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

**During the Easter season throw a resurrection party?**

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

**Lent - A Time to do More**
At Monday morning Mass Fr Raul spoke to the children in Year 5 about making Lent a time of focus on being a better person by:
- Praying more;
- Fasting, which may mean giving up something we do not need. This may be a food such as chocolate or could include time in front of the television, iPad, electronic games etc;
- Almsgiving, which could include putting aside some of their pocket money to assist in Project Compassion.

Congratulations to Ms Dickson and the Mini-Vinnies for their presentation and explanation of our involvement in Project Compassion this year. Brilliant dancing.

**P&F News**
Thank you to Kelly and Charmaine for the thoughtful and thorough preparation behind the Big Arvo. Thank you also to all the helpers on the night who gave their time so generously and in such a good spirit. A special thank you to Richard King for the amazing disco equipment. It was a wonderful night to be part of the community.

Next Tuesday 3rd March is our first P&F General Meeting for the year. Cathie Renfrew from the Diocesan Parent Council will be coming to give a presentation on the interactive DPC website which is a great resource for parents. Please come along and join in the positive energy of the P&F.

**Playful Parenting**
We are very pleased to be hosting a DPC Forum entitled Playful Parenting in our Hall on Thursday 26th March from 9.30 - 10.30 am. The session will give us insights into how we can, "unleash our inner child with playful ideas to help encourage confidence, support emotional intelligence and grow connections."

Fliers are available from the school office and will be posted on our website with the newsletter. Parents can RSVP on the DPC website (http://www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com/2015-parent-seminars--workshops.html.)

**Tuesday Book Covering Morning Tea**
Thank you to Jane Breen who offers an open invitation to one and all to a book covering session next Tuesday 3rd March in the P&F room (next to the uniform shop) - cake, tea, coffee, books and materials supplied - please bring a smile and a pair of scissors. Start time - 9 - 11am.

**Sport-a-thon / Cross Country**
As previously stated we will be hosting the Cross Country / Sport-a-thon at school next Friday 6th March. Please read the directions that were sent home so the day can run smoothly.

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.

**Sports Update**
Congratulations to all the children who competed in the Central Coast Combined Swimming Carnival last Monday. All children did their very best with a number of children gaining places in their heats. Congratulations to Lily M who came 3rd overall in the 12 Year girls and will go through to the Diocesan Carnival.

God Bless

Barry Shanley  
Principal

**PARENT-helper reading workshop**
Any parent/carer who would like to help in the classroom needs to have attended the Parent Helper Reading Workshop. The first workshop for this year will be on Tuesday 10th March at 2.45pm in the LARC. Please return the following slip if you are attending.
Looking forward to seeing you there, Jenny Dickson

APPLE SLINKY AWARDS
For the next 4 weeks Mini Vinnies are running a competition for classes to win an Apple Slinky Machine. The focus of the competition is on showing RESPECT for our playground. Classes and students are nominated by teachers if they are seen to keep their class area clean and free from rubbish after eating at recess and lunch. At the end of the week nominations are tallied and the class with the most nominations will receive an Apple Slinky Machine the following Monday at assembly. Congratulations to 3P and 4R who were joint winners in the first week.

Please reinforce with your child how important it is to put rubbish in the bin after eating.

PROJECT COMPASSION
Project Compassion is Caritas Australia’s annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year the focus for the appeal is “Food for Life”.

Our school Mini Vinnies group launched Project Compassion this week with an amazing Fijian dance at Tuesday morning assembly. The dance was Fijian as Fiji is one of the countries the money from the appeal will help this year. After lunch all the Mini Vinnies children went to each class to speak to the students about how lucky we all are and that during Lent, we need to remember and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Each family has received a home Project Compassion Box. We ask that during the week your family contribute to the box and it is returned to school at the end of the week. The money will be emptied into the class box and family box returned home. We will have a graph on the wall in the quad and on the hall TV showing how much each class collects weekly. Please discuss with your child how they may contribute. Every little bit helps; $5 will purchase a tray of seedlings for a family in Fiji which will in turn provide them with a crop to help sustain food supply for a village.

Our goal is $1500.00 but I am sure we can raise even more than that during Lent. Come on SJF we can do it. Below are ideas and thoughts from some of the Mini Vinnies.

Halle B: “Every week after football I go to the canteen with $2. If I put that into my family Project Compassion box instead, it will be $10 over 5 weeks.”

Lacey B and Bree P: “Did you know that some families in the world live off only $1.20 a day? We spend more than that in 1 day at the school canteen. We are going to start putting some of our canteen money into Project Compassion this Term.”

Maddy H: “If I don’t get a $2 Sprite Slushie each Monday I can put the money into my Project Compassion Box. That’s $10 by the end of the Term. If every child in the school did that it would be nearly $4000.00 that SJF could raise. It’s not much to give up for such a lot of money that can help SOOOO many people!”

NEW MEMBERS ARE STILL WELCOME TO JOIN
Choir has made a brilliant start to the year and is sounding strong on their newest song. Students - it is NOT too late to join. Choir rehearsals are at 10 to 1 until the half lunch bell on Wednesdays.

VOCAL GROUP
Auditions for vocal group will be held on Thursday first half of lunch. Students from years 4-6 are invited to join. Vocal group members often sing the harmony part and at times have learnt a song of their own for a special performance. Come and have a go if singing is your ‘thing’!

Mrs Burke, Music Teacher

KNITTING FOR THE NEEDY
Do you know how to Knit or Crochet? Would you like to learn how to knit or Crochet? In the coming weeks we will be holding classes in the SJF Parent Room (next to uniform shop). Our aim is to have as many people as possible involved in making squares for much needed blankets for the coming winter. Look out for starting dates next week, as we will be holding classes at variable times, so everyone will have a chance to attend. Any 8 ply wool that can be donated would be much appreciated.

Cheers, Helping Hands

CANTEEN: HELP NEEDED
As the canteen will be open as usual for recess and lunch on the Sport-a-thon day I need some volunteers to work Friday 6th March. You don’t need to work all day just an hour to two would be very helpful.

Thank you, Ann-Mariee Goodacre

The Commonwealth Bank will be holding an account opening day on Monday 9th March from 8.30-9.30am. If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child please bring along your current driver’s licence or another form of photographic identification. No identification is required for your child attending school, as the school will confirm their identity. Alternatively, you can open an account at any branch, by calling 13 22 21, or online if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer.

CANTINEE ROSTER
FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
Colleen Templeton Tracey Shaw Louise Miller

MONDAY 2ND MARCH
Eileen Hallam Sallianne Tucker

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH
Wendy Dennis

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
SPORT-A-THON - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
DID YOU KNOW: Catholic school parents in NSW paid $943 million in school fees in 2012. You also contributed $161.5 million in school building levies and other capital funding that year. That's more than $1.1 billion invested by Catholic school parents in our state's education system in just one year!

Despite this extraordinary support, Catholic schools still rely on Federal and State Governments for more than 75% of our funding needs each year. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs – to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

**WYONG PARISH MASS TIMES**

**St Cecilia's**
- Daily Mass: Mon-Sat 8am
- Weekends: 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, Sun 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.

**P&F**

**BIG ARVO**
What a fabulous night last Friday at our Big Arvo. Thank you to all the families who came along. We were very lucky the rain held out. Unfortunately due to the predicted rain we could have only one jumping castle. Thank you to all the children for waiting patiently for their turn. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to set up, cook, serve, supervise and clean up. Thank you to Richard King for supplying and setting up the amazing lights and music for the disco. Thank you to Jane Breen and ex-students Brianna, Georgina, Annie and Luka for the fabulous face painting and to Amanda Sophocleous, Becc Duke and Colleen Templeton for stepping in to help them out. A huge thank you to Mr Ceney and Mr Shanley for always being there to help with setting up for school events. Also to Mr Frazer and Mr Edwards for coming along to support the night. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

**KINDY MUM’S NIGHT OUT**
On Friday 13th March, the P&F Social Committee is hosting the Kindy Mum’s Night Out at Indigo Mingara. Mums from other year groups are welcome to come along too. It should be a fun and relaxed night out. RSVP to Colleen 0404 957 746 or Louise 0422 840 161 by Friday 6th March.

**FREE TEEN TRIPLE P SEMINAR SERIES**
THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING
Children and Young People’s Mental Health is pleased to offer parents of young people this evidence based seminar series. There are three 2 hour seminars in the series which will be held on 3 consecutive Wednesday evenings at Erina Community Health Centre. You can attend just one or all three seminars. The program does not address the management of mental health problems in teens, however many parents have found the program useful in reducing the everyday conflict and stress associated with parenting teens.

**DATES:**
- **11TH MARCH** – RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS
- **18TH MARCH** – RAISING COMPETENT TEENAGERS
- **25TH MARCH** – GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED

**TIME:** 6PM – 8PM

**VENUE:** ERINA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE (169 The Entrance Road, Erina 2250)
**PRESENTERS:** Ruth Phelan and Jo Heap
**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL:** please phone Children & Young People’s Mental Health on 4328 7350 and ask for Ruth or Jo.

---

**MERIT AWARDS**

**MRS AMOR**
Maddison M & Miles F

**MRS BURDETT**
Lu Lu P, Bronte A & Genevieve K

**MRS BURKE**
Alice D & Matilda C

**MR EDWARDS**
Viveca H & Emily L

**MR FRAZER**
Shiloh T, Holly B, Alexis N & Cooper B

**MRS FRENCH**
Dylan B & Ocea S

**MRS NEWCOMBE**
Daniel B & Chole M

**MR PERKINS**
Matthew K & Ari S

**MRS THURLOW**
Caleb L, Tara N, Cooper W, Meeka H, Ella R, Zoe L, Joshua H and Jon-Tanna H

**MRS VAIL**
Noah P & Ruby K

**MR WELSH**
Natalie H, Logan B, Cairo S & Alex B

**SPORT AWARDS – MR POBJIE**
Fletcher S, Alyssa G, Natalie H & Taj G

**CALANDAR 2015**

**MARCH**
- 2  Mass Year 1
- 3  Book covering morning tea 9-11am
- 3  P&F General Meeting 7.30pm
- 6  Cross Country - Sport-a-thon
- 9  Mass Year 4
- 10  Parent Helper Reading Workshop 2.45pm
- 13  Mass Year 5
- 13  Kindy Mums - Dinner at Mingara
- 16  Mass Kindergarten
- 20  Mass Year 4
- 23  Mass Year 3
- 26  Playful Parenting Workshop 9.30-10.30am
- 27  Mass Year 1
- 30  Mass Year 6

**APRIL**
- 2  Last day of school for Term 1
- 3  Good Friday