

Dear Families

## Creating Learning Environments to Meet Your Child's Learning Needs

This year our teachers have begun using **Visible Thinking** routines with their students to support creative and innovative thinking. What is exciting for us as educators, is seeing the impact it is already having on student learning. These patterns of thinking are helping to transform our classrooms into places that allow students to grow into their thinking, ultimately creating a culture of thinking within the school.

We are educating our students for a world that does not exist and **traditional schooling will not educate the innovators of tomorrow**. New ideas about the delivery of excellent learning and teaching practices are critical.

As part of our school's strategic planning process, the school leadership team has been exploring how we can creatively utilise the current school facilities and resources to maximise our impact on student learning, as we plan for future years at St Joseph's, Weipa.

One of the difficulties we face in meeting the needs of **21<sup>st</sup> Century students** is having age groupings and classrooms based around a factory model of education from the Industrial Age. This factory model of schooling does not prepare students to constantly learn in a changing world, nor does it engage today's digital learners, helping them to socialise, communicate, create, and collaborate in meaningful ways.

Our school has been on a continual journey of improvement creating different learning environments which better support the learning needs of our students now and into the future. Students no longer have individual desks; interconnecting classrooms have movable walls; student learning is differentiated; our school has an established School structure and multi-age groups in Years 4 - 6; mobile digital technology is widely utilised in all areas.

These are all great advances; however, this is just the beginning and our vision for contemporary learning environments is evolving and adapting along with our changing student population. The educational needs of Generation Alpha (0-5 year olds) are substantially different to those of the Baby Boomer, Gen X, Y and, even Gen Z. It is a challenging yet exciting time for us as educators.

This week we farewell Miss Stewarr from our school community as she heads off to Atherton in preparation for her wedding next Saturday. Our school community wishes her every blessing and special thoughts in this time. We look forward to seeing Mrs Saunders back with us in Term 4.

God bless,

*Rosie*

**OUR SWIMMING PROGRAM COMMENCES FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE COMMUNICATION COMING YOUR WAY**



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*\*More details to come ...*

**12<sup>th</sup> September** PE today, wear full sport uniform please

**14<sup>th</sup> September** Bake Day Sale

**16<sup>th</sup> September** Last Day Term 3

**3<sup>rd</sup> October** Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

**4<sup>th</sup> October** First Day Term 4

**4 – 7<sup>th</sup> October** Laurel Eden, School Counsellor visiting

**7<sup>th</sup> October** \*Swimming lessons commence every Friday

**12<sup>th</sup> October** \*Crazy Sock Day

**24 – 28<sup>th</sup> October** Lillian Millar School Communication Engagement Officer visit

**26<sup>th</sup> October** \*Socktober family movie night

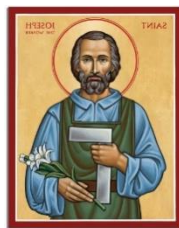
**17<sup>th</sup> November** \*Swimming Carnival

**25<sup>th</sup> November** Last Day Term 4

Physical Education classes will be held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September instead of Wednesday.

Please be dressed in your full sports uniforms accordingly





## ***News from the APRE***

### **News from the APRE – Week 9 Term 3**

By now you should have received the email with the link to the “School Results” survey. To those who have already completed the survey, thank you. This week our students in Year 4, 5 and 6 completed the surveys as well. We have made a commitment to build not only our charism of the school but also a culture of improvement and this data will give us direction.

I am not sure how many of you would access the CES website but just of late it has had a little bit of a makeover and under the tab, Our School Communities is a wealth of information for parents including The Reading Room, Parent Engagement and Catholic Faith Perspectives. If you have the time, please have a look and see if there is anything of interest to yourself and your family.

This week we have also celebrated the Birthday of our Blessed Virgin Mary and our liturgy was a perfect way to honour her for the sacrifice she made as the Mother of our Lord, Jesus. Many thanks to the students and teachers for reading and making this a special time in our very busy lives.

### **Science Week**

The first week in September is traditionally when we celebrate National Science Week. However, we have had many visitors and other events taking place that a decision was made for this to still take place but we would look at holding in Term 4. There have been some generous offers to have visitors come and conduct some experiments as a part of this week. If you or any member of your family have a Science background and could spare some time, could you please let me know as I start the planning.

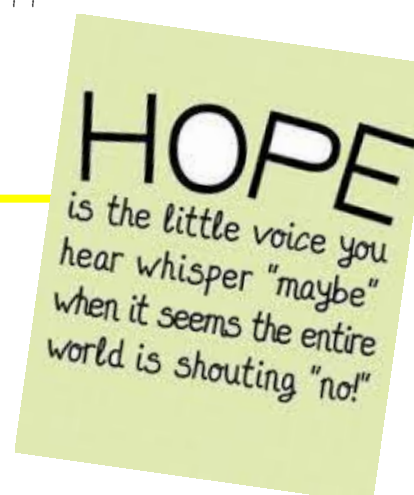
As you are all probably aware I will be away for the last week of term on Long Service leave due to my pending nuptials. Terry and I would like to personally thank you all for the well wishes and the joy you have shared with us in the lead up to our wedding. I have been blessed by the staff and many of the families so from the bottom of my heart thank you. I will return for the start of Term 4 and will start the process of changing my name to Mrs Saunders.

Thank you and blessings for a great weekend,

Amanda

### ***Laurel Eden School Counsellor back at school 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> October***

Laurel welcomes walk ins but if you want to ensure you get to see her please contact her to arrange an appointment [edenl@netspace.net.au](mailto:edenl@netspace.net.au) or 0417 505 492



# \*St Joseph's Message Board \*

## Enrichment Program

The enrichment program at St Joseph's School is designed to engage learners in extra-curricular projects involving complex problem solving and creative thinking. This term we have focused on coding and computer science and this will continue next term with First Lego Robotics program. We'd like to thank Mr Aaron Lobley for constructing our table to the First Lego specifications so we can start building the challenge ready for term 4's competition. We'd also like to thank Mrs Collette Keenan for her introduction to coding. Our students are very lucky.

Next term we will introduce an Electronics and Circuitry program building simple and parallel circuits with bulbs, switches, resistors and small engines. We will also have a Cool Carpenters Club building a marble mineshaft from recycled materials using hot glue guns and basic tools (see this week's flyer to start collecting materials please ☺). And finally, we will continue with the First Lego Robotics Club who will code our robot to complete the given challenge competing against schools around the world.

Students are nominated into the extra curricular Enrichment programs by their teachers based on a combination of factors including academic performance, behaviour, attendance and engagement to learning. Miss Cassie and Miss Haardt also runs lunch time activities for those students who would like to self-nominate and also afterschool opportunities. So far we have a lunchtime Chess Club, Musical Glee Club, and an ICT club. Keep your eye out in the newsletter and on social media for upcoming clubs and afternoon sessions and be a part of something special! The first ICT Club will be in Week 1 Wednesday 3:15 – 4:45pm of term 4. There are still 5 positions available and it's open to all ages. Depending on how much materials we collect as a school, Miss Cassie will also organize Cool Carpenters Club and she'll be chasing willing helpers so get amongst the fun and learning at St Joseph's.

If you have any questions or would like to know more information, please contact Miss Cassie 4069 9500 or email [clobley@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clobley@cns.catholic.edu.au)



The super exciting news this week is that Mojang, the producers of Minecraft, have released a free Education edition of Minecraft for schools to use to engage students into learning. Year 3 have been trialing the program this week with much success as they have created a world together called LOBTOPIA where each student can log in and build together on the school laptops but also see the whole world and everyone in it on the big screen. They can instant message each other in the program and can take video and photographs of their designs.

After getting some lessons from Mak & Xavier (who thought it was hilarious how little she knew ☺), Miss Cass has been working with her students on their spatial awareness and visual perception by getting them to design houses, read plans and build designs from 2D and 3D perspective drawings as well as town planning and will continue this unit in term 4. The educational opportunities are endless with this program and students have responded with enthusiasm and excitement at the opportunity to build their own functioning, positive community (laws and all!). Miss Cassie has a lunchtime group on Thursdays at second lunch and perfect classroom behaviour is a must in order to participate.

It is available for all St Joseph's students and can be downloaded onto your home computer or laptop from [www.education.minecraft.net](http://www.education.minecraft.net) Once you've downloaded the program students can log in with their school email and school password. Their student email is their normal login username with @cnsstu.catholic.edu.au after it and they use their normal school password. If they can't remember, flick Miss Cassie an email and she'll give it to you for safe keeping

Happy Building!



## BRIGRANCE EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENS – Prep and Year 1

In term 1 all Prep and year 1 students were assessed using the Brigrance Early Childhood Screen which measures student's Language, Cognitive intelligence, Physical attributes and gives an overall norm referenced score ranking students as at normal range, or with low, medium or high needs overall or in particular areas. From this data in term 1 we identified 20 students who were requiring intervention in order to meet standard benchmarks. Over the past six months, these students have had intervention every week focusing on their areas of need.

Last week members of the Student Services Team from Cairns Catholic Services visited the school and we re-screened each of the identified students to measure their progress. We were expecting good results however we underestimated the power of our school community and dedicated parents working with their children every day and the amazing teaching and learning that is happening in our classrooms every day with Ms Cusack and Mrs Boundy as well as the explicit intervention programs run by Cass Lobley, Peta Hancock, Ali Scott and Kate Mellner every day because our results were OUTSTANDING. Congratulations Prep and Year 1 students and everyone who has contributed to these excellent results!



# Class News

## Prep News

Preps have been learning about the feast day to celebrate the birthday of Mary. They revised all the things they know about the special role of Mary in the life of Jesus and what Mary means to us. Preps and Year Ones learnt a new hymn 'Mary said Yes' for the school liturgy and quickly picked up the actions to go with the hymns.

Everyone in prep wishes Miss Stewart all the best as she prepares to celebrate her wedding. Congratulations Miss Stewart on this very special occasion. We can't wait to see some photographs.

## Year 1 News

In Year One this week we wrote a character description. We participated in a whole school liturgy for the birthday of Mary. In Maths we have been using MAB blocks to model numbers. We did some research on animal habitats this week and completed some labelled diagrams. We continued completing book reviews in our reading groups and we finished reading our class chapter book, *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White.

## Year 2 News

We have had lots of hands on learning this week. In Science we have been making mixtures to predict what separates and how mixtures can change. We have made cornflour goop and a cereal mix, next week we make playdoh then do the oil slick test. We have been working on our Toy in the Future task and sharing lots of great ideas. The students have loved being able to design their own toy and we will be presenting them next week to the class. In maths our focus has been learning more about the properties of 3D shapes. We are all very excited to only have one week until holidays!

## Year 3 News

Year 3 have been busy writing biographies using paragraphs, headings and linking facts with conjunctions to expand their sentences. We've continued with our guided reading daily and have completed the new reading assessments with everyone in our class moving up from last term's level. We are focusing on fluency for comprehension so rereading after self-correcting (Does that make sense?). In science we have been experimenting with acids and bases (alkaline) and measuring their pH level using red cabbage dye. Next week we will also look at items to test if they are soluble as a solution, suspension or colloid and observing their transparency and whether they can be filtered and if they separate once settled. We've started our term 4 Minecraft assignment which will link in with their Civics and Citizenship unit creating a balanced and just community focusing on housing, essential infrastructure of a community ie transport, schools, business and recreation. They will also be looking at laws for safety. Year 3 are also putting together our Lego Robotics Challenge table to compete against other schools next term as part of SJS Enrichment program.

## Year 4/5/6 News

Throughout all this week we have been working very hard in class. We have been finishing off our units of work in English, Science, Geography, Health and Religion. For many of these assignments we have been using the laptops and Google Drive. This has made it easy to share with Mrs Haardt for her to mark them. Mrs Foad has been playing Ultimate Frisbee with us in PE. In Maths, we have been learning about unknown quantities. Can you work out this maths question -  $3 \times 7 = 5 + ?$



## \*\* STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK \*\*

*Prep... Elroy Spodniewski, Louis Argent & Oscar Argent*

*Year 1... Jimmy James Cox & Aiden Clegg*

*Year 2... Luke Clegg & Charlie Hockey*

*Year 3... Ryley Wellby & Chloe Dellar*

*Year 4 5 6.... Tom Hockey & Amber Peet*

9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents,

The St. Joseph's Swimming Programme will begin in **Term 4, Week 1 and runs for seven weeks. (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of November).**

The Learn to Swim is an excellent programme and all children are encouraged to participate fully. The swimming teachers for Term 4 are Mrs Melanie Turner, Mrs Peta Hancock and Mrs Kate Mellner who are qualified swimming instructors with Swimming Australia and Ms Rochelle McDonald a qualified swimming instructor with Aust Swim.

The children will be transported by bus to and from the school with their classroom teacher. If for some reason your child is unable to attend, please let us know in writing so that other arrangements can be made.

Timetable for Swimming Lessons for each Year level are:

**Prep Lesson Lesson from 9.00 – 9.35am**

**(Prep Children may come dressed to school in their swimmers etc. and change back into their uniform after their swimming lesson. Please ensure underwear is included.)**

**Year 1 Lesson from 9.35 – 10.10am**

**(Year 1 Children may come dressed to school in their swimmers etc. and change back into their uniform after their swimming lesson. Please ensure underwear is included.)**

**Year 2 Lesson from 10.10 – 10.45am**

**(Year 2 - 6 students to arrive to school in full school uniform and change later)**

### **Year 3 Lesson from 10.45 – 11.20am**

### **Year 4/5/6 Lesson from 11.20 – 11.55am**

Please ensure that children are wearing sunscreen and have the following items:

- Swimmers
- Swim Shirt
- Thongs, crocs or sandals
- Goggles (optional)
- Towel
- Sunscreen (may be re applied if required by student)

Please indicate the strength of your child's swimming ability.

Beginner\_\_\_\_\_Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_Competent\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Melanie Turner.

### **WE REQUIRE PARENT HELPERS**

If you are able to assist please fill in the form below and return to your class teacher.

✂ Please detach and return by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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I \_\_\_\_\_am able to assist with swimming classes

The year level I would like to assist with every Friday is

\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_