Dear Parents,

The following poem is a thought provoking reflection on learning in a modern classroom:

A Child’s Plea

As we start heading into the final weeks of the term it should be noted that there will be a lot of things happening around the school. As we try to keep you informed as quickly as possible it is also important to make sure you are reading all notes, emails and messages as they are distributed. The first important change is to the time of assembly and due to dismissal procedures we have changed the time to 2.30pm each Friday. Hope to see you there. A huge thank you to all those who have supported the Prep and Year One classes with their fundraising muffins and icy poles for Project Compassion.

St Patrick’s day
Next Thursday will see us celebrate St Paddy’s day for the first time at St Joseph’s and we are encouraging all students to dress up in green for the day. Let’s see who can be the best Leprechaun in Weipa.

St Joseph’s day
Early next week there will be an information sheet emailed to all families with the details for our St Joseph day celebrations on Friday 18th March. In support of this day we are looking for some donations to help with the activities. If you have any of the following items at home could you please send them in to Miss Stewart: Wool scraps, material scraps, googly eyes, wooden spoons, empty matchboxes or coloured string.

Holy Week
Holy Week is just two short weeks away. We will journey with Jesus through the events of this week, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with Good Friday. Prayer rituals will be held each day with classes and when a final timetable is complete notification will be sent home via email and/or the school Facebook page. On Thursday 24th March a ritual will be held just before school closes for the Easter holidays.

Parent Teacher interviews

Next week parents will have the opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss their child’s progress so far this year. Parent-teacher interviews are a great way to find out how your child is going and show your interest in your child’s learning and school life.

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in the education of their children and these interviews are an ideal forum in which to help enrich the learning opportunities for students and to build partnerships between home and school.

Throughout your child’s time in primary and secondary school, you will be invited to attend parent-teacher interviews, once or twice a year. These interviews are usually just short meetings – about 10-15 minutes – between you and your child’s teacher or teachers. Every parent is invited to attend at least one interview a year. It doesn’t mean there’s a problem.

Blessings,
Amanda

Have a great week everyone and God bless.

Roisín

St Joseph’s Newsletter Edition 7
Andrew Chinn Concert: On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Rainbow" and "An African Blessing" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. Parents/parishioners are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. There is no charge for adults. The concert will take place in the Flexible learning Space, at 11:10-12:30. We look forward to seeing you there. For fans of Andrew he will have a selection of DVD's and CD's for sale www.butterflymusic.com.au

St. Joseph's Newsletter Edition 7
Year 4/5/6 News

In the Multi age class this week we have been working extremely hard to complete writing assessment books. The students definitely have creative minds and vivid imaginations and have used these to create some wonderful stories. This week in maths we have been learning how to convert fractions to decimals and there have been some wonderfulaha moments. So keep up the great work and keep discovering how much fun maths can be. Just a reminder to parents about parent/teacher interviews starting next week. I look forward to discussing all the progress your children are making in our great little class. Almost holidays and I am sensing the children are looking forward to a break ;-) 

Prep News

Preps want to say a huge thank you to everyone at St Joseph’s School for supporting our muffin sales. Through your generosity, the preps raised $430 for Project Compassion. The prep children continue to contribute to Project Compassion through their efforts to do something extra at home and make donations to our classroom Project Compassion box.

Preps have been developing their skills as speakers and audience members in Show and Tell. This term their topics have included “Me as a baby, me now” and “My Family”. These topics also link to History and the preps are to be commended for their efforts in preparing and presenting their topics. Thank you to the prep families for the wonderful support of the children in discussing these topics at home.

Year One News

This week we made some fruit juice icy cups to raise money to help others through Project Compassion. We started measurement in Maths this week and used our hands and feet to measure objects and compared our results. Our new reading strategy is Chunky Monkey which helps us to find two letter sounds and smaller words within words when we are reading.

Year One Three News

Year 3 have been busy working on some of their assessment pieces this week for English and Science. So far, the effort has been very impressive! We’ve been learning about plants in Science and important celebrations/commemorations in history. This week Ms Cassie and Mrs Stewart were involved in a Brisbane Early Learning P9 and have been compiling our whole school data. While they were doing this, Mrs Simone Horan had our class and she has talked about how lucky we are to have such an amazing group of young people. Thank you to our parent helpers this week too! Congratulations Alyssa and Holly for their awards this week on assembly.

UNIFORM

From the very beginning of the year we have received feedback from both the parent and wider Weipa community as to how smart the children from St Joseph’s look in their school uniforms. This is achieved by keeping the uniform requirements as simple, affordable and accessible as possible. I thank you, as parents for ensuring your children come to school each day looking smart and ready for their school day.

There have been a few incidences of children wearing different socks to school as part of their uniform. Our current school Uniform Policy stipulates that the children wear navy socks with both their everyday and Sports uniforms. This is applicable for both boys and girls alike.

So that we do not have a variety of socks being worn at school, I ask parents to check that children are compliant with our Uniform Policy and wear the Navy socks supplied by our Uniform Shop here at school.

The school uniform requirements can all be purchased from our school administration.

St Joseph's Newsletter Edition 9
Banking
Please have bank books in by Tuesday to your child's teacher. They will be collected early Wednesday morning and returned to your child on Thursday by their teacher. School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for students to learn about money and develop good savings habits.

Reading
Thank you to all our parent volunteers for your help in getting home readers covered and ready to go out to students. It has been lovely to see some of our parents also volunteer to assist with reading groups at school. Please keep up the home reading and enjoy lots of books every night.

Banking

PE Timetable – Sports Uniforms
Class PE timetable has now been finalised. Sports uniforms are to be worn on the following days:
* Years Prep, 1, 2 & 3 Wednesday
* Years 4, 5 & 6 Thursday
Should you have any queries, please contact the school office.

School Fees
Thank you to all that have paid their school fees. Book list invoices will be included in term two's School Fees that will be sent out early April.
For future school fee payments could you please pay all amounts into the following account using your 10 digit reference number located on the bottom of the remittance slip (no names needed).
BSB 084 392
Acc 00001 8854

Parents and Friends Discernment
All families will have received an email this week with information and materials around the establishment and structure of our school Parents and Friends Association.

On Monday a further email will go home with a nomination form attached for anyone wishing to nominate for any positions in the Parents and Friends executive/office bearers.

These positions are usually:
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Also with this email will be procedures as to how the nomination and voting process will work. Voting for these positions will occur at the March 21st meeting, which all parents of students currently enrolled at St Joseph's may attend.

National Day of Action (NDA)
This year is the sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence and we have been invited to join WCC on a walk in support of this event next Friday 18th March. This annual day is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond. More details will be emailed home to families for your consideration.

Uniforms
For those families that wish to purchase additional uniforms,
Day Uniforms
4 to 14 available,
Limited stocks size 8 boys.
Sports Uniforms
Sizes 4 to 10 sports.
Polos.
Size 12
Please call Jenni to organize pick up WE now have EFTPOS for your convenience.

Tuckshop
We have received news that the long awaited fridges for the tuckshop will be here next week. Behind the scenes Susanne has been busy preparing yummy menus based upon the feedback from the parent surveys. This week an information letter will go out about the online ordering system we are using called flexischools. This will give information of our online ordering system and details of how parents can access the tuckshop from home.