

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At the end of each semester, it is an opportunity for me to peruse the achievements of students through the lens of their report card. It is apparent that our students are becoming more and more familiar with ways to talk about what they are learning and how they are learning it. Hearing students specifically recount their learning makes me very happy because they are more likely to have greater success in their learning and will aim to set higher expectations for themselves as a result. Additional to perusing the achievement of students, I take time to have a look at our student attendance over the first half of the year. What may seem like just a day missed a couple of times a term may not make much sense but when you put them in the context of the below table, one begins to see that student absences can quickly add up.

If your child misses....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 years</u>
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <u>2.5 years</u>
2 days per week	80 Days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <u>8 years</u>

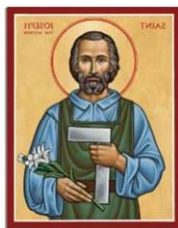
It goes without saying that we all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for future success as they seek to apply their knowledge and skills in new and ongoing learning contexts. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill and I firmly believe that sick kids need to stay at home. It's vital, however, that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference. The point of me raising this is merely to encourage an awareness of the connection that student attendance has on learning performance.

What a fabulous night last night and a resounding success for our organising committee. Congratulations to all those involved. I have had numerous people contact me today praising the wonderful showcase of Indigenous and Torres Straight culture in our school community

Have a wonderful and well deserved holiday break everyone. Travel safely and I look forward to seeing you all for the beginning of Term 3 on 11th July.

God Bless,

Rosie



News from the APRE



WOW the end of Term 2. I realise everyone is feeling very tired for having to complete a long term however, I wanted to follow on from my series about reporting with some advice from Michael Grose. Below are some points to consider before opening your child's report card. This information comes as general information relating to parenting ideas and challenges that present when report time comes around. If you would like to read any more of his work, I have placed the address for his website at the end of this week's article.

Your child will be bringing home their reports this week and it is important not only how to read them but also how to respond to them. Here are a few ideas:

Could try harder... always does her best.... Lacks concentration...Easily distracted.... a pleasure to teach....

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents: pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud is the main concern of most children. Students of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations realistic and in line with their ability? Expectations are tricky.... Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities.
2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates? Avoid comparing and instead look for individual progress.
3. Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it? Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format, school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his/her happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to their future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant. Take note of student self-assessment. Students are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your child. Talk about the strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner and they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

(This information is published by Michael Grose. For more ideas, support and advice visit www.parentingideas.com.au)

I would also like to wish you all a safe and happy two weeks – enjoy your break.

Amanda.

St Joseph's News & Reminders

Sustainable Kitchen Garden Project...

In an effort to build and support sustainable practices within our school, whilst also encouraging healthy eating and active lifestyles, we are looking to build a kitchen garden on the school grounds based on the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. We have just received a small grant which will provide us with funds to join the program, and to purchase some basic gardening equipment. Whilst we will be starting small, the long term goal includes our garden and an outdoor kitchen which will allow the children to cook their own produce. This particular project has been chosen as they provide amazing support and educational tools to enable our teachers to build the garden into their curriculum. If you have any knowledge in gardening or want to be involved in any way, please put your name down on the Sub-Committee List for Sustainability on the noticeboard in front of the Flexible Learning Centre. In addition, if you have buckets with lids, or any gardening equipment that you are able to donate, please bring them to the school or contact Peta Hancock on 0424 893 747.



NAIDOC Dinner

A giant thankyou to Rio Tinto, Weipa Community Care, Weipa Butcher, Weipa Woolworths, Muddy Mutts, Weipa C&K Kindergarten, Napranum Preschool and Kindy, WTA, Napranum Council, Napranum HACC, Weipa Bulletin and all our staff, families and students for making such a wonderful event.

Throughout the week we hosted Weipa C&K and Napranum Preschool and Kindy for Indigenous sport games, cooked damper and shared morning tea with community elders from Napranum HACC, completed music and art workshops, enjoyed storytelling and Indigenous narratives and finished our week of festivities off with a Kup Mari of amai lamb, amai beef, amai pork, and amai chicken.

Thank you also to Aunty Cath who made her famous simur chicken, sop sop and coconut curries! Thank you to all the men who helped stoke and prepare the fire (amai) and then cooked the damper, meat and vegies to absolute perfection! We finished the night with desserts and dancing performed by Jack Sagigi and families from across the cape, some who flew all the way from the Torres Strait Islands just to dance for us. We are truly honoured to work and live in such an amazing community.

Thank you so much to all the volunteer helpers throughout the week and to the staff that made this happen. We are truly blessed.

Unfortunately, our shirts didn't make it in time but that's ok, they will be here & available to collect from our Staffroom Tuesday 28th June from 10-12pm and can be worn as uniform for the first week of next term. Please remember that shirts must be paid for before collection.



St Joseph's Parish Church

Weekend Services

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8:30am

For further inquiries, please contact
Pastoral Leader Kath 40699346

Prep News

The preps engaged in a variety of activities to celebrate NAIDOC Week at school. Highlights included playing Indigenous games with children from both Naprunum preschool and Weipa C+ K Kindergarten; learning the Taba Naba dance; cooking damper; listening to stories and completing art work. The preps have learnt more about the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The Kup Mari Feast was a wonderful opportunity for the preps, their families and the community to celebrate together. Thank you to all those who made this such a fantastic evening. Preps practised the Aboriginal Our Father which they sang with the whole school at assembly on Friday.

Year 1 News

In year one this week we celebrated NAIDOC week and learnt more about the Aboriginal + Torres Strait Islander cultures through storytelling, songs, dance and art workshops. We learnt and performed the Taba Naba song, a Torres Strait Island song about going down to the reef and having a good time and cooked some damper. We learnt about symbols being used to tell stories about hunting, fishing and events as well as maps to significant places. Then we made our own maps using symbols to tell a story. During play is the Way this week we worked in teams giving directions to others as we took turns being robots and controllers collecting mini bean bags. Year one students have worked hard this semester and I'd like to wish all of them a well-deserved break and a great holiday.

Year 2 News

Our favourite NAIDOC activity this week has been our artwork and making damper and reading lots of indigenous stories. In class each student presented their History Talk. We chose a Local Area of Interest and had to research at home things like the location, why is it important, some facts about it and why people should visit it. Each talk was really interesting and we all learnt many things about some wonderful places to visit in Cape York. I am extremely proud of the hard work each child showed to be prepared in learning their talk and the amazing presentations of power points, posters, books and photos. Some children really enjoyed presenting their talks to other classes as well. Have a relaxing holiday everyone!

Class News

Year 3 News

Year 3 participated in a mirage of NAIDOC activities this week from damper making to art pieces and finished with building the Kup Mari fire which fed the multitude. We are so blessed! Have a safe and happy holidays and we look forward to an Olympic size term 3!!!! Love Miss Amanda and Miss Cass



Year 4/5/6 News

Well we have come to the end of the term and it has just rushed here. This week in the composite class we have been revising what we have learnt this term and finishing our work off so we can relax knowing that we have done our best so far. I think that it is important for the children to remember as they get their report cards, that we always succeed if we have done the best we can do. Happy holidays..

Mistakes
are **PROOF** that you
are **TRYING**

** STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK **

Prep... Gemma Mellner

Year 1... Isabella Fahey, Jessica Hoad, Samuel Hancock & Aiden Clegg

Year 2... Luke Clegg & Ethan Abood

Year 3... Holly Jackson and Lexi Laine-Gelden

Year 4 5 6... Patrick Dorahy, Tom Hockey & Brianna Peet

