Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

The excitement was hard to contain amongst our students last Friday when they paraded as their favourite book character in our Annual Book Parade. There was such a diversity of characters amongst the students that we hope it does reflect a genuine love of reading in their lives. The Book Fair was likewise a great success and thank you to everyone who supported the sale; the school gets a percentage of the sale proceeds and this goes directly to the purchase of school literacy resources. I have mentioned several times this year the benefits of embedding a culture of reading into family routines and recommended the website www.read4success.com.au which is developed by one of Australia’s foremost literacy educators, Dr Kaye Lowe. An important step in developing this home culture is called Book Orientation; Dr Lowe explains this:

“Before you start reading with your child, take two to three minutes to discuss the book. It is important that the child holds the book. Flip through the pages and talk about the title, illustrations and any unusual words that you notice. You could also read the blurb together. By having this initial conversation, you are setting your child up for success. You are putting into place the necessary support for your child to read with confidence.

It is not necessary to spend a long time doing a book orientation. Two to three minutes is enough. Spending too much time could become boring and discussing every page takes away from the enjoyment of discovering the plot or discovering something new. Enjoy sharing the book and use it as an enticement to discover what happens in the story.”

On Tuesday evening this week, the teaching staff were involved in a “twilight” professional development activity for several hours after school. This involved an extensive analysis of our NAPLAN results where individual questions and student responses were studied to identify patterns of responses and to guide future teaching and learning. The most beneficial feature of the NAPLAN data is the ability to analyse student strengths and weaknesses in terms of their responses and this, combined with class assessments, gives us a well-informed picture as to what skills and competencies need reinforcing.

Please don’t forget the District Year 6 Public Speaking competition this evening at 6 pm at the Bombala High School canteen. The cost is $10 which includes a light supper; we wish Tayla Ventry all the best for this competition.

By now you should have received a copy of the letter from the Director of Catholic Education, Mrs Moira Najdecki, informing the school community that I have been reappointed as the Acting Principal for 2015. I am thrilled with this announcement and I look forward to working through some very exciting stages in the development of St Joseph’s next year, not only in terms of the expansion of classes but also in terms of the enhancement of the spiritual, physical and cultural environment of the school.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs,
Acting Principal
There are still a number of containers at school which are from the Bombala Races Fundraiser. If you own any of these containers they can be collected during school hours from the Canteen.

Calling for parent helpers to assist with canteen duty on Mondays.

With the school expanding in 2015 we are seeking parent helpers for the canteen so that two volunteers can be rostered on together. If you are available between 11.30 – 1.30 on a Monday please contact the school.

Bombala Blue Heelers sent notes home this week regarding a proposed Oztag Competition. If your child is interested please remember that notes are due back at school Friday 7th November 2015!

This term the children will be introduced to Praying in Colour which was developed by Sybil MacBeth. It introduces an active, visual, and meditative way to pray: Active because you draw your prayers, visual because you see your prayers, and meditative because you revisit your prayers throughout the day.

Some reasons to pray in colour:
1) You want to pray but words escape you.
2) Sitting still and staying focused in prayer are a challenge.
3) Your body wants to be part of your prayer.
4) You want to just hang out with God but don’t know how.
5) Listening to God feels like an impossible task.
6) Your mind wanders and your body complains.
7) You want a visual, concrete way to pray.
8) You need a new way to pray.

This method was introduced to staff on the Spirituality Day held earlier this term and all found it to be a simple and powerful method for prayer. We look forward to sharing some of our prayers with you later in the term at our school assembly.