

Our Year 6 farewell prayer

Dear Families,

This will be our final newsletter for 2016 - hard to believe that this much anticipated year has already come to a close.

In the past week it has been lovely to touch base with so many parents and look back at the year that has passed. So many parents expressed their delight in the achievements of our little school in only just its first year. This has been so heartening for me at a point in the year when we are so busy finalising tasks and tired as we work towards the last day of term, that we often lose sight of the positive highs at this point in the term.

Thank you everyone for our lovely thanksgiving evening last night. It was wonderful to see so many parents share in this school community event with their children and family. Many thanks to all our fabulous staff for the preparation of the children for the night and also getting the 'stage set' for our Starry Starry night. Thank you also to our parent volunteers for the yummy BBQ and drinks supplied for all.

As expressed to the community at our school opening in May, it is the joy and happiness that we as teachers see in our students that gives us the sense of success that we have truly accomplished the task given to us at the start of the year. This success is only achieved when the school and home work collaboratively in partnership together. I thank each and every parent for the special contribution you have played at St Joseph's this year.

Sadly, we farewell Mrs Jacinta Cusack and Ali Scott from our staff at St Joseph's this week.

Jacinta has been an instrumental part of our school and I will always cherish the memory of the way she gave up her long service leave last year to come to Weipa and help with the school open day and Prep orientation day. Little did she know she would be helping me place furniture throughout the school in the days prior. I wish Jacinta every blessing as she makes the move to be back close to family in Brisbane.

There is a massive big pair of shoes to fill with the departure of Ali from our staff. Like Jacinta, she was a wonderful volunteer in those early days as we got ready to open the doors for the first time last year. We have been blessed to have Ali working as a school officer supporting student learning since term 2 this year and more recently filling in in the office with extra support while Laura was away. Ali too, has decided to move on for family reasons to support her children through their high school years.

I am truly proud of the vibrant and joy filled school community we have established this year and look very much towards an even brighter 2017.

I wish every family a safe, happy and holy Christmas season.

Peace and God's blessing until next year,

Rosie



Lord God,

We ask for your almighty hand to be upon our Year 6 students as they graduate from Primary school this week. Bless their lives from this day on with goodness and love.

Help them to stay true to their dreams, to use their gifts wisely, and to walk into the future with humility, justice and compassion.

Amen.



Play is the Way + SEL Program

This Semester St. Joseph's participated in the Play is the Way and Social Emotional Program. The classes played the Play is the Way games 3 times per week for 20 minutes and focused on the keys confidence, resilience and getting along.

St. Joseph's Swimming Carnival

On Thursday the 17th of November St. Joseph's Parish School, Weipa celebrated its first inaugural Twilight Swimming Carnival at the Town Pool. The children sat in their House Colours - Mission, Pine and Embley with their families and cheered for their class mates.

Years Prep to Year 2 participated in Noodle Breaststroke/ (Kickboard) Backstroke, Freestyle races and Year 3 to 6 participated in 25m and 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and optional Butterfly.

The Parents and Friends provided a BBQ for the students and their families. It was a fabulous night with a wonderful family community vibe. The night concluded with a cleanup and presentation of Mission being the overall house winner and Age champions announced today.

Age Champions — Swimming Carnival 2016

2007 Boys Kunio Sagigi
2007 Girls Kimberley Hutchinson
2006 Boys Tom Hockey
2006 Girls Delphina Day
2005 Boys Brayden Keough
2005 Girls Peyton Wellby
2004 Girls Lizzie McInnes

All students participated with enthusiasm and demonstrated Confidence, Persistence and Resilience. Thank you to the P and F, Parent helpers in and out of the water, Teachers and School Officers for a very successful night.

St. Joseph's Swimming Program

What a great 7 weeks we had with the weather and all the students participating in the Swimming Program. A big thank you to all the Parent helpers that assisted and to our swimming instructors Rochelle McDonald, Elissa Nash, Peta Hancock and Kate Mellner. Thank you also to Kim Hockey and Rochelle McDonald for Lifeguarding. This week the students received their Swim and Survive certificates. Congratulations to everyone and thank you again for making this program and the Swimming Carnival a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Mel Turner