Parent Information

2015
Our Vision

where the rivers of promise, exploration and celebration meet and flow onto life long learning

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CORAK
Principals Message

‘Where the rivers of promise, exploration and celebration meet and flow onto life-long learning’

Firstly, I would like to say how honoured and privileged I feel to be the Principal of St Joseph’s Coraki. I am really appreciative of the welcome I have received from Father Richard, families, staff and students. I look forward every day to serving the best needs of this community.

St Joseph’s has a close relationship with Father Richard, Sister Jenny as together we embrace and live out our faith and continue the work the Presentation Sisters started over 118 years ago.

I am excited to be working with and getting to know the children and the wonderful staff of this school. I believe it is the school and teachers role to facilitate powerful learning experiences for all students. Learning that is purposeful, meaningful, and relevant. At St Joseph’s we encourage students to explore for deeper meaning and to embrace a love of learning that becomes life-long. We strive to set high expectations for all our learners; students and staff.

This community is very welcoming and quick to embrace new families. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any enrolment questions.

Yours Faithfully

Principal
John O’Brien

BEHAVIOUR

All members of our school community are expected to act responsibly at all times and ensure that the school is a safe place for all concerned. Our Pastoral Care Policy includes the School Community Behaviour Plan where behaviour is categorised into the areas of:

Safety  Effort  Respect  Self - Responsibility

As part of our School Community Behaviour Plan St Joseph’s has an “Anti - Bullying” policy which the whole school community is committed to enforcing through education and awareness programs.

Our school and the Lismore diocese has in place a Suspension and Expulsion of Students Policy and Procedure. These plans, policies and procedures are located in a folder at the front office.

St Joseph’s Primary School prohibits the use of Corporal Punishment. No teacher, parent or other member of the community will administer behaviour management techniques which involve any form of corporal punishment.
CANTEEN
The school canteen is run by the committee formed from members of the Parents and Friends Association. The canteen currently opens three days a week and the menu is in keeping with the NSW Healthy Canteens Policy. The canteen is run on a non profit basis and is staffed by volunteers.

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS
Any complaint or concern should, in the first instance, be directed to the class teacher if a classroom issues or to the Principal if an outside the classroom issue. The principal will then be notified if the classroom issue has not been resolved. We have a policy in place (Parents and Caregivers Concerns and Complaints) where processes are followed to resolve any problems either at the school level or with the involvement of the Lismore Catholic Schools Office. A copy of this policy is available at the front office.

CURRICULUM
We are required to teach the NSW Board of Studies Syllabus and our curriculum is based on the Key Learning Areas as specified by the Board of Studies. Each class will undergo a course of study in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Human Society and Its Environment
- Science and Technology
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Religious Education

Teachers design programs using these documents and make assessments according to the outcomes and indicators as specified in the learning continuums in each stage.

ENROLMENT AND FEES
St Joseph’s promotes a learning community where all aspects of education are nourished. We strongly value the notion of partnership in education encouraging families to take an active role in working with the school to meet every child’s needs. As a Catholic School our Catholic faith underpins all our actions.

Parents wishing to enrol their students will need to fill in an enrolment form and arrange for an interview with the Principal.

Fees for 2015 are outlined below indicating a discount of approximately 17% for the second child and 40% for the third child. Families with more than three children enrolled at the one time will not be charged for more than three children.
1\textsuperscript{st} Child $780.00  
2\textsuperscript{nd} Child $645.00  
3\textsuperscript{rd} Child $465.00  
Total per year $780.00 $1425.00 $1890.00

These fees are for one year and are billed over 3 terms.

At the time of enrolment all parents/guardians take on a responsibility to pay fees. Since students are enrolled in the school regardless of their families’ financial position, the school happily enters into special arrangements to assist low income families or allow for instances of special circumstance.

HOMEWORK
All grades use a homework grid where regular after school activities and other home based learning experiences are included as homework tasks. Homework at St Joseph’s engages students in activities which are designed to:

- Consolidate previous learning and share other experiences of school
- Provide opportunity for self-directed learning
- Positively engage students and their parents or carers in learning
- Recognise and value learning which may take place outside of school
- Foster a love of learning
- Prepare our Stage 3 students for high school

Through engaging in homework with the above considerations in mind, we endeavour to make the process of homework a positive experience for all concerned.

Our home reading program is in addition to the Homework Grid.

KINDER ORIENTATION - ‘Junior Joeys’
During the end of term three & term four of each year the Kindergarten class for the following year will be invited to a series of days at the school called Junior Joeys. During these days the new Kindergarten students will gain some experience of school life to assist with a smooth transition into formal schooling.

New students will be engaged in a variety of activities and some initial assessments will be conducted to enable staff to ensure all relevant support structures are in place before school starts the next year.

All kindergarten students are paired with a senior student in a ‘Buddy’ system and new students will meet their buddies at the orientation days.
LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
Learning technologies are a vital part of the learning process here at St Joseph’s. All learning spaces have interactive whiteboards, net book computers, android tablets and wireless broadband internet access. These tools are used to complement and enhance the learning of each student. We also have a video conference centre for both staff and students.

Staff are committed to engaging with the latest learning technologies and have extensive professional development in this area.

LIBRARY
We have a well-stocked library and the collection is constantly being updated. Class’ will attend a library lesson every week. Children are encouraged to borrow each week and return the books the next week. Every child should have a library bag to borrow books.

MUSIC
Music is catered for in a number of ways at St Joseph’s. Music is a major part of our Creative Arts Curriculum and regular lessons are timetabled into the learning program at school. These lessons often culminate in a whole school performance or a presentation at the district eisteddfod.

Opportunity also exists for individual tuition in piano, guitar and some other instruments.

NEWSLETTERS
Every Thursday fortnight, a Newsletter communicating school events (recent, past or future) and any other appropriate information you may need to know will be sent home. Teachers are also encouraged to contribute children’s work to this publication. Newsletters are sent home with the eldest child in the family and are also available from the school website.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Our school has a very active Parents and Friends Association which meets each month. The P&F are an integral part of the school and assist in forming school policy. The P&F work in partnership with the school to organise fund raising, excursions, canteen, social events for students and families and many other important functions within the school.

All parents are encouraged to be a part of the P&F to share their particular talents.

Members of the P&F also have the opportunity to represent the school at the Diocesan Parent Assembly.
PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS
Teachers will conduct parent information evenings at the beginning of each year. This is to inform parents of organisational matters, give an outline of the work for the year and the expectations of the students. Your attendance at these meetings is strongly encouraged.

PERSONAL GOALS
Students are encouraged to strive for their personal best in all that they do and are constantly reminded to set personal goals to improve in all areas. In doing this we ask that the students reflect the pride they take in their work by always ensuring that their work is neat and presented to the best of their ability. Students are also encouraged to reflect on their performance in all aspects of school life including behaviour and to set goals for improvements where necessary.

POLICY
St Joseph’s School Policies are located at the front office and on our website.

READING
Reading is a very important part of the whole learning experience at St Joseph’s. As such, in addition to the regular reading program at school we have a home reading program for all grades.

All students will bring home books to read at home either with their parents / carers or independently depending on age and ability. The main focus of the Home Reading Program is for children to enjoy reading and to experience success. This will mean that students will bring home books below the level at which they might be assessed so as to increase the likelihood of experiencing success and to foster a love of reading.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Our Religious Education program in the school supports parents in preparing their children for the sacraments. Children are eligible for Confirmation in Year Two, Penance and First Eucharist in Year Three.

All classes are taught the Religious Education Syllabus as provided by the Lismore Catholic Schools Office. We accept enrolments of non-Catholic Students however all students will be educated in Religious Education and participate in school masses and liturgies.
REPORTS AND PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT CONFERENCES
Written reports are sent home twice yearly, at the end of terms two and four. All students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be assessed using the A-E scale as required by the Australian Government.

At the beginning of the year, at the end of term two Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are conducted to review your child’s progress and to jointly set learning goals. A conference opportunity is also available towards the end of term four if requested by either the class teacher or parents.

Teachers are always available to discuss any issues or concerns that parents may have. A telephone call or email to discuss an issue or to make an appointment is all that is required. We also make ourselves available at the end of each school day.

SPORT AND PE
As well as weekly lessons in sport and PE many opportunities exist for our students to participate in a wide range of sporting activities. We have a regular swimming program and students participate in a variety of sporting clinics run by local, district and national sporting clubs and organisations.

Students at St Joseph’s also have the opportunity to represent the school and the diocese in all winter and summer sports. We have swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals every year and students are selected from these to attend the Richmond Zone carnivals.

Physical activity and a healthy lifestyle are a focus at our school.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
There are many opportunities for our students to act as leaders in our school. All Year six students will be members of the Schools Representative Council.

Stage Three students lead the school in a school based ‘Jumping Joeys’ program that tells our story and assist students in their personal development. This program is a valuable tool in shaping the character of young people whilst also giving our leaders the responsibility of delivering this to their peers.

As leaders, Stage Three students may be required to:-
  • Welcome visitors to the school
  • Speak at School Assemblies and other special events
  • Raise and lower the flag each day
  • Take responsibility for distributing and collecting sports equipment
  • Represent the school at special occasions e.g. Anzac Day
  • Set a good example for other students
• Collect, re-use, recycle and dispose of waste (bins, cans, cardboard, paper etc.)
• Promote the school in the wider community
• Assist younger students with altar serving and other church activities
• Assist the Principal and teachers as required.

Leadership skills are promoted from the time a student enters kindergarten whether in group work or class responsibilities. Making Jesus Real and Restorative Practice will assist both staff and students develop during their time at St Joseph’s and the Year 6 Leaders will lead students through a peer support program encompassing these practices.

SUN SAFE POLICY
St Joseph’s is a Sun Safe school and therefore we commit to the following Sun Safe practices:

No Hat - Play in the shade
Children are required to wear our school approved hat at all times when outside. If they do not have their approved school hat, then they are to remain in a shaded or covered area.

Sunscreen
Sunscreen is available at school for children’s use. Children are encouraged to apply sunscreen before lunch and before sporting activities. If your child has an allergy to sunscreen please inform the Principal and class teacher.

During swimming season, if lessons occur during peak UV times, the children must use sunscreen and will be encouraged to wear a T shirt or wet shirt.

SUPERVISION
During all school activities, every effort is made to ensure the safety of each child. Children play in areas where they are easily visible and teachers are vigilant in patrolling for any perceived dangers.

Students are supervised from 8:40 am to 3:15 pm. Parents who need to have their children at school outside of these hours would need to make suitable arrangements with the Principal.

Often, there will be a need for children to be in the library or a classroom during recess or lunch times. At these times a teacher will be present with the children. At no time are children allowed in classrooms without supervision.
THE SCHOOL DAY TIMES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Morning bell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am - 11.00am</td>
<td>Morning session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am - 11:20am</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20am - 1.00pm</td>
<td>Middle session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm - 1.40pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40pm - 3.00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Home Time</td>
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TRANSPORT
Students travel to school either by walking, being dropped off by parents/carers, riding bikes or catching the bus. Free bus travel is available to eligible families and application forms are available at the office.
UNIFORM POLICY
The wearing of correct school uniform is important to foster in children pride in their school and in their appearance. All uniform items, except shoes, are available through the school.

1. Boys Uniform
   - Red Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest
   - Navy shorts (suitable for everyday use as well as sports days)
   - Navy socks (short but above the ankle)
   - Navy Jumper
   - Navy Hat
   - Black shoes-Leather type or runners
   - Winter options (Not compulsory)-Navy track pants or long navy trousers.

2. Girls Uniform
   - Red Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest
   - Navy skirt
   - Navy skort
   - Navy shorts
   - Navy socks (short but above the ankle)
   - Navy Jumper
   - Navy Hat
   - Black shoes-Leather type or runners
   - Winter options (Not compulsory)-Navy; slacks, boot leg pants, leggings, stockings, track pants.

3. Jewellery
   In keeping with WH&S policies it is recommended that jewellery *not* be worn to school. However, the following items are deemed appropriate:
   - Earrings—Sleepers or studs only.
   - Rings—One signet ring
   - Watch
   - Necklaces—Only necklaces of special significance e.g. A cross given as a First Eucharist gift. These are to be worn under clothing so they do not get caught in something that could possibly cause harm to the child. It is highly recommended that these are not worn to school as necklaces can often break and become lost in the normal course of school life.

4. Hair
   Hair is to be kept neat and tidy at all times.
   Long hair (below the shoulders) is to be tied back while at school.
   Items used to tie hair back should be in school colours and not excessive in number.
   Temporary spray hair colours are not to be worn to school unless the express permission of the Principal is granted.

5. Nail polish
   Nail polish is not to be worn to school.

*All* clothing must be labelled with the child’s name.