Love is ........

The Word

St Paul wrote: If I speak like an angel, but do not have love, I am no better than a clanging cymbal. And if I can understand all the mysteries, have all knowledge, and faith big enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all that I own, even my body, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Look Closer

The greatest of these is love ........ Love is the glue that keeps families together and gives us belonging and purpose. A lot of people think that love is simply a feeling. The scriptures tell us that love is not just a feeling, it’s a choice we make to put others first.

Prayer Space

Symbol: Heart

Lord our God,
You are the source of love.
Help us to love you with all
Our hearts and to love each other
As you love us.
Amen

Josh’s Jargon

Welcome back parents, carers, friends, families and students to our school year for 2016! An ‘unseasonally’ wet and mild start to our year, but I’m sure the rain has been very welcomed by many!

After commencing my teaching career in Leeton way back in 2003, followed by 10 years in Mudgee, and a brief time in Blayney last year; I am honoured and excited to be given this opportunity to be a part of the St Joseph’s Manildra school community. I have heard so much about the warmth of this school and its strong, traditional community and catholic values.

I look forward to engaging my own family; wife Monique, and four young children, Archie, Molly, Annabel and Elsie, into our school community at every opportunity we can.

Thank you for presenting our students so wonderfully for our first couple of days – they looked great in their ‘fresh’ uniforms and we were greeted with lots of smiles!

Later in the newsletter you will find an opportunity to pop in and meet with myself, and I look forward to this if I haven’t had a chance to meet already!

Josh Dunn
Principal

Calendar

- Friday 5th February: Combined Swimming Carnival
Our First Week

What a great start to the year we have had. Our teachers met on Wednesday and began by designing and making candles that now sit proudly in our staffroom. We also discussed some new organisational structures around our school, before moving into classrooms to prepare for the arrival of our students!

Yesterday our Year 1 – Year 5 students arrived with smiles and stories of their holiday break. It was great to see them slip back into interactions with each other on the playground and lots of conversation. We celebrated mass and morning tea with families and members of our parish community, before meeting in the library to design a ‘school Y-Chart’ based on how we’d like our school to ‘sound, look, and feel like’ and discover ways to earn and spend a ‘Joey’s Dollar’! The afternoon and this morning were then spent in our new classrooms with our teachers establishing our learning for the year ahead.

Classes

After much discussion between teachers, Janine Kearney from the CEO, and new principal Josh Dunn, we have made some slight changes to the organisation of our classes for 2016. These changes were made to:

- best suit the learning of our students
- provide less disruption and movement for students each day
- enhance collaboration and discussion for teachers around student needs
- have students feel a sense of pride and ownership of their classroom

Please find following an overview of this new structure. If you have any questions or feedback regarding these changes, please don’t hesitate to ring the school to speak to Mr Dunn.

Classes and Teachers:

- **Stage One Class** (Kindergarten/Year 1/Year 2)
  Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri – Miss Thorpe
  Wed – Mr Dunn

- **Stage Two Class** (Year 3 and 4)
  Mon/Wed – Mrs Hough
  Tues/Thurs/Fri – Mrs Gosper

- **Stage Three Class** (Year 5)
  Mon – Fri – Mr Freeman

Other Points:

- Mrs Hough and Mrs Hoolahan will continue to provide their excellent ‘Learning Support Program’ for identified students on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
- Stage 2 and 3 will combine for sport on Wednesday afternoons.
- General daily timetable:
  
  **Morning Session:** Literacy Block – Reading, Writing, Speaking
  
  **Middle Session:** Maths & Religion
  
  **Afternoon Session:** Other KLA – PD/H/PE, History & Geography, Creative & Practical Arts, Science & Technology.

Sports Uniform

There is a change to the day that we will be having sport this year. **Sport will now be on a Wednesday each week.** This means that students will wear their sports uniform on a **Wednesday and Friday**.

If you require any sports uniform items for your child could you please contact the school office by next Friday, 5th February.

Swimming Carnival

The annual combined Swimming Carnival with Manildra Public School is to be held next Friday, 5th February. **More details to come next week.**

Concert DVD’s

We now have DVD’s from the 2015 Concert available at the school office if anyone is interested in purchasing a copy. The cost is $10.

Our student spotlight this week is on **Ollie Townsend**. After joining St Josephs in 2015, Ollie has settled in fantastically. Even before the first day back this year, Ollie was doing the ‘hard yards’ with his dad, Dave, concreting our new outside pathway! Ollie also gave excellent ideas and answers in our Y-chart discussion yesterday.

Well done on a great start to the year Ollie!

*Make sure you see Mr Dunn for your 2 ‘Joeys Dollars’!*

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**As we come to the close of the school year could you please ensure that any school library books are returned.**
Our first ‘Parent Profile’ of the year is Therese Press, known to close friends (and some not so close!) as ‘Tess’. Tess is our much-loved and overworked school secretary, who attended Joeys herself from Kindergarten to Year 6! All of her children have continued this tradition and we still have Ryan in Year 5.

**Favourite thing about Manildra??** My family – I am lucky to have my extended family in Manildra

**Best thing to do on the weekend??** Probably not the best thing (ha ha), but definitely the most important thing is to catch up on clothes washing and drying!

**Favourite memory from school??** Mrs Farr and all the friends I made whilst attending St Josephs, Manildra

**This year I’d like to…… take my children on a holiday to the beach**

Thanks Therese – you’ve earnt Ryan 2 ‘Joeys Dollars’!

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### Meet The New Principal!

Mr Dunn would like to offer an opportunity over the next few weeks for parents and carers to come into school to meet and discuss any issues, concerns, positives, and questions surrounding their child/ren and establish goals for the year ahead.

If you would like to take this opportunity, please fill in the note below and return it to school, or if more convenient, simply ring school to arrange a time. Please feel free to choose any day and time between 8am – 6pm, with the exception of Wednesday school hours as he will be on class. A confirmation note will then be sent home.

Parents Names: ________________

Child/ren: _______________________

Date: _______________ Time:_____________