As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year’s resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that 27 November is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year.

During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus’ coming, at his birth and at the end of time.

Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not to disturb his disciples. Why? (Because these signs indicate that redemption is near.) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.)

At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what “Advent resolutions” your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus’ birth and anticipate at Jesus’ second coming.

Pray together for God’s help in following through on these resolutions

Show me your ways, LORD, 
teach me your paths. 
Guide me in your truth and 
teach me, 
for you are God my Saviour, 
and my hope is in you all day long.

P & F SUPPORT

Last Friday evening we experienced yet again the continued support from our P & F with a lovely dinner. Members of the P & F gathered to share in the successes of 2016. I appreciate very much the send off I was given on this occasion. I felt very humbled to have been privileged to work within the midst of such wonderful families.

I thank Mrs Karmen Marchment and Mrs Gina Williamson for their organisation of the evening.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

I wish to inform families that I will be on leave from St Joseph’s from Monday 5 December until Tuesday 13 December inclusive. During this time I will be partaking in my induction and formation for the position of School Service Consultant. During this time Mr Nigel Toole will deputise on my behalf should you have any concerns.

SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Abby (S3P) and Hayley Fletcher (S1M) on the passing of their great grandmother Nancy Capon this week. Please be assured of our thoughts and prayers at this time.

‘Empowered quality learning in flexible and adaptive environments, utilising personalised and collaborative practices.’
TREAT WEEK

Throughout Week 9; Monday 5 December 2016 through to Friday 9 December 2016, we have set aside a section of each day to celebrate, with the children, a wonderful year of learning.

It is very fitting for us to celebrate all the achievements of the children throughout the year and take time out to reflect on such progress. The timetable for each day’s activities will be included in next week’s calendar.

SCHOOL FEES

I thank all families who have met their financial commitments for 2016. We very much appreciate those families who are continuing to fulfil their direct debit or credit responsibilities. Families who pay via a lump sum and are yet to finalise overdue payments are required to do so by the close of business Friday 2 December 2016. The 2017 School Fee schedule has now been ratified by our Parish Finance Committee. I am pleased to announce there will be no increase to School Building and Maintenance levy and only a $30 increase per child per grade, in total for Tuition and Resource Fees for 2017.

BEGINNING 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Many parents may be aware that our neighbouring Catholic schools are beginning 2017 with a staggered start for Year 1 to Year 6. This process is to enable all teachers to assess all students in the EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI).

This assessment is a Diocesan initiative and is to be completed in all schools within our Diocese during the first week of next year.

After much thought and discernment we, as a school, have delegated our first day back for Year 1 to Year 6 as Monday 30 January 2017. We will facilitate the assessment for each child but have considered the needs of families at this time. We understand that finding an additional week of child care is problematic and an inconvenience for families.

To this end the first week back will see many whole school initiatives developed such as Robotics sessions, Tabloid sports, Positive Behaviour workshops, Making Jesus Real workshops and the like. Through this process families are not subject to undue stress and all children are assessed in the MAI by their classroom teachers. If you have any feedback in relation to this decision please do not hesitate to contact Mr Nigel Toole or myself.

2017 Kindergarten students will experience the staggered start as has been customary for 5 years now. These students will begin on Monday 6 February 2017.

Congratulations to this week’s Waterman’s Award winners who have demonstrated their ability to be respectful, responsible learners Lacey Copp, Jethro Boyd and Jack Daley.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

As we lead up to Christmas our Mini Vinnies Leaders are working alongside our local St Vincent de Paul workers in making Christmas more manageable for families within our community. Each Stage group within our school has been allocated their baskets for filling with food and present items. We hope to give to St Vincent de Paul many baskets filled to overflowing of non-perishable foods (within date range) and gifts (new) to ensure that Christmas is much brighter for those struggling to make ends meet this Christmas.

Please send items with your children over the coming weeks.

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CONGRATULATIONS

We are ever so proud of Oliver who has earned our very first GOLD Mathletics award for 2016. To gain this Oliver had to achieve 16 Bronze awards and 3 silver wards. Great work Oliver. A true testament to your perseverance.

Before & After School Care 2017

On Wednesday night we had Kylie Parks from Camp Australia come to the school and discuss how the Before & After School Care would operate from the beginning of next year. The session was very informative and the parents who attended were pleased with what they heard. Registrations are being taken for 2017. If you are interested please register so you receive the information pack. You can register without making bookings, therefore you are not locked into any arrangement.

When you register you have with you your CRN, Medicare, Ambulance Cover details, Immunisation & Emergency contact details.

UNIFORM SHOP ADDITIONAL HOURS

The Uniform Shop is now taking Pre-order Forms in preparation for 2017. The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday from 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm. An additional day will be offered to families on Friday 27 January 2017, 9:00 am - 12.30 pm.

Pre-order forms are available at the School Office or on the school’s website. Payment can be via direct credit, Eftpos or cash.

BUSWAYS INFORMATION

Year 2 students progressing to Year 3 – 2017

As you are aware the Transport for NSW requires a new application for free travel from students who commence Year 3. As of May 2016 Transport for NSW require all applications be completed online at www.transportnsw.info/school-students.

The old “blue forms” are no longer accepted.

DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS TO BUSWAYS

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK to keep up to date with all that’s happening at St Joseph’s.

Congratulations to this fortnights award winners.

Finn Towey, Ella Martin, Harry Newman, Erin Oates, Gabrielle Scott, Oliver Collins, Miley Cooper, Adam Johnson, Cooper Kirkman, Brigitte Steele, Oliver Scott, Riley Cook, Olivia Holloway, Saffron Mea, Aysha Wilson, Amelia Riley, Ella Jepp, Annabelle Knox, Emily Cook, Brenna Manning, Michael Rudd, Bryon Kolk, Alyssa Hughes, Kai Ditchburn, Kaedan Martin, Rhiannon Slater, Lilah Potts, Jacob Oates, Aryan Vaishnav, Alex Galloway, Oliver Hooper, Hannah Dakin, Anabelle Paynting, Summer-Lili Surrey, Ellolise Kirkman, Stephanie Lambert, Samuel Warren, Monique Williams, Amelia Stubbs, Riley Angel and Liam Richards-Brown.

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stay Awake
Our school has joined the Amart Community Kickbacks Program. Under this program, our school can earn 5% of your purchases at any Amart Sports as in-store credit to spend on our school sports programs.

All you need to do is join Team Amart, select our school from the list of participating groups and swipe your loyalty card every time you make a purchase at Amart Sports.

**So how does it work?**

Every time you shop and swipe your Team Amart card, they will capture your transaction and 5% of that sale will be credited back to the school. As long as you have selected our school as our nominated group on your loyalty account, you’ll be supporting us by earning credits.

Here is the latest deal.

### Events Calendar

- **Monday 28 November**
  - School Captain Speeches: Ogilvie Hall: 9.15 am

- **Tuesday 29 November**
  - Whole School Science Fair: Parents welcome from 1.45pm

- **Wednesday 30 November**
  - Sacrament of Penance S3S & S3P

- **Friday 2 December**
  - Whole School Assembly: Ogilvie Hall, 2.30 pm

### ADVANCE NOTICES

- **Tuesday 6 December**
  - End of Year Mass: OLOL Church, 9.30 am

- **Thursday 8 December**
  - Whole School Reflection Day

- **Friday 9 December**
  - Semester 2 Reports sent home

- **Saturday 10 December**
  - Children’s Liturgy: OLOL Church, 6.00 pm

- **Wednesday 14 December**
  - Year 6 Graduation Mass & Supper: OLOL Church: 6pm

- **Friday 16 December**
  - Last day for students

### 2017 DATES

- **Friday 27 January 2017**
  - Uniform Shop open: 9:00 am – 12.30 pm

- **Monday 30 January 2017**
  - First day for Year 1 to Year 6
  - 2017 Kindergarten BEST Start Assessment begins

- **Monday 6 February 2017**
  - 2017 Kindergarten begin

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**CAUTION**

- **Spoil the kids this Christmas with 30% off ALL kids @ASICs footwear!**
- **Offer ends 27/11/16**
- **Shop kids ASICs footwear! amartsports.com.au**

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**2016 WHITE RIBBON COASTAL WALK**

Sunday 27 November 2016
Lighthouse Beach to Town Green or Flynn’s Beach to Town Green or Town Beach Kiosk

The White Ribbon Coastal Walk is a FREE community event consisting of walking the Coastal Walk from Lighthouse Beach, Flynn’s Beach or Town Beach Kiosk to the Town Green to raise awareness about White Ribbon Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Registration essential by November 25, 2016
For further information go to [www.pmhastingsdfv.com.au](http://www.pmhastingsdfv.com.au) or contact 6584 9102

**2nd WAUCHOPE SCOUT GROUP GARAGE SALE**

Saturday 26 November 2016, 8.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Wauchope Scout Hall, Tallowood Avenue.

Raffle, BBQ, Lots of great second hand goods.

Stalls available to book: $15 indoor or $10 outdoor

Donations of second hand goods would be appreciated.

To donate items or book a stall please phone Heather 0429 861 378

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