Dear Parents, carers, families and parishioners,

This week we are again hearing from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus rested after a full day of with the people while his disciples went out fishing. Matthew tells us that Jesus came to them, walking across the lake. Peter started to walk on the water towards Jesus but started to sink. Jesus’ rebuke is well known: ‘Man of little faith,’ he said ‘why did you doubt?’ Our reflection this week might focus on times when we have doubted the support and blessing of God when times do not go as we thought they might.

Thoughts and Prayers

Our prayers this week are for the Huf family on the passing of Colin Campbell, Sherelle Huf’s Grandfather and the great grandfather of Elka and Lola. We pray thanks for his great life spanning ninety-nine years. We ask God to give blessing and comfort to the family at this time. Eternal rest grant to him Lord God.

Farewell Amanda and Welcome Lorraine

Last week, we welcomed Mrs Lorraine Rinaldi to our staff. Lorraine will replace Miss Amanda Walker who will be returning to her home country (USA) to complete her teaching qualification, with a four month placement, teaching a Grade Two class at Soda Creek Elementary School, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. We wish Amanda safe travel, best wishes and a safe return when all is done. We welcome Lorraine who will be with us until the end of the year, to our school community.

Until next week, Chris
Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

SML Athletics
This year, the Southern Mallee Lake Primary School Athletics will be held in Rainbow on Friday 25th August. We are looking for volunteers to assist with distance, time keeping and relays. A google form will be emailed out today for responses.

National Principals’ Day
On Friday we celebrated and acknowledges our Interim Principal Mr Robarts and remotely our Principal Miss Maiden. This is a day where we thank them for all the hard work and dedication to our school. Both received a handmade card including the emblem of their loyal football club and messages from students and staff along with a gift from school. Miss Maiden also received videos from the students.

Supervision
A reminder that school supervision begins at 8.30am.

Attached this week:
Insights– Book Week

Speed Field Days Fundraiser Thank you!
A few photo’s of our catering army who worked at the Speed Field Days last week. Once again a big thank you to Dannielle, Emma and Donna and the girls who stepped in for Sherelle at short notice.

Thank you also the Wayne and the parking crew who volunteered their time on parking duty. Our estimated profit from this will be $6000, an amazing effort from our school community.

Feast of St Mary MacKillop
Yesterday was the feast day of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. St Mary was the founder of the sisters of St Joseph, the order of sisters who taught at St Joseph’s from it’s founding in 1954 until the early eighties. Fr Matt celebrated Mass with us yesterday where we remembered St Mary of the Cross and thanked God for the gift of her vision and blessing to us here in Hopetoun and to many other communities across Australia and New Zealand.
Over 150 years ago, as a young woman, Mary MacKillop saw a need to provide education for the poor and disadvantaged. When Mary saw families without access to education, she began teaching the children herself, regardless of their background. She founded the order of the Sisters of St Joseph and sent them to wherever the need was greatest. They gave up everything to live amongst the people they served and to teach with love and compassion. Although Mary and her Sisters found themselves up against enormous challenges, they continued to walk with people every step of the way. Long after her death, her Sisters came to Hopetoun in 1950’s to start St Joseph’s Parish Primary School. Mary believed in the power of education. While the Sisters of St Joseph are no longer directly involved in schools, their ministry continues in outreach to the disadvantaged and through the legacy honoured by those of us who continue the work she and her sisters started so many years ago.
Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly last week:

- **Joseph**: for using your time well when we had the challenge of “not wasting any time when”. You were quick to get ready and to write your words. Keep this up Joseph!
- **Molly**: for blending sounds to work out words when reading our sentences from the board and when finishing your own sentence. Keep up the awesome work.
- **Aidan**: for writing detailed and neat sentences independently. You included all of the sentence structures of Who, What, Doing and Where in your sentences and sounded out the sounds to attempt challenging words. Keep up the great work Aidan!
- **Ruby**: for helping and supporting her peers during Maths activities. You have been a wonderful helper Ruby by sharing and explaining key strategies to use when working out and sharing equal groups. Awesome job!
- **Ava**: for showing determination with her work and encouraging others to do the same.
- **Playground raffle**: **Arthur** for cleaning up the sandpit
  **Bobbi**: for playing a game cooperatively

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**Elka**

- **What is your favourite movie?** The Little Mermaid
- **What book would you recommend to your peers?** Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas
- **If you could only eat 1 food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Mango
- **I am happiest when I am playing with the animals outside.**
- **What do you think makes a good friend?** Loving and helping them
- **What’s 1 piece of play equipment you wish we had at school?** I wish we could still have the whale.
Child Safe Standards – Hopetoun Diversity and Equity Policy

Policy Statement

St Joseph’s Primary School, Hopetoun strives to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

The nature of our school community is diverse, drawing from both the rural and town sectors of the Hopetoun district. The socio-economic makeup of the school community is likewise diverse and also fluctuating, representing a wide range of situations and circumstances. The school works with students with diverse learning needs, supporting these students through intervention programs. The school is also active in its support of students living in Out of Home Care and those from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds.

St Joseph’s Primary School, Hopetoun is committed to creating a school community where all members of the school community are welcomed, accepted, and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve, and thrive at school.


We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Chris Robarts.

In this edition of SchoolTV - Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity emphasises the natural variation in how an individual’s brain functions and how they perceive and interact with the world, leading to diverse ways of learning and communicating. While most young people are neurotypical, some exhibit variations in brain development, such as ADHD, autism or dyslexia, making them neurodivergent.

Embracing neurodiversity involves accepting, celebrating, and supporting neurodivergent children and adolescents without attempting to change or treat their differences. Using respectful language, challenging unhelpful attitudes, avoiding assumptions, and actively promoting inclusivity can help embrace neurodiversity effectively.

Acknowledging the unique ways neurodiverse young people do things and then adapting tasks and activities to ensure their full participation will encourage them to develop strategies that feel natural to them. It will help improve their mental health, wellbeing and sense of self. By recognising and nurturing their strengths, parents and caregivers can contribute to building an inclusive and compassionate society where all young people can thrive.

Learning more about neurodiversity, equips caregivers with insights into effective communication techniques, educational strategies, and parenting approaches tailored to the specific needs of their neurodivergent child. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month’s edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek help from a medical professional.

Here is the link to this month’s edition https://sjhopetoun.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/neurodiversity

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
**Vision Statement**
St. Joseph’s School is an inclusive community of faith and learning with Christ at its centre. St Joseph’s School will educate its students to be of service to society in the Catholic tradition of love, faith and hope.

**Mission Statement**
As a Christ centred school we celebrate our Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.

As an educational institution we:
- Will support the development of the whole person.
- Will provide a comprehensive curriculum, which challenges all students in their pursuit of success.
- Will cater for the varied learning styles of our students.
- Will be a child safe school by providing a physical and online environment that is happy, safe and welcoming.
- Will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contribution of all.
- Will work in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.
- Will encourage our students to make a difference in the local, national and global communities in which they live.

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**HOUSEKEEPING!!**

**Student Absence from School**
A reminder that it is a legal requirement for parents to explain absences from school. We do not need to know ‘nitty gritty’ details, simply sickness, doctor’s appointment or family reasons will suffice. Please remember to log on to PAM to complete the notification or email or phone the school prior to 10am on the day of absence. An absence SMS otherwise will be generated. **If there is a scheduled absence please advise us in advance.** Thank you.

**Sunscreen**
Sunscreen is provided by the school for our students, however we do encourage the children to bring their own sunscreen to school to assist with sun protection. Students are regularly encouraged by teachers to apply sunscreen throughout the day.

**Hats**
School hats MUST be worn at all times when students are outdoors, except for extremely windy days where hats blow over the fence. School Hats are now $15.00.

**Signing out**
Please remember to sign out your child at the office if you need to take them from school during the day. This is not only a legal requirement but also an important part of our emergency management plan.

**P & F docket**
A reminder that any purchases for P & F from IGA must be put on the P & F account (not school account). Dockets then need to be sent to school please.

**Pie warmer containers**
A reminder that students can bring lunch to school wrapped in foil or in a foil container to be heated in the pie warmer.

Pie warmer containers are available from the office for **$15.00** for 50 containers.

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**Grounds Roster: August:** W Huf & A Ryan

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**A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING**
Book Week

For over 75 years, the Children's Book Council of Australia has promoted Children's Book Week®. Book week isn't just about finding a costume for the parade (and hoping that this year your child doesn't want to dress up as Captain Underpants again), it's about celebrating books. Australian authors and illustrators are particularly celebrated, as classroom teachers and librarians in schools and public libraries create displays, run activities, and tell stories relating to each year's theme. This year, Book Week is this week (Aug 19-25), and the theme is Read, Grow, Inspire.

This article isn't about Book Week though. It's about why books and reading are so important for our kids that we should be celebrating books every day, not just one week a year. In this article I'll also describe how you can help your child to get more out of their reading. And lastly, I'll give you some tips on what to do when your kids don't seem to want to read.

The science

It is never too early to start a habit of reading with your kids. A meta-analysis (a study that synthesises the results of lots of other studies, in this case 99 other studies) found that when children are exposed to book reading from an early age, it begins a 'causal spiral': being exposed to books stimulates language and reading development, and in turn children who are more proficient in comprehension and reading skills choose to read more. Significantly, this study looked at every age from preschool to university and found that the gap between readers and non-readers widened every year, culminating in greater academic success in university. There is also some evidence that people who read more live longer, and that reading fiction boosts social skills such as empathy.

Getting the most out of reading

Reading is good, regardless of how it's done or what is read. But there are a few things we can do to help our children enjoy the benefits and satisfaction it offers. Here are three ideas:

(i) Have your child read to you. Children don't even need to be able to read to do this. Babies enjoy lifting up flaps and turning pages. Toddlers love pointing at the pictures in their favourite books. Preschoolers may even memorise the words to a well-repeated story. Then as our children learn to read independently, they tend to be really excited to read to us if we can find the time to slow down and turn reading into an activity to share.

(ii) Read to your child. In addition to bonding, reading to your child helps them to learn about expression, pacing, and the different ways we can experience books. Please remember, when you read to your child, to read slower than you think you should. And for younger
children, pause and ask them questions about how they’d feel, what the characters are feeling, and what they’re thinking about the story. (It can be hard to stay awake, I know! But it’s worth it.)

(iii) Have FART time regularly. FART stands for Family All Reading Together. Perhaps once or twice a week, let everyone know it’s FART time. Grab some treats. Have everyone select a book. And sit together in the living room while you read those books together, either aloud or in silence.

What to do when your child doesn’t want to read

Not everyone loves reading. However, kids who lack motivation for reading are usually struggling with a small handful of challenges. They either (i) have a reading disorder such as dyslexia, (ii) feel disconnected and want connection with someone, (iii) don’t feel competent, or (iv) are feeling controlled and want more choice in what they read. Each of these will reduce intrinsic desire to read. Our role as parents is to help them overcome those boundaries. We can do this by:

(i) Helping them find appropriate support. With time, patience, and the right structures in place, anyone can learn to enjoy reading. Being dyslexic doesn’t prevent that, in fact, one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is believed to have had dyslexia.

(ii) Reading together – them to us and us to them. There are few things cosier than snuggling up together with a good book.

(iii) Finding books that are at a level that stretches them but not so much that it’s demotivating, and

(iv) Offering them as much choice as possible in terms of what they read... even if that means reading Captain Underpants again.

One more important point: never bribe your kids to read, unless the bribe for reading one book is the chance to choose another one!

Reading isn’t just about academics, just as Book Week isn’t just about winning the award for Best Dressed. Books provide a doorway to the world; through them our kids can climb mountains, experience new cultures, and travel through time and space. As Barack Obama once said, “Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you.”

AUTHOR

Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine’s Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia’s #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
**Book Week 2023**

The theme for Book Week 2023 is “Read, Grow, Inspire”. We will be walking to the Hopetoun Preschool on the morning of Tuesday 22nd August to read to the children. Students are asked to dress up to this year’s book week theme.

**Father’s Day Stall Coordinator**

We are looking for a volunteer to run the Father’s Day Stall this year.

Thank you to Shane, Anne and Lizzy for sourcing the gift for our father’s and father figures.

Cost of gifts will be $7.50 each

Please contact the office if you are able to assist.