

## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Care givers,

### What Supports Creative & Innovative Thinking and Learning?

Every dedicated teacher wants better learning opportunities for their students in order to prepare them for an unknown future and here at St Joseph's we are embracing "Visible Thinking and Learning". Visible Thinking and Learning is a broad and flexible framework for enriching classroom learning across different learning areas, while at the same time, fostering students' intellectual development.

Some of its key goals are:

- \* Deeper understanding of content \* Greater motivation for learning \* Development of learners' thinking and learning abilities.
- \* Development of learners' attitudes toward thinking & learning & their alertness to opportunities for thinking & learning
- \* A shift in classroom culture toward a community of enthusiastically engaged thinkers and learners.

Our teachers are engaging our students in a number of "thinking routines" which are simple protocols for exploring ideas around whatever topics they are learning about in class. Visible Thinking emphasizes several ways of making students' thinking visible to themselves and others, so that they can improve it.

How do we know if visible thinking is happening in a classroom? Students are explaining things to one another. They are offering creative ideas. They and their teacher are using the language of thinking.

There is brainstorming of alternatives. Students may be debating a plan.

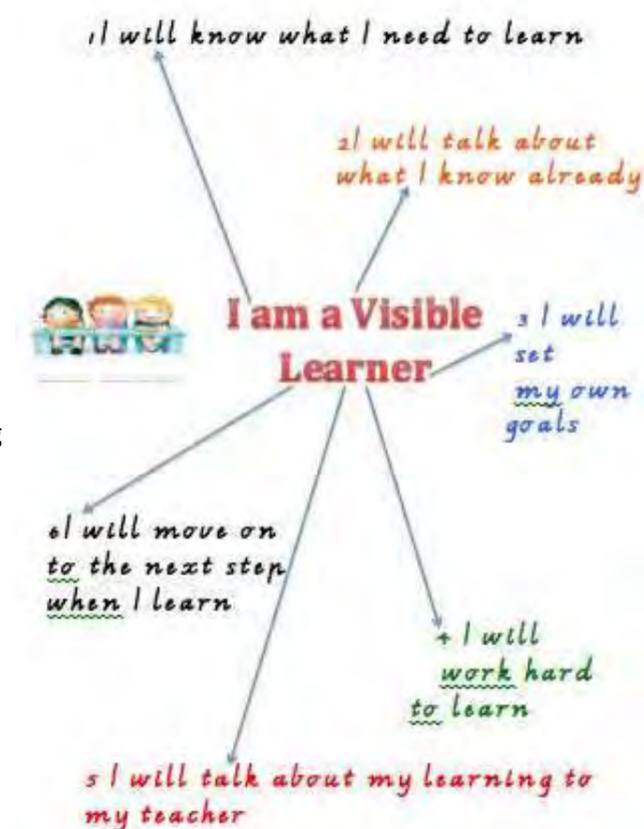
The impact on students is that they are more likely to show interest and commitment as the learning unfolds in their classroom. They find more meaning in the subject matter and more meaningful connections between school and everyday life. They begin to display the sorts of attitudes toward thinking and learning we would most like to see in young learners -- not closed-minded but open-minded, not bored but curious, neither gullible nor sweepingly negative but appropriately sceptical, not satisfied with "just the facts" but wanting to understand.

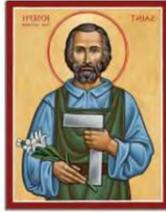
"Visible Thinking" is visible learning in action and we look forward to watching as a culture of deep thinking grows in our school.

This year our staff are beginning to engage with the work of John Hattie – Visible Learning. At the beginning of this process Learning Intentions and Success Criteria will be evident in our instructional language in our classrooms. Learning Intentions tell the students what they are learning and the Success Criteria guide the students to success. In other words, the students know what they are learning and what they need to do to be successful. Research strongly indicates that when students know what they need to learn and know when they have learned it, learning progress improves significantly. This approach makes learning 'visible' to both student and teacher when goals for learning are clear and when students are given specific feedback about their own learning progress. These two elements: learning intentions and success criteria are considered to be among the most effective instructional practices that schools can engage with. More information will be shared as we travel on this journey.

God Bless

Rosie





## News from the APRE



Last week I spoke about the preparation for reports so this week I would like to focus on the RE section of the report. Please remember that reports are summative by nature and only one way that teachers provide feedback to parents about their child's learning.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORTS: WHAT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER ISN'T TELLING YOU**

Religious Education is the first subject that appears when you open your child's report card. In perusing your child's results, it is important that you understand what these results and comments are saying about your child, and what they're not saying.

#### **What information does a child's R.E. report give?**

The R.E. report will give you an indication of your child's achievement in an academic study of Christianity in the Catholic Tradition. It also gives an indication of the effort that your child is putting into the participation in, and completion of, tasks set for this subject. Tasks set for R.E. may involve a range of activities including analyses of biblical texts, research of various religious organisations, planning and engaging in religious rituals, etc.

#### **So what isn't your child's teacher telling you?**

Your child's teacher is not making any statement about your child's faith. Faith is a relationship between your child and God. While it is possible to evaluate relationships, one must be careful when making such assessments based only on one context, in this case, the school context. It would be a mistake to read that a child is not achieving at the expected standard in Religious Education and assume that this equated to an under par faith life. Such an assumption would be going beyond the teacher's intention in providing the report. It would also be a mistake to assume that very high achievement in Religious Education was equated to a deep faith. People of deep faith range from those who struggled academically in all areas, including R.E. to those who are quite adept academically. This is also true of people who do not value faith. So, a reading of a child's Religious Education report should be done with a similar understanding to a reading of reports in other subjects: it is an indication of your child's academic achievement in this subject and an indication of the effort that they have put into their achievement.

#### **On some R.E. reports there may be a comment about a child's participation in prayer: isn't this a comment about the faith life of the child?**

In a word: 'No'.

It is true that faith is an interior attitude that may have some visible signs including participation in prayers and liturgies and other aspects of the religious life of the school. It would, however, be unwise to suggest that one indicates the other. In the Cathedral is a sign that reminds visitors that the building is a place of prayer. It clearly suggested that respectful quiet was the appropriate attitude here, regardless of whether a visitor was a practising Catholic, or a person of another religious tradition, or a person who held no religious affiliation and simply wanted to view the stained glass windows. All visitors were welcome, but there was a 'level of participation' that was expected regardless of the faith position of the visitor. Similarly, should I visit the place of worship of another religious tradition, regardless of my own faith position, it would be most appropriate for me to have an attitude of respect towards their sacred space.

St Joseph's Parish school has been established as a school in the Catholic Tradition, and a normal part of its functioning is the celebration of religious rituals. The participation in these rituals is an expectation of all students who wish to share in the life of the school. Those who have taken steps to more fully enter into the life of the Church participate differently at times; for example, our First Eucharist candidates will now receive Communion. All students learn about the practice and history of Catholic rituals in their R.E. classes. Their participation in religious rituals can be an indication of many things. It may indeed indicate a level of faith. It may also indicate a level of learning. It may be an indication of a child's confidence; or perhaps an indication of wisdom in a child, who recognises that even though they haven't fully bought into the faith position of the community, it is important to participate respectfully.

A teacher's comment about the participation of a child in various Catholic rituals is intended to be taken at face value: it is about the participation and not intended as a commentary on a child's faith.

### **PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**

Next week we are intending to hold an information session with regards to our reporting system. This system will be new to you all and we would like to spend some time explaining what your child's report card will now look like and how to interpret exactly what the grades are telling you about their progress. Details will be included in the newsletter, on the Facebook page and school website.

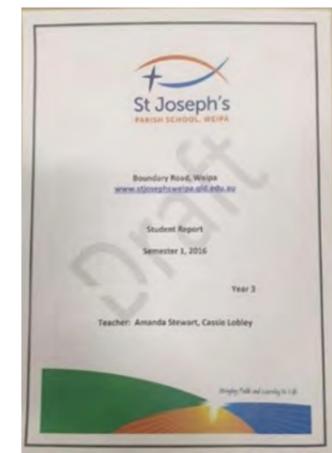
As report cards will be emailed to families could you please ensure that you have advised the office of any changes to your email address.

Many blessings for the fishing competition and have a great weekend,

Good luck to those who have tickets,

Many blessings for the weekend,

Amanda

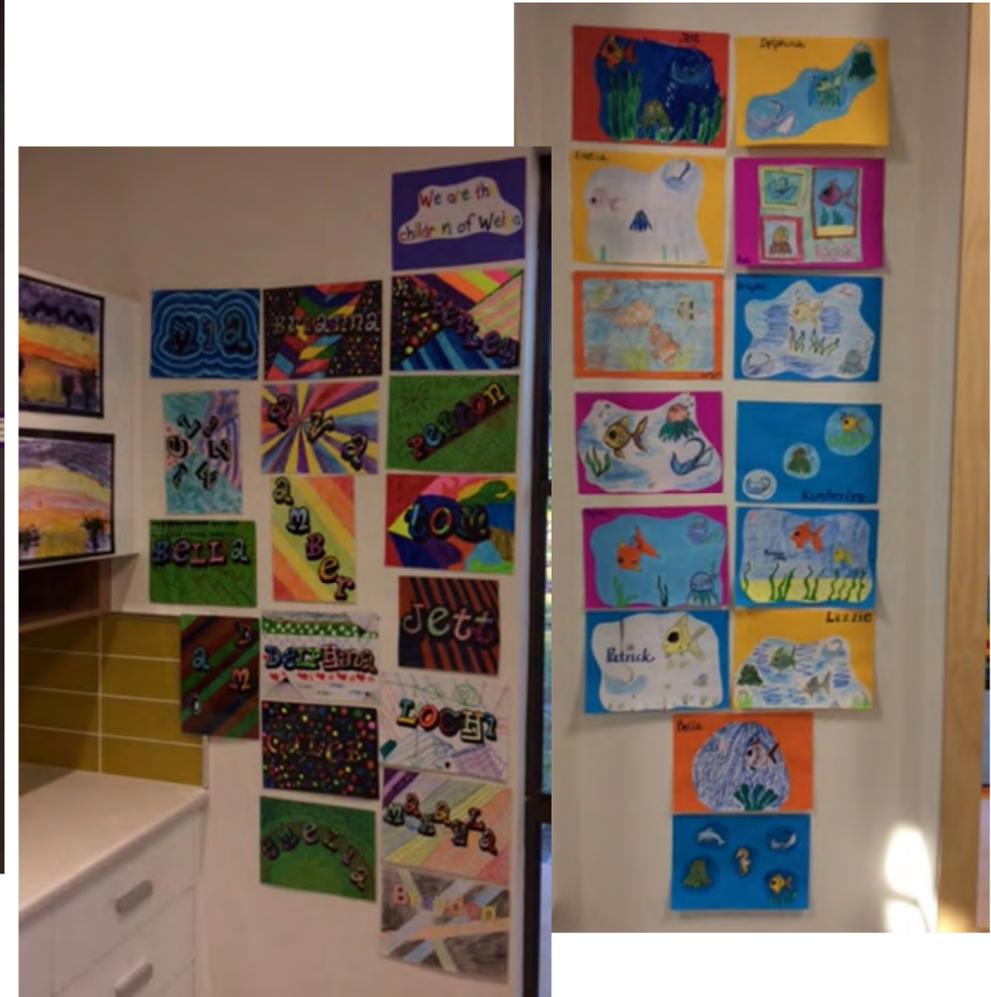




# art show



Our first Art Show was a success with more than 100 visitors coming to enjoy our exhibitions. A giant thank you goes to the students, staff and parents for supporting this wonderful opportunity to showcase our local talent. The exhibition will remain up until early next week so make sure you don't miss it! The art pieces will go home with student next week to be enjoyed at home!







**Year 3 News**

Year 3 have been learning all about procedures this week! They have been following recipes to make their own pancakes and on Thursday they wrote their own recipes for MasterChef Lobs cake in a mug while they watched her perform her recipe. In science we've been extending the students to learn about conductors and insulators of heat which worked well in our choice for mug (went with foam cup for safety!). Next week we will begin our solar oven challenge. The students will make their own solar ovens using their knowledge of conductors and insulators to see if they can cook an egg using only the heat from the sun! Next week the students will also perform their procedure assessment presentations using their explicit instructional skills and direct verb use.



# St Joseph's News & Reminders

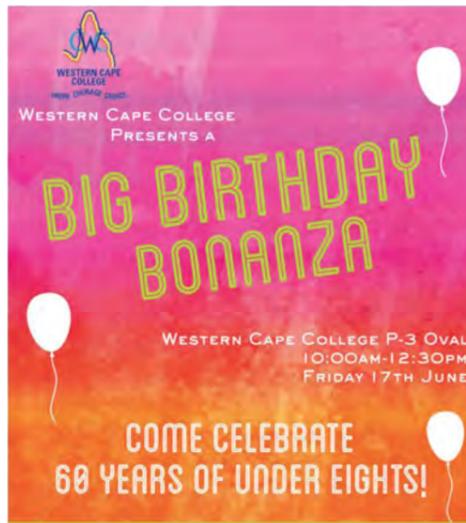
## Parent Information Session: Reporting Procedures at St Joseph's

The aim of this session is to inform parents of the reporting procedures and report card format used at St Joseph's

**When:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 6pm – 6.30pm      **Where:** Multipurpose Room

## NAIDOC SHIRTS

Thank you to all who have placed an order for a Naidoc Shirt. We will let you know when they have arrived. If you have not finalised payment, please do so as soon as possible shirts will not be issued until payment is received.



## Western Cape College Under 8's Day

We will be participating in this event Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 10-00 – 12.30pm.

More information will be distributed early next week ...



# June

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June Fishing Comp community holiday

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Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June P&F Meeting

7.00pm

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Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Student reports emailed to parents

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Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June End of term 2

## - TUCKSHOP CLOSED -

Tuckshop will be **closed** for the last week of school

20 – 24<sup>th</sup> June

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause



## St Joseph's Parish Church Weekend Services

Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8:30am

For further inquiries, please contact Pastoral Leader Kath 40699346

## Enrolments 2017

Interviews are no being conducted for Prep, applications are still being accepted for years 1-6.

Please inform family & friends if they have children who are interested in Prep enrolments, to please contact our office ASAP as placements are almost at capacity.

Parents are asked to obtain an enrolment pack from the school office or download from our website [www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au](http://www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au)

## Jumpers have arrived

School jumpers are in stock \$35 each and can be purchased from the Office

## Early Arrival at School

Parents please be aware that playground supervision begins at 8.10am. Any students arriving prior to 8.10am are to wait on the seats in the eating area adjacent to the Staffroom.

In the interests of safety, children are not to be on the basketball court area unless supervised by a teacher.



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# Class News

## Year 1 News

This week in year one we revisited our St Joseph's Covenant of treating people the way that we like to be treated and talked about what this looked like at school. We thought of different scenarios for example letting others go first, helping others and sharing with others. We then role played some different scenarios in small groups. During the week, we were pleased to display our art work alongside the rest of the school for the Art Show. We followed diagrams to make model planes and tested them outside. The class enjoyed AFL again in our Physical Education lesson and it was a popular choice for 'Funtastic Friday' time. We have continued learning about character traits and settings in our writing and telling the time throughout the day.

## Year 2 News

The focus in maths this week has been Money, working out how much things cost and the change required from different amounts. The students showed great cooperative skills during these activities. We have learnt about writing a Prayer which was a difficult task but so many children had insightful ideas. We look forward to sharing these with parents. We are comparing Princess books this and next week as part of our Text Comparison task. (Much to the boys' horror!) Hope everyone has luck over the weekend at the fishing comp!

## Prep News

The preps were proud to see their art work on display at the Art Show. Thank you to Miss Cassie and Miss Tari for your efforts in co-ordinating the Art Show and thank you to all those who were able to come along and view the school's display. The preps have been very busy with lots of school work as they complete work for the end of semester. Preps are enjoying new games in play is the Way.



A giant big thank you to all the parents and staff that supported our annual bookfair. We sold \$2560 worth of books which is a phenomenal amount considering our size. The money will be banked in the next few weeks and the remaining books returned next week. It could not have happened without the assistance of our librarian Karen Smith and student officer Peta Hancock and our dedicated parents Kris Wallace, Chris McInnes and Ali Scott. Thank you also to the parents who helped make their special hats for our parade. Thank you!



## Year 4/5/6 News

Over the last few weeks the multi age class have been very busy participating in many events such as the Art Show, the awesome hat parade and Funtastic Friday activities. All these events have been breathtaking. Last week we had a special assembly for the Seniors of 2016 and they were given a great honour of being the first seniors of Saint Joseph's Parish School. They received a student leader badge. The seniors would like to thank the compassionate people that made this extraordinary event happen. The seniors would like to thank you. Peyton Wellby and Lizzie McInnes

## \*\* STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK \*\*

Prep... *Gemma Mellner & Dion Williams*

Year 1... *Hayley Merkel & Sisco Bosuen*

Year 2... *Xavier Lobley*

Year 3... *Kunio Sagigi and Ethan Marlow*

Year 4 5 6... *Makayla Lobley & Caleb Hill*

Principals Award... *Ethan Marlow*

