Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

Welcome to 2015 at St Joseph’s which promises to be a very exciting and productive year in the life of this great school. It was smiles all round as the gates opened yesterday! A particular welcome to the new students and their families who have joined us this year; today we had 8 new Kindergarten students start their education journey with us and yesterday we welcomed Brayden Currie to Year 2 and Zayne Phillips-Jones to Year 5. It will be also wonderful to have Father Mick MacAndrew, the new St Patrick’s Cooma Parish Priest, joining us on a regular basis. Likewise our 2 new teachers, Miss Marni Moreing and Mrs Gillian Forrester, have hit the ground running after many hours spent in preparation over the break. Our enrolments are at 45 students with at least another 2 children joining us in February or early March.

The staff commenced the school year last Tuesday with a very moving and reverent liturgy, prepared by our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Shannon, which had as its keynote theme a scripture reading from Matthew 5: 14-15, providing guidance in all that we do at St Joseph’s:

“**You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then covers it; instead they put it on a lampstand where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.**”

A semi-trailer load of classroom furniture from some Canberra schools at the start of the holidays has provided us with enough to set up our 3 classrooms in optimal fashion. We have also taken delivery of 15 laptops from Catholic Education in Canberra and they will soon be up and running in the classrooms, to complement our significant bank of iPads that are used.

Thanks to the generosity of the School Community Council (SCC) we have had reverse cycle air conditioners installed in 3 rooms over the holidays, however, their heating capabilities have had a workout with the cold, wet weather so far this week. We can be assured that the hot weather will return and I’m sure they will be greatly appreciated! Thank you to the SCC.

With the expansion to 3 classes this year we have renamed them as follows:

**Infants Class**: Years K/1 with Mrs Shannon  
**Primary Class**: Years 2/3 with Miss Moreing  
**Senior Class**: Years 4/5/6 with Mr Bennett

Next Wednesday (4th February) there will be a Parent Information Meeting at 5.30 pm in the Infants classroom to outline school processes and procedures for 2015. Please come along and meet the new staff as well. This will be followed by the first SCC meeting of the year commencing at 6.30 pm. While mentioning the SCC it was with great sadness that we said farewell to Emma Sellers and the family as they move from the area. Thank you for your tireless work for the school and community and we wish Lottie and Bert all the best.

Can I recommend the latest edition of the Catholic Voice to you with St Joseph’s featuring on the front cover. While the story of the school’s revitalisation, thanks to the efforts of many, is exciting, we cannot emphasise enough how much the dedication of the staff plays in the well-being and advancement of a school such as ours.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs, Acting Principal
It was a very exciting morning in the infant’s classroom with our new kindergarten children arriving for their first day at 'big school'. The children were taught a song about the letters of the alphabet and then looked at one of our letters for the week ‘S’. The class then made their own scary scarecrow using crayons, shredded paper and a brown paper bag. After recess Mrs Sten had the children share what they had done during their holidays. They then wrote a short recount and illustrated their work to share with the class. It has been such a great first day for all the infants and we look forward to sharing more exciting news with you in the coming weeks.

Alice Shannon
K/1 Classroom Teacher

The Catholic Education Bulletin is looking for stories about successive generations that may have attended the same school. If you have had family members attend St Joseph’s over a long period of time can you please contact Mr Stubbs so that we can do a follow-up story by 6 February.

Wonderful news to hear that we were successful in our application for this $2000 grant to provide playground stencils, supporting literacy, numeracy and coordination development around the school grounds. Watch this space for further news!