

Welcome to our first Newsletter for St Joseph's Primary School – another of the many firsts we will encounter this year! This has been a much anticipated week and judging by the many smiles and comments it has been enjoyed by student, parents and staff. It was with much pride and excitement that we watched Lizzie and Olivia cut the ribbon and lead the rest of our students into our beautiful new school on Wednesday morning.

The opening of our school has been covered in the local West Cape Bulletin and on our Facebook page. Many families will be excited that your teacher or class have been featured.

Our official blessing and opening later in the year will give us an opportunity to officially acknowledge many of the wonderful people who worked so hard to bring the idea of our school to the beautiful learning facility we have today.

However, in this our first newsletter we do need to acknowledge the foresight of our Bishop in recognising the need for the establishment of a Catholic school in Weipa; Cairns Catholic Education Services personnel; the architects from Peddle Thorpe and the builders, Bryant Constructions for their hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

I also acknowledge and thank our wonderful foundation staff who have spent many hours at the school over the holidays unpacking resources, arranging furniture and setting up classrooms and other learning spaces within a very short time frame. We have also had many families and friends of staff members helping in recent days with uniforms, resources and school set up.

We couldn't have done this without you!

Finally, thank you to our St Joseph's Parish families who are already working hard to build a wonderful community spirit. Despite the inevitable hiccups which have required patience and understanding, most parents have remained positive, enthusiastic and supportive. Our welcome evening tonight is an exciting opportunity for families to finally visit the school and familiarise themselves with the school environment, meet other parents and their child's teacher in this our first week.

We hope all our families will prioritise our first St Joseph's Parent Information Meeting. This will be held

Monday 8th February Prep to Year 2

Prep: 4pm

Year 1: 4.20pm

Year 2: 4.40pm

Tuesday 9th February Year 3 -6

Year 3: 4.30pm

Year 4/5/6: 4.50pm

This is the best opportunity we will have to begin creating true partnerships between home and school to ensure each child makes the most of their learning opportunities in 2016. At these meetings we will be inviting parents and carers to become involved in one of the many committees we need to support our school this year.

I believe there is a reason that every member of the St Joseph's School community has been called to be a foundation student, parent, grand parent or staff member in 2016. We all bring unique gifts and talents and are called to use them to serve our community. I am looking forward to all the wonderful things we will achieve in 2016 and beyond as the foundation community of this very special school.

God Bless,

Rosie Harrison

News from the APRE.

Well the 2016 year has now started and it was amazing to see the many smiling faces of both children and parents as they arrived. It was a very momentous occasion for all us as we made history at St Joseph's. The last few weeks have been very busy with lots happening with building completion, classroom preparation, teachers arriving and putting some final touches to many different facets of our school with regards to both learning and building our community.

This year we look forward to a wonderful year with many opportunities for us to get to know each other, to increase the learning and to grow as a school community. We welcome your presence at school, encourage you to become active partners in the faith life of the school community, and invite you to attend any of our liturgies and celebrations whenever it is possible.

After the cutting of our ribbon the children settled into their classrooms and getting to know their teachers. There were many beautiful moments shared between staff on Wednesday afternoon and the stories from parents on Thursday were fantastic. A huge congratulations to you as it is no mean feat to organise the 'back to school' necessities.

Today we held our first liturgy for the year and we were blessed to have Father Laurie Timms celebrate this occasion with our community. This was a prayer liturgy to ask for God's blessings for the year ahead. A huge thank you goes out to our Year 4/5/6 students who were asked to be a part of our first celebration, they certainly did us proud.

I ask and encourage you all to become involved in some capacity with the school life and if you have something to contribute please let us know as in the coming months there may be times when we will need to call on the talents and skills of our wonderful parents. It is also important that if you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please share with us so that we can provide the best possible learning environment for your child.

Finally I ask that you keep up to date with happenings around the school via our Facebook page and through our weekly newsletters. We will also be holding our assemblies on Friday afternoons if you are able to join us.

Blessings,

Amanda