Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

Last Friday the Archdiocesan Principals, along with Catholic Education Office division leaders, met in Canberra for their annual conference. The 2 keynote speakers had a profound impact on all those present and prompted animated discussion during the breaks and a cause for reflection. The first speaker was Francis Sullivan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council (TJHC). On 11 January 2013 the Federal Government formally announced the establishment of a Royal Commission into the way institutions across Australia have responded to complaints of child sexual abuse. Shortly after the announcement, the two overarching Catholic Church organisations, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia, which together represent dioceses, archdioceses and religious congregations across Australia, established the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. Francis Sullivan maintains a blog on the TJHC website and he stated on the weekend:

“Last Friday I met with more than 75 school principals, teachers and administrators from the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese. It was inspiring to see so many motivated and dedicated people committed to quality education and the safety and well being of children…..the regard for the work of the Catholic Church on the ground, in schools, social services and health organisations is still high.”

His views aligned with the statement earlier this year by Pope Francis that “schools are the new frontier of evangelisation” which reinforces the pivotal role that Catholic schools play.

The second speaker was Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, a regular guest on the Sunrise program and a frequent commentator on social issues involving children. Dr Carr-Gregg works as the Managing Director of The Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre. He is a nationally registered child and adolescent psychologist working in private practice in Melbourne. He is passionate about adolescent mental health, technology and education. He is a founding member of the National Centre Against Bullying and chairs their Cybersafety Committee. The focus of his presentation was on the need for physical and mental well-being, resilience and reflection in all of our lives, both young and old, and his words resonated strongly with the audience. His many publications focus on practical ways of achieving these goals and are highly recommended.

We continue to wish Mary Ventry a speedy recovery from her illness and in this light we have rescheduled the Art Show to a later date. A comment was recently made “You can't have an Art Show without Mary!” given her talent in this area. Don’t forget the Assembly next Wednesday at 2pm in the Parish Room and you are also invited to the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph on Tuesday 11 November at 11 am where our students will be delivering the ‘Ode to the Fallen’.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs,
Acting Principal

We are having a Working Bee to tidy up the school grounds on Tuesday 18 November from 4 – 6 pm and a BBQ afterwards to recuperate from the hard work.
The Annual Bombala Bike Show will be held at the Bombala Show Ground with lots of fun activities for children:
- Face painting
- Air-brush tattooing
- Jumping castle.
- Best children’s bike and best dressed rider.
As well as a La Mans event - requires gloves, helmet, boots and of course motorbike (for all ages).

Today our primary class went on an excursion to one of the largest shearing sheds in our area at Charlie and Anne Maslin’s ‘Gunnigrah’ property. This excursion forms part of the classes HISE unit ‘The Story of Wool’. The children were able to watch shearing in action and see how a shearing shed works. Thank you to the Maslins and Mary Ventry for making this excursion possible.

2015 Kinder Orientation Graduation

Yesterday marked the end of our Kinder Orientation with each child receiving a graduation pack and certificate. We look forward to welcoming all the students back in 2015.

Bombala Bike Show
15 November 2014

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- Face painting
- Air-brush tattooing
- Jumping castle.
- Best children’s bike and best dressed rider.
As well as a La Mans event - requires gloves, helmet, boots and of course motorbike (for all ages).

Parent Information Evening

Practical ways to address Bullying, Resilience and Cyberbullying

There will be a talk by the adolescent relationship expert, Simon Clegg, at Bombala High School Library at 6.30 pm on Monday 10 November. All parents are invited.

Farewell to Mrs Elizabeth Moroney from the CEO.

A great supporter of St Joseph’s over many years, Mrs Moroney will be retiring at the end of this year. She will be visiting the school on Wednesday 26 November so please mark this in your diary. Details of a celebration for her will be announced soon.