Lord our God, you bring light and joy to the darkness of this world. Let us carry your light in our hearts this day.

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Christmas Celebrations
Christmas Nativity Crib are a small collection of objects and figures that represent the birth of Jesus at Christmas. They are a very important symbol for children during the Advent season to assist them to focus on the meaning of Christmas while surrounded by the hype of advertising. During the Advent season it is a good practice to have the figure of Jesus put aside until the children can bring him out to be placed in the crib with Mary and Joseph on Christmas morning before opening presents. Children also enjoy moving the figures of the shepherds and wise men closer to crib each day as they prepare for Christmas Day.

To assist families that may not have a crib the Parish have organised for the sale of cribs at the St John Fisher weekend Masses this weekend. They also have organised a special blessing ceremony for any Christmas cribs on the 13th and 14th December at which the children can bring their cribs to Mass for a special blessing.

Christmas Masses are listed in the newsletter and on the Parish website which can be easily found from the link on our website. The main Mass with children involvement is on Christmas Eve at 5 pm. Please see the details further in the newsletter of how you can be involved in this special event.

Whole School Mass
Please remember that our final Whole School Mass will be this Thursday at 9.15 am in the hall. All are very welcome.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
This is our last week to reach out to assist the local St Vincent de Paul Society in developing Christmas Hampers for the many families in our community. The goods will be collected by next Monday so please consider adding some special items to your shopping list over the weekend.

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Michael Welsh for the organization of an excellent swimming carnival. There was a great mix of competitive events and fun activities on the day and a real sense of celebration of the children's achievements. I received a beautiful email observing the attitude of the children in congratulating each other on their success. The children must be following your model in encouraging good sportsmanship.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted on the day and to the teachers who took a very active role in leading the activities and supervising the students in the stands. It was also a treat to see many students from St Peters' College assisting on the day.

I also offer a special thank you to the children in Year 6 who were again exemplary in their leadership and service in the running of the activities and encouraging of the younger children. Outstanding performance.

Mr Welsh will be giving out the various awards at our assembly next Monday.

Outstanding Sports Achievement
Congratulations to Lucy D who was one of a very select group at the 2014 Diocesan Outstanding Sports Achievement Awards Presentation. Lucy spoke very eloquently at Monday's assembly this week on the inspiration she drew from their guest speaker, Emma Lincoln-Smith who represented Australia in the Skeleton event at the Winter Olympics. Congratulations Lucy, you are also inspiring us with your energy and commitment to sport.

Guitar Concert
Yesterday we had all our young musicians perform for a very receptive group of family members at their final guitar concert for the year. The level of performance really was outstanding and I congratulate all the children on the obvious gains they have made this year. I also thank Steve Smillie for the encouragement and instruction of all the students. After the concert he was noticeably impressed
by the quality of the children’s playing. Keep it up through the holidays.

End of Year Reflections
This will be our last official newsletter for the year. As I stated at the End of Year Celebration it has been another great year to be part of the St John Fisher community. I thank you as parents and carers of your beautiful children for the way you engage with us as a team to get the very best for each child as well as the school as a whole. It is an honour to work with you and I wish all families a safe and holy Christmas break.

I acknowledge and thank all our staff on their dedication to the children. We wish Carlee Tonnet all the best next year as she has secured a job in Sydney where she is now living and I thank her for the wonderful encouragement and learning she has provided to Year 1. We farewell Terrie and Brian Brame who have been the school cleaners for 26 years since the school opened. They have been outstanding in their commitment to providing a clean and safe environment for our children and we now welcome them as grandparents as they have two grandchildren starting Kindergarten next year.

We particularly ask for blessings on all the families who will be moving on from our school community and thank you for all you have done for us over the time you have been with us at St John Fisher.

Please keep our Kindergarten teacher, Mrs Cotterell in your prayers this week as she is quite unwell at the moment and would appreciate all our prayers for a speedy recovery.

God Bless

Barry Shanley
Principal

R.E. NEWS
This Sunday will be the Third Sunday of Advent in the Church Year B. This Sunday’s gospel comes from John and naturally this Gospel makes great reading as it tells us more about John the Baptist and his role in preparing us for the coming of Jesus.

However in today’s world of super speed technology, hustle and bustle and “flat-out busyness” it is this Sunday’s Second Reading from Paul to the Thessalonians that perhaps resonates more appropriately and offers us inspiration at this busy time of the year.

St. Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24
“Be happy at all times; pray constantly and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.”

† Our End of Year Mass is at 9:15am this Thursday, the 11th of December. All parents and friends are more than welcome at this mass.

Scot Frazer
Religious Education Coordinator

OFFICE TIMETABLE
Due to the School’s End of Financial Year the office will be closed for ALL Financial Transactions (including the receipting of fees) from Monday 15th December till the end of term. Please ensure all fees are finalised prior to this date unless you have a special arrangement.

YEAR 6 FUN DAY
The Year 6 Fun Day will be on this Friday 12th December. Can all children please wear their sports uniform.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
For the past 2 years we have been lucky to receive funding from the Federal Government to implement an after school sport program. Students from K-6 have been involved and have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports. We have been able to acquire specialised coaches in many sports which has meant children have been able to experience a great variety of sports. The aim of the program was to promote an active, healthy lifestyle and to provide students and families with opportunities to experience local sporting facilities and clubs.

The program has been highly successful with many children continuing to participate in a sport they tried during After School Sport. I know all the children have developed in both confidence and skill throughout the program. Some of the sports we have experienced are: gymnastics, soccer, basketball, judo, karate, Oz tag, paddle boarding, hockey, AFL and surfing. It has been amazing watching our students enjoy and experience so many different sports during the past years.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking has now closed for the year, it will resume next year.

GUITAR LESSONS
Guitar lessons are available for students in years 3 to 6 on Tuesdays at St John Fisher. For more information please phone Steve Smillie on 0410 039 556.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
We have started to plan some events for early in Term 1 2015. Please put these dates in your diary:-

- Friday 6th February - Kindy parents afternoon tea 2:15pm
- Friday 20th February - Big Arvo 5pm-8pm

We hope you have a lovely Christmas. See you in 2015.

CANTEEN NEWS
Thank you to my wonderful volunteers, many of whom I have had to call at the last minute in desperation! Speaking to other canteen supervisors who struggle to get one helper on a canteen day I know that I am truly blessed here at St John Fisher to have so many parents and grandparents generously give up their time to assist me and serve 370 very hungry children.

Please note the canteen will be open as usual next Wednesday 17th December. Merry Christmas and enjoy the holidays.

Ann-Maree Goodacre

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S MASS AT SJF TUMBI UMBI AND ST CECILIA’S CHURCH WYONG

This Mass is truly a beautiful way families in our school and parish can celebrate the Christmas story. The Mass will be Christmas Eve at 5pm at BOTH St John Fisher School Hall Tumbi Umbi and St Cecilia’s Church Wyong.

We encourage families and extended families to set aside some time to come along…children are encouraged to dress up in character from the Christmas Nativity story (we’d love to see lots of angels, shepherds, wise men and wise girls), along with lots of Mary and Joseph's. For any child who would like to take on a special role (Readers, choir, ribbon movement, prayers, procession etc) - a special rehearsal is planned from 6.30pm Monday 22nd @ St Cecilia’s Church for those attending St Cecilia’s Mass and 4.00—5.30pm on Tuesday 23rd December at St John Fisher for those attending St John Fisher Mass.

All are welcome and every child who attends this will be given a role at the Mass. We hope to see lots of people for both the Mass and rehearsal. Parents are also encouraged to come to the rehearsal - there are a few jobs to do and many hands make light work! We also will be needing some adults to help out before the mass with car parking, so all volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Enquiries for St John Fisher please call Colleen Smith 0418667223 and for St Cecilia’s Church please call Anne Brady 4351 3522.

MERIT AWARDS
MRS BURKE
Lauren T, Darcy W and Sam G

MR BURNS AND MRS THURLOW
Xavier M and Matilda M

MS DICKSON
Harrison B, Lachlan G and Genevieve K

SCHOOL HOLIDAY GYM EVERYDAY
12.00pm - 2.00pm $12 per session
1/7 Enterprise Drive
Berkeley Vale NSW
kimnastix.com.au
info@kimnastix.com.au

Don't forget to use your free Kimnastix holiday passes from the showbags.

CANTEEN ROSTER
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
Venessa Sims Bianca Calleia Kate Hook

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
Melissa Lionetti Melissa Lalor

CALENDAR 2014

DECEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>End of Year Mass - Whole School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pizza Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Year 6 Fun Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation and Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Office closed for all financial transactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Years 1-6 students return to school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1st day for Kindergarten students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kindy parents afternoon tea 2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Big Arvo 5-8pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 4.30pm

© St John Fisher Catholic School, Tumbi Umbi
Material in the newsletter is not to be reproduced without the permission of the School Principal.