Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

The Joy of the Gospel
This year at our Tuesday morning Leadership meetings we are reflecting on a different section of Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel. As a person who has lived among suffering he has a way of cutting to the chase with his insights.

The beginning of this week’s section began with the following confronting sentence, “There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.” While we are in the season of Lent now it reminds us that our faith is not a weight around our neck but a means to work in a community that brings joy both to ourselves and our neighbours. I pray that we work together to share the joy of our faith with the children.

Staff Development Day
Please be advised that there will be a Staff Development Day on Friday 27th March. The teachers will be working on developing detailed and engaging Mathematics programs incorporating the new Syllabus. Thank you for organising alternate supervision for your children on the day.

P&F News
Thank you to all the parents who came to our first P&F meeting last night. There were over 20 very positive parents, many who were new this year and very welcome. Thank you to Colleen for organising Cathy Renfrew from the Diocesan Parent Council to outline the role of the DPC and to alert us to upcoming forums as well as the resources on the DPC website. There is a link to the website on the School Community page of our website. Thank you also to Jane Breen who generously offered to work with Colleen as the school DPC Representative.

In a society that is just getting more and more hectic it is very encouraging to listen to the various reports from the different committees and consider the time and thought parents put into making St John Fisher an engaging community for all.

The development of a Gardening Committee was put forward and we will be coordinating a meeting this term to plan the development of the area. If you are interested please drop a note to sjf@dbb.catholic.edu.au with a short description of your area of interest and any expertise you may have and we will keep you up to date with our meeting time.

Another area that was discussed is the makeup of the food in the canteen. To start the ball rolling we will be inviting the representative from the Central Coast Canteen Network to school to give us input from the perspective of the Area Health Service.

Parent Group Activities
Thank you to Jane Breen and all the very willing workers who gathered yesterday to cover Library books so we are able to get them to the children quicker. It was a great response and much appreciated. I believe they are thinking of making this a termly event.

Thank you also to Rebecca Blake who is organising knitting for the Needy in the Parent Room. There is more information further in the newsletter. All are very welcome and you are welcome to bring along family members as well.

Sport-a-thon / Cross Country
We are looking forward to our Cross Country / Sport-a-thon this Friday. Please make sure your child has a drink bottle on the day.

There will be a coffee van on the top oval which will sell hot drinks and muffins. The canteen will be open for students as usual, and will have bottled water and ice blocks etc for parents to buy for siblings. Each student will receive an ice block after their event which is being organised by the P&F. School will be as normal if the event is called off due to wet weather.

DID YOU KNOW? A new 350-student primary school costs around $20 million to build and a new 750-students secondary school costs around $35 million. Catholic school parents have contributed greatly to the development of their children's schools in the past. But it will be harder to meet the forecast growth in enrolments, technology and other education costs without increased government support. This is why funding support from Federal & State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

God Bless
Barry Shanley
Principal
SPECIAL GRADE MASSES
Parents are warmly welcome to celebrate with us the Year 4 Special Grade Mass at 9:15am in the Mass Centre on Friday 20th March. The Year 5 Special Grade Mass has been postponed till next term.

LARC NEWS
A huge thankyou to the wonderful parents who covered many, many books at school yesterday or took them home to cover! A special thankyou to Jane Breen for organising the book covering session. These books will soon be put into classrooms for home reading and onto the LARC shelves for borrowing!

Christine Higgins (Teacher Librarian)

PROBLEM SOLVING
Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.

The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

1. Identify the problem
This step can be difficult as children do not always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where your child feels comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Using your active listening skills will also help your child to feel understood and supported in talking to you. Your child will benefit from your help in trying to understand what might be happening, particularly when they are having difficulty identifying the problem. Remember to step back and not jump in to solving the problems for your child at this stage.

2. Find solutions and try them out
Once you have a better sense of what the problem is, you may like to generate some solutions with your child. Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start as any more may seem overwhelming for a young child. They may not yet be able to generate their own solutions, but you can encourage their thinking with questions such as “what do you think you/we could do?” With practice and support from others, your child will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. However, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

Once you and your child have identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out? (eg at home or in the school playground) The Kidsmatter Team

APPLE SLINKY AWARD
Congratulations to Year 6 this week’s winners of the Apple Slinky Award. We have 2 weeks left for other classes to win an Apple Slinky.

PROJECT COMPASSION
Thank you to all the families who have been collecting money for Project Compassion. Last week we collected over $613.00. Congratulations to the following classes on their amazing efforts, 4R $51.50, 2T $68.16 and 3E $83.78. Remember every small amount helps those in need.

“Live simply so that others may SIMPLY LIVE!”

PARENT HELPER READING WORKSHOP
If you would like to help in the classroom you need to attend the Parent Helper Reading Workshop on Tuesday 10th March at 2.45pm in the LARC. Please return the following slip if you are attending.

PARENT HELPER READING WORKSHOP 10TH MARCH
NAME: ________________________________
CHILD: ________________________________

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Once again SJF is participating in Scholastic Book Club. How it works: twice a term Club flyers will be sent home with a different selection of books offered. You’ll find award winning books as well as old and new favourites, some costing as little as $2.

Attached to the flyer is an order form. Simply fill in your order and return with payment to school by the return date (published in the calendar in SJF Newsletter). Payment can be made in cash, cheque, credit card or by the new LOOP payment system (Flyer coming home with Newsletter). Purchases are then delivered to your child’s class within two weeks.

Benefit for School: each order placed earns free books and teaching materials for school. In the past two years many hundreds of books have been received for use in both the LARC and classrooms through this means.

2015 ICAS & AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION
Your child will receive information about ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) and the Australian Mathematics Competition with today’s newsletter. The upcoming dates and the cost for these competitions are detailed in this information as are the closing dates for these competitions. Each competition for each student must be placed in individual envelopes with permission note and correct entry fee (CASH ONLY). Please do not put sibling entries in the same envelope.

CANTEEN
I am about to do the Canteen Roster for term 2 so if you would like to join or need to make a change please fill out the form below. Also I will be selling fish cocktails on Fridays for the remainder of Lent, till the end of term as an alternative for those children who would like to abstain from eating meat. 5 fish cocktails for $3.

CANTEEN ROSTER
I ____________________________ am able to volunteer Monday / Wednesday / Friday (please circle). My contact number is: _______________________

KNITTING FOR THE NEEDY
We are holding Knitting and Crochet classes in the Parent Room, to make squares for blankets. Classes will be held on the following dates: Friday 13th March, Monday 16th March, Wednesday 25th March and Friday 27th March. Classes will run after morning Mass (around 10am) with tea, coffee and morning tea and we would love to see as many experienced or beginners joining us.

“Live simply so that others may SIMPLY LIVE!”
The weather will start chilling and a lot of local families will be in need of some warm blankets. Please extend this invitation to anyone that may be interested. We will let you know what to bring in next week’s newsletter. Now is the time to let your hands help others.

Helping Hands

SCHOOL BANKING – WIN A TRIP TO DISNEYLAND
Thank you to all the children who have already opened or started making deposits to their bank accounts this term. School Banking is introducing a new Grand Prize competition where you could win a family trip to Disneyland. How to enter: All you need to do is simply make 25 or more School Banking deposits during 2015 and you’ll automatically go into the Grand Prize competition. For terms and conditions go to commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.

Don’t forget school banking day is Tuesday and we will be having an account opening morning on Monday the 9th March at school. If you would like any more information or have any questions please call your school banking coordinator Alison Preller on 0401 719 869.

MERIT AWARDS
MRS BURDETT
Amelia H, Jacob F & Lachlan G

MS DICKSON
Tiarna A, Shelby F, Max L, Joel S, Annika B & Paul S

MR EDWARDS
Henry D

MRS FOLEY
Matilda C, Imogen O & Ryan C

MR FRAZER & MRS POWELL
Jasmin P, Deakin W & Braney S

MISS HOUN
Tara L, Georgia B, Stephen L & Declan B

MRS RODGERS
Molly C, Mia-Cate D, Ethan A & Harry B

MRS VAIL
Charli S & Grace B

MR WELSH
Taj G & Chloe R

SPORT AWARDS – MR POBJIE
Mia D, Brayden T, Eden M & James M

P&F

Last night we had our first General Meeting for the year. It was a great turnout and so pleasing to see many new faces mixed in with the regulars. We were very lucky to have Cathie Renfrew from the Diocesan Parent Council present to us. Cathie took us through the DPC web page which has information about the seminars they offer and lots of useful resources to help with wellbeing and to assist in engaging with our children’s learning.

The DPC website can be easily accessed through a link on the St John Fisher Website. Take some time to look over the site - there are many valuable resources available.

I would like to apologise for giving you all the incorrect P&F email address last time - oops. The correct address is sjf.parentsandfriends@gmail.com. There is also a link to this email address on the school’s website.

Next term we are looking at organising a morning P&F meeting to assist those who cannot make it of an evening. This has been successful in the past and is an important way of allowing more people to participate within the P&F. Stayed tuned for a date.

Thanks, Natalie Jones

SPORT–A-THON SPONSORSHIP CARDS
We hope everyone has been busy collecting sponsorship money for the Sport-a-thon, which is on this Friday. Our target is to raise $6000 to purchase more playground equipment and portable goals. If every child in our school is able to raise $20 or more, we will easily reach this target. The children are very excited and hopeful about the new equipment. All sponsorship money MUST be returned to the school by Thursday 12th March. If your card and money is returned by this date, you will go into the draw to win one of two $50 Event Cinema vouchers. The Sport-a-thon is one of our major fundraisers for the year. Every child should have a card. If you haven’t received a card, please collect one from the office.

KINDY MUM’S NIGHT OUT
The Kindy Mum’s Night Out will be held at Indigo’s Mingara on Friday 13th March. Please RSVP to Colleen 0404 957 746 or Louise 0422 840 161 by this Friday if you are coming.

STUCK ON YOU FUNDRAISING
Save yourself money by labelling all school hats, jumpers, uniforms etc. Just type in St John Fisher as the Fundraising code when ordering labels from www.stuckonyou.com.au. Our school will receive 10% of the sale.

CALANDAR 2015

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CAFEEN ROSTER
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
SPORT-A-THON
MONDAY 9TH MARCH
Tanya Thorsen    Trudy Romero   Kristy Davis
WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH
Wendy Dennis    Jessica Kidd
FRIDAY 13TH MARCH
Debbie Appleyard Barbara Brandon Sian Jurd