This week’s suggested strategy, in the spirit of Pope Francis’ joyful and action-orientated pastoral approach is:

*Hold or touch a cross, take a deep breath, and say yes to living this day with hope.*

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

**The Joy of the Gospel**

After being elected in 2013, Pope Francis has written a letter to us all. This letter is known as an Apostolic Exhortation and gives us insights into how we can integrate the Gospel into our life as Catholics. It is referred to as Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel.

This year our Diocese is working together to build an understanding of the document at all levels. During the holidays, leadership teams from all Catholic Schools came together to explore themes in the document with a number of guest speakers coordinated by Geraldine Doogue. As a Leadership Team we will be reflecting on aspects of the document in our weekly meetings as we will in our weekly staff prayer. I will also introduce some of the themes through the newsletter.

Pope Francis opens his letter with the following summary.

“The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing to new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.”

**Wyong Parish News**

With input from parishioners the Parish Pastoral Council has drawn up the following vision and mission statement for the Wyong Catholic Parish

*Vision*

The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community

*Mission Statement*

Live and proclaim the message of the Gospel
Engage, Participate, Reach Out and Transform

**Opening School Mass**

This year our opening school Mass will be on Ash Wednesday which is 18th February at 9.15 am in the hall. At this Mass we will welcome our new Kindergarten children, acknowledge our Year 6 leaders and receive the ashes as a sign of the beginning of Lent. All are very welcome to attend.

**Pastoral Care**

Our strategic goal this year in the area of Pastoral Care is:

To improve the behaviour and attitude of the students through the reinforcement of procedures which instill calm playground behaviour and focused learning behaviour.

While we continue to work with our present policy which is written in a Restorative Justice Framework we have introduced some procedures which further educate and reinforce quality behaviour. I will outline these in a summary document with next week’s newsletter. It has been a brilliant start to the year with the students displaying our key values of Respect, Responsibility and Reconciliation.

**Staffing Update**

Class Teachers for 2015 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Michelle Vail</th>
<th>Julie Newcombe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Liz Foley</td>
<td>Samantha French Caroline O’Shannassy – (½ day Wednesday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Scot Frazer (Mon-Wed)</td>
<td>Monique Powell – (Thurs-Frid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Adam Edwards</td>
<td>Brett Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Ruth Rodgers</td>
<td>Rachel Hourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Jenny Dickson - Jackie Lollback (previously Duckett) - Tuesdays</td>
<td>Michael Welsh Caroline O’Shannassy – (Thursday ½ day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Sue Burdett</td>
<td>Katie Amor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a consequence of Chris Burns being seconded to Our Lady of the Rosary for the year:

- Scot Frazer is Acting Assistant Principal
- Michael Welsh and Samantha French are shared Acting Religious Education Coordinators
- Both Michael Welsh and Jenny Dickson remain in Leadership Positions as Coordinators

Jessica Roberts will be returning from maternity leave from the beginning of Term 3 and will share Kindergarten on Thursdays and Fridays with Julie Newcombe who will continue with the class from Monday to Wednesday.

Sue Cotterell is recovering very well from a stroke she experienced in November last year. At this stage she is definitely on leave for Terms 1 and 2 and we are very pleased to have Rachel Hourn taking Year 4 during that time. Rachel had a short holiday booked before being offered the position and will return on Tuesday. As we know more I will keep you informed.

Staff and parents have been very supportive of Sue Cotterell through this difficult time and her improvement week by week is dramatic. Her daughter Josie asked me to include the following message in the newsletter.

To the SJF Community,

On behalf of Sue Cotterell I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. The prayers, gifts and thoughts are greatly appreciated not only by Sue but also by myself. Sue has come a long way in the past two months and with all the positive SJF vibes there is no doubt she will continue to fight to get back to school!

Thank you,
Josie Cotterell

Parent Information Evenings

Next Tuesday evening, 17th February, we will offer information evenings for each of the grades. These will be in the classrooms and will be staggered through the night to allow parents with children in more than one class to attend. The times will be:

- 6.00 pm – Kindergarten and Year 6
- 6.30 pm – Years 1, 2, and 5
- 7.00 pm – Years 3 and 4

The meeting gives general information and is not an avenue to discuss individual children's needs. I encourage you to attend these meetings to keep up with the procedures and curriculum for the year.

Goal Setting Meeting

At the beginning of each year each parent and student is invited to schedule a 10 minute meeting with their teacher to plan learning goals for the year. As it is early in the year it is an opportunity for the parents to share information with the teacher about the student's academic and social needs.

These meetings will occur in week 4 from Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February at times allocated by each teacher. To book a time please follow the instructions on the Goal Setting Meeting Note which will be coming home with the newsletter and will be included on our website in the newsletter section.

P&F News

Please put Tuesday 3rd March in your diary as the first General Meeting of the P&F. All are very warmly invited to attend.

School Afternoon Pickup Family Name Cards

New families to our school were issued with family name cards this week. It is important and extremely helpful when all families place these name cards in highly visible positions in the vehicles that are used to collect children after school each day. These name cards greatly assist school staff members identifying accurately and quickly the children that need to be called to the student pick up area. Please contact the school office if you require a new family name card!

Netball Courts

As is our custom there are afternoons which teams use our COLA for netball practice after 3.30pm. If you have a team which includes students from St John Fisher you are welcome to write me a letter outlining the team makeup and the days and times you request. I will work through these on Friday week.

Thank you to all families for bringing your children back to us safely and looking so ready to begin a great year of growing in faith and knowledge. A special welcome to all the new Kindergarten children and families.

God Bless

Barry Shanley

Principal

BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB ORDERS ARE DUE IN BY TOMORROW MORNING, 5TH FEBRUARY. UNFORTUNATELY LATE ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

CHOIR

Choir will start back tomorrow (Thursday of Week 2). Students from years 3-6 are welcome to “Come and Try” choir for two weeks before they make a commitment. The more the merrier!

Mrs Burke
MERIT AWARDS

MR EDWARDS
Phoebe H and Sienna K

MR PERKINS
April S and Elliot P

MRS RODGERS
Raya S and Brayden T

CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 6th February
Angie Hart  Amanda Sophocleous

Monday 9th February
Liz  Greg

Wednesday 11th February
Jodie Hughes Holland

Friday 13th February
Kate Hooke  Barb Middleton  Julie Allen  Kathryn Siever

P&F

KINDERTAGEN AFTERNOON TEA
Welcome to all the Kindergarten families. The P&F would like to invite you all to come along to the hall COLA this Friday afternoon at 2:15pm for some afternoon tea and a catch up with the other Kindy parents. We’re sure you will have lots to chat about after the first week of BIG school!

KINDY MUMS - SAVE THE DATE - Friday 13th March - Dinner at Mingara

BIG ARVO
Tickets are now on sale for our Big Arvo on Friday 20th February. This is a fun evening for all families to come together and meet new friends or catch up with others. Please tear off the slip on the Big Arvo note that was sent home today and return to school with your money. Parents can either bring their own picnic or pre-order a sausage/fish sandwich. Tickets (hands) will be sent home shortly.

NEW RESIDENTS
Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils invite NEW RESIDENTS to join a FREE kayak and rowboat tour of Wyong River to learn about our water supply system. Enjoy a leisurely row on the 1.5km long weir pool, visit the fish ladder and pumping station and learn about our local platypus population. Tour times give participants the best chance of seeing platypus.

Friday 13 February 2015 4pm – 8pm (dusk) and Sunday 15 February 2015 7am – 11am (dawn). All equipment, instruction and meal included. The Old Milk Factory, Alison Rd Wyong. Cost: Free! Bookings are essential and places are limited, so reserve your place by using the online booking form at www.gwcwater.nsw.gov

SPORTING INFO
Tuggerah United Football Club registrations on 7th February at Lone Star Restaurant Tuggerah from 10.30am to 3pm and 14th February at Soccer 5 Bryant Drive Tuggerah from 10.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Lyn on 4352 1845 or 0415 883 650.

“At YMCA Swim School, located within the Mariners Centre of Excellence, we pride ourselves on turning beginners into confident swimmers and aim to nurture a life-long love of the water. Learning to swim is fun and we love what we do! A special offer for new Learn to Swim participants in term 1, simply book in and receive a Free Private Lesson. For more details head to our website www.ymcaswimschool.com.au or to book and take advantage of our special offer simply give us a call on 4351 1533.”

Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to come and Try Guides! At your local Girl Guide unit for girls aged 6-17 years. Leadership opportunities for adults 18 years and over Guides enjoy challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities: games, leadership and life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping and community events. For information on the location and available meetings - Region Membership Adviser on helenEG2@live.com.au or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides.

CALANDER 2015

FEBRUARY

5  Book Club Due
6  Kindy parents afternoon tea 2.15pm
17  Parent Information Evening
18  Ash Wednesday
18  Opening School Mass 9.15am in Hall
20  Big Arvo 5-8pm

MARCH

3  P&F General Meeting
13  Kindy Mums - Dinner at Mingara

WYONG PARISH MASS TIMES

St Cecilia’s: Daily Mass: Mon-Sat 8am
Weekend Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm; Sun 7.30am & 9.30am.
Reconciliation: St Cecilia’s: Sat 8.30am & 4.30pm

St John Fisher: Daily Mass: Mon & Fri 9.15am Tues, Wed & Thurs 8am
Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil: 5pm; Sunday 8.30am & 5pm (6pm DST)
Reconciliation: St John Fisher: Sat 4-6pm

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