

IMPORTANT DATES....

✓ **Monday 19th February – P & F Committee AGM**

Time: 7pm Location: Flexible Learning Space

Position descriptions available on request.

✓ **Every Thursday – Cross Country Training**

Time: 7.30am Location: Basketball Court

✓ **Friday 23rd March – Cross Country**

Kiss and Go Rules

Kiss n Go and No Parking zones operate under the same conditions- parents may stop to drop off or pick up children for a maximum of 2 minutes. If you need longer time, please park elsewhere. The Driver must remain within 3 metres of the vehicle. Rules apply only within hours displayed.

Under no circumstances are you to overtake another vehicle in this zone.

Kiss n Go zone is for your child's safety, your convenience, and to minimise congestion and confusion.

Please Remember

- Do not leave your vehicle.
- Be timely.
- Stay in Sequence.
- Do not overtake. Please wait for the car in front of you to move off before you do. This is to ensure the safety of the children entering the cars in front of you.
- Child Safety- ensure your child gets in or out of the vehicle on the kerb side.
- Do not walk through the Kiss & Go zone during pick up and drop off time.

Safety guidelines state that children under 13 years must travel in the back seat. Thank you for your cooperation!



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News from Ms Harrison..

Dear Families,

Educating Leaders

I love watching our Year Six students as they take on the challenges of student leadership. Leadership is a journey and, with the right support and guidance, every student can grow to be a great leader. At St Joseph's, we believe strongly in the idea of "servant leadership", following in the footsteps of Jesus and our own St Mary of the Cross, giving of oneself for the good of the community.

Our student leadership program is a tremendous opportunity for all students in their final year of primary school. The Year Sixes have already begun developing their personal and public leadership skills, engaging in their leadership ministries and already leading our Friday afternoon assembly.

In week 7 of this term the Year 6 students will be commissioned as the student leaders of our school, recognizing the special responsibilities they will undertake throughout the year. The students will participate in a Leadership day on Tuesday the 6th March and will be presented with their Leadership badges at the Assembly that Friday. We wish them well and look forward to watching them grow in their understanding of what it means to be a true leader in our school and wish them all the best for the journey ahead.

Parent Engagement

Please join us for our first P & F meeting on Monday 19 February beginning at 7:00pm. This first meeting will be the AGM meeting. This is an opportunity to learn more about how you as a parent body can work in partnership together with the staff to best support your child's education.

Thank you to all who completed the Parent Code of Conduct training offered on Thursday morning. It is heartening to see so many parents volunteering for at least at one school community event throughout the year.

Children experience more success when their parents are interested and involved with their schooling. We would love to see you partner with us throughout the year. When everyone works together – great things can happen for the benefit of your children!

I will be away next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday attending Principal Meetings in Cairns. In my absence Mrs Amanda Saunders will be Acting Principal.

Peace and blessings for a wonderful week ahead,

Rosie

St. Joseph's Cross Country 2018

The St. Joseph's Cross Country has been set for Friday the 23rd of March, 2018 at St. Joseph's School Oval. Training for the Cross Country is every Thursday on the Oval with Ms Libby and Ms Cook at **7.30 – 8.00am**. This will continue each Thursday throughout the Term. If you are able to assist with the Cross Country on Friday the 23rd of March, 2018 please email mturner@cns.catholic.edu.au

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This week a very heartfelt Thank You goes to Thu and Kylie Argent for their support and help with our Shrove Tuesday pancakes last Friday. The Year 6 leaders did a fabulous job of not only cooking the pancakes but also returning the tuckshop to its clean state. Everybody was completely satisfied and full.

What is Lent?

The name 'Lent' comes from an old English word meaning 'to lengthen'. It was used to describe the 6-week period leading to Easter because in the Northern Hemisphere it coincided with the time when the short winter days were gradually growing longer.

Lent began as a brief period of preparation for those adults who were to be baptised at Easter. Eventually the rest of the Community showed their solidarity with the catechumens by also observing an intense period of prayer and fasting before Easter.

Lent is a time for strengthening our faith, a time to reflect on who we are and where we are going. It is a time of quietness and prayer, a time of penance and meditation, a time to become aware of our strengths and weaknesses.

What is fasting and abstinence?

Traditionally the Catholic practice of fasting meant having only one full meal a day. Smaller quantities of food were eaten at two other meals but no food was consumed at any other time during the day and the law of fasting only applied to people from 18 to 59 years old.

Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older was bound by the law of abstinence from meat. Hence the Catholic custom of only eating fish on Fridays during Lent.

The practice of fasting and abstinence helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for 40 days in the desert. In the spirit of renewal and conversion we observe Lent by reflecting on the central events of Jesus' life and welcoming the opportunity to grow through changing our lives.

We can do this by increasing our prayer, helping others, fasting, giving up things we particularly like, and supporting Project Compassion.

This year at St Joseph's we are very proud to see our students begin to make their Lenten promises but even more so is the effort some of our students are going to prepare and give to others.



We make a special mention of Samuel and Lucas Hancock who have decided to help the homeless this year. Recently the two boys were on holidays with their Grandparents and visited Canberra whereby they saw some homeless people with no bedding and it was this that got them thinking about how they could help. They remembered our PJ Day from 2017 and decided they would ask for donations to be able to save enough money to provide one swag for a homeless person. With the kind generosity of others, they have not only raised enough to purchase one swag but have a donation of 2 swags to send as well. Well done and thank you for setting a great example boys, you are a credit to your family.

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This is probably one of the best feel good stories so far this term and we certainly look forward to hearing some more about what the children and our families are going to do this Lent.

Project Compassion Appeal

When our Project Compassion boxes arrive they will be distributed to classes. During Lent, students and families are asked to “give a little” by placing coins in their collection box. At the end of the term and before we go on our Easter holidays, all the money raised will be forwarded to Caritas Australia. This year the theme is “A Just Future” and celebrates the Year of Youth.



As Pope Francis said, “Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation.”

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Volunteer induction

On Thursday we held our first Parent volunteer induction session and it was fabulous to see so many volunteers wanting to be a part of our school community. Thank you, ladies for your attendance and the great questions asked during our discussion. If you missed out on this opportunity there will be another session held later in the term so keep an eye out for the date.

Please stay in touch if you need any further information on any of the items above.

Thank you and blessings for a great weekend,

Amanda

Prayer the week:

Lord, sometimes we are weak and give in in the face of difficulties.

Help us to be strong and to persevere.

Lord, help us to always try to finish what we start.

Lord, help us to overcome our greed and selfishness.

May God's thoughts always be in my mind,

God's words be on my lips,

God's love be in my heart.

Amen

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Prep.. The Religion topic for this term is 'What is a Holy Spirit School'.

- Listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus praying and teaching others to pray
- Participate with respect in a variety of these prayer experiences, including meditative prayer, the Sign of the Cross, and Amen.

The science topic for this term is 'What is it made of?' Students explore through hands on activities what things are made of. By the end of the unit students will be able to describe the properties of familiar objects.

The HASS topic for the term is 'People live in places'. Students identify important events in their own lives and recognise why some places are special to people. They begin to identify ways to care for places.

In English we started guided reading groups, handwriting, alphabet sounds and writing for fun.

In Mathematics we are covering counting forward by 1's, counting backwards from 20 by 1's. Counting a collection with the 1:1 connection and matching numerals, quantity and symbols.

In PMP we have been focussing on balancing, hopping, jumping and pointing to our body parts such as knees, elbows and toes.

Year 1.. Wow, week 4 already. The Year Ones have been very busy. In English, we have been focusing on writing sentences, going over our sounds and learning about nouns. In Mathematics, we have been counting in ones and fives and have started counting in tens. The students have participated in our Ash Wednesday liturgy where they all received the sign of the Cross on their forehead and enjoyed eating a pancake for Shrove Tuesday. In Science, we have been out looking for animals in our school environment and learning about the features of a worm. We have also learnt some new tricks when using the iPads.

Just a reminder: Please can all homework folders come back every day. Library day is on Thursday. The students will get a library book and some home readers every Thursday at the same time.

Year 2.. We are loving singing "Every Move I Make" every morning and a favourite activity last week was using Study ladder on the laptops, and learning to log on with new passwords. In Science we are investigating how things grow and change, or stay the same and we have been very curious about the changes in the mealworms in class. Next week we will be making predictions about what will happen next and we are keeping a weekly diary about the changes! We started our new spelling routine last week and we are sure this will improve our spelling and understanding of spelling patterns. It will take time to learn this but we are all giving it a Red Hot Go! In Maths we looked at "Number of the day" every day and have revised place value understanding. We continue discussing how to be 'bucket fillers' and how our 'class covenant' is all about treating others with respect. This week we have been focusing on routines and getting ourselves ready to work at our desks with everything we need. This takes time and good listening skills but everyone has improved and remembered instructions with better results! We have started exploring what an "information report" looks like and next week we will be writing with a partner about an insect, then every student gets to write their own report about an animal of their choice. This is our focus task for English this term. We are continuing to explore ways we can be Peacemakers and the Bible story of The Forgiving Father has been great for discussion in class. Great work everyone!

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Year 3.. Wow! The Year 3's have hit the ground running. We have now commenced our homework and home readers program and have begun to dig deeper into our units of work. We are still busy exploring characters in texts and the structure of narratives to build our knowledge and skills to create our own narratives which will be shared with the class during a special story time in which later in the term the parents will be invited to participate in. We had a very special show and tell this week. One of our students brought in the newest member of his family, a gorgeous puppy. Each week I am taken aback by the kindness of our students and the care and respect they show each other.

Year 4.. Over the past two weeks in Maths students have been exploring the properties of odd and even numbers, as well as looking at numbers with 5-digits. We represented our digits using marshmallows and fruit loops. The students loved the idea of learning with food. Our Year 4 Lenten promises were written and made into caterpillars. These will grow into butterflies after we reflect on our promises at the end of the lent period. Recounts have been our focus the past 2 weeks in our writing lessons. Students have been working tough to make sure they have well constructed sentences and paragraphs while ensuring they are using sequencing words like next and lastly. A highlight to our learning this week though has been looking at sustainability in our school environment. We have come up with a great survey to ask the other students and we look forward to trying to make our school as sustainable as we can.

Year 5.. This week we continued to work on our writing with on demand tasks. Every single student should be proud of the work produced during these 10 minute sessions. Each time we practise, we are writing with more depth and detail. The students are enjoying the opportunity to share their writing by reading it aloud to the class. In reading we are focusing on answering multiple choice comprehension questions for short texts. With the introduction of factors and multiples in Maths, students are working on their problem solving skills to find missing numbers and patterns. Soon we will be looking into multiplication and working our way up to multiplying large numbers by 1- or 2- digits. In Religion, we learnt all about the Eucharist and how this strengthens our faith community at St Joseph's. Our prayers have focused on the Lenten period and how we can be selfless in order to walk the path of Jesus and treat other people as we would like to be treated. Next we will be delving into Judaism to compare these sacred spaces and rituals to our own, and thus learning how other Religions build their faith communities. Our Integrated studies saw the summing up of our knowledge about Australia's democracy. We will start learning about the Gold Rush in week 5. Thank you to those parents and guardians who took the time to attend the year 5 Parent Information session on Thursday Week 3. As mentioned, I would love to meet with each parent and/or guardian sometime in the next couple of weeks to discuss where you child is at in their learning journey and set some goals that we can work towards together. Please let me know if you would like to take this opportunity to meet as well as what day and time would be best for you.

Year 6.. We began our week by coming together as a school to celebrate Ash Wednesday. We have continued discussions about the beginning of Lent and our Lenten journey. In English we have been improving our language features and writing informative texts. In Maths we have been practising our number facts and converting between units of measurements (length, mass, capacity). We have been busily observing the changes to our plants in Biological Science and analysing how the changing salinity of our water table is effecting our farms, food supply and lifestyle.

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ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Week 3 + 4

Prep.. Archie Carroll + Tayla Coleing + Archer Dyer + Jake Forman+ Emily Foy

Year 1.. Ta'Layah Bond + Taylah Simpson + Lilla Campbell + Jayce Christie

Year 2.. Yuri Lesic + Zoe Van Der Westhuizen + Summer Alleyn + Ewa McNamara

Year 3.. Mistee Sagigi + Samuel Hancock + Oliver Dyer + Peta-Rose Deegan

Year 4.. Samuel McNamara, Jasmine Scikluna, Ramona Bond and Kyan Wellby

Year 5.. Kate Merkel + Kunio Sagigi + Ryley Welby + Eva Payne

Year 6.. Jay Deegan + Kimberley Hutchinson + Xeroxia Nona poi poi



Signing In + Out at School

Just a reminder that all visitors (parents, family and friends) must sign in and out of the school outside of school drop off or pick up times. The book is located in the Office.

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1 August 2017

Button batteries – do you have a loaded gun in easy reach?

As the numbers of babies, toddlers and older children hospitalised for swallowing button batteries is increasing, Kidsafe Queensland Inc is reiterating warnings that because button batteries can kill and cause catastrophic injury. It is akin to having a loaded gun in reach of children.

In Australia an estimated 20 children per week are attending an emergency department with an injury related to swallowing or inserting (into nose or ears) a button battery, with children under five years of age at greatest risk.

These shiny little batteries can present serious danger to children – and kill if they are not found in time. This is not just a choking hazard but deadly - a matter of life and death - because when it stops moving the saliva triggers an electrical current causing hydroxide – and, like oven cleaner, causes severe burns in the oesophagus in as little as two hours then keeps burning through layers of tissue.

Four-year-old Summer Steer died after a button lithium battery she had swallowed became lodged in her oesophagus. It slowly burnt a hole into her aorta and then suddenly it was too late to stem the blood flow and save her life.

A battery that no longer has enough power to open your garage door, or even play the jingle in the birthday card it came from, once swallowed still has the capacity to kill.

It is important we all think about how we dispose of batteries as kids can pick them up from the ground and even out of the kitchen tidy.

Teachers, parents, P&Cs and pastors should take full responsibility when providing rewards to children, fundraising with promotional items, giving tea light candles for Christmas plays or when changing and discarding batteries from remote controls or other products containing these button batteries. These products below have been recalled because of the ease of access to the batteries and dangers to children therefore **should not be in a school or church or used for fundraising**. The plastic candle is common in Christmas plays and uses a fully charged lithium battery which can kill within hours so should never be given to a child. Remember that older children take products home where younger siblings may gain access.



In order to minimise the risk of a child ingesting a coin button battery, Kidsafe has developed a list of tips for parents, care givers and physicians:

- Know which products in your home have coin-sized batteries and keep these products out of sight and reach of children;
- Regularly check the screwed in battery compartments in toys and ensure other devices remain secure;
- When purchasing items that use coin-sized button batteries, choose those with screw down battery compartments or other features that make it difficult for children to access the battery;
- Choose products that do not contain button batteries;
- Dispose of spent and unused batteries immediately and safely – flat batteries are still dangerous;
- Store unused batteries in a locked cupboard out of sight and reach of children;
- If a child is suspected of swallowing a button battery or inserts one into their ear or nose, call Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26 and/or take them immediately to a hospital emergency department and request an Xray;
- Warn others about the dangers of button batteries.

In the event a child in your care does ingest a coin button battery, the symptoms may include coughing, drooling and discomfort *or no symptoms at all*. Kidsafe advises carers to not let the child eat or drink and to immediately call 13 11 26 or take the child to an emergency room. These batteries need to be surgically removed.

Please find enclosed posters and flyers to share with your staff. If you would like more posters or flyers please do not hesitate to contact me.



Susan Teerds
CEO Kidsafe Queensland Inc

About Kidsafe

Kidsafe is the leading non-government, not-for-profit charitable organisation, dedicated to preventing unintentional childhood injuries and reducing the resulting deaths and disabilities associated with injuries in children under the age of 15 years.

Kidsafe aims to make a safer world for kids by leading the promotion of action to highlight and to minimise the unacceptable level of risk and consequence of injury to children in our adult-focused world through education, research, advocacy and environmental, legislative and behaviour change. For more information go to www.kidsafeqld.com.au

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School Crossing Supervisor Vacancy



CASUAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR

We are seeking interested persons for a casual position, approximately 1.25 hours per day, on a rotating roster, school days only. Positions available at St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa.

Approved applicants will be required to undergo a medical assessment and pass a blue card application.

Pay rate starts at \$30.00 per hour.

Please call Deb for an application package on 07 4045 8516.



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