



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Date: 23rd October, 2014

Term 4 Week 3A

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

World Mission Month
(a continuation from last week)

Message from Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission *ad gentes* continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born "to go forth". World Mission Day is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands. It is a celebration of grace and joy.....

Some Key Points from the WMD 2014 Message

The disciples were given an experience of God's love, but also the possibility of sharing that love. And this experience is a cause for gratitude and joy in the heart of Jesus. (WMD 2014 #2)

God has hidden this from those who are all too full of themselves and who claim to know everything already. They are blinded by their presumptuousness and they leave no room for God. (WMD 2014 #2)

The 'little ones', for their part, are the humble, the simple, the poor, the marginalised, those without voice, those weary and burdened, whom Jesus pronounced 'blessed'. (WMD 2014 #2)

The disciples, for their part, received the call to follow Jesus and to be sent by him to preach the Gospel (cf. Mk 3:14), and so they were filled with joy. Why shouldn't we too enter this flood of joy? (WMD 2014 #3)

"The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience" (Evangeli Gaudium, 2). (WMD 2014 #4)

"God loves a cheerful giver" (Cor 9:7). World Mission Day is also an occasion to rekindle the desire and the moral obligation to take joyful part in the mission *ad gentes*. A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way a material offering can become a means for the evangelisation of humanity built on love. (WMD 2014 #5)

Students Applying for Exemption from Attendance at School

Parents are reminded that the NSW Government has strengthened the requirements regarding student attendance. Parents must seek exemption from attendance at school PRIOR to the absence for particular reasons eg: exceptional domestic circumstances; family holidays. As Principal, there are limitations to the type and extent of the exemption that I am allowed to grant.
Mr John Barrington, Principal



Showcase 2014

St Joseph's Annual Showcase Night is fast approaching. It will be held on Thursday afternoon and evening 6 November. Once again it is a wonderful opportunity for parents, staff, students and friends of the school to come together to share in the celebrations of student talents and their works.

Students Leaving at the End of 2014

The school would be grateful to receive early notification of any students in Years 7 to 11 who will not be returning to St Joseph's in 2015. There are waiting lists for all year groups. Please contact the school at your earliest convenience.

P&F Meeting

The first P&F Meeting for Term 4 will be held on Monday 27th October commencing at 7pm in the school library. All welcome.



Sometimes when talking to a parent, we both decide that a student is just still very young/immature for their age. Is this such a bad thing? In some cases and for some reasons, yes. But, as a parent myself, I can't help feeling that it's altogether not a bad thing. What's wrong with a younger child, even a year 7-8 student, not knowing about all the dark things of the world just yet? The attached article is written by Lakshmi Singh is all about the fact that we do have to be mindful about what content our children are exposed to. The not so new age of laptops, iPads, iPhones, means that our

children can sometimes be exposed even when we don't realise it. Please take some time to read the article.

Mrs Megan Schibeci, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Summer Uniform Reminders

Parents are reminded of the following School Uniform requirements:

- * Students are not permitted to wear their school tracksuit top with the summer uniform.
- * White socks and a pair of non-fluro joggers are to be worn with the sports uniform.
- * Black socks are NOT permitted.
- * All girls hair is to be tied back off their face.
- * Boys are required to be clean shaven and hair is to be neatly groomed.
- * Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.
- * Undergarments are not to be visible.
- * Girls are permitted one earring in each ear.
- * Visible facial piercings are not permitted.

The support of all parents in relation to these aspects of your child's daily presentation at school would be greatly appreciated. Uniform infringements are issued in the Uniform Infringement pages of each student's diary if you would like to check your child's progress in this area.

Free Tickets to "Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men Presentation"

We still have four free tickets to give away to the first four parents to request to attend the "Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men" presentation at Edmund Rice College on 30th October commencing at 7pm. Please contact Penny on 4230 8500 if you are interested in taking advantage of this most valuable opportunity. See flyer attached for further details.

Mrs Jenny Bell, Assistant Principal



Important Dates for your Diary

HSC Continues

Mon 27th Oct-Blood Bank Visit

Mon 3rd –Fri 7th Nov-Year 10 Yearly Exams

Mon 10th Nov-Years 7-9 Yearly Exams

Tue 11th Nov-Year 12 Sign Out Day @ Library

Thurs 13th Nov-Year 7 2015 Orientation Day

Fri 21st Nov-Year 12 Formal @UOW

Wed 26th Nov-School Social



School Tennis News!

Student tennis trials and training were held again last week with many students 'having a go' to try and get into the school tennis teams (both girls and boys). There were around 30 students who have trialled this week which was a great effort. Trials will continue on Thursdays for those students who could not make it last week. After Week 4 training will continue in an effort to learn each others games and perfect the team for the Diocesan competition early next year in Wollongong. Last year we went close to reaching the state finals again with both teams putting in a gallant effort. I would love to see this

happen again with one or both teams making it through to Bathurst. All tennis players should come along and trial on Thursdays.
Mr Michael Phipps

Sports Calendar 2014
Term 4
 27th Oct-NSWCCC Regional Cricket Selection
 28th Oct-Berg Shield and Downie Shield
 11-12th Nov-NSWCCC U/15 Boys Cricket Selections (Auburn)
 14th Nov-CDF Diocesan Sports Awards

'Too much sport is never enough!'
Brett Moran, Sports Coordinator



Attention!! All Duke of Edinburgh Participants

All Duke of Edinburgh participants have received permission notes and documentation for their final walk coming up on the 13th & 14th November. Parents are asked to please discuss the information provided with your child and return the permission note, indemnity form and equipment hire forms to the office as soon as possible. Please be aware that the students will need to participate in a mandatory training

session next Wednesday 29th October from 3:30-5:30pm at school in Room 6. Parents are most welcome to attend the training afternoon. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the hire or the training afternoon, please contact Miss Sproule or Miss Sharkey here at school.

From the Finance Office

The Finance Office will be closing for the year on Friday 12th December. Please ensure that fees are paid by that date. Fees statements were sent home last week. If you have not received your statement please contact the finance office.

Online Excursion Payments

There have been cases of payments being made through Try Booking and the permission note has not been received at the school. When paying online we require a signed permission slip with the receipt number written on it or a copy of the receipt attached.



Year 12... stay focussed...and remembered....



Canteen Roster 2014	
27th Oct	Antonella Adams, Nicole Norris, Patricia Zanatta, Helen Cheetham, Marina Chang, Mary Daly
28th Oct	Colleen Walsh, Belinda Elliss, Rebecca Buchanan,
29th Oct	Kellie Mundt, Rachael Woolfe
30th Oct	Leisa Smith, Christine Brown
31st Oct	Jenny Quinn, Agnes Gibbons, Cathy Tagliaferro, Jaime Hart, Linda Doonar
Uniform Shop 2014	
27th Oct	Help Required
30th Oct	Janelle James



St Joseph's is now subscribing to a company who have a comprehensive list of all sorts of careers events and information. Below are two examples from their webpage that the whole school community now have access to which is a real asset for everyone. Click [here](#) or to receive the Careers News by email

send your name, school name and email address to mhsceers@internode.on.net. To view the news pages and calendar on the website please ask for the login and password from Mrs Kennedy.

University of NSW Minerals Summer School

19th January-22nd January. Applications close 17th October. Students in Year 10 and 11 who are interested in science or engineering can take part in this 4 day residential summer school. Students will learn about study, careers, lifestyles and opportunities in the Australian minerals industry. Click [here](#) for further details.

Women in Navy engineering Work Experience Camp

On Monday 24th November and Tuesday 28th November, HMAS Cerberus Westernport, Victoria. Applications close Friday 24th October! Navy Engineering Camp is designed to give participants a comprehensive overview of life in the Navy, particularly as an Engineering Officer. During the program participants will tour a warship, visit the weapons firing range and immerse themselves in the newest addition to technical training at HMAS Cerberus-the Engine Room Simulator. Applicants must be 16 years or older at the time of placement. Visit [here](#) for further information.

Daley & Co Accountants

Daley & Co are offering a full-time undergraduate accountant position, based from our Wollongong Office. The successful applicant will be either commencing or continuing a Commerce/Business degree (majoring in Accountancy) at the University of Wollongong. You will be employed full time and complete your degree on a part-time basis, gaining valuable experience as you work towards achieving a qualification that gives you options. Applications close Friday 14th November. If you have an outgoing personality, enjoy working with people and have the drive to work within a high performance (yet social) team, send your resume to The Staff Partner, Daley & Co, PO Box 333, Wollongong NSW 2520. Email: daley@daley.com.au

Mrs Sue Kennedy, Careers Advisor

Messenger community news

Shellharbour City Council Learner Driver Parent Workshop

A free 2 hour workshop for parents and other supervisors of learner drivers will be held at 6pm on Monday 10th November at the Council Chambers, ground floor, Lamerton House, Shellharbour City Council. Bookings are essential. Please call Jenny Davies on 4221 6124.

Nominate a Young Achiever Today!!

If you know a person aged 12 to 28 years that is providing an invaluable service in your community or excelling in their field of endeavour, why not nominate them for a Young Achiever Award. There are seven categories to choose from. For further details contact the Awards Office 02 9643 1677 or visit www.awardsaustralia.com.



St Joseph's will hold our annual School Showcase on Thursday 6th November. It will begin with a range of displays at student work from a range of faculties beginning at 4pm and will conclude with a concert in the Hall commencing at 6:30pm and concluding at approximately 8:30pm. Food will be provided by our Hospitality students during the afternoon and evening. More details in next week's newsletter, but for now.....**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Mr Michael Shanahan, Creative Arts Coordinator



"GROWING GORGEOUS BOYS INTO GOOD MEN"

A researcher and social commentator, Celia Lashlie worked for 15 years as the first woman prison officer in a male prison in New Zealand.

In 2004 she completed the "Good Man" project. This facilitated discussion within 25 boys' schools throughout New Zealand, aimed to create a working definition of what makes a good man in the 21st century.



What arose from the "Good Man" project was a significant insight into the minds of teenage boys, and what they are feeling at this period in their lives.

Celia has challenging suggestions for parents and for women in particular to rethink the way they interact with the men in their lives - their sons and their husbands - if they want to see their sons become the good men they want them to be.

For more information visit www.celialashlie.co.nz

You are invited to come and hear

CELIA LASHLIE LIVE

7PM Thursday
30 October 2014

Edmund Rice College
112 Mt Keira Road
West Wollongong

\$20 per person
\$35 per couple

Proudly presented by



and supported by Edmund Rice College

Registration and payment <http://www.trybooking.com/101510>
Contact Rebecca Hill for more information parentforum@dow.catholic.edu.au

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Lakshmi Singh

Beyond their years



As TVs, tablets, smart phones and other digital devices become more commonplace, so do the myriad types of content available on them. Lakshmi Singh looks at the important role parents need to play in monitoring and controlling the exposure of early-primary school children to content beyond their years.

The TV left on the latest hit crime drama while you're cooking.

The family iPad unlocked with access to Game of Thrones.

The gaming device on which Dad has been spotted playing Grand Theft Auto.

The drive to school with the radio playing songs full of sexual promise and expletives.

These are just some ways in which young children might interact with content that is beyond their comprehension.

As the saying goes, 'children are not mini-adults' and seven to eight-year-olds in particular do not have the worldly knowledge or mental capacity to set apart events happening a world away from them, nor the maturity to rationally process content beyond their years.

More than just putting parental locks and passwords on devices, experts say it is imperative that parents take a more firsthand approach in guiding their seven to eight-year-olds through the M-rated content maze.

Fiction vs. reality

Although most kids between seven and eight years of age know the difference between fiction and reality, the 'type' of reality portrayed in reality TV shows may not be something that

they easily grasp, says Lynne Jenkins, author and clinical psychologist.

"If what they are watching is scripted to be more dramatic, then that is how it is for them, unless an adult lets them know otherwise," she says.

The strung-out tensions between contestant teams, fabricated cat-fights and prolonged focus on habits that annoy each other could all come across as normal, unless kids are told otherwise, she says.

"Of course in real life kids will come across bitchiness and things like that, but I don't think shows like these are necessary to teach those lessons," says Nathalie Brown, child behaviourist at Melbourne based consultancy Easy Peasy Kids.

She cites *The Bachelor* as such a show that has settings which are very far from reality.

"It's a reality show but not a real concept. One man and twenty women ... it's not going to happen in real life."

The dramatic statements made on the show can also create false impressions and wrongly influence young minds, she says.

"Do we want little girls thinking that this is the be-all and end-all if you don't have a man in your life?"

Concepts beyond their understanding

While children of this age may be exposed at school to some adult concepts like the dangers of smoking, they don't necessarily understand in great detail the information presented in health programs, for example says Jenkins.

"They will need a sensible adult to explain what they are seeing in a way that won't cause them to take on too much information that they aren't really ready for, or don't really need to know about yet. For example, at seven or eight children don't really need to know about drugs leading to death and disease. That can be something to be discussed at least in senior primary."

In a similar vein, rite-of-passage concepts are better passed down from parent to child, says Brown.

"I believe it is okay for children to have knowledge on puberty but that initial talk should be from their parents, not from a movie. It depends on emotional maturity; if it comes up in a movie it may just go right over their heads or scare the living daylights out of them."

more on page 2



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Building parent-school partnerships

... beyond their years ...



The same concept also applies to games and apps, she says. "Children believe what they see. Parents have to communicate that a movie or game is not real life," she says.

Even if exposure is inadvertent, the impact can be very obvious, she says.

"If a child is constantly playing or watching violence their understanding in handling their own emotions can become aggressive. What a child sees repeatedly is what they learn. It becomes acceptable to be aggressive and they can become desensitised to violence."

Conflicting values of shows/themes

Certain themes like revenge may not be ideal to teach your seven to eight-year-old, but they do get portrayed in movies. The important point is that labels need to be given to shows and games that deal with such plots and an explanation given as to what the characters are doing.

"Revenge does occur, this is how the movie plot is dealing with it, it is something the parents have to discuss with their child," says Brown.

Sometimes culture and religious beliefs mean parents limit or screen what their children can watch. Here, an honest explanation as to why parents believe their children shouldn't be viewing or interacting with such programs may be in order, especially if there is a risk that they may go behind your back and source it, says Jenkins.

"If [the reason given] is something like: 'Just because' or 'Because I said so' a child with a certain personality might go looking for it

themselves to find out why they can't watch it. If, however, a parent acknowledges that their child would like to watch the show and explains that the reasons have to do with their family values or culture for instance, it might be better received," she says.

More harm than good?

The brain of a child who's seven or eight does not have the necessary processes in place to exercise the judgement necessary to make sense of M-rated games, says Brown.

"Again it depends on the emotional maturity of the child and how much the parents have explained to them. I find that a lot of the parents aren't even aware that the ratings are there for a reason."

At this age, looking for big banks to loot and zombie monsters to kill will not be something a child can do with the strategic mindset or understanding demanded by these games, she says.

However, they might have a more poignant influence psychologically and result in the child having nightmares.

"These graphics at the moment are so realistic, bloody and gory," she laments.

Regular exposure to M-rated content where the language might be peppered with profanities and disrespect may also impact an impressionable seven or eight-year-old's speech, says Jenkins.

"If they are exposed to expletives regularly, whether on a show or in their house, they will absorb them as 'normal'. This 'sponge-like' phenomenon applies more to younger children, but if a seven or eight-year-old has

been exposed to such things for most of their life, they will become normal for them. And if they start watching this material at age seven or eight and the adults in their life don't say that they can't watch it, or don't turn it off, or at least don't comment that it is wrong, then the kids won't have the understanding that using expletives is not okay."

Words of wisdom from the experts

- 1 Set boundaries from early on in children's lives. Instil the message that we only watch G or PG material in our family.
- 2 Watch news programs when kids have gone to bed. This is especially important if a child (of any age) is anxious or has a predisposition to anxiety or worry. If they do come across tragic events, reassure them that even though these events have happened in real life, the child, their family and friends are safe.
- 3 Be prepared to keep pace with children as they grow older. Assess whether an M-rated show might be appropriate for a particular child's personality, intelligence and maturity by watching it first. Be available for explanations and fast-forward any questionable parts.
- 4 Always encourage open discussion about content your children interact with, allowing them the confidence to ask questions when confused.
- 5 Don't allow TVs and other devices in kids' bedrooms.
- 6 Use parental locks and passwords but try to invest more in gaining their trust.

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