Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

In these times of world conflict it is important that we never forget the sacrifices made by servicemen and women throughout Australia’s history. From the horrific impacts of World War 1 through to the uncertainties faced by our troops in Iraq today, it is not just the physical scars that are part of the legacy of conflicts; the mental scars can linger long and we paid tribute to those who served and continue to serve at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Bombala Cenotaph on Tuesday. Congratulations to our leaders, Tayla and Baidon, for the excellent job they did in presenting the ‘Ode to the Fallen’ in front of a large crowd.

Excitement levels are settling back down today after yesterday’s assembly. The diversity of what takes place both inside and outside the classroom was on show and full credit to our teachers and assistants in preparing the children and the presentations. Congratulations to all the award winners on their efforts this term!

As we so often say in education “the one constant is change” and that is true of every school. In that light we warmly welcome our new Year 2/3 teacher for 2015, Miss Marni Moreing. She will be teaching the Year 2/3 class and is excited about the prospect of being part of the St Joseph’s community and working with students, staff and parents in the new school year. At the same time we bid a sad farewell to Miss Amanda Smith who will be moving to Tumut in the new year. Miss Smith has made a very positive impact on learning support in the short time she has been with us and we thank her sincerely and wish her all the best for the future.

In terms of planning for next year and the expansion of the school to a third class, we are very grateful to the Parish Council for facilitating the use of the Parish Room as our new classroom in 2015. We are also working closely with Catholic Education and the Catholic Education Commission to refurbish part of the Presbytery to provide a comfortable, functional meeting room for the Parish as required. We have also been busy sourcing classroom furniture for the new classroom and we will be collecting a class set of desks and chairs from St Gregory’s at Queanbeyan on 18 December. Catholic Education is also providing us with a class set of laptop computers so we will be well placed to begin 2015 in style. Bookcases, whiteboards and other necessary items are being progressively acquired also and we are ordering additional classroom teaching resources for Miss Moreing’s class.

Thank you again to John Bedingfield and Daryl White for doing the lawns again this week and I’m sure you can still see much to be done at next Tuesday’s Working Bee from 4 pm. Weeding, pruning edging and clearing will be the priority as we move into the warmer weather. See you there!

Being mindful of those in our community who are less fortunate than us, we are beginning a St Vinnies Christmas Thanksgiving drive commencing next week until 10 December. Any non-perishable tinned or packaged food items, as well as Christmas treats, will be very gratefully received in the containers that will be in the school entrance foyer and these will be handed over to the St Vinnies volunteers in time for distribution at Christmas.

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).

Would you like to join the Bombala District Swimming Club for the 2014/2015 season. Swimming Club runs Monday afternoons from 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Squad training is available for all different levels and with enough qualified volunteer coaches we may run our learn to swim program. Swim club is a fun and non-competitive environment which aims to focus on stroke correction and fitness. The cost for the season is $25.00 for non-competitive swimmers (swim club only) or $75.00 for swimmers who wish to compete at regional swim club meets.

At this stage, the committee is asking for expressions of interest for anyone wishing to attend. Could you please contact Donna Shelley 0409 556 813, Rhonda Stewart 0428 435 293 or Janelle Devine 0407 461 804 to register your interest. We would prefer if you could text if possible. Please include child's name, age and swimming standard.

The Bombala District Swimming Club look forward to another successful season of swimming and encourage everyone to express an interest in joining the Club and having fun in the water!