Dear Parents & Friends of St Joachim’s

As this year draws to a close, we look back and reflect upon what we have achieved, what were our successes, our challenges and in some cases our failures. In the business of preparing for Christmas, the transition from one year to the next and the pressures and emotions that are all wrapped together at this time of the year, the opportunity to give ourselves a moment to reflect is not only important but essential. Earlier this week, I came across this wonderful fridge magnet that suggested what success was. It is written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, a famous poet and goes:

To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch.... To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

And so as this time of Advent begins, we reflect, look back, learn from our experiences so that in our living we will be mindful of those actions, thoughts and words that bring about what could be called a successful life.

Take a moment, breathe deeply and give thanks to God for that which we have experienced, those that we have loved and do love and that which gives us purpose and meaning in our lives.

Kindest regards,

Desmond Noack
Principal
Grateful thanks to the generous families of St Joachim’s.

We were able to pass on an enormous amount of food items to the Parish to assist with the Parish Hampers program for those less fortunate.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

10 Dec ............. 2013 Prep Orientation 6
12 Dec ............. St Joachim’s Christmas Carols
13 Dec ............. Parent Helpers’ Afternoon Tea
14 Dec ............. Parish Schools Mass – daytime
18 Dec ............. Gr 6 Graduation Dinner
19 Dec ............. End of Year Award Ceremony
19 Dec ............. Last day for students, 2:30 finish

**2013 DATES**

30 Jan ............. First day of Term 1 for Gr 1 – 6
4 Feb ............. First day for 2013 Prep students

**CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING**

A Whole School Event
December 12, 6.30

All St Joachim’s staff and students are preparing for a fabulous night.

All students will be a part of a wonderful performance and are expected to attend on the night.

**2013 GRADE ORIENTATION**

The second 2013 Grade Orientation will be held on

**Monday 10th December**

2:15pm to 3:15pm

During this time, children are given the opportunity to get to know their 2013 classmates and teacher.

Please note children will be dismissed from their new classroom on this day.

**END OF YEAR MASS**

**FRIDAY 14TH 10:00AM**

**IN THE HALL**

**ALL PARENTS WELCOME**

The End of Year Mass is a special occasion for all of us as a school, when we come together to celebrate our achievements, recognise the journey that our students and families have made this year, and to give thanks to the families and teachers who will be leaving us.

In placing such emphasis on this occasion, we are endeavouring to build upon the positive community spirit and culture within the school so that such events as this, mark who we are, and why St Joachim’s is the school of choice for so many families.
Mass Times
3rd December — 9th December
*Wednesday 11.00am—Holy Family
Saturday 6.00pm—St. Anne’s Church
Sunday 8.30am—St. Anne’s Church
Sunday 10.00am—St. Anne’s Church
*Anointing Mass for the sick & elderly

Liturgy of the Word
Thursday 9.15am—St. Anne’s Church
Friday 9.00am—St. Joachim’s

This Weekend’s Gospel
Each week, our students learn about the coming weekend’s Gospel.
It provides for them an insight into their journey of faith and the opportunity to understand the faith story of their family and parish community.

First Reading
Bar 5:1-9
A reading from the prophet Baruch
Jerusalem — God will show you splendour.
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
‘Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness’.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattering

of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 125. R. v.3
(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: ‘What marvels
the Lord worked for them!’
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading
Phil 1:3-6. 8-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.
Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,
remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation
Lk 3:4. 6
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

**Gospel**
Lk 3:1-6
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
windy ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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**Food For The Soul**

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God’s anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation.

But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke’s Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs.

John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world. He recognises that Jesus’ sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth.

Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a ‘patient yes’. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life’s valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus’ absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way.

So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let’s say yes to all that salvation holds for us: yes to God’s personal love; yes to Jesus’ kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:

'Light looked down and saw the darkness.  
"I will go there", said light.  
Peace looked down and saw war.  
"I will go there", said peace.  
Love looked down and saw hatred.  
"I will go there", said love.  
So he,  
the Lord of Light,  
the Prince of Peace,  
the King of Love,  
came down and crept in beside us.'

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

Marc Zamykal, PST  
For his detailed recount of our visit to the Gingerbread Factory

Layla Cutajar-Leo, PST  
For the effort she always puts into her work

Jarred Grah, PST  
For the fabulous progress he has made with his reading

Bella Gabriel, PST  
For writing a sentence and leaving spaces between her words

Brayden Cleland, PST  
For fabulous counting by 1’s and 10’s

Christian Mojwok, PRA  
For putting lots of effort into learning his words

Eva Sesta, PRA  
For a fantastic effort with her handwriting

Noah Radford, PRA  
For making good choices in the classroom

Jack Fraser, PRA
For the positive attitude he has towards school
Owen Morgan, JJL
For his outstanding performance as the 'Gingerbread Boy' in Reader's Theatre
Jacob Vega, JKL
For his improved effort into all aspects of his work
Rachel Parretter, JKL
For being a thoughtful and helpful member of the class. Also her willingness to have a go.
Nadisha Ekanayaka, JKL
For fantastic use of paragraphs in her writing
Lauren Paeglis, JRG
For always trying to get her work completed neatly
Claudia Chmara, JRG
For showing reverence and respect during our Advent Prayer session
Joanna Foksa, JHE
For always following the school rules and being a fantastic role model
Hunter Dickens, JHE
For always following the school rules and being a fantastic role model
Luke Philp, MTO
For his great persuasive writing about whether or not we should have long weekends more often
Ella Deveraux, MTO
For her contribution to discussions and her focus during all literacy tasks
Aidan O'Halloran, MTO
For his great contributions to class discussions
Imogen Stokes, MTO
For her great efforts to improve the neatness of her handwriting
Stephanie Galovic, MCC
For being a happy and welcoming class member
Noah Douglas, MCC
For working so hard to improve your handwriting
Luke Cox, MCC
For working to complete your work to the best of your ability
Ebony Walker, MCM
For very descriptive writing about "Queenie"
Daniel O'Brien, MCM
For trying out joining writing
Jordan Deeprose, MCM
For making an effort with joining writing and a descriptive writing piece about "Queenie"
Melanie Clarke, SMH
For being a helpful and polite member of the class, who always does her best in all activities
Liam Rutherford, SCP
For maintaining an enthusiastic attitude no matter what happens
Emily Bacon, SCP
For being cheerful all the time
Dylan Cerda-Lizama, SDB
For being a great role model to his Prep buddy
Hayden Semple, SDB
For being a good role model to his Prep buddy
Aidan Roe, SDB
For trying really hard with his work
Keala Kennedy, SDB
For working hard on her Web Quest
Jamie Wilson, SDB
For being a great class member of SDB
Nicole Belardi, SDM
For a well researched Space Booklet
Jackson Bence-Collin, SDM
For a very informative glossary of Space words

**Reading Groups**
Boan Angus, JKL
Benjamin Stewart, JGC
Kierra Mann, JGC
Alex Park, JGC
Jesse Kilner, JGC
Luke Aresti, JGC
For graduating from the Reading group and using excellent reading strategies. Well Done!

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**FOR SALE**

**SECONDHAND UNIFORMS (BOYS)**
Mainly size 12 summer & winter shirts & pants.
Some size 16 summer shirts & shorts & winter pants.
All in good order.
$5 per item or less when several items purchased.
Phone Kris on 0481 129 844

**JPC TEXT BOOKS – YEAR 7**
**JOHN PAUL COLLEGE TEXT BOOKS (SECOND HAND)**
- Humanities Alive 1 (second edition)
- Pearson Mathematics 7
- Science Quest 7
Please call Maria on 9782 9061

**JPC TEXT BOOKS – YEAR 7**
**JOHN PAUL COLLEGE TEXT BOOKS (SECOND HAND)**
Please phone Sandra Sanderson
Ph 0413 120 001 or 9782 0998
OSHC NEWS

Hi everyone it’s good to be back at the service program!

This month at OSHC we have started a food drive for the RSPCA the children are encouraged to bring in anything that they would like to donate to the RSPCA.

Also this month we have started a theme called Christmas around the world which lets us understand how other people from different countries celebrate Christmas.

STAFF ROSTERS

Before School Care we have Jacinta and Rohini and After School Care we have Jacinta, Teagan, David (Mondays).

WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK

This week we are continuing with our Christmas theme: a lot of the children have come up with great craft ideas. We also will play group games and cooking on Friday.

REMINDERS

How to get started before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaustralia.com.au

Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online.

Save on Care You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.
St Joachim’s Celebrates the Season of Advent
by forming a human Advent Wreath
THE
ST JOACHIM’S
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
A WHOLE SCHOOL EVENT
WED. DEC. 12, 6.30PM
IN THE HALL
ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT