



13th December, 2019

Tuesday 17th December—Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Tuesday 17th December—End of year School Mass 12pm in school hall
Wednesday 18th December—Grafton Pool excursion
Wednesday 18th December—Last Day of Term 4 for students
Wednesday 18th December—Last Day of Term 4 for teachers due Professional Development hours completed throughout the year.

2020

Tuesday 28th January—Staff Return for 2020
Wednesday 29th January—First Day of Term 1 for: Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3
Friday 31st January—School Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 5th February—First Day Of Term 1 for ES1



Dear Parents and carers,

It was lovely to see so many families last night at our annual Just A Little Fun For Christmas gathering. The Christmas season is indeed a busy one and I do believe the children and their teachers presented a lovely interlude to both celebrate the season and to link our thinking to the Catholic faith tradition.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the children and staff (who are in classrooms at the end of these evenings) for their preparation and innovative presentations. Every year we see something new and I am surprised how the children who you would least expect “get their groove on”. That alone is enough to keep us smiling to the end of the school year. We have a staffing change for 2020. Mrs Joanna Robertson has announced her decision not to continue in her full time teaching role in 2020. We have completed the recruitment process for Stage One and Ms Rachelle Smith has been the successful applicant. You may know Rachelle from Willy Wagtails where she worked in Early Childhood. Rachelle has a double degree from the Australian Catholic University and has completed her NESA proficiency. She will know some of our families already and is keen to “use” the other half of her study and we are excited to access her ELF practice and expertise.

I know I speak for you all when I express my thanks to Joanna for her enthusiastic and thoughtful work with our community and we wish her all the best. Joanna will still be “around” as a casual teacher in 2020.

Mrs Kelly Berman has been appointed as Instructional Leader for 2020. Kelly has significant experience in the early years and has been involved in university learning with Harvard University. She is “a little bit passionate” about mathematics and as we are entering a new learning phase in this area next year, this is a good fit for the Diocesan role. Kelly will complete the National Partnership support in our lower school while Mrs Judy Rogers begins a promotions position at Saint Mary’s in Grafton where she lives. Judy has also offered much to the learners and staff in her 15 week stay and we wish her every success in her new role. We would like to thank Mrs Kate Mawn for her work with us this year and wish her luck with her study next year.

We will have some changes in staffing (as outlined in the newsletter in week 3 term 4) and we thank ALL staff for their efforts in offering a consistent learning program for all children over the 2019 school year.

As the school year draws to a close can I personally thank all families for their support of the school in 2019. The growth in the children as contributing and considerate community members once again offers us much hope for the future.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season

Ann



Parish **Christmas Mass Times**

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (24th December):

Maclean: 5pm—At the big top in St Joseph's School
Yamba: 6:30pm
Iluka: 7pm

Christmas Day Mass:

Yamba: 8am
Malcean: 8:30am
Iluka—No Mass

Congratulations

We congratulate Jack White on his Baptism last weekend at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Maclean. We look forward to being with him for his remaining sacraments of initiation which he will receive in the coming years with his peers and classmates.

Mini Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

Don't forget that all food items for the Mini Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal must be in by Monday 16th December. St James Mini Vinnies would like to thank the generosity of the school community for this appeal

Lost Property

Please check the lost property bin before the end of the year.
All unclaimed items will go to St Vincent de Paul at the end of Term 4



Engaging children at home with mathematics

Through everyday activities at home, families can help their children develop their numeracy skills, such as calculating and using numbers, recognising patterns, and using language to develop mathematical understanding. This can be done by noticing, exploring and talking about maths during everyday activities at home or out and about. Discussing and exploring mathematics with children requires no special resources. Suggestions for exploring mathematics with your child can be found at this link.

Numeracy@HOME resources website for families.

<https://www.numeracyathome.com/11-ways-to-maths>

Although these activities may seem simple and informal, they build on what children notice and question, give families the chance to talk about mathematical ideas and language, and show children that maths is used throughout the day.

Judy Rogers
Instructional Leader K-2

Schoolworx Note

Last week I sent out a text to one parent from each household regarding last night's 'Just a little bit of fun'. In conversation with a parent after the evening I am interested as to whether it was received by any or some?

It detailed start and finish times and the clothing the children might wear. Did anyone get the text? If not can you let me know as I need to check whether the system is working properly as this is also our emergency contact tool.

Miss Dawson

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all students who completed the PRC this year. A special acknowledgement to those students who will receive Platinum (7th year in the PRC) and Gold (4th year in the PRC) certificates on: **Monday 16th December at 9am Assembly under the Big Top.**

Mrs Jeffrey



Summer Sport Trials

We had 3 students travel to Lismore recently to represent our school, and the Clarence Zone, at the Diocesan Summer Sport Trials. Jesse Daley-Malone, Taya Murphy and Millie Day were all involved in the Basketball trial. A special congratulations to Millie, who was selected from these trials to go on and represent the Lismore Diocese at the Polding carnival to be held early next year in Lismore. Congratulations and good luck!

The Diocesan Touch Football trials that were also due to be held recently have been postponed until early next year due to the bushfires.

Dates for next year:

For those wanting to plan ahead, listed below are some sport events that are happening early in 2020.

Friday 31st January - School Swimming Carnival

Friday 7th February - Polding Basketball, Lismore

Thursday 20th February - Zone Swimming, Coffs Harbour

Monday 24th February - Zone Winter Sports Trials, Woolgoolga

Friday 28th February - Diocesan Swimming, Kempsey

Online library

Sora is an online library available for your children to use on their device.

Here, you will find access to so many new books to keep the kids reading at home!

We also have an incredible selection of audiobooks perfect for your summer road trip, the Harry Potter series may just keep you sane in the car for hours!

See the step by step guide below on how to access this at home on your devices.

Happy and safe holidays to you all.

Warm regards, Miss Amy.

Logging into Sora by Overdrive.



Class Parents

Class Parents are fundamental to building a welcoming, supportive and caring school community. I would like to thank all the wonderful parents that have helped create our school Class Parent Guidelines. A big thank you to Pip Carolan, Issy Strain, Corrina Brindley, Emma Bews, Amber Hoare, Erin Brady, Rachel Courtney, Jodie Jones, Kelle Murphy, Nardeen Brossman, Stacey Olsen and Tess White.

Our Class Parents for 2020 have some big plans so stay tuned and make sure they have your contact details.

(ES1) Juanita Haslett
(S1) Jennifer Homewood & Kate Mawn
(S2) Rob Waghorn and Pip Carolan
(S3) Pat Day and Kelle Murphy

These parents will aim to:

- Build strong relationships with our school community.
- Liaise between parents and teachers.
- Coordinate and support social activities among parents.
- Include all parents as much as possible in the life of the class.
- Care for the children and teachers.



Eve Ruse—14th December, Miss Dawson—15th December, Darcy Riley—17th December, Ella Gilbee—20th December, Rhaya Brash—22nd December, Mrs Hollington—21st December, Mrs Cole—21st December, Carrington Brown—22nd December, Lily Fleming—24th December, Miss Daley—24th December, Liam O'Shea—26th December, CassandranBallard—7th January, Harlan Bews—31st January, Kai Brossman—18th January, Mignon Espag—3rd January, Jensen Homewood—12th January, William Hutchinson—12th January, Ari Stoves—26th January, Jorja Tasker—29th January

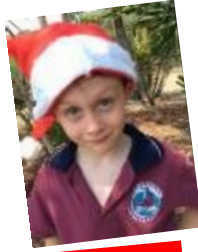
We have had the best year in Kindergarten! Check out what Kindergarten thought...



Austin: I love writing in our journals.



Ella: I like having Buddies and I liked doing art in class.



Max: I like making new friends and getting to play with them.



Poppy: I like playing with Max and I like to play with the God girls.



Kash: I like paying Bey-blades and I like making new friends.



Lily: I made friends with Layla and Cadence and I liked it when we went swimming.



Harlan: I liked having Miss Gavin come into our class, and I liked when my friends started the footy game down on the field.



Rhys: My favourite part of kindergarten was when I played on the Ipads with my friends.



Fionn: I liked lunch time and free time in class. I loved when we won the table points.



Harley: I like playing with the mobilo and I like getting ready for Christmas.



Billie: I liked playing with my friends in the sandpit and on the monkey bars.



Ekam: I liked when I played with my friends, had free time and when we got table points.



Siaan: I liked when I got to see Little J's and play with my friends at lunch and recess.



Ava: I like when Billie, Poppy, Lily, Rhaya and I played God Girls vs Kicking Karate Boys.



Sol: I liked when I got to play with my sister at playtime.



Slater: I liked making little houses out on the playground with my friends.



Ashton: I like playing touch footy with my friends



Jake: I liked playing handball and playing with my friends.



Cadence: I like playing with my buddy from Stage 3.



Emily: I liked playing with my friends and doing Buddies every Monday. I liked writing and I'm getting better and better everyday.



Sarai: I liked to read and write and I liked when we went and played on the slide.



Jensen: I liked to play mobilo and I liked when we played dead fish.



Ari: Ari likes to do mathematics and do threading.



Rhaya: I love playing with my friends and I like to play in the sandpit.

We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas! Thank you for such a wonderful year! We have loved every bit!

Mrs O'Keeffe & Mrs Ferguson

