This week I spent a few days with Years 5 and 6 at the Great Aussie Bush Camp, located on the freeway near the Hawks Nest turn off. The activities were both challenging and fun and many students took themselves way out of their own comfort zones. For some, it was their first time away from their parents, and this was a challenge in itself. I am pleased to say that their parents should be very proud of the way they conducted themselves, took on new challenges and encouraged others to do their best. There was a real positive bond of support for each other shown during the whole time we were away. Our students were constantly praised by the camp staff for their levels of cooperation, responsibility, manners, their happy natures and especially their “have a go” attitudes. They were on the move the whole time they were away and I did not hear one complaint from them about not having access to screen time on any device! They entertained themselves with singing, dancing, storytelling and playing games and they communicated face to face, not by text or face time. They ate the food on offer (which was delicious) and went to bed and slept when told to. Amazing I know! This type of experience is of exceptional value in developing character and independence and I am glad that I was able to spend time with them and share in what I believe will become lifetime memories for them all. A very big thank you goes to Miss Josie Lulham and Mr Michael Marshall, who organised the camp and looked after the children while they were away. Think about going camping in cabins with a family of fifty children, not one two or three, and you will get the picture that it’s certainly no holiday but fifty times the fun that comes with it! See photos on Pages 5 & 6.

Also this week, we had our first visit from our Kinder 2018 class as they participated in their initial Joey’s Juniors Orientation session. While some were a little hesitant, others marched in like they owned the place and dismissed their parents at the front door! I popped in to visit a couple of times and was very impressed with their engagement in the activities and by the looks on their faces I am sure it will only be a short time before they have mastered this big school business! We look forward to more visits over the next few weeks.

Finally, we are just one week away from Grandparent’s Day and two weeks away for our big Fun Fair. Please keep an eye out for correspondence about these events and be involved where you can. Remember, your school depends on your support – that’s what builds and maintains our very special community.

Kind Regards, David Hughes (Principal)
KINDER PRAYER

For the mountains and the trees,
We thank you God!
For the sun, the moon and the stars,
We thank you God!
For the animals and birds,
We thank you God!
For our wonderful world,
We thank you God!

Peace Club
Peace Club is a lunchtime club held on Fridays in the Library. Based on the book “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes” we are aiming to fold 1000 paper cranes by the end of term 4. We will then send the cranes to the International Peace School in Hiroshima, where our cranes will be taken to the Peace Park Memorial. This will be our contribution towards world peace by our students here at St Joseph’s.

This year Nerine McGrath has been doing lots of assessments and follow up recommendations for a range of speech and language needs for individual student’s across our school. She is taking some time away for health reasons. We thank her very much for her great work with us so far and wish her well. Our school is pleased to now offer the services of Mrs Jane McKenzie as our new visiting Speech Pathologist replacing Nerine to offer screening assessments, small group therapy and follow up strategies for individual student’s speech and language needs.

Your child may be identified by their class teacher as one who could benefit from Jane’s services. This term we are focussing on student’s who’s Receptive Language may need support. Receptive language is about understanding language, recalling sentences and interpreting instructions etc. Jane conducts speech screeners and recommends areas for development at school, home and possibly with outside services. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s speech and language needs, you may contact your child’s class teacher.

Jessica Koenig Additional Needs Teacher/Assistant Principal.

BUSWAYS INFORMATION:
Applications for 2018 bus passes are now open at https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply

If anyone has trouble applying online they can contact the Laurieton depot on 6559 7712.

It is important that all Year 3 2018 complete a new application.

Any student that has moved must update details online at https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails

All students will receive 2018 bus pass in January next year before the 2018 school year begins.
Do know we run lunchtime clubs in the hall for students?

Teachers and teacher’s aides kindly volunteer their time for our students to engage in additional recreational activities. We currently have on offer:

- Monday – Craft and passive play
- Tues – Sewing
- Wednesday – Passive play
- Thursday – Dance Club
- Friday – Peace Swan making (origami) / reading in the library

GRANDPARENTS DAY IS NEXT FRIDAY!
Please email your photos to:
larp@lism.catholic.edu.au
by Tues 24th October. Thank you

FUN FAIR REMINDERS FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS –

Have you...

✓ Returned the colouring competition?

✓ Entered the Talent Quest (form and money to return to the office asap).
  1st prize is a party for 10 at Inflatable World valued at $200!!

✓ Offered assistance with class activities on the day. Sadly if we can’t get enough support we cannot run the fun activities we had planned for your children. This year’s event has some great new and enjoyable activities for everyone. A note has gone home this week requesting donations of chocolate, treats, etc.

CAMDEN HAVEN SHOW — Some of our winners and entries…..
MUSIC NEWS...Many of our music classes have been focusing on many new rhythm patterns as well as riffs and repeated patterns in songs. Some of the primary classes have been given a challenge to work out how to play the main riff from Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You' using the boomwhackers in a group. All they were given was the note names! Year 3 were very successful at this and have really given the older kids a run for their money! Team Maks were the first to be able to perform it for the class as a group.

Sarina McNamara
YR 5 / 6 CAMP