

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

NAPLAN, the national testing program has been and gone again for another year. So many hours are spent in the preparation and implementation of these tests, for what is considered by educational experts to be a huge waste of time. One test on one day does not in any way shape or form give an accurate and true indication of your child's academic ability. As we approach the end of term and teachers are conducting assessments for report card writing, I wanted to share with you some of the challenges we face as educators in our ever changing world.

I have recently read an article written by another Catholic primary school principal who attended the International Leadership Summit in Singapore on "Leading and Redefining Future Schools". At this conference she had the opportunity to listen to some of the eminent educational thought leaders of our time reiterate how standardised testing is dumbing down students' educational achievements, not raising them. This viewpoint is not new but now after years of national testing, the results are very clear.

PISA, the global ranking system for educational achievement of countries is becoming increasingly irrelevant to our changing world, yet our politicians and the media continue to promote it as a valuable assessment of our nation's academic success. Standard testing is failing our education system and ultimately our students.

We are educating our students for a world that does not exist and traditional schooling will not educate the innovators of tomorrow. What is desperately needed, is students leaving our education system as creative and innovative thinkers, able to solve problems yet to be imagined. Standardised testing does not support the development of creative and innovative thinking.

There is a deep incongruence between a national testing regime and the federal government's innovation program. Education for the future must be about the development of deep understanding, creativity and collaboration, interconnectedness and sustainability, as well as the development of a growth mindset which helps prepare students for challenges so far unimagined.

Cairns Catholic Education Services, along with many other Catholic dioceses in Queensland have undertaken a commitment to the introduction of the Visible Learning project across all the schools of the Cairns diocese. Amanda Stewart, Cassie Lobley and I recently attended the second implementation workshop for this year conducted by the team from this project in Cairns. The aim of the workshop was to gather evidence from teaching and learning here at St Joseph's so we can use the gathered evidence or data to inform the impact of learning and teaching across the school.

Over the next few weeks, I will endeavour to explain how we at St Joseph's are addressing the challenge of educating our students for an unknown future, founded on evidence-based best practice.

Have a great week.

God Bless,

Rosie



We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

-- Albert Einstein

News from the APRE



This week we were blessed with a visit from Robyn Chambers who works within our Identity and Mission team at CES. Robyn was here to work with myself on developing our school overviews for the Religious Education being taught and the Religious Life of our school. This forms part of our core business as a Catholic school and our faith.

I have been away these last two days at meetings around the Curriculum and the eLearning that occurs within our schools. There are always changes happening not only with the Australian Curriculum but also our school documents relating to this area. Below is a short update on just one of the learning areas.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - WHAT HAS CHANGED IN 2016? The year 2016 sees a change in the structure of some parts of the Australian Curriculum. The new Humanities and Social Sciences learning area includes a study of history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business, once taught as single subjects. Through studying Humanities and Social Sciences, students will develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. Thinking about and responding to issues requires an understanding of the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved, and how these different factors interrelate. The Humanities and Social Science subjects in the Australian Curriculum provide a broad understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high-level skills needed for the 21st century. Families will notice a change in how these subjects are reported on in Semester 1. Students will receive an overall achievement for Humanities and Social Sciences based on grades given in the strands taught this semester.

SEMESTER 1 REPORT CARDS

Preparation is under way for the writing of reports cards for Semester 1. Report cards are one way that teachers provide feedback to parents about their child's learning. We are reminded that many of the important aspects of learners can't be formally assessed and that these reports are summative by nature – they don't tell the full story. Please ensure that you have advised the office of any change to your email address.

Many blessings for the weekend,

Amanda

St Joseph's Parish Church
Weekend Services

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8:30am

For further inquiries, please contact
Pastoral Leader Kath 40699346

National Reconciliation Week

What is National Reconciliation Week?



Each year National Reconciliation Week (NRW) celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. The dates that bookend the week are significant milestones in the reconciliation journey.

May 27—Marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation’s history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

3 June - Commemorates the High Court of Australia’s landmark Mabo decision in 1992, which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land—a relationship that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights or Native Title.

This year, 2016, is particularly momentous, with Reconciliation Australia celebrating a number of anniversaries—including 25 years of formal reconciliation in Australia with the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 1991. It is also 15 years since Reconciliation Australia was formed and 10 years of success in its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program.

All Australians are invited to participate in our nation’s reconciliation journey. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of us all as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

The first Sea of Hands was held on the 12 October 1997, in front of Parliament House, Canberra. It was created as a powerful, physical representation of the Citizen’s Statement on Native Title - a petition circulated by ANTAR to mobilise non-Indigenous support for native title and reconciliation.

Hands in the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, each one carrying a signature from the Citizen’s Statement, were installed in front of Parliament House in what was then the largest public art installation in Australia.

The Sea of Hands has since become a symbol of the People’s Movement for Reconciliation. The children have this week created their own hands which we have displayed in the front of our school flagpole.

St Joseph's News & Reminders

Enrolments 2017

Interviews are no being conducted for Prep, applications are still being accepted for years 1-6.

Please inform family & friends if they have children who are interested in Prep enrolments, to please contact our office ASAP as placements are almost at capacity.

Parents are asked to obtain an enrolment pack from the school office or download from our website www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au

- TUCKSHOP CLOSED -

Tuckshop will be **closed** for the last week of school

20 – 24th June

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause



NAIDOC SHIRTS

Thank you to all who have placed an order for a Naidoc Shirt. We will let you know when they have arrived.



June

Wednesday 8th June Art Show

5.00 – 7.00pm

Week 6th – 10th June Prep Enrolment interviews continue

Monday 13th June Fishing Comp community holiday

Monday 20th June P&F Meeting

7.00pm

Thursday 23rd June Student reports emailed to parents

Friday 24th June End of term 2

Jumpers have arrived

School jumpers are in stock \$35 each and can be purchased from the Office

*** Bell Times ***

8.10 Playground supervision starts

8.30 School Starts

10.40-11.00am Morning Tea

1 pm-1.45 pm Lunch

3.00pm School Ends

TUCKSHOP HELP NEEDED

We are in desperate need of helping hands
Monday Wednesday & Friday
9-11am

Only need one volunteer each day. If you can help...

PLEASE CALL SUSANNE

0429 698 245

Early Arrival at School

Parents please be aware that playground supervision begins at 8.10am. Any students arriving prior to 8.10am are to wait on the seats in the eating area adjacent to the Staffroom.

In the interests of safety, children are not to be on the basketball court area unless supervised by a teacher.



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Class News

Prep News

This week, preps have been presenting their Show and Tell about how they and their families care for the environment. The children shared a variety of ways they can help save the planet from turning off lights to save electricity, turning off taps to save water, composting and reusing. The children presented their information in a variety of ways from drawing, posters, Powerpoint presentations and sharing photographs they had taken themselves. Well done preps for sharing this important message of caring for our planet.

The preps have been busy preparing their art pieces for the Art Show. The children have been very focussed and are excited about exhibiting their work.

The preps used their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste when making and eating popcorn this week. It smelt sensational and tasted delicious! The preps thoroughly enjoyed this Science activity.

Year 1 News

Throughout the week in year one we have been learning how to tell the time on analogue clocks. We have been writing stories using picture prompts and common sight words. We did a landscape painting of Weipa and finished our **Hundertwasser's style drawings**. We did dot paintings on handprints and learnt the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags. We recognised Mabo day, learning Eddie Mabo was from the Torres Strait Islands and found these islands on Google Earth.

Year 2 News

We have continued comparing texts in class this week, looking at stories about dragons and then researching dragon facts. The children have all learnt to log on independently to the laptops with their own passwords. We made a treasure map as part of our Geography Task using symbols and features of a map, and then had to write instructions about how to find the treasure. We have loved the artwork we are making in preparation for the Art Show and every student has shown perseverance with this tricky task. Today we are making hands for Reconciliation Week.

Year 4/5/6 News

During the coming weeks, we will be extremely busy finishing off units of work and assessment tasks relevant to each grade level. Therefore, this time of the term is very hectic and demanding. I have noticed several students who seem to be tired by lunchtime so I ask the children to remember to get enough rest and sleep at night so they are able to do their best the next day in class. I thank you in advance for your support. In addition, we have focussed on how awesome it is that we are all very different from each other and that not two of us are alike in appearance, personality, voice and ability (to name a few) therefore it is important that we celebrate our differences and enjoy the diversity we have in our classroom. Thank you all for another wonderful week.



Year 3 News

Year 3 have been busying working on their procedures and practising their instruction giving skills. We've been working on some pieces for the Art Show next week and are finishing our History/Geography units. Students have undergone some reading diagnostic tests to measure their progress since the beginning of the year and we're very pleased with the results so far!

** STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK **

Prep... Charlotte Guy & Ayden Vogler

Year 1... Samantha Guy & Oliver Dyer

Year 2... Baia Spodniewski & Kayla Barton

Year 3... Holly Jackson & Ethan Marlow

Year 4 5 6... Braydon Keough, Lizzie McInnes & Peyton Wellby

Principals Award... Peyton Wellby

