

Principal Message

As parents we are all concerned about the wellbeing of our own children and hopefully that of other children as well. Wellbeing is often thought of as happiness but it is more than that. We need to feel worthwhile, with lives that are fulfilling and meaningful.

We need the skills to create close personal connections and a network of strong relationships that give us a sense of belonging. We need the skills of emotional intelligence and social competency if we are to really feel like "WELL-BEINGS."

Australia, despite its wealth and high standard of living, has alarming levels of childhood depression, self-harm and suicide. Our so called "good life" has not protected us from this sad fact. Evidence proves that children with strong pro-social behaviour tend to lead more positive lives, have more meaningful relationships, enjoy better physical and mental health and do better at school.

In the light of such evidence, many schools are making a commitment to the sustained and thorough development of pro-social behaviour. At St Joseph's we seek to meet this need through the implementation of the Play Is The Way program, a program aimed at developing practical methodology for teaching social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language - behaviour education using wisdom, not force.

School though, is not the only place where children learn. Even with five hours a day, for five days a week, for four terms a year children still do most of their "learning for life" outside school. In fact, most of their character shaping comes from family influences.



Principal Cont....

What they learn within the family allows them to apply it outside the family. Hopefully, what they have learnt allows them to conform to the demands and expectations of community standards in behaviour and to the requirements of everyday school life and learning.

Everyone in a school community has a role to play in helping children become independent, mature, socially competent, emotionally intelligent and successful human beings.

The first step for us all is to be the best role models we can be. It is said, and we believe it to be true, that children need models more than they need critics. With that in mind, let us accept our role as the adults in their midst and offer them the commitment, care, firm guidance and help they need to acquire the skills that lead to meaningful and fulfilled lives.

I encourage all parents to visit the Play Is The Way web page to find a wealth of information about the program and also some helpful tips for parents. Wilson McCaskill, the author and creator of Play Is the Way is an amazing speaker and inspirational advocate for building social and emotional resilience in children.

<https://playistheway.com.au/content/9-for-parents>

Have a wonderful week,

Rosie

APRE NEWS

Week 4 and we are starting to finalise routines and putting systems into place in many areas of our school life. Over the coming weeks and terms as the year progresses I hope to keep you informed about the events, celebrations and the pedagogy that will be evident within our school life and community. In the past two newsletters I have focussed on the season of Lent and how this affects us as Christians as well as the sharing of our liturgies.

It is my hope to also include some information about the Curriculum and what this will look like for St Joseph's. In 2015 the Cairns Diocese Teaching and Learning team started embedding the notion of Visible Learning. This work is that of Professor John Hattie, of the University of Melbourne in Australia, and the meta-analysis of international research about what educational leaders and teachers do that has the most positive impact for each student's learning, progress and achievement.

Visible learners have ownership for their own learning; they understand their progressions and what they need to do next to further their learning. Visible learners see themselves, peers and teachers as co-teachers and co-learners. By embedding evidenced based practices, teachers will positively affect the impact they have on student learning.

This strategy will continue to evolve in 2016. Making learning visible is a holistic approach across all Cairns Catholic Education schools designed to delivering excellent learning and teaching. The promotion of each student's progress and achievement is regarded as everyone's responsibility. Visible learning and teaching occurs when learning is the explicit goal and feedback that is given and sought from both teachers and students, is pivotal in moving learning forward. Leaders, teachers and students are all walking the learning journey together.

So as we begin our journey of 'Visible Learning' here at St Joseph's I will endeavour to keep you posted on what you will see as a result of our professional development and implementation within the school.

Also, a gentle reminder about our school uniform policy. Why wear a school uniform? School uniforms build a sense of belonging and we believe that by wearing our uniform your child is a part of our unique community of St Joseph's Parish School. It has been noticed that students maybe becoming a little relaxed with these requirements and we would like to stress that the following items have been noticed.

- Long hair – it is a requirement that hair be tied back and kept tidy each day.
- Shoes – black shoes, navy crocs are the policy.

If at any time your child is unable to wear the correct uniform, please make sure a note has been given to the teacher with an explanation.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, you prayed for forty days that was a long time. You didn't give up even though you sometimes found it hard to do! Help me not to give up when I find it difficult to keep on track. I know you will help me.

Amen.

Blessings,

Amanda

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



Year 4/5/6 News

In the multiage class we are creating routines and getting very good at moving into groups and organising ourselves to be on task.

We are working very well in Literacy and Maths groups to complete all the tasks set by the teacher. This week we have also been practising a song to perform in front of the whole school on assembly. It is called "Together as One".

THIS WEEKS STAR STUDENTS

PREP... CHARLOTTE GUY & NATE McLELLAN

YEAR ONE... OLIVER DYER & AMY STONE

YEAR TWO... SOPHIE STEELE & KYAN WELBY

YEAR THREE... CHLOE DELLAR & EYAN MARLOW

YEAR 4/5/6... BRIANNA PEET & LACHLAN HOKNS



Prep News

Preps have been learning about the needs of living things in Science. They have identified the needs of people, animals and plants and compared and discussed similarities and differences. As a part of their investigation, they have planted bean seeds. Preps will be caring for these and other plants and making observations as their plants grow. These experiences also provide opportunities to develop language, literacy and mathematical skills. The children enjoy the sport lesson with Mrs Vass. Thanks Mrs Vass!

Year One News

This week year 1 students talked about their families and shared photos, stories and artefacts. They traced and decorated their own handprints and we discussed how we are all unique and special.

Year Three News

This week in class we have been focussing on our thoughts and ideas for Project Compassion. We have watched a video about Doney and her village in Malawi and discussed how we could help somebody in need. This related to our Golden Rule about treating others as we would want to be treated and have come to an agreement that our goal is to try and raise \$50 so we can help to provide an energy-saving stove for a family in Malawi. We also problem solved as to how each of us can take home a Project Compassion box at least once each over the six weeks.

Year Two News

What great workers we are!
Year 2 have been looking at how we can be peaceful people in our homes. We have drawn some beautiful PEACE symbols and talked about peaceful actions. In Geography we are discussing personal scale and local scale and will be learning all about Weipa over the next few weeks.

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

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.



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

School Fees were sent out earlier this week, you will notice that the booklist amounts were not included; these items will be included on your term 2 invoices. If you didn't receive your fees please contact Jenni in the office for a copy.

A request for Direct Debit form was emailed to all families; this is for families who wish to set up a direct debit for payment of school fees. A Direct Debit Alteration Form will be emailed to coincide with the Request form, please fill out both and return to the school office.

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

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

Term 2 begins Monday 11th April



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.



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/>

TUCKSHOP

We have received news that the long awaited fridges for the tuckshop are now on the way. Behind the scenes Susanne has been busy preparing yummy menus based upon the feedback from the parent surveys. This week the Staff have been treated to delicious wraps, salads and quiches each day for lunch. Watch for information of our online ordering system and details of how parents can access the tuckshop from home.



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