



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Date: 30th June, 2016

Term 2 Week 10A

Dear Parents, Staff and Friends of St Joseph's Community,

Earlier this week I forwarded to all families information regarding the upcoming Federal Election which included a copy of the Archdiocese of Sydney's "Election Guide 2016" as well as a document from the NCECs (National Catholic Education Commission) which outlined the major political parties responses to seven (7) key questions about their education policies.

Today I am including an extract from the latest media release from Mr Ross Fox, Executive Director of the NCEC, for your consideration.

### Parties Asked About Catholic Education Priorities

....For Catholic and Independent schools, in particular, Commonwealth funding is hugely important.

"With 70 per cent of the cost of educating a Catholic school student, on average, coming from governments, and mostly from the Commonwealth, school funding policy is a very important election issue for the 765,000 students in Catholic schools and their families," Mr Fox explained.

"And with the level of fees required by schools directly linked to levels of government funding, families want to know how funding policies implemented by whichever party forms government after the upcoming election will affect them." .....

...The National Catholic Education Commission launched the [SchoolFundingFacts.com](http://SchoolFundingFacts.com) website in April to help inform parents and the community about how Australian schools are funded and to explain the important role of Catholic education in Australia.

"Catholic education is focused on how government policy supports all students in all schools, and students with additional learning needs should receive extra support for their education, regardless of which school they attend," Mr Fox said.

"Over the past decade, the number of students with disability and the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools has doubled."

"Government funding and government policy has been crucial to that ongoing welcome and Catholic schools will continue to support the needs of students from all backgrounds in cooperation with families and governments."

Further information can be accessed on the National Catholic Education Commission website: [www.ncec.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au)

### Reminders

- \* Monday 18th July, 2016 - Parent Teacher Interviews
- \* Tuesday 19th July - Pupil Free Day
- \* Wednesday 20th July, 2016 - Lessons commence for Term 3
- \* Year 7/2017 - Please return acceptance forms before the end of Term 2

**Mr John Barrington, Principal**

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### Year 9, 2017 Elective Subject Selections

Year 8 students have until Friday 1st July to complete their online subject selections for their Year 9 and 10 pattern of study. Students are reminded that if they wish to change their selections, they can access the link ( by Friday) and make any necessary changes. Students will be informed of their successful selections by mid Term 3.

### Student Academic Reports Years 7-10

Academic Reports for all students in Years 7-10 will be distributed this year via the Student and Parent Portal. These will be published in the portal and available for viewing after Friday 1st July. In contrast to previous years, students will not receive a hard copy of their report. However, any reports that are published in the portal, will remain there for viewing and/or printing for the duration of the child's time at St Joseph's.

### Parent Teacher Interviews Monday 18th July

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday 18th July for students in Years 7-10 and their parents. Interviews will commence at 1pm and continue through to 8pm, in the school hall. I encourage students to attend the interview with their parents/carers so that feedback is received first-hand by all parties. Bookings for interviews can be made through the Parent Portal and are now open. They will close on Friday 15th July at 3pm. Students attending are required to wear full winter uniform.

*Mr Paul Hughes, Curriculum Coordinator*

### Important Dates for your Diary

**29/06 - 2/07 - School Musical  
SOLD OUT!**

**1/07 - Last Day of Term 2**

**18/07 - Year 7-10 Parent Teacher Interviews  
(Pupil Free)**

**19/07 - Staff Development Day (Pupil Free)**

**20/07 - Students return for Term 3**

**1/08 - P&F Meeting**

**8/08 to 19/08 - HSC Trial Examinations**

### Uniform Shop

#### Trading hours

**Monday 12noon - 4:15pm**

**Thursday 8:30am - 1:45pm**

**[uniformshop@sjchsdown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:uniformshop@sjchsdown.catholic.edu.au)**

### Canteen Roster 2016

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 18th July | <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>                            |
| 19th July | <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>                            |
| 20th July | Angela Walker, Jan Collins                       |
| 21st July | Sandy O'Connor, Lee-Ann Ginsburg                 |
| 22nd July | Michelle Partridge, Nicole Oswald, Tracey Sumner |



*We wish all the cast and crew of our School Musical "Hairspray" the very best of luck for all their performances!*

*All shows are performing in front of a sell out audience.*

*Students have been working so hard for this week of performance so we thank you for your support and look forward to some great entertainment.*

*Break a leg!!*

## Refugee Week Poetry Competition

### The Refugee Poem

by Alex Bierczynski

Bang! The gunshot, it sounded bad,  
Our neighbour was just shot dead,  
We ended up feeling sad,  
As helicopters flew overhead,  
We have to escape  
And get into shipshape.

The salty air filled my lungs,

With caution we sail on,  
Our sharpest weapons were our tongues

We have to keep going there's no going back.

I just want to live,  
Wouldn't you want the same?

I want to go home,  
My heart longing for safety.

We had to flee,  
Didn't you hear?  
For dark hope was coming near.

Where will we go?  
What will we eat?  
What will they speak?

All these questions don't reach answers beyond our  
small boat.

The endless horizon,  
Is an imaginary place,  
It leads us on,

Until we are saved.  
Leaving was hard,  
But it happened quick.

All this trauma,  
Was a tough experience.  
But the story hasn't finished,  
The pages keep turning.  
Just like the sea keeps churning.



### The Sunshine

by Isabella O'Connor

The sunshine in his eyes,  
Was a guise to hide behind  
For the soul crushing,  
Deadly despair  
of departing, was too much.

He keeps his mask on,  
Through the most wretched distress,  
So the children didn't start crying.

They all braved on,

Through day and night,  
Through all the blistering rain.  
He sang the kids, cheery songs,  
To keep their nerves at bay.

They didn't go through all of that,  
Just to get turned back the next day.

That is when the sunshine went out,  
The gray skies revealed themselves.

All hope was crushed,  
Reality let in,  
Now they were supposed to go back,  
All that way.

The sky weeped,  
the waves thrashed, angry!  
For they knew what they had been through.  
And for the man who faced such hardship,  
He was broken through and through.

The man would of worked;  
Would of helped.  
Would of cared.  
He would have been loyal to our country.  
He would have enlightened us,  
educated us.  
He would have inspired many,

The children cried,  
When he died..  
A hero in the people's eyes.

Create a better world.  
Come together, unite.  
This should not happen,  
This will not happen,  
If we help each other.....Right?

**The Refugee  
by April Hockey**

I am the refugee,  
The fugitive that you despise  
The one that you look at  
with those judging little eyes.

I am the refugee  
The one who ran from death,  
Who ran from warring factions,  
Who walked in the valley of death.

I'm the refugee, who left everyone and everything behind,  
I have seen blood spray,  
From My sister, brother, my father, my mother,  
But not yet mine.

I've played chase with bullets, looked down the barrel of a  
gun,

I've met eyes with men who want to put me at silence,  
With the only thing you people seem to know, violence.

I am the refugee, the one who experienced the feel of  
starvation,

But like most of my experiences,  
You have never experienced them.

I have sailed across armies of seas,  
I have seen waves so big that I've started to believe they  
would form into my fears,  
Me and many other "refugees" as you label us, have been  
crammed in the same boat,

All in an effort to be "like you" on your land.

I've dreamt of dreams before, one with peace,  
I've dreamt about things I've always wanted,  
In which all things you take for granted,

But in reality we could all be refugees,  
We may be forced out of all of our homes,  
one day we could all be forced to go,  
But clearly that is something you really do not know.

Instead of rejecting me,  
Let me in.

That's all I have been asking for, to even begin.  
Don't shatter every last part of hope that I have,

The desperation is becoming me,

And to feel a sense of safe is all I crave.

I am the refugee,  
And all I am asking for, Is you, To stand with me.

**Congratulations**

**to**

**Alex Bierczynski - Year 7**

**Isabella O'Connor - Year 8**

**April Hockey - Year 9**

**The winners of the  
Refugee Week Poetry  
Competition**



**Breaking the Silence -  
Family Violence Awareness Dinner**

*Breaking the Silence* promises to be an unmissable evening in the Diocesan calendar in this Year of Mercy. The dinner will gather people from around the Diocese and beyond to listen and engage with three amazing keynote speakers: *Dr Eman Sharobeem, Judge Paul Conlon SC and Mr Michael Austin* who deal with the ramifications of family violence in our community.

The evening will be held on Thursday 11th August commencing at 6:30pm at the Fraternity Club, Fairymeadow. Tickets are only \$60 per person which includes a three course dinner. Drinks can be purchased on the night. To purchase tickets please go to [events.dow.org.au](http://events.dow.org.au). If you have any enquiries please contact Josephine Cooks on 4253 0836.

**Shellharbour Stadium Holiday Fun!**

FUN 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament for girls and boys aged 13-16 - Wednesday 6th July at Shellharbour City Stadium. Get your team of 4 players and call 4257 3468 for registration details!

*We wish all students, staff and families an enjoyable school holiday break!  
Stay safe, enjoy the company of friends and family and return rejuvenated for a busy Term 3.*

# SPORT REPORT

Mrs Michelle Garbutt ~ Sports Coordinator

## NSWCCC Basketball

On Monday and Tuesday of Week 9 (July 20-21) the Open Boys Basketball Team represented the school at the NSWCCC Basketball Competition. The competition was exceptionally fierce this year, and despite a titanic effort by the boys, they fell short in their quest to bring the championship trophy home to St Joseph's. The team was: Harrison Woolfe, Connor Burton, Lachlan Wallace, Phoenix Box, Luke McGlashan, Luke Arthur, Jerico Pica, William Woolfe and Blake Dimise. Most of the team is in Year 12 and many of them have been attending this competition for several years. It has been a pleasure coaching them and I wish them all the best as they move on with the next stage of their lives.

Mr Chris Plattner , Coach



**Congratulations** to Mason Shimwell (Year 7) who recently competed at the NSW Championship for MMA which involves wrestling and boxing/kickboxing. He won his division and an Open Weight which has resulted in him qualifying to go to Melbourne in October. Well done Mason!

## Upcoming Events

22nd July - NSW All Schools Cross Country

25 July - Diocesan Netball Gala Day (note and payment due this Friday 1st July)

16th August - NSWCCC Netball Championships

17th August - Diocesan Athletics Carnival (note and payment due Wednesday 3rd August)

24th August - Diocesan Open Volleyball and Open Hockey Gala Day  
(note and payment due Wednesday 17th August)

## Outstanding Canteen Debts

A reminder that any debts due to the Canteen for food purchases are to be finalised as soon as possible after the purchase date. Failure to do so will result in this procedure of good faith, being removed.

