Dear Friends

It’s hard to believe that we are already over half way through Term 1. With just over 5 weeks left of term we still have a number of activities to be involved in. We can look forward to Catholic Schools Week, Family Movie Night, St Patrick’s Day, St Joseph’s Day and of course Easter. How time flies when you’re having fun!

Young Leaders Day
Our Year 6 Students thoroughly enjoyed their 2 days away in Sydney for the Young Leaders Conference. Along with listening to some very inspiring speakers the students enjoyed a visit to Paddy’s Markets, Madam Tussauds Wax Museum and Chinatown.
Contemporary Learning at its best!
Our Primary Class had an amazing day yesterday when they joined with students from St Joseph’s Manildra to study the life cycle of rats. They were able to handle the various sized rats from 2 days to 21 days and have a closer look with magnifying glasses and torches. A tremendous experience indeed!

Some facts we learnt on the day:
- A rat can start breeding at only 8 weeks of age
- Baby rats open their eyes at 12 days
- Old Female rats become skinny and lose their fur
- Old male rats become fat and grow more fur
- The gestation period of a rat is 21 days
- The rat only lives for approximately 4 years
- A rat can have up to 22 babies in one litter
- If rats have an unbalanced diet they will eat each other

World Day of Prayer
This Friday is World Day of Prayer. A special service will be held at the Baptist Church from 10am. The Primary Class will attend the service as part of their Religious Education.

Last Swimming Day
This coming Friday is our last day of swimming for the season. Students may bring a small amount of money on Friday to spend at the pool if there are treats available. We thank Jenny, Damien, Annette and John McCall for looking after us during the swimming season.

Professional Learning Communities Days
Next Monday 7th March the teachers will be attending a Professional Learning Communities Workshop in Dubbo. Then on Wednesday 9th we will have a support day in school where a consultant will come into school and work with the teachers to further develop our learning focus. Following some data analysis our focus will be narrative writing. Mrs Hunter and Mrs Gough will teach Primary and Infants respectively on Monday and Wednesday.

Below is an outline of a Professional Learning Community Culture.

Professional learning Communities offer the opportunity to change the very culture of the system and truly create whole-system reform. PLCs drive meaningful educational improvement within the school, the region and the Catholic Education Office as an entity. Professional learning Communities focus the work of educational leaders and all teachers on the right work of collaboration, learning and results. Professional Learning Communities are about people, practices and processes. They are fundamentally a change in culture from a traditional school to a learning community.
Movie Night
A reminder that we will be having a Family Movie Night next Thursday 10th March to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The evening will begin with a sausage sizzle dinner from 6.30pm. Please bring your own chairs, rugs and drinks. Hope to see you there.

Easter Raffle
A reminder that our Easter Raffle will happen again this year. We always have a number of prizes up for grabs and Fr Carl has donated a very special prize from Catholic Church Insurance. Please remember to send in your donations of Easter eggs. Your support and cooperation with this fundraising activity is greatly appreciated.

Sesquicentenary Celebrations in NSW for all who have a Josephite Heart
World-wide celebrations on 19th March 2016 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph in Penola SA. On St Joseph’s Day 1866 Mary MacKillop began to live as a religious under the patronage of St Joseph. A Diocesan Celebration, is being held in Wellington on Saturday 19th March, that day being the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Sisters of St Joseph in Penola, South Australia. This is also an opportunity to celebrate the presence of the Sisters in our Diocese since 1872.

Sr Jean Cain has extended an invitation to all schools in the Diocese to attend Mass at 11am on Saturday 19th March at St Patrick’s Church Wellington. This invitation is open to all, however we would especially like the Junior Josephites from St Columba’s to attend in school uniform if at all possible. We would meet at school at 10am on the Saturday, travel to Wellington for Mass, have lunch and return by 1pm. Transport will be provided to those whose parents are unable to attend. Could you please complete the attached note and return it to school by this coming Friday.

Student of the Week

Ben Vaughan
For his consistent effort in all class activities

Great job!

Merit Awards
Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards this week:

Primary – Dominic Antaw, Chayanne Bunning
Infants – Fergus Kerin, Brodhie Crain, Will Kerin

Southern Region Swimming
Sara and Chayanne are to be congratulated on their achievements at the recent Southern Region Swimming Carnival. Both girls achieved their personal best in a number of events.

Kind regards
Glen Brown
Principal