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,

Reflection – Advent
Last Sunday was the first week of Advent and the beginning of our preparation for Christmas. The following reflection can be found on the Ignatian spirituality website and focusses on inviting Jesus into our lives just as we do during Advent.

Inviting in the Visitor
Imagine you are sitting in a small room in a house that is surrounded by farmland and woods. You have come here to seek the quiet and calm. The busy life of work, family and the city have made you feel anxious and unfocused. You know you need something; you need some time to let your mind be quiet and your heart open. Quiet and open—those words sound so peaceful and desirable but unreachable. The room is simple: a bed, a desk, and a wooden chair. The walls are bare. You've brought books to read and a journal to write in, but you can't seem to do anything but sit on the chair and absorb the silence, even as you feel restless. As you sit in the silence, you hear a faint sound like a knock on the door. Your heart races, Who knows I'm here? I need to be alone, you think. The knocking becomes louder. As much as you want to stay in the room, something moves you to go to the door. The knock comes again, but it's a soft knock. As you approach the door, you see a light streaming under it. "Hello. Can I help you?" you say without opening the door. A soft voice says, "It's me. I've been looking for you." Something deep inside you stirs, but you are confused. "Who are you? Do I know you?" you say. "Yes. But we have not talked in a long time. I've missed you," he says. You open the door. Standing there is Jesus. His eyes look at you with such tenderness. He carries a small lantern that gives off a bright, warm light. You stand there, unable to speak at first, allowing yourself to take in his presence and his light. You speak to Jesus. What do you say to him? How does Jesus respond to you? You invite Jesus into the house. You sit and tell him of the restlessness you feel. As you talk to Jesus, a wave of peace and calm washes over you like the warm light streaming from his lantern. "Rest. Be still. You opened the door. Now let me take care of you," Jesus says. You close your eyes and let his words embrace you. Your heart is at peace, and your mind is still. When you open your eyes, Jesus is gone. Sitting beside the chair where he sat is the lantern, still emitting that bright, warm light. You smile and rest in the glow of the light.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
One of our key missions as a Catholic school is to reach out to share our gifts. The key local agency is the St Vincent de Paul Society who work tirelessly with our community. Please remember to send items in for the Christmas hamper which will lift the spirits for many families this Christmas. The list of recommended items can be found in the news section of our website.

Student Support Groups
Thank you to our Librarian and Kidsmatter Coordinator, Christine Higgins for organising the Student Support Groups last Monday. The Year 5 and 6 leaders were outstanding in passing on the message of our playground expectation of, Keep your hands to yourself. Play fairly and allow others to play in peace.

As I visited each group I was most impressed by the spirit of cooperation among all the children.

Science and Technology
Over this year we have been in serviced on and implemented the new English Syllabus and Mathematics Syllabus. Next year we will implement the new Science and Technology Syllabus. Last night we had a three hour twilight session introducing the new syllabus to staff. This was led by Mr Frazer, Mrs French and myself. While the changes are not drastic the philosophy of the new document will allow for a very engaging experience for the students.

Swimming Carnival
This Friday is our school swimming carnival which performs two functions. The first is to select a school team for the Central Coast Carnival for students who will turn 8 or more during the 2015 calendar year. The second is to give the children an enjoyable experience. We are very fortunate
that Mingara allow us to have a series of fun activities including the inflatable tube during the day which means the children are not just sitting in the stands. These activities are brilliantly led by our Year 6 students.

The activities conclude at lunch which will be around 12.30 at which time all children return to the stands. There will be relays for selected children after lunch. If you wish to collect your child from around 12.30 when lunch is announced there will be forms to be completed at the top of the stairs. If you would like your child to go home with another parent you will need to supply a note with that information in the morning.

We look forward to an enjoyable day.

Wyong Council
This week Mrs O'Shannassy received news that Wyong Council will again provide funds for resources for our Seasons Program as they have done for many years. I thank them for their generous support for this important initiative.

Staffing
Class Teachers for 2015 will be:

<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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Scot Frazer - 4 days</td>
<td>Caroline O'Shannassy - 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Adam Edwards</td>
<td>Brett Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Chris Burns - 3 days</td>
<td>Monique Powell - 2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Jenny Dickson</td>
<td>Michael Welsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Sue Burdett</td>
<td>Katie Amor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I will include more information about staffing next week. We are nearly finished the process of setting up class groups for 2015. All children have been asked to nominate 5 students they would like to be in the class with and we make sure they have at least one of those in their class group.

Once the groups have been set up it is not possible to move children because of the effect it has on the balance of the class and the domino effect it will have on the friendship groups.

P&F News
Last night our hard working P&F Leadership Team met to plan out activities for 2015. On your behalf I thank these generous parents for their energy and enthusiasm for the students and community in general. We are truly blessed to have such a committed core group.

Gingerbread Making Night
Congratulations to Charmaine Andrews and her assistants for the organization of the very successful Gingerbread Decorating Evening. The children enjoyed seeing photos of the various creations at assembly on Monday. Thank you Charmaine.

God Bless

Barry Shanley
Principal

R.E. News
This Sunday will be the Second Sunday of Advent in the Church Year B. Mark's gospel tells us about John the Baptist's role in preparing us for the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist gives us an Advent proclamation. He tells all those that will listen that someone is following him, someone much more powerful than he. Someone who will baptise us not only with water but with the Holy Spirit! John the Baptist foretells the coming of Jesus Christ!

St. John Fisher Christmas Gathering - Monday 8th December
The students and teachers have been busily preparing for next Monday night's Christmas gathering. Each grade will be leading the rest of the school community with 2 Christmas themed songs. Bring along your Christmas cheer! The evening begins at 6pm.

End of Year Mass
Our final whole school mass to celebrate our 2014 school year will now be on Thursday the 11th December beginning at 9:15am. It would be great to have as many parents and friend at this mass as possible.

Scot Frazer
Religious Education Coordinator

FAMILY REGISTRATION FORMS
A reminder that the Family Registration Forms are now overdue, if you have not returned yours please fill it in and return to the office ASAP. Thank you.

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION
A hearty congratulations to Eden M, James M and Connor S who were awarded Distinctions in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

SJF SWIMMING CARNIVAL PRESENTATION
The results and medals for the swimming carnival will be presented at assembly on Monday 15th December.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
The choir and vocal group Christmas party and farewell to year 6 members will be at lunch on Wednesday 10th December, week 10. Please bring something to share next week on Wednesday.

Mrs Burke
GUITAR CONCERT
There will be a guitar concert for all Steve’s guitar students on Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am in the school hall. All welcome.

CANTEEEN NEWS
PIZZA DAY
On Friday 12th December the canteen will be having a pizza and soft drink day. Pizzas are from Dominos and soft drink is school approved by Golden Circle. Pizzas are 1/4 slice of a whole pizza packed in an individual box. Orders are to be written on an envelope with money enclosed by Wednesday 10th December.

PIZZA $2.50 Meatlovers or Hawaiian or Cheese
LOL $2.50 Tropikl or B Current or Razzbri

CANTEEEN ROSTER
FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER
Hayley Munday Sallianne Tucker
WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER
Lyndall McDonald
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
Vanessa Sims Bianca Calleia Trudy Romero Kate Hooke

CALENDAR 2014
DECEMBER
5 Swimming Carnival
5 Mass Year 5
8 End of Year Celebration at 6pm
8 Mass Year 1
9 Guitar Concert for guitar students
10 Christmas party for choir & vocal
11 End of Year Mass - Whole School
12 Pizza Day
15 Year 6 Graduation and Mass
17 Last Day of School

JANUARY
29 Years 1-6 students return to school

FEBRUARY
2 1st day for Kindergarten students

MERIT AWARDS
MR BURNS AND MRS THURLOW
Jordan G, Joshua M and Olivia J

MR EDWARDS
Declan B, Layla C, Joel R and Makayla D

P&F

GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT
Thank you to everyone who attended the Gingerbread House night last Friday. It was a fun night for all with some very creative houses being taken home at the end of the night. I wonder how many families have already started nibbling on theirs?

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S MASS AT S.J. FISHER,
UMBRI 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.

MINGARA KILLARNEY DISTRICT NETBALL CLUB
PLAY NETBALL IN 2015
Registration Information
When: December 13th & January 17th Time: 10am - 2pm
Where: Mingara Recreation Club Tascari Boardroom
Cost: NetSetGo (Ages 5-10) $10
    Juniors (Ages 11-17) $70
    Seniors (Ages 18+) $170
* Deposit of $20 to hold your place, full payment required by January 31st
* Secretory: Mingaranetball@bigpond.com
* Facebook: Mingara Netball

Mingea Killarney District Netball Club

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