Lord our God, through the angel Gabriel you prepared Mary for the coming of Jesus, the Saviour. Open our hearts to receive him. Teach us to look for him each day, and follow him with joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls

Welcome back to Term 4. It is amazing the difference a holiday makes. The children returned to school yesterday happy, relaxed and ready to learn. Many thanks for sending your children to school so well prepared - clean and tidy uniforms, hats on heads, bags well provisioned and smiles on faces! We are looking forward to a productive term ahead where we can consolidate the gains of the past three terms before preparing to step up next year.

Developing Positive Relationships
A focus this term will be on showing Respect which is one of our three core values. In particular, we will be exploring what it means to be courteous and to speak nicely to each other. By doing so children will develop skills and attitudes which will lead to more positive relationships and behaviours. Please look for opportunities at home to talk together as a family about what your own personal family values are and how being courteous allows people to work, play and learn together in harmony.

Bushfire Emergencies
Our school is one of twelve in the Diocese which has been designated as 'bushfire prone'. As such, we have been making preparations for what needs to be done in the event of a bushfire in our area. We will continue with a series of Emergency evacuations and lockdowns so we are ready for all eventualities. If you do happen to find yourself at school during a practice or actual bushfire emergency the school hall is our nominated safe-refuge site so make your way there and await instructions.

If a catastrophic bushfire warning is declared by authorities for the following day bushfire prone schools will be required to close for the day on which the warning applies. If this is the case, the Diocese and schools will be notified around 4.30pm the day before. Parents will be informed of the closure by text. If you have changed your contact details recently, particularly your mobile number, would you please advise the school immediately.

There are also implications for excursions and camps which may need to be postponed or cut-short by extreme or catastrophic bushfire warnings.

Wakakirri
The Wakakirri performance at The State Sports Centre at the end of last term was a fitting climax to months of hard work and dedication. It was a magic performance once again with every student rising to the occasion and giving all they could. I know that Mrs Rodgers, Mrs Amor, Mr Perkins and Mrs Dickson as well as the whole school community are very proud of what has been achieved by the children. The standard of performance from all twelve finalists was absolutely outstanding so it must have been a very difficult task indeed for the judge to select the two winning schools.

School Fair
The School Fair is now only eighteen days away and the excitement is rising perceptibly. The newsletter is accompanied by a flyer and pre-order form for show bags as well as request for certain types of donations from each grade. There will be these and other opportunities to show your support for the Fair leading up to the day itself. Please be generous and help make the Fair the big success that it deserves to be. The beneficiaries, in the end, will be our students.

Swimming
The Swim / Survive program commences next week for those Stage 2 and Stage 3 students who enrolled to take part. If your child is involved in this program please consult the permission note and send them along to school ready for action next Tuesday.

The intensive two week Swimming Skills program for all Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 students commences Monday 20th (Week 3).

Waratah Shield
Good luck to Mr Edwards and the Waratah Shield cricket squad. The competition takes place next Friday at Edsac
Oval our first game being against Wyoming at 8.30. The Year 5 and 6 boys have been putting in some time in the nets and are keen to test their skills. I know they will uphold the St John Fisher tradition of playing to the best of their ability and playing honourably and fairly.

Cheers and God Bless

Chris Burns
Acting Principal

R.E. NEWS
Let us reflect with an open heart about the gift of Understanding from the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis shares his thoughts about utilising the gift of Understanding.

‘The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.’

(John 14:25-26)

This reflection takes its lead from Pope Francis’ catechesis on the second of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, namely, understanding.

One can understand a situation with human understanding, with prudence, and that is okay. However, to understand a situation in depth, as God understands it is the effect of this gift. And Jesus willed to send us the Holy Spirit so that we would have this gift, so that we can all understand things as God understands them, with God’s understanding.

The gift of understanding is closely connected to faith. When the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts and enlightens our minds, we grow day by day in the understanding of what the Lord has said and accomplished. One can read the Gospel and understand something, but if we read the Gospel with this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can understand the depths of God’s words.

Let us be open to reading the Gospel with understanding with the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts and minds.

Mrs French
Religious Education Co-ordinator

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST 2014
Eucharist or Holy Communion is the last Sacrament of initiation in our Church. It means that we are full members and we are able to participate fully in the Mass. However Eucharist is much more than just the act of taking bread and wine during Mass. Jesus had great compassion for those who were marginalised; he encourages us to do likewise, always seeing the value of another. When we come to the table to share Eucharist all traces of self-importance must fall away and as we are nourished by God’s universal meal we move into the world seeking by word and deed to bring about God’s kingdom here and now.

And so the time has come for all children in years 3 or above who have already received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Reconciliation to enrol in the sacramental program to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist and share in God’s universal meal. Parents/Guardians are required to attend one of the Enrichment/Registration Evenings:

Tuesday 14th October
St John Fisher Mass Centre Hicks Lane, Tumbi or
Wednesday 15th October
St Cecilia’s Church commencing 7.30pm.

Our Sacramental Program has been re-structured to further enhance the faith development of the children. As this is a Family/Parish based program, we have introduced some activities which will assist in the spiritual growth of the children.

A copy of your child’s Confirmation certificate if confirmed in a parish other than Wyong. $30 (cash) to cover for program costs. Please note the dates in our Sacramental Booklet handed out in the beginning of the year have now been changed to incorporate our new program.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
Periodically there may be changes to a child’s normal mode of transport home. If a child, who normally goes on the bus, is to go to drive through or pick up, parents should supply a note to the class teacher. This is very important for infant’s children, as it is easy for them to get confused throughout the normal course of the school day. Parents should be aware that children, who normally go on the bus and are unsure of what the arrangement is on any given day, will be placed on the bus if the school hasn’t been notified otherwise. Parents should also make sure their child knows in the morning how they are to go home that afternoon as it is often very difficult to ensure that a message, especially a late message, reaches the child in time, depending on whether they are in the classroom or at PE, Music or LARC.

SJF SCHOOL FAIR
Less than 3 weeks to go until our school fair!

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR $20 UNLIMITED RIDES WRIST BAND?

Our flyers have been printed and we need your help displaying them at your workplace. These can be collected from the school office in A4 or DL size.

Can you donate children’s books, cook books, old socks, items for our second hand stall, plants? Please email Kate at sjf.fair@gmail.com

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK—WE NEED YOUR HELP
Please complete the attached form and return it to the office as soon as possible.

FAIR HELPERS

NAME: ____________________________

CONTACT NUMBER: ____________________________

I would like to help out on fair day by working on a stall/running a stall

I am available: ALL DAY 9:30-10:30 10:30-12:30 12:30-2:30

2014 ELECTRONICS RAFFLE

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays, and are well rested for a huge term 4. Just a reminder that all raffle tickets are to be returned by next Friday 17th October. Thank you to those families who have already returned their booklets and a huge thank you to those that have sold several books. Two $50 cash early bird prizes will be drawn at Monday Morning assembly 20th October, so please don’t be late!

Have you put your name down as a volunteer yet? I would like to encourage those that have a spare hour or two on the Fair day to contact Kate Hooke our ‘Fair Co-ordinator’. This is a really fun day for all; great to meet and work with people you may not know but have seen around. Many Hands make light work.

I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of David Marsh last week. David was a parent leader here in our SJF community and served as our P&F President for many years. His time, energy and dedication to our community can be shown throughout the school; one would have to include our back oval. He made a mean Nachos, and served and made hundreds of them at our last Fair, for those that can remember. Please say a silent prayer for this generous man, and also his two daughters Emma and Megan.

Rebecca Blake
SJF P&F President

FAMILY PORTRATS

We need at least 6 more families to book in a session for Family Photos on Thursday 16th October 3:30-8pm. If we don’t get 6 more bookings we will need to cancel all the Thursday bookings so please ask your friends. They don’t have to be SJF families. These will make a great Christmas present. To secure your photographic session, please return $20 in an envelope marked ‘Family Portraits’ to the office with the slip below indicating your preferred times.

FAMILY PORTRATS AT SJF – THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Name: ____________________________ Mobile: ______________

Email: ____________________________

Youngest child’s name and class: ________________

I have included $20 to secure my booking

Please indicate your preferred times ranked in order (1-5)

1. 3:30 - 4:00  2. 4:00 - 5:00  3. 5:00 - 6:00

4. 6:00 - 7:00  5. 7:00 - 8:00

*Sessions are allocated 10-15mins each.

P&F

MERIT AWARDS

MRS BURKE
Olivia J

MR EDWARDS
Billy A, Hannah M, Raya S, Ashleigh V, Joel R, Layla C and Declan B

CANTEEN ROSTER

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER
Kristy Horvat  Julie Allen  Amy Sowter  Sally Durman

MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER
Hayley Munday  Melissa Lalor

WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
Lyndall McDonald

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
Renee Dobson  Ellen Collie  Angie Hart  Carly Nelson

CALENDAR 2014

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