Dear families,

The year has certainly flown and now Advent is upon us. It is that time of year when we reflect on the experiences of 2013 and are filled with hope for the future. This year, for me, these last couple of weeks have been bittersweet with the excitement of a new challenge at Gilroy Catholic College and yet I have such a feeling of sadness on leaving a community that I have had the privilege of serving for the last six years.

I have enjoyed my time at St Joseph’s immensely and I would like to thank you all for trusting me with the position of Assistant Principal. It has been an honour to work with you and your daughters. I want to thank you for the lovely words so many of you have sent over the week since the announcement of my appointment to Gilroy. I am very humbled by your response.

I am not the only staff member to be saying goodbye to the community this year. The list includes staff who have been here for many, many years and some for only a few. I know you will join me in wishing all the best for the future for the following staff who are retiring or moving to new positions:

- Mrs Joe Conaty - Mathematics
- Mrs Cathy Nesbitt-Hawes – Teacher Librarian
- Ms Monique Maat – Leader of Learning Support
- Mrs Belinda Kozakiewicz – Leader of Learning: CAPA (12 month exchange)
- Mrs Janice Peel – Music and Religion
- Mrs Linda Williams – Music and Religion (maternity leave)
- Mr Nathan Fepulea’i – Music and Religion
- Ms Jennifer Merryweather – Drama and English
- Ms Lauren McCabe – HIE
- Ms Erin McMahon – PDHPE

I would like to thank all these teachers for their dedication and constant hard work during their time at the College. I especially want to thank both Mrs Conaty and Mrs Nesbitt-Hawes who are retiring after many years with the College. They have both demonstrated incredible professionalism and commitment to the girls and the College. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful staff.

This means that there will be new faces in the staff room so I ask you to welcome the following teachers when you see them next year and I wish them all the best:

- Mrs Tracy Simpson – Leader of Learning Support
- Ms Alexandra McArdle – HIE
- Mrs Emma Fenning – Mathematics
- Ms Carole Witton – Drama and English
- Mr Kane Charles – Music and Religion
- Ms Ashlee Stevens (who was here for 2013) – Religion and English
- Michelle Dainer – CAPA (12 month exchange)

There are also a couple of other significant changes for 2014, Mrs Cathy Toby as Leader of Learning: HSIE, Mrs Sue Lockwood as Leader of Learning: CAPA and Ms Cheryl Maguire as Year 9 Leader. I wish them all well in their new roles.

I would like to take the opportunity of my last newsletter to thank every parent for your constant support, not only of the College, but also the support you gave to me.
over the last six years. When I think of St Joseph’s I will remember the wonderful young women who give so generously to help others living out St Mary of the Cross MacKillop’s saying ‘never see a need without doing something about it’. I will also think of the personal achievements of each of these young women as they work towards being the best that they can be. I find working with our young people is the most rewarding experience and consider myself extremely fortunate to have been a part of their school lives. I wish each of you the very best for the future and I know that each of you will be true leaders of our time in whatever you choose to do.

I also want to thank the staff at the College. Over the past six years I have been privileged to be a part of such a giving, energetic, dedicated, passionate, professional and hardworking community of teachers. As teachers we always have as our mantra that ‘we do what we do for the children’ and at St Joseph’s this is at the heart of every teacher. We work with a common goal of assisting each young woman to be the very best that she can be and I find that exceptionally inspirational so I thank every staff member for this privilege.

I hope to be able to speak with many of you at our final College event for the year, Presentation Evening on Thursday however I now say farewell. I would like to leave you with the scripture passage that our motto “Act Justly” comes from as I believe it is a source of guidance that I will take with me: “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6: 8.

God bless,

Cheryl Merryweather
Acting Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As the school year draws to a close it is worth reflecting on the final two college events this week. We celebrate Advent Assembly this Thursday in which we remind the students of the true meaning of giving and doing something for others. This is the culmination of the girl’s extraordinary generosity over several weeks as they have filled hampers with Christmas fare, donated toys for children and raised thousands of dollars to support others like the people of the Philippines whose lives were so badly affected by Typhoon.

Our second event this week is Presentation evening when we acknowledge and celebrate the many gifts, talents and achievements of the students of the College. We recognise the hard work and dedication that is required by each student to achieve in the classroom, in performance, on the sporting field and that special commitment our students make to serve the community. We hope as many parents as possible will join us on Thursday evening.

Farewell to Ms Merryweather

The College community will farewell Cheryl at Presentation evening on Thursday. Cheryl began at St Joseph’s in 2008 and leaves at the end of this year as she has been appointed Principal of Gilroy College at Caste Hill for 2014. Cheryl has been a very strong role model for the girls and has enjoyed the support of teachers in leading significant educational change at the College. We wish her well as she takes up the challenges of her new position.

2014 Dates - School returns
• The College reopens on Thursday 23rd January when the office staff and Leadership team return
• All College staff return for a Staff Development Day on Tuesday 28th January
• Year 7 will commence on Wednesday 29th January
• Years 8-12 commence on Thursday 30th January

Presentation Evening for Years 7-11

Letters have gone home inviting all families to attend our Presentation Evening for 2012. It is at this evening that we celebrate achievements of the students across all facets of College life and so I extend a warm invitation to everyone. Families of award winners have been notified by mail over the past couple of weeks.

Important Information for 2014
1. School commences at 8.30am
   The first bell of the day goes at 8.30am and all students must proceed to Pastoral for roll marking and administration. Students are required to bring a note that explains their lateness if they arrive after 8.30am. Students will receive an automatic lunch detention the next day for unexplained lateness. We seek parent support to foster a culture of punctuality in our community.

2. Allergy management plans
   Just a reminder that in any large school there will be students who suffer from severe and often life threatening allergies. These include asthma, peanut allergies and insect bites or stings. We ask that you provide the College with a management plan in the event your daughter experiences an allergy related incident at school. Management plans are usually completed by your general practitioner and must be updated annually.

3. Contacting students
   There are times when it is necessary for parents to contact their daughter during the school day to let them know important and often sensitive information which can be very distressing. If this is the case please
call your daughter’s Year Leader, Leader of Student Wellbeing or me so that we can assist both you and your daughter.

4. Keeping schools safe
Just a reminder to all families that it is against the law in NSW for students to bring knives of any type to school. All knives are considered to be weapons under the legislation and this includes butter knives and plastic knives that the girls might want to use to cut fruit, sandwiches, and birthday cakes. Please ensure that all food is pre-cut as any knives brought to school for any reason will be confiscated and further consequences could be put in place.

5. Uniform
Please use the time over the Christmas break to check the condition of your daughter’s uniform. Uniform regulations are set out clearly on the College website and included in the Student Planner. Students must wear the correct uniform every day and their correct sport’s uniform on the appropriate day. I remind parents in particular about the following uniform requirements:

- College bag is the only acceptable school bag
- Black, lace-up leather school shoes (not boots) with a distinct heel
- Skirt is to sit just above the knee
- Jackets, hoodies, fleeces are not acceptable - College jumper or cardigan are to worn in cool weather
- Sports uniform is to be worn only on the designated sports day
- Nail polish, fashion jewellery, and facial piercings (except a small nose stud) are not acceptable If you have any questions about College uniform regulations please contact your daughter’s Year Leader at the beginning of the new school year.

2013 has been a very busy yet successful year at the College. I have thoroughly enjoyed acting in the position of Assistant Principal since August and the opportunities it has afforded me to work with our students. I wish all students and their families a safe, happy and holy Christmas and success to those students who are leaving the College for a new school. Enjoy this time with your families.

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

FROM THE RE LEADER

Christmas Mass Times
Holy Spirit Kincumber
Christmas Eve – 5pm outdoors (BYO rug or chair)

7pm
9pm
11pm at Holy Cross 10 Humphreys Rd
South Kincumber

Christmas Day - 8am

Reconciliation – from 30 to 15 minutes before each weekend Mass.

Gosford Parish
Christmas Eve:
@ The ERC, St Edward’s College, Russell Drysdale St, East Gosford
6pm: Children’s Mass [Carols from 5.30pm]
@ St Patrick’s Church,
76 York Street, East Gosford
9pm Youth Mass & Midnight Mass
@ St Francis of Assisi,
30 Lutana Road, Somersby
6pm Mass

Christmas Day:
@ St Patrick’s Church
7.30am, 9am & 6pm.

Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation @ St Patrick’s: Friday December 20 @ 7.30pm.

Year 8 Tacey Religion
In year 8 Tacey Religion we are currently learning about the festive season of Advent. Advent is a period of time where we prepare, wait and be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent commences four Sundays before the celebration of Christmas and concludes on Christmas Eve. In our religion class we created a Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree represents Jesus’ ancestors and the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. Merry Christmas from year 8 Tacey.

By Sabrina, Ella, Eleanor.

Interfaith Symposium at Parliament House
On Tuesday 12th November, our Year 12 Two Unit Studies of Religion class visited Parliament House in Sydney to experience firsthand interfaith dialogue between followers of the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Indigenous faith traditions. Together, they each discussed their religion’s beliefs, and common practices to give an insight to the audience, but more importantly, each of the presenters spoke and addressed common issues in our world today such as attaining peace among all and what they are currently doing to achieve this on a religious level. After these presentations, there was a public forum where the audience members were invited to ask questions in order to learn more about each of the faith traditions presented. The whole day was a good learning experience!

Teaghan P – Year 12

Nicole Harrison
RE Leader
FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Well done to all students on the successful completion of the school year. This term has been very busy with yearly examinations for Years 7 – 10 and many assessment tasks for the new 2014 Year 12 cohort. The annual college presentation evening is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the academic achievement of students in Years 7 – 11. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Year 10 and Year 11 RoSA Grades
All Year 10 and Year 11 students can now view and download their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) grades and personal eRecord via the Board of Studies Students Online http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/

The eRecord will show each student’s grades. Students must have activated their Students Online account to create their PiN using their Board of Studies student number in order to view their eRecord. PiNs will be sent to the email address that was written by each student on their personalised confirmation of entry forms in Term 1.

Once logged in to Students Online, the eRecord is available in the personal secure account section in My Details > Enrolments/Results. Students can generate a PDF eRecord to save, print and/or email by clicking on the “Request eRecord” button found in this section. Once requested, the PDF eRecord will be delivered to Students Online > My Details > My Messages.

Reports
The Semester 2 reports for Years 7 – 10 and Interim reports for Year 12 2014 will be posted home to families in the next few days. Parents may ring teachers to discuss their daughter’s report during Week 11 however on Tuesday 17th December staff will be taking part in a Spirituality day.

Textbooks for 2014
All students received 2014 textbook lists earlier this term. The textbook lists for next year can also be found on the college website under the Booklists heading.

Merry Christmas

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

School Fees and Billing for 2014
All school fees should have been finalised by the end of November. If you are still owing on your account please continue to make bpay payments over the holidays as these will come directly off your account regardless of whether the College is attended or not. You will be sent an account update in early January 2014 outlining all transactions.

Did you know: you can start payment on your 2014 account now if you wish. Once your 2013 account is finalised any extra payments received will appear as a credit on your statement and will automatically be applied to your next year’s billing.

2014 fees will be sent out in mid February. If your daughter will not be returning to St Josephs in 2014 could you please advise your Year Leader as soon as able or send an email to nicole.murphy@dbb.catholic.edu.au so that you are not billed for the coming year.

Family Registration Forms
A number of families have still not completed and returned the orange Family Registration Form. The information included on this form ensures we can update and maintain your contact details as and ensure that any family fee discounts are correctly applied for 2014 billing. If you require a copy of the form please contact the College as soon as possible and one will be forwarded to you immediately. All families are required to complete this form – not just families with multiple children within the school system.

2013 Year Books
Our 2013 Yearbook is now available for collection from the Presentation Night, Thursday December 12th. If you are not able to collect the Year book on this night you can collect it from Student Services before the College closes on December 20th or early next year if you prefer.

Second Hand uniforms and Text Books
Our Second Hand notice board has a number of uniform and text books for sale notices on display. If you require books or uniforms for next year please see this board for details and contact the sellers directly. Likewise, if you have items to sell please detail them and display them on the notice board. If you do not wish to sell any old uniform items and are happy to donate them to the College we will thankfully pass them to a family who desperately needs them.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

FROM THE LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING

One of our Year 10 students Samantha W recently represented the College at Lions Youth of the Year. This involved her sitting through a 40 minute interview with a panel of three people. She then had to give two impromptu speeches to an audience of 30 people and finally a prepared speech of 5 minutes.
Samantha chose the topic of being a 16 year old as her prepared speech. She was competing against older students currently in their HSC year.

She was very successful on the evening receiving the public speaking award. This was even more impressive considering the age of the other 5 competitors. Congratulations Sam. Well Done!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents I have had the pleasure of dealing with during my time as Acting Leader of Wellbeing. Your continued support of the College and our goals is greatly appreciated. It helps to make our job a lot easier in achieving the best outcomes for your daughters’ education.

I would like to wish all our parents and students a safe and Holy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing

FROM THE LEADERS OF LEARNING

Year 10 Report
Over the last few weeks a number of Year 10 girls have done some wonderful things which I would like to affirm.

Firstly, Samantha W competed in the Lions Club Central Coast Youth of the Year Competition. She was up against of number of Year 12 students from various schools around the Central Coast. Samantha performed exceptionally well in the competition and on the presentation night. She was awarded first place in the oral section of the competition. Well done Samantha for competing with distinction.

Jessica D last week had the great honour of competing in the National Dance Competition where she performed at the Sydney Opera House. This is a notable achievement and I am sure this is something Jessica will always remember.

Melaea O recently competed in the U16 Australian Rugby Union Tournament. This is a national competition and Melaea was voted player of the tournament which is a great honour. Congratulations Melaea.

Additionally, a group of Year 10 students have been visiting East Gosford Public School all year to help tutor students. Last week this culminated in a performance where the girls entertained the students, and it was most enjoyable and greatly appreciated. The students involved were Kellie-Ann G, Jessica W, Christina L, Caitlin McE, Jessica Z, Indiana T, Rebecca G, Melaea O, Jaymi T, Molly C and Brittany J. Congratulations on all the good work.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 10 students for your cooperation and effort this year. I wish all of you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2014.

Love your work!

Terry Grubba
Year 10 Leader

Year 11/12 Report
White Ribbon Walk
On Monday November 25th, four of the Year 12 House Leaders had the privilege of being asked to participate in the White Ribbon Walk for 2013. The Walk promotes awareness of domestic violence against women, and it is an important cause for recognition both locally, nationally, and internationally. The walk began at Terrigal Surf club, through the Haven, up the Skillion and back to the Surf Club. Among the participants were Gosford Mayor, Laurie McKinna, Former MP for Robertson, Deborah O’Neill, and Current MP for Robertson, Lucy Wicks. There were also representatives from a few of the local schools, and members of our local council and community. This was a great opportunity to express our support to this cause, and the importance of raising awareness throughout our community and school. It was also great to see the support from a large number of men, sharing their understanding and support for the White
Ribbon Walk, and also the number of people from the public giving up their time to back the awareness of domestic violence against women. Humbled by the support from everyone in our community, we were privileged to be able to participate in the walk as leaders from St Joeys.

By Sam D (D), Dana H (T), Annie L (C) and Riley E (L)

As this newsletter goes to print, students in Yr 11 will be finalising their last Assessment Tasks for the term. These are the first steps towards completing the HSC. These grades will now count!

The girls have been very busy this term. It seems to have been very long. Fitting in home, school and social commitments is not easy.

Students have been involved in sporting activities, social justice issues as well as classroom tasks. Four students represented the College in the White Ribbon March at Terrigal. Their involvement was an indication of the awareness of the youth towards domestic violence in the community (in particular against women).

A group of students just returned from a very successful visit to Melbourne for a Youth Meeting within the Catholic Church to promote “Praise & Worship”.

The Yr 11 leaders, with the assistance of the Year Group, helped raise thousands of dollars for the Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. This was done by collecting donations and through a pancake drive. They also sold more pancakes in the last week for their Yr 12 charity for 2014.

A very busy year in fact 2013! The students have worked hard and deserve a HOLIDAY! In this holiday period most girls will be driving and some will turn 18 yrs of age and will party, so PLEASE BE CAREFUL, ENJOY YOURSELVES, KEEP SAFE, BEHAVE AND LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER.

REMEMBER you have just started the final stage of your College journey. You still have 3 terms left of school, a very important year consisting of the HSC. Hope you all have a great Christmas. See you again in the New Year focused for the exciting year ahead.

Best Wishes

Dave Matthews
Year 11/12 Leader

FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

Thank you Year 10 SRE Assistants 2013
This year 12 students from Year 10 worked as assistants to the Special Religious Education teachers at East Gosford Public School. Each Thursday our students went into the infants and primary classrooms to support the catechists and be a witness to their faith. I would like to congratulate the following students on their commitment and dedication to this task.

Jessica Z
Samantha W
Jessica W
Molly C
Grace S
Christina L
Rebecca G
Indiana T-S
Kellie-Anne G
Melaea O
Caitlin M
Brittany J

Christian Christmas Assembly at East Gosford Public School
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Seventeen students from Saint Joseph’s joined a group of 200 pilgrims from the Diocese of Broken Bay to participate in the first ever Australian Catholic Youth Festival from December 5 to 8, 2013.

The festival, held in Melbourne, was a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The theme of the festival was – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” Luke 4:18.

The group enjoyed fantastic praise and worship, inspiring speakers and excellent workshops. We made friends with other schools from across our diocese and felt ourselves part of a young and vibrant church as we attended amazing plenary sessions each day with the 3000 festival participants.

I would like to thank Miss Ashlee Stevens who accompanied me in this pilgrimage to assist with supervision. I would also like to thank our diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator Kelly Paget for everything she did to make this trip happen for young people in our diocese. Thank you also to Saint Joseph’s Catholic College and The Catholic Schools Office for subsidising this trip for our students.

I pray that our young people take away with them the message of the festival and “Go make a difference in the world”.

Fiona Green
Youth Ministry Leader

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Cross Parish, Kincumber
Fr Jim McKeon invites St Joseph's students and their families to share Christmas Mass at Kincumber this year. At 55 Kincumber St, Kincumber there is an open air Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve, followed by 7pm and 9pm, and 8am Christmas Day, and at 10 Humphreys Rd South Kincumber there is an 11pm Christmas Eve. Happy Christmas to everyone from Holy Cross Parish, Kincumber.

Fr Jim McKeon and the youth ministry team from Kincumber Parish invite St Joseph’s students to our holiday activities. For Year 9’s (in 2014) – Year 12’s (and above) we’re doing Slum Survivor, a challenge to build in and live in a simulated slum for 50 hours to experience what poverty might be like January 10-12. For Year 7’s (in 2014) – Year 9’s we are doing an ice skating day at Macquarie Centre on Jan 8th and a Manly Beach & ferry day on Jan 15th. Details. Permission Forms are on the parish website: www.dbb.org.au/parishes/kincumber
Uniform Shop
For your information the Uniform Shop will be open over the January School Holiday period on the following days:

- Monday 20/1 12:2pm
- Tuesday 21/1 8:30 – 11:30am
- Wednesday 22/1 12-2pm
- Thursday 23/1 8:30-11:30am
- Friday 24/1 12:2pm
- Tuesday 28/1 8:30-10am
- Thursday 30/1 8-10am
- Friday 31/1 8-10am

Sister Thomasine Barnes
Sister Thomasine Barnes was the last Josephite sister to work here at St Joseph’s College. She was a very well respected and valued member of the community working in the office as well as pastorally caring for both fellow staff members and students. Her quiet, gentle personality and infectious smile was a welcoming and lasting asset. Sister Thomasine was a true MacKillop woman and we were very blessed to have had her in our community. As Mary MacKillop said in 1873 “We have much for which to be thankful”. Thank you Sister Thomasine.

LIVING WITH TEENS
Please return your registration form to school this week so not to miss out.

Reminder to all parents who have registered for Living with Teens that it starts on Monday 10th February 2014 (Group 1) for 4 consecutive weeks.
6.30pm for cup of tea or coffee
6.45pm start - 8.45pm finish

Venue: College Library

Tuesday 11th February 2014 (Group 2) for 4 consecutive weeks.
9am for cup of tea or coffee
9.15am start - 11.15 finish

Venue: Shekinah
Any questions, please call Christine Hain School Counsellor 4324 4022 or Michelle from RAPT – 1800 067 967

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**
Over the course of the final term of the year Pastoral classes have responded to the call of the Woy Woy Chapter of St Vincent de Paul for Christmas gifts and non-perishable Christmas fare.

On Monday 9th December two representatives from the Chapter were presented with over 35 Christmas hampers for the needy.