**Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community**

It was a very fitting farewell to Mrs Elizabeth Moroney yesterday when students, parents, Sister Teresa and staff acknowledged her significant contribution to St Joseph’s over many years. She was presented with a card and gifts, including a stunning silhouetted tree on a blank canvas that had a coloured fingerprint from all students and staff representing the leaves (thanks to Mary Ventry’s creative talents again)! The wording summed up her valued support for St Joseph’s “…thanks for helping our school grow”.

Tomorrow we have our Mission Day with a variety of activities and events on offer so we ask that the students come prepared; please let your child’s teacher know if they are allergic to face-paint. This is another example of the selfless nature of our school and parent community and all funds raised will be directed to the Caritas Mission appeal. At the same time the Vinnies Christmas Thanksgiving boxes in the foyer and classrooms are filling up fast so if you can contribute any non-perishable or Christmas treats they will be greatly appreciated.

As mentioned last week we are aiming to streamline the Graduation, Awards and Christmas Presentation this year. The Graduation Liturgy will be held in the church at 6 pm on Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th} December; the creative talents of Mrs Shannon and Sister Teresa will ensure that it is a reverent, moving and memorable occasion. The Liturgy will be followed by a light supper, Christmas Presentation and Awards Ceremony in the large Activities Room in the Exhibition Hall which will allow us to accommodate all the families and friends attending and to decorate the room over the preceding days.

A note will go home next week with final arrangements explained.

Visitors to the school haven’t been able to stop joining in with the Christmas song rehearsals conducted over the past couple of weeks in preparation for this Saturday evening’s Christmas Carols at the railway. Our musical maestro, Mr Bennett, certainly does bring out the best in our singing talent. We will be meeting the students at about 7.15 pm near the platform/stage and a reminder that school uniform is required.

It is hard to avoid the fact that a State election is in the air early next year, with all the money and ‘promises’ being offered by politicians to secure our vote. If you are speaking to candidates for any electorate it is important that education remains front and centre in the discussions. The Federal Government contributes 57.5\% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school and the NSW Government contributes 19.7\%. The remaining 22.8\% comes from the parents and parish community through school fees and fund-raising. This is why funding support from State and Federal Governments must keep pace with rising education costs to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

We look forward to welcoming back Father Mick McAndrew in the new year when he takes up the role of Parish Priest at St Patrick’s Parish in Cooma.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs,
Acting Principal
Yesterday we held a farewell morning tea and student presentation wishing Mrs Moroney well in her retirement. Mrs Moroney leaves a legacy of helping to build and transform St Joey’s to the school it is today. Without her support and guidance this would have been a difficult task, she has always been just a phone call away. The staff, parents, parish and students will miss her dearly.

Swim Club

Swim Club started on Monday 24 November with an assessment and registration afternoon to organise the groups/squads for our 2014/15 season. Any families that were unaware of this are invited to join us at any time. We are happy to announce that we have enough qualified volunteer coaches to offer the learn to swim program (thank you Marni and Calli). We can accommodate 10 swimmers at 4.30 pm and another 10 swimmers at 5.00 pm. Places are currently available and more may become available as the learn to swim students move to higher groups. Please express your interest during swim club or by contacting Donna on 0409 556 813.

Swim club fees are $25.00 for non-competitive swimmers (swim club only) and registration forms are available during swim club on Monday afternoons between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm. These fees are the lowest in NSW and you are welcome to join at any time during the season. We will also be taking orders for swimmers and goggles throughout the season. High School Students and adults are also welcome to join us in the pool. For the Christmas period, our last swim club session will be on Monday 14 December 2014 and we will resume, in a modified format, on Monday 5 January 2015. If you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Donna Shelley, President

St Vinnie’s Christmas Thanksgiving Drive

We have commenced a St Vinnie’s Christmas Thanksgiving drive. Any non-perishable tinned or packaged food items, as well as Christmas treats, will be gratefully received in the boxes which are placed in each classrooms and the school entrance foyer. Items will be received up until 10 December 2014.

MISSION DAY

Tomorrow is St Joey’s Mission Day.
There will be a number of activities including lolly stall, tyre toss, face painting and much more.
It is also a uniform free day!
All proceeds go to our charity “Caritas”

School Fees

A friendly reminder that school fees are now due.
If you are experiencing financial difficulty please arrange to speak to Acting Principal Phil Stubbs about the payment options available.