Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

It is that time of year again when the Christmas focus steps up and we are bombarded with images and advertising to get us to ‘buy up big’. The obligatory snowbound scenes of a European Christmas are ever present which is at odds with the heat and humidity of the Australian Christmas season. Likewise we must never lose sight of the reality of what Christmas is about; we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the season prompts us to reflect on his teachings and understand the sacrifices he made for us during his life. We are encouraging the children at present to explore the true meaning of the Nativity Story and to look at ways in which we can brighten the festive season of those around us – not just in terms of giving and receiving presents. The season is about being there for others, helping out where we can, thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves and never losing sight of the real Christmas story.

Our St Vinnie’s collection boxes are starting to overflow with food and gift donations and we only have a few days left until 10th December to make a difference, so please feel free to contribute non-perishable food and Christmas treats between now and then. A great example of the Christmas spirit of St Joseph’s was on display at the ‘Carols by the Railway’ last Saturday evening. A large group of our students sang a couple of spirited Christmas songs under the direction of Mr Bennett. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who supported the community event.

In the ongoing spirit of giving at St Joseph’s we held our annual Mission Day last Friday and the amazing amount of $315.30 was raised to send to the Caritas Mission Appeal. The children and staff were very inventive in how they raised funds: white elephant stall, face painting, guessing competitions, sponge throwing, to name but a few.

Our swimming program is now in full swing with lots of aquatic activity each afternoon at the Bombala pool. Under the expertise of coach Jess Perkins we can see some real development in the confidence and competency of our students in the pool. Coming into summer we can never overstate enough the importance of learning about water safety and basic swimming skills.

Don’t forget the Graduation Liturgy next Wednesday at 6 pm in the church, followed by a light supper and then the Christmas Presentation and Awards Ceremony at the Exhibition Hall. A letter has gone home about catering arrangements for the light supper; if you would like to further contribute please contact the school office.

Again I must express my gratitude to the Parish Council, Parish Finance Committee and Parish Ladies Group for the smooth transition of the use of the Parish Room as our new classroom. We have now lined up even more classroom furniture, thanks to St Vincent’s School at Aranda, with the big delivery happening on Thursday 18th December.

A reminder that school reports will be sent home with students next Monday.

May God bless you,

Phil Stubbs,
Acting Principal
Mission Day

Thank you to our Primary Class and School Leaders for organising another fun filled and successful Mission Day. Together we raised $315.30 which has been sent to our schools charity “Caritas”.

Christmas Carols

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Railway Christmas Carols and thank you to the Friends of the Railway for another enjoyable carols night!

Infants Class

Could parents of the infants class please send in a heavy duty bag to enable children to bring home class books and Christmas art work.

Thank you

Graduation Liturgy and End of Year Concert

A friendly reminder that notes for our Graduation Liturgy and End of year Concert are due back at school tomorrow.

We look forward to the whole school community at next week’s festivities starting with the whole school Graduation celebration at St Mary’s Church

St Vinnie’s Christmas Thanksgiving Drive

Thank you to everyone who has supported our St Vinnie’s Thanksgiving Christmas Drive. We have had an overwhelming response of donations which is a demonstration of the wonderful St Joey’s Community.

Donations of non-perishable items are still able to be received up until 10 December 2014.