

## Principal Message

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

Thank you to all those parents who came to our Parent teacher meetings this week. It was a lovely to see so many of you keen to be in partnership with your child's teacher. Good strong communication between the home and school is essential for us to be successful in our endeavours for the children. We hope your first days as part of St Joseph's school community have been positive. As a staff we are committed to ensuring we grow as a positive school community. Please take the time to read the following suggestions from Kids Matter for how you can work with the school to ensure your child/ren have the best possible start to the school year.

### **Starting School is a big change for children.**

Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care for them.

### **Belonging improves mental health and wellbeing and learning.**

All children need to feel that their world is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out any problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging.

A sense of belonging has been found to help protect children against mental health problems and improve their learning. Children who feel that they belong are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than others. They are also more motivated and more successful learners.

Being connected is about knowing you can seek support when you need it, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with staff to help your child learn and develop. Support may come from talking with staff or from making connections with other families. Sometimes you might be feeling that things are going well, but just want to have a general chat about your child.

Being connected helps keep parents and carers informed. Parents and carers are better able to support their children's early learning experiences when they are informed about what their children are learning and doing at their school.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teacher's helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older 'buddies' to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways that children's sense of belonging at school can be supported

At St Joseph's we are committed to building a strong positive relationship with all students and families. This includes things like:

- Making the school environment welcoming for all students and families encouraging teachers to get to know all their students and their families
- identifying ways of improving communication with families focussing on child and family strengths making sure that school policies on safety, welfare and discipline are clearly communicated and support a sense of belonging for children and families.

### **What parents and carers can do**

Parents and carers can work with school staff to help create a bridge between home and school. When the adults responsible for children take a positive interest in what happens at school it helps children feel at home. It also makes it easier to pick up any problems early when they are easiest to resolve.

- Find out about the school and what your child is learning; participate in information sessions
- Make time to listen to your child tell you about what he or she is doing at school
- Let your child's teacher know if he/she is having difficulties and discuss what kinds of things you can do at home and school to help.

### **Schools can be scary places, and not just for children**

Parents and carers also need to feel welcome and at ease to get the most out of being involved with their children's school. When parents and carers are involved and connected with school, children are better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. This is an important emphasis in schools nowadays that may be very different from what parents or carers remember, or what they may have experienced in another country.

### **Connecting at school**

Being connected at school is not about having mobile phones and computers. It's about knowing you can get support, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with school staff to help your child learn and develop. Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents/carers to support children's mental health.

If you would like to read more on this topic articles can be found at:-

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/>

Wishing you a lovely St Valentine's Day on Sunday and a wonderful week ahead,

God Bless

Rosie

### Week 3 News from the APRE.

I would like to extend a large thank you to Mr Dawson and Mr Wallace for their help in putting together our bike racks last week. The racks have been well used already and it is great to see those who are riding to school are doing it safely and responsibly.



This week we also celebrated Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and it is with gratitude I thank the lovely group of volunteer mums who assisted Susanne with the making of pancakes for us all. Your contribution is one of extreme importance in building our school and family partnerships. It makes our celebrations even more meaningful when families are participating in the Religious Life of the School.

Each year in the Diocese our Catholic schools support Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal that brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. To find out more you may like to view the Caritas website: <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

This year Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion with the theme "Learning more, creating change", by demonstrating how education, training and sharing knowledge is empowering individuals and communities in six countries around the world to transform their futures and create lasting change.

Our students will view a variety of education resources and listen to a range of stories that will bring this theme to life in our school and classrooms, and enable our school community to learn more and create change this Lent.

Curriculum news – this week I will be away on Thursday and Friday attending the APRE days whereby I will be working on the new RE Curriculum and how this integrates with our Religious Life of the School (RLOS) document. It is also a time of networking and reflection on our pedagogy and Catholic identity.

Wishing you all a great weekend of family time,

Amanda

#### A prayer for the week:

As art is a journey of discovery, Lord  
so may I grow more aware this day  
of your life-giving presence.

### Ash Wednesday at St Joseph's

This week we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the first day of one of the most important seasons in the Church's liturgical year - Lent. As I explained to the children at Wednesday's liturgy, Lent is a time when we try to get closer to God. The children were encouraged to think of things they could do to achieve this eg have conversations with God, do good deeds and give to Project Compassion. As adults we understand these acts to be FASTING, PRAYER and ALMSGIVING.

**FASTING:** Fasting is an ancient action linked to Lent and is considered a sacred act. The goal of fasting is connected to prayer. The pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God and prayer and fasting brings us to what Lent is about – a deeper conversion and relationship with God.

**PRAYER:** Fasting and almsgiving are merely actions we do out of tradition, if not connected to prayer. Prayer is our conversation with God. In these conversations we find the strength to fast, to develop a closer and more intimate relationship with God. This relationship makes us grateful for our many blessings and motivates us to give to those less fortunate.

**ALMSGIVING:** This is simply a response by us to God, a response that we have come to through prayer and fasting. It expresses our gratitude for all we have been given. We come to a realization that we all make up the Body of Christ and with this realization there is a responsibility. That responsibility is to all who are part of the Body of Christ. This means that our acts of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life.



## PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

God our Father, as we begin this holy season of Lent, help us to see that your merciful love is with us always, even when we wander far from you. With the help of your grace, may our prayers and sacrifices over the next forty days lead us closer to you and to each other, the poor, the sick and the lonely so that together, we can fulfil your promises for all who live in your love. AMEN.



### Year 4/5/6 News

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful parents who came to the 4/5/6 Parent Information session. Mel and I feel very supported by you all and we believe we are blessed to have such wonderful students who are already learning so much all ready. This week we have been analysing and comparing different texts including children's stories and Bible stories. We will be using our creative minds in the coming weeks to write our own narratives. In maths we have been revising place value and learning how to order large numbers. Every child is challenging themselves and I am so happy to hear our changing mindset from "This is too hard" to "This might take some time and effort to learn". Keep up the great work!

### Prep News

Prep have been learning the sounds s.a.t in Jolly Phonics and days of the week and patterns in Maths. They have been developing their knowledge of Lent as a special time and what they can do to make the best choices. The Preps drew their Lenten promises. Prep really enjoyed the new games in play is the Way.

### Year one News

This week Year 1 have been learning about place value and letter sound relationships. They learnt a new play is the Way game called "Islands" and continued working together well as a team. They participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy and made a Lenten promise, each deciding how they could help Mum or Dad with something during Lent.

## THIS WEEKS STAR STUDENTS

**PREP... TOBY ABOOD & MYA WARD**

**YEAR ONE... BRENDAN WARD & HAILEY MERKEL**

**YEAR TWO... MATILDA MACNAM & CHARLIE HOCKEY**

**YEAR THREE... LUCAS HANCOCK & ELLA WESTON**

**YEAR 4/5/6... MAKAYLA LOBLEY & AMBER PEET**



### Year Two News

We are very excited to be the first class presenting at Assembly today. We are singing a song called "Every Move I Make" and according to many parents, it has been a big hit at home! In class we started our Literacy Rotations where we all work independently in groups. The favourite activity was using Study ladder on the laptops. We are investigating how things grow and change, or stay the same in our Science unit. We already have some caterpillars and a chrysalis in the room. We have loved playing Buzz to learn our number facts and this week have used the hundreds board to learn a new strategy for counting in tens. Our favourite game so far is "Islands" when we do play is the Way games. It was great to start our Home Readers and Sight words books also!

### Year Three News

This week year 3 has been learning about alliteration and the role adjectives play in their writing to 'spice' things up. In science the students have been using classification keys to sort animals into mammals, reptiles etc and they've been busy counting to 10 in French. Year 3 has very much enjoyed playing Islands and Touch + Go in play is the Way and work well as a team. They've learned a three times table song to the music of Uptown Funk and have enjoyed playing Shoot Out to practise their double facts. Congratulations to Ella Weston and Lucas Hancock for this week's Student of the Week awards! There are a number of students who've reached 12 Amazing Days and received their movie lunch award today. Keep up the great work Year 3. You're amazing!

### HEAD LICE

In recent years the incidence of head lice in schools has been increasing. Children suffering from head lice are not normally excluded. On discovery of an infestation, parents are advised to treat the problem immediately and to check hair regularly to prevent reinfestation. Parents will be informed by letter or newsletter if any child in the class has head lice. It is important to note that head lice are not caused by unhygienic conditions, and can be caught by anyone regardless of the cleanliness of the hair. It is therefore important to be vigilant in checking your child's hair regularly, especially if they have an itchy scalp. Long hair should be tied up.

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/165/351/Head-Lice>

### School Assembly

Assembly will be held every Friday at 2.15pm



### Bell Times

8.30 --- 10.40 Morning Tea

1 pm --- 1.45 pm Lunch

### 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

Formal homework reading will start after parent nights for the younger grades. In the meantime please keep up the home reading and enjoy lots of books every night.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MARCH 2016

Tuesday 15 Andrew Chinn visit

Thursday 17 St Patrick's Day

Saturday 19 St Joseph's Day

Sunday 20 Palm Sunday

Monday 21 Harmony Day

Thursday 24 Term 1 concludes

Friday 25 Good Friday

Sunday 27 Easter Sunday

Monday 28 Easter Monday



### 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.



### Andrew Chinn Visit:



An outline of the day:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

8:00 Arrive at St Joseph's

Set up in Flexible learning Space

Morning 8:30-10:40

8:40-9:30 set up

9:30-10:40 Choir Workshop-

Mid-morning: 11:05-1:00

11:10-12:30 Whole School Concert



Our school Facebook page is operational. This is another way to keep up to date with what is happening in our school. Please notify the school office if you do not wish your child's image to be used on the school Facebook page or website.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-Parish-School-Weipa-1622459621351524/>

### School Fees

**School Fees were generated and emailed this week. If you didn't receive your invoice can you please let Jenni Schouten in the office know, and she will resend it.**

### Uniforms

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

My name is Laurel Eden and I am the new school counsellor. "New" to Weipa and St Josephs but 14-years-experienced "old" in catholic schools on the Atherton Tablelands.

The school counsellor is an important part of the team approach to educating your child. If you or your child's teacher are concerned about his/her emotional responses, anxiety levels, coping skills, social skills, ability to manage change/routine, or any family issues such as: shift work, different parenting styles, sickness, accident, death (of relatives OR pets!), separation or shared care, the counsellor can generally help.

At my previous schools I visited once a week. The upside of taking the Weipa assignment is that I will be here for 5 days at a time, Monday to Friday twice a term. The rest of the time I run a busy private practice in Atherton where I also hold the subcontract for most mining companies; so I am familiar with the effect a mining lifestyle can have on families.

I feel really enthusiastic about this arrangement because for the first time you and I and the staff have the opportunity to pre-empt problems and attend to them systematically before they become big issues.

My visiting dates will always be in the Newsletter and I am keen to make myself available to parents when I am here, even if only for a chat. For anything ongoing it is Catholic Education's policy for a referral form to be completed if you wish me to see your child. Appointment times and referral forms are always available at the front office.

**NEXT VISIT: Mon 29/2/16 to Fri**

### TUCKSHOP

The school tuckshop is still in the process of being setup. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey sent out last week; your feedback has been invaluable in helping determine structures and procedures for 2016. Look for more detailed information being emailed out to you next week about the menus, ordering and procedures etc.



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