in the program. Please note those who were previously registered in 2020 need to re-register with the Parish Office 49434153.

**The first parent information night will be held next Wednesday evening at 7pm.
St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church
11 Milson St Charlestown.**

A commitment Mass will follow on:

Sunday 7th March at 8:00am at St Mary's Charlestown or

Sunday 7th March at 9:30am at St Paul's Gateshead



Three weeks of a parish family-based program for Reconciliation preparation will follow.

Families who attended the first 2 sessions in 2020 prior to COVID restrictions may recommence at the 3rd session.

The second rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Wednesday 31st March 2021.**

Many Blessings,

Clare Paff

Religious Education Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

PBL

Each week our school focuses on a particular area to support our school values. This week our school PBL focus is: ***To care for our belongings.***

Through this value we aim for our St Joey's students to take pride in caring for their uniform, school supplies and lunch box items. Labelling these items is helpful to ensure any lost items are returned to their owner. This week students have received Joey rewards for looking after their belongings and ensuring their items do not end up in lost property or left behind at school.



Next week our PBL focus is: ***Learn and let others learn.***

This is an important part of our school culture. We aim to provide a supportive and collaborative environment to allow all students to achieve their potential. Next week students will be rewarded Joeys for working to their potential and allowing those around them to work in an engaging environment.

BOUNCE BACK! Wellbeing and Resilience program:

The program teaches children the skills and attitudes to help them become more resilient. It uses literature as a starting point for discussions and follow-up activities. The program can help your child with:

- Using helpful thinking when faced with a problem or a difficult situation
- Thinking more optimistically, i.e. expecting bad times to get better
- Understanding that everyone has setbacks and difficulties, not just them
- Talking to people they trust so they get a reality check on their thinking
- Being brave and facing their fears
- Managing strong emotions and turning a bad mood into a good mood
- Getting along with others and cooperating
- Setting goals, being resourceful and not easily giving up
- Being kind, fair, honest, friendly, responsible, and accepting of differences
- Respecting other people and not bullying others.

Word of the week for weeks 6 & 7 for infants and primary:

almsgiving (the act of giving and helping those in need)



Spelling Mastery for Years 3-6

St Joseph's have introduced a new spelling program for students in Years 3-6 called Spelling Mastery. This is a differentiated spelling program which uses an explicit, teacher-directed method of teaching called Direct Instruction.

Spelling Mastery is an effective, research-proven spelling program that teaches students the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. Spelling Mastery helps students to understand the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns and encourages them to become proficient writers

Through Spelling Mastery, students learn to spell in three ways:

1. Students learn words using a phonemic approach. This sound-symbol method teaches students predictable spellings for different sounds.
2. Students learn using a whole-word approach. This whole-word method teaches students common, irregularly spelled words. For example, words like friend, answer and people, whose spellings can't be figured out.
3. Students learn rules about how to put different word parts together. These word parts are all called morphographs. Once they have learned to spell a few morphographs, students can mix them up to spell many words. They also learn the rules of putting morphographs together.

How you can help your child:

Your child will be explicitly taught spelling strategies during lessons at school, so there is no necessity for them to learn spelling words as part of their homework. If you wish to encourage your child to do so however, the spelling lists for each level can be requested from your class teacher. It is important to discuss spelling strategies when your child is reading or when you come across words in your daily life.

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*

News from our P&F: Subway Success



Another successful Subway Day was held on Wednesday 25th February. A whopping 169 Subs were ordered, this is not just a yummy lunch for the kids, but also raises funds for the P&F which is spent on the school.

A few minor issues popped up yesterday re a couple of orders. Please ensure if you are letting your kids do the order on your phone (QKR) that they process the Subway order all the way through and confirm payment at the end, after entering password. If you can't see a confirmation and receipt number, no subway gets ordered.

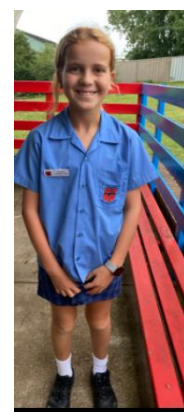
Also please ensure you update your child's 2021 class on QKR, as Subway deliver them to us in class boxes. This also applies to weekly canteen orders as well.

Next Subway day will be held in the last week of term on Wednesday 31st March.

A compass notification will be sent out when we open orders.

Thank you,
Jenny Whitby
P&F member

SPORTS NEWS



Congratulations to the following students who have represented our school in sport this week:

- Jydon C, Sam V, Charlee F, Hope K and Macy E who successfully progressed to the Diocesan soccer trials.
- Levi G, Harry B and Kobe H who will trial at the Diocesan Rugby League.
- Molly J who will trail at the Diocesan AFL .
- Laura S who represented our school in lakes regional trials.



Congratulations to our school swimming team who represented St Joey's yesterday at the Diocesan swimming carnival: Jeremy H, Flynn L, Macy E, Olive W, Nyah C, Ivy M, Sophie A, Sybella W, Alice D and Emily J.

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy H. who won the 8 year 50m Freestyle race and now progresses to the POLDING carnival at Sydney Olympic Park. A great achievement Jeremy!

*Kind Regards,
Natalie Davis Sports Coordinator*

A New Learning Space for Year 2

Year 2 has a new, exciting, and spacious learning environment. Our classroom has been completely refitted and refurbished with modern interactive screens and a platform area suitable for a range of collaborative learning tasks in Science and History etc.

The children were very excited to move in last Thursday and we have been busily filling our new space with co-constructed visible learning. This wonderful bright and aesthetically pleasing space provides endless opportunities to incorporate contemporary teaching and learning pedagogy. It is an amazing place to be and truly makes learning both innovative and fun. We can't wait to see how this learning space evolves.

We thank Mrs Drake for her vision, and all those involved for working so hard to see this project to its completion.

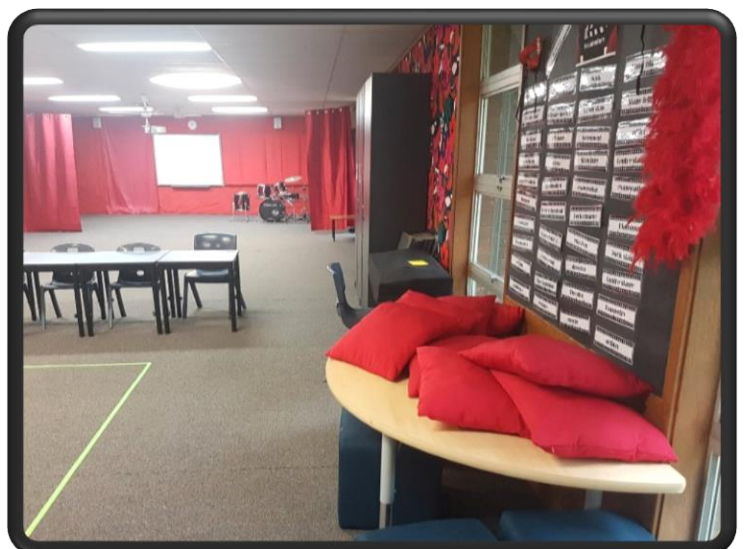
From The Year 2 Teachers



THE MPR HAS MOVED – NEW and IMPROVED!

With an army of helpers, dodging the drizzle of the last few days, we can now introduce to you our wonderful and versatile MPR! The Multi-Purpose Room is now located in what was the Year 2 building. The students and I are so excited to have a space to not only be inspired and creative in Drama and Music, but to also have a space to perform and rehearse. Band and French classes and other school activities will also utilise this great space.

Kind Regards,
Karyn Savage Music and Drama Teacher



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to the following children who celebrate their birthday this fortnight.

Lila W- 18 th February	Molly W- 19 th February	Billie H- 20 th February
Leo M- 23 rd February	Jodi J- 27 th February	Lachlan C- 1 st March
Maddi G- 1 st March	Jack F- 4 th March	Oscar M- 4 th March
Eden C- 5 th March	Isabella S- 5 th March	Olive H- 6 th March
Huon C- 7 th March	Lee M- 8 th March	Jamieson M- 9 th March

**St Joseph's P&F invites all Year 6, our new families and &
Kindergarten families**

to join us at our

2021 WELCOME BBQ

Come along for a free sausage sizzle and meet other families from our school. Music and games on the Bottom Oval arranged by Year 6 for the students.



WHEN: Friday 12th March 2021

WHERE: School grounds

TIME: 6pm-7:30pm

Drinks and ice blocks will be available for purchase on the night from canteen.

**RSVP NUMBER IN YOUR FAMILY ATTENDING ON QKR
before 5pm WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH**

This will assist us with catering, and ensure we have enough for everyone.



Due to current Covid19 restrictions, we are limited to a maximum of 100 guests for this event. Hence the need to invite only Year 6 & Kindergarten and other new families.

LEARNING HUB NEWS



MINECRAFT CLUB

Minecraft Club commenced with great excitement this week. The club encourages children to set goals for themselves and challenge their thinking. They work collaboratively and creatively and are taught new skills by the leaders and their peers.

Year 1 and 2 attend the club on Tuesdays at lunch, while Years 3 to 6 participate on Wednesdays.

Our leaders (pictured on the left) support the children while also creating challenges for them to complete.

We look forward to sharing some of the work the children create.

We will be update the groups in Term 3 to ensure all applicants have an opportunity to participate.



☺ OOSH Newsletter - Week 4 Term 1 ☺

This week, we are excited to share what we have been doing here at OOSH.

What a fun time we have had exploring nature week and themes of sustainability throughout our educator planned activities. Some of our favourite activities have included leaf painting/stamping, creating recycled bottle plant pots and planting the seeds from our Woolworths discovery gardens into our ceramic pots!

WTOP Outcomes: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2d.

This week we have also enjoyed making hama bead creations (this is always a favourite amongst our group!) creating story boards with the felt boards, searching for insects and bugs outside in our garden and creating collaborative buildings using a variety of blocks, animal figurines and giant lego!

We have continued to build fantastic relationships with our new Kindergarten children who have settled in perfectly to our growing community.

We also have positions available at OOSH across multiple afternoons and mornings. For more information, you can visit us in the OOSH building or contact us on 0429 435 571 or via email at

charlestown@stnicholasoosh.org.au

