

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

This has been a very busy week for us here at St Joseph's. Much of this busyness goes on behind the scenes as we work towards the final completion of our buildings and school structures. I am heartened by the positive manner in which you have accepted that we are still yet to complete many aspects of our school. I know this can be very frustrating at times and I sincerely appreciate your patience as we await completion of necessary functions of our beautiful school. Some updates for you:-

Tuckshop: Custom made fridges for the school tuckshop are on the way. They even arrive next week, which means as soon as possible afterwards we will commence providing morning teas and lunches for the students each day.

Playground: Has been ordered and is expected to arrive next month. The costing for this will cover the initial equipment, full installation, shade cover and soft fall. Funding for this has come from diocesan funds through Catholic Education Services in Cairns.

Crossings: There has been a last minute glitch with approval from the WTA for the crossing at the front of the school on Boundary Rd. As you will have noticed work has commenced on the crossing at the rear of the school on McLeod Drive and I expect works on the crossing in Boundary Road will follow soon after.

Turf and Grass: The diocese is sourcing quotes for irrigation and turf for the Sports oval and school playground. The last update I had on this was they are hoping to complete the works all together as one project rather than small areas at a time.

Establishment of our Inaugural Parents and Friends Association

On Wednesday night the staff met with the Steering Committee members of St Joseph's. The purpose of this meeting was to thank them for their contribution to the establishment of St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa. At this meeting we discussed the future plans for the establishment of the School Parents & Friends group. Attached to this newsletter is a link to the Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation of Qld.

<http://www.pandf.org.au/#>

If you follow this link to the website it has a wealth of information around the structure and set of Parents and Friends groups in Qld Catholic Schools. I am sending home a separate email with some further information re the establishment of a school P and F, from this website. I encourage all parents to read this material and familiarise themselves with the structures and organisation of this parent body in the Catholic school setting.

I invite all parents to an information evening on **Monday 7th March at 7pm** to begin the formation process of our Parents and Friends body.

Have a great week,

Rosie

APRE NEWS

Another weekly wrap up of what is happening in and around our school. The term has started with us running from the get go and sometimes we need a quick refresher on some of our daily life within the school. Firstly though I would like to extend a tremendous thank you to the pool of mum's who consistently put their hands up to help where possible, whether it be covering, cooking, reading or helping out generally, thank you. So this brings to the forefront the importance of:

PROTOCOLS FOR PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS.

- Please make an appointment to see your child's teacher if you have concerns. The time before school and immediately after school is not appropriate as teachers are busy with morning preparations and have important pick up/gate duties after school. If the matter is urgent, please see Rosie.
- Staff prayer is held each Thursday at 8.00am. Teachers are not available at that time.
- If you are working in classes, you must sign in and out and wear a volunteer badge.
- In the next couple of weeks we are hoping to hold an induction session for all who volunteer in our school. Details will be sent home when this is going to happen. If you wish to be part of this, please contact the office.

Again this is part of our responsibilities for compliance within our Diocese.

Stop, Drop and Go

We had previously mentioned that we would be putting in some procedures to make it a little easier and quicker for parents to use this zone in order to keep the congestion to a minimum. Jenni is currently making the signs for your sun visors/dashboards and we hope to have these to you as soon as possible. Thank you for all those being patient and working with us on this matter as it is important for the safety of all concerned.

Flexible Learning Space: This week we received another few boxes of books have arrived for our reading space so those parents who read with their children each morning will see an increase in the number of choices now available. Research shows that learning to read is one of the most important factors in school success and that an early exposure to books and stories substantially contributes to success in early literacy. There are strong links between literacy, school performance, self-esteem and life chances with poor literacy skills being linked with lower education, earnings, health and social outcomes.

Families are encouraged to set aside a regular time when children can read and later share their thoughts and ideas with siblings and or adults in the house. Regular practice improves fluency, word recognition, comprehension and of course confidence for children. Reading underpins nearly every task and component of life and can absolutely enrich one's life.

Next week I will endeavour to talk to you about some of the testing that will occur with your children, over the next couple of weeks, as a process of our data collection to inform our teaching practices and pedagogy.

Blessings,

Amanda

Community News



Cape York Motorcycle Club Presents

Family Fun Day & Come and Try Day

10am 13 March 2016

- Free Entry
- Lucky Door Prizes and Raffles

• Games both on and off bikes

• Gear for sale

Slip-n-slide fun

Tammy Terrific Burgers

Ice Cream Van 11am-1pm

Bring your peewees and your 250's, whatever you have, for the most fun you can have on 2 wheels.

This day is for everyone! Come and get your free Recreation Licence.

For More Info Ph Carol 0419 210 339
Glen 0429 698 003

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



Prep fundraiser for Project Compassion

HEALTHY MUFFINS FOR SALE

Made with love by Preps

WHEN - Friday 4th March 1 p.m

WHERE - School canteen

COST - \$1

All proceeds go to help others through Project Compassion



Year 4/5/6 News

The composite class has been setting personal goals this week. We are trying to change our mindset, use positive words and be role models to younger students. In class we have been learning about adaptations made by plants and animals to survive in our harsh Australian environment. We have been researching a well-known author, Andy Griffiths. He is hilarious but he has a very serious message: ANYONE can be a writer. We have been writing stories about our own lives and using ourselves as the main characters. In maths we are learning about fractions, fractions, fractions

Prep News

Prep has been learning all about being brave to participate and progress. The children discussed ways to be brave and role played different scenarios. One important way the preps know to be brave and to learn is to always have a go. Preps have been listening to stories of people we can support through doing something extra in order to give to Project Compassion and share with others like Jesus told us.

Year One News

This week year one have been continuing to learn about effects of wind and rain and tested some different materials. We made group posters of the Seasons. Students participated in a class prayer on Assembly. During the week we talked about our pet(s) or favourite animals with the class. Next week we will begin borrowing a library book for the week on Tuesday, so please bring in your child's library bag if it is not already at school.

THIS WEEKS STAR STUDENTS

PREP... OLIVIA BESHAM & EWA MCNAMARA

YEAR ONE.... JESSICA HOAD & JIMMY JAMES COX

YEAR TWO.... SWAROOP BHAT & ETXAN ABOOD

YEAR THREE.... ALEXIS LAME-GELDENS & WYLIE CLARK

YEAR 4/5/6.... DAMIAN PARR & KIMBERLEY HUTCHINSON



Year Two News

I have had a fantastic week in the Grade 2 classroom. All students have been wonderful listeners, attentive workers and great helpers. This week in Literacy we have been focussing on sequencing events using the story, 'There was an old lady who swallowed a fly'. In Maths students have learnt both their 'Doubles' and 'Rainbow Facts' and have been trying to improve their number fact time at the beginning of lessons. In Science we are discovering all about the 'Life Stages' of animals. please continue to bring in students baby photos. Within the Geography Unit students are learning about 'personal, Local, Regional, National and Global' scales. Thank-you to the parents who have assisted with reading in the mornings it has been of great benefit. A BIG thank-you to the wonderful students of Year 2 for a great week.
Miss Simone Hansen

Year Three News

This week's we've had the pleasure of Mrs Kelly Bienvenu completing one of her education pracs. The students have enjoyed her lessons and she has been a valued member of our class. Mrs B will have next week off and will return for another block in Week 7.

Year 3 are beginning to look at the assessment pieces for our units of work and many are underway with very promising results. please feel free to make an appointment to catch up with Amanda or Cassie if you'd like an update on your child's diagnostic assessment or progress so far.

Invitations have been emailed and sent home for our class Harry Potter Movie night on the last Wednesday of the term to celebrate the student's hard work. We ask that they come in their most magical outfit and bring a plate of 'magical' food to share. It'll start at 5:30pm and finish after the movie at approx. 8pm.

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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