

Final News for 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the school year, I sincerely thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. It has been a year of wonderful learning, faith, friendships and events. Thank you to our amazing staff who have worked hard to support and nurture your children's growth and development. Thank you to our P&F committee for their tireless efforts in fundraising and organising of events throughout the year. Thank you to all our volunteers who have assisted with the canteen, uniform shop, carnivals, gala days and excursions. We have a really beautiful community here at St Joseph's and we have much to be thankful for, as we are truly blessed.

We farewell and thank Mrs Nikki Norley who has been appointed principal at St Joseph's Kilaben Bay, Ms Heather Wozniak permanent appointment to St Aloysius Chisholm, Mrs Kat Arthur Smith fulltime position at Belmont PS, and to our LSA's Sarah, Sophie and Jessica who will finalise their teaching degrees and may return to us in a new capacity in the future. We will keep the memories of their commitment, energy and passion for education in our hearts and minds for years to come.

Thank you to Mrs Davis and her team for organizing a great swimming carnival on Tuesday. Thank you to all the parent volunteers as well. We were so proud of our students for their 'have-a-go' attitude in doing their best and for the way in which they encouraged each other. Ribbons and medals will be presented in Term 1 2024.

Our Christmas Concert yesterday was a lovely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus coming into the world to share love, peace and joy. Our children were just adorable and I thank you for support with the costumes and for the wonderful attendance, especially in the heat! My sincere gratitude to the talented Mrs Savage for her amazing production. It was delightful!

We also raised \$300 from the sale of the candles for the Caritas Gaza Appeal. Last night we celebrated our Year 6 students with a dinner and dance at the Kahibah Sports club. Thank you to our Yr 5 parent organising committee and to the Stage 3 teachers, the room looked amazing and the children had a wonderful time. We will farewell our Yr 6 for the last time with a clap out at 2:30pm this afternoon. Please be mindful of our neighbours when parking in nearby streets.

We keep in our prayers Michelle Turner and her daughter Flo, who is in Sydney for more radiation. Thank you to our families and community for support of the Williams family paper crane making and of the fundraising efforts of Bede in Yr 4, growing then cutting his hair for the *Fight for Flo* page..

Congratulations to the Christmas Raffle Winners:

1st Prize: Crossingham family

2nd Prize: Antrobus family

The prizes of holiday accommodation at Follo Shoal Haven apartments were very kindly donated by the Wade family. \$2670 was raised for our school.

THANK YOU!

Wishing all our students, staff and families a happy and holy Christmas and a joy filled New Year. God Bless,

Kate Drake

PLEASE READ BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION & DETAILS ABOUT 2024

2023 AWARDS

Academic Awards: Kipp H, Imogen H, Miliana D, Kobe W, Alice D, Isabella B, Juniper K, Adelina D, Elise C, Ogni A, Jordan I, Wilhemina U-N, Hugo N, Lara A, Jaxon D, Koa D
Community Builder Awards: Emilie D, Lauren S, Zoe S, Sinead W, Isabella S, Jack N, Georgia C, Marlo E, Daly L, Oscar M, Scarlett C, Ivy F, Sofia G, Callum C, Lucy C, Amelia C

Year 6 Awards

Glencore Science Award: Samuel G, Urban B, Matilda R

Maths Olympiad: Evie H, Ava L, Sophie A, Isla H, Evelyn D

Creative Arts: Mya C, **Music:** Evie H, **Jodie Harrison MP:** Maisie D, **Pat Conroy MP:** Will F

Mary MacKillop: Harry S, **Sportsperson of the Year Award:** Olive W

Virtual Academy - Luca M & Will F

PBL MEDAL - Earning 150 Joey's

Mefi T, Chloe M, Emily J, Harper L, Lillian E, Harry S, Mia F, Daisy N, Ruby Mc, Lila W, Ogni A, Leo M, Summer R, Aria L, Scarlett C, Jacob S, Evie K, Zivah G, Eden C, Koa D, Max G, Frankie M, Matilda K.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Platinum 7 years - Miliana D

Gold 4 Years - Adelina D, Olive H, Aria L, Jesse W, Elise C, Harper L

2024 School Leaders

School Councillors: Alice D, Harper L, Lilly W, Kobe W, Harrison S, Mefi T

Sports Captains: **Beachley** - Ayrton G & Koda W **MacKillop** - Franklin C & Jacob E

Bradman- Alexander B & Luke G **Irwin** - Summer B & Flynn L

Mini Vinnies: Isabella B, Sinead W, Abigail C

Stewardship: Felix C & Kai R

Year 6 Leaving Families - We wish you all the very best!

Bell, Carey, Corcoran, Cornish, Croal, Dickson, Druery, Duane, Evans, Fenton, Grice, Hatfield, Hughes, Jones, Long, McGrath, McGill, Schumacher, Searle, Sorrell, Wilton

Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday, 24 December are at:

St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Charlestown at 5.30pm. St John Vianney Catholic Church, Redhead at 5.30pm. St Paul's Catholic Church, Gateshead at 7pm.

Christmas Midnight Mass on Monday, 25 December is at: St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Charlestown, at 12.00am.

Christmas Day Masses on Monday, 25 December are at:

St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Charlestown at 8.00am. St Paul's Catholic Church, Gateshead at 9.30am

TERM 1 2024

Thursday 1st Feb Students in Yr 1 - Yr 6 return

Monday 5th February - First day for Kindergarten