

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

EDITION 201706 WEEK 7, TERM 1 2017

Important dates for month of March ...



Cross Country Training

When: 7.30am every Tuesday / Thursday morning until Cross Country Carnival 31st March

Tuesday 14th March

Mrs Saunders returns from Leave

Friday 17th March

St Patricks Day

Sunday 19th March

St Joseph's Day

Monday 20th March

St Joseph's Day Celebrations

P&F Meeting 7pm Flexible Learning Space

Friday 31st March

Cross Country Carnival / Last day of term

Tuckshop will be closed..

Easter Holidays commence 31st March, school resumes 18th April

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News from Ms. Harrison...

Dear parents and caregivers,

As parents, we are all concerned about the wellbeing of our own children and hopefully that of other children as well. Wellbeing is often thought of as happiness but it is more than that. We need to feel worthwhile, with lives that are fulfilling and meaningful.

We need the skills to create close personal connections and a network of strong relationships that give us a sense of belonging. We need the skills of emotional intelligence and social competency if we are to really feel like “WELL-BEINGS.”

Australia, despite its wealth and high standard of living, has alarming levels of childhood depression, self harm and suicide. Our so called “good life” has not protected us from this sad fact. Evidence proves that children with strong pro-social behaviour tend to lead more positive lives, have more meaningful relationships, enjoy better physical and mental health and do better at school.

In the light of such evidence, many schools are making a commitment to the sustained and thorough development of pro-social behaviour. Here at St Joseph’s we have implemented a program focussed on Responsible Behaviours and Positive Choices. Our program is based on the Golden Rule of “Treating Others as you would like to be treated” and embedded in a school culture which promotes the values of Good Manners, Friendliness, Persistence/Resilience, Tolerance/Acceptance and Compassion. These values are explicitly taught to the children within our Social – emotional learning program here at school. This program includes the Play Is the Way games each Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings as well as their class lesson with Mrs Turner each week.

Our school rules or Covenant meaning stems from these values and directly relates to the habits or virtues we wish the children to emulate every day at school. At St Joseph’s we have a system which monitors student behaviours and rewards all students for being on target with their positive choices and responsible behaviours each day at school. Many parents will be familiar with the Funtastic Friday reward time each Friday. This system works from a positive mindset and restorative behaviour practices to help children get back on track if they are not reaching their behaviour targets.

School though, is not the only place where children learn. Even with five hours a day, for five days a week, for four terms a year children still do most of their “learning for life” outside school. In fact, most of their character shaping comes from family influences.

What they learn within the family allows them to apply it outside the family. Hopefully, what they have learnt allows them to conform to the demands and expectations of community standards in behaviour and to the requirements of everyday school life and learning.

Everyone in a school community has a role to play in helping children become independent, mature, socially competent, emotionally intelligent and successful human beings.

The first step for us all is to be the best role models we can be. It is said and we believe it to be true, that children need models more than they need critics. With that in mind, let us accept our role as the adults in their midst and offer them the commitment, care, firm guidance and help they need to acquire the skills that lead to meaningful and fulfilled lives.

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10 TIPS FOR PARENTS From Wilson McCaskill, author of Play Is the Way.

- Accept your importance as a role model and make every effort to be the best role model you can be. Recognise that this may call for personal change and improvement.
- Trusting that your children love you, allows you to do the “parent things” that may sometimes make them dislike you for a while.
- Try to always be the adult you claim to be and have the emotional self-control to offer firm guidance, support and moral leadership. Sympathise with them but try not to solve their problems for them.
- Separate your needs from those of your children. They can’t live your dreams.
- Try to always use reason not rage. Avoid fighting fire with fire. Be in control of your feelings and your actions so that your children can learn to be in control of theirs.
- Show faith in your school. Prepare your children to work hard so that teachers can help them to learn well. Establish rights, rules, responsibilities and routines in your household and let every child do their bit. Give them chores, square meals, the time to talk and the sleep they need.
- Turn the TV off when you can and turn the conversation on where possible. And remember; loving them is easy, it’s rearing them that’s hard but it does get easier with practise.
- Role model good manners at all times and ask for them in return. Good manners often diffuse conflict situations.
- By acknowledging small improvements in behaviour you make it easier for big improvements to follow.
- Try to avoid thinking that you can save your children from getting hurt (emotionally or physically). Instead, prepare them to cope.

Practical Parenting Tip

I encourage all parents to visit the Play Is the Way web page and see more of the valuable information that Wilson has to offer. We are hoping that he may be able to come to Weipa one day and run some of his fabulous parent workshops here at St Joseph’s.

Visit **Play Is the Way** by clicking [here](#)

Due to some adjustments required to our timetable to conform industrially in hours of attendance at school we have made some changes to our bell times to start next week.

8.35am 5 minutes of music

8.40am bell rings, children to be in their classroom

8.50 -9am Roll marking



Any child arriving to school **after 9am** needs to report to the office with their accompanying parent to be signed in.

Peace and blessings for a wonderful week ahead,

Rosie

PRINCIPAL

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ADRE News..



In preparation for Term 2 if you are interested in your child, participating in the ICAS testing for 2017 please read the introductory information below and more details will later.

ICAS – INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS.

ICAS is the acronym for International Competitions for Assessments for schools and in the past has been referred to as New South Wales tests as they are conducted by the University of NSW.

ICAS is the largest independent assessment programme for schools in the world with more than 2 million entries annually. Students from over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Pacific and the USA actively participate in ICAS each year.

Tests are done with pen and paper under normal exam conditions and give students the opportunity to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. They take place at school on a set date and are voluntary.

If you wish to have a further look please use the link below:

<https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about?gclid=CJ-rxfra1NICFQGavAodbwDIA>

The dates for 2017 are as follows:

Subject	Competition date	Cost
Digital Technologies	Tuesday 23 rd May	\$9.90
Science	Tuesday 30th May	\$9-90
Writing	Monday 12th June	\$19-80
Spelling	Wednesday 14th June	\$13-20
English	Tuesday, 1st August	\$9-90
Mathematics	Tuesday 15th August	\$9-90

If you are interested in having your child/ren participate, please contact Mrs Saunders via email and upon her return you will be provided with a form to complete. Please return completed form and entry fee/s to the school by Monday 20th March.

Please note: Late registrations will not be accepted.

For more information please visit the Educational Assessment Australia website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au or contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or by email at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Please stay in touch if you need any further information as I will be back at school next Tuesday.

Thank you and blessings for a great weekend,

Amanda



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Our District Teacher Librarian...

My name is Yvonne Grant and I am the District Teacher Librarian employed by Cairns Education Services to work with students and staff at St Joseph's Weipa each term.

I look forward to working with the students and staff to create valuable experiences to support the learning goals of the school Community. Within this role I will further build on the reading culture within the school; promote the inclusion of information literacy and inquiry based learning as reflected in curriculum; foster digital citizenship in students; offer a 'hands on' approach to work beside teachers to maximise student learning; as well as evaluating and digitally packaging resources for teachers for use with classes.

I am also available to take part in planning sessions with individual teachers where necessary, so that I can offer resourcing and learning opportunities tailored to the curriculum and learning needs of each teacher and their students.

The focus for a Teacher Librarian is Information Literacy, which includes:

- finding info-rich resources;
- recommending websites and eResources;
- accessing the online catalogue;
- library practices and skills;
- cyber safety;
- referencing and attribution of images;
- use of technology for presenting information;
- library and research skills;
- promotion of reading;
- use of online encyclopedias, ebooks and other online resources;
- coding;
- Google Drive;
- QR codes;
- augmented reality;
- Media presentations and much more.

Information Technology..

The ability to **process** and **use** information effectively is a basic **survival skill** for those who wish to be **successful** learners in the 21st century. Learners, who **recognise when** information is **needed** and who are able to **find, analyse, evaluate** and **ethically use** information available in a **variety of formats**, for a given **purpose** are considered information literate.

Information literate learners are able to **identify a need for** information, **access, process, organise, create** and **present** information in a range of ways that make **meaning for them** and aid the construction of **personal knowledge**. Information skills **must be embedded across the school**.

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Classroom News..



Prep

We have had a great week in Prep. This week has been our second week of the Journey of Lent and we have been focusing on saying kind words to one another. As a class we have also focussed on right time, right place and right actions and made a poster about an action for example going up the ladder and down the slide when outside playing. We did golden word searches and coloured in the words when we found them. We have been writing our names, letters of the alphabet and the colours of the features of the Blue Thingamajig. We did cut and paste activities where we matched sentence strips to pictures and found the missing piece in numerical patterns. We also made two and three part patterns with peg boards and unifix blocks. In technology, we looked at materials and then experimented with them in the water to see if it would float or not. In speaking and listening we have been practicing talking about a favourite story. We learnt about a new character, stretchy snake who helps us remember to stretch out words to work them out when we're reading.

Year 1

This week in year one, we have continued – yet again, with focusing on being friendly and kind towards each other by saying and doing nice things. In English we have read the story called "Blossom Possum" and related a personal experience to this text. In Mathematics we have been focusing on addition and subtraction and showing the working out using a number line. In Science we have looked at the features of an earth worm and labelled different aspects of what makes an earthworm. We have continued with our Lenten Journey and this week we have added the symbol of lips to our class rainbow to represent "The Voice of Love". We discussed a time when someone had said something nice about us and discussed what things we could say that would be nice to others. Thank you to all of the parents for your help in year one, the students have been enjoying your involvement. We will be starting show and share next week starting on Monday. The theme will be to bring in one item that is important or special to your child. Your child will need to be able to explain why that item is very important to them. Each student will get an opportunity to take home our special show and share bag and bring their special item back in that bag. Please do not forget homework is due on Wednesday and our Library day is Friday.

Year 2

We have been working hard on researching for our Animal Report and as a class we have been learning how to make a google slideshow. The interactive whiteboard is a fantastic learning tool for this as I can demonstrate to the students slowly and show them each step while they are working on their laptop. We have learnt many different tools to use (changing fonts, inserting images, and highlighting texts) which are essential for the students to learn in our contemporary world of technology. We have achieved so much in just one week, at times it has been hard work and frustrating, but I am so very proud of every student in their efforts and for showing resilience! This week some students have prepared a Listen and Share presentation about an interest of theirs outside school. This has been a great sharing time and we have really enjoyed listening to each talk. It has also helped us learn about audience manners and how to respect others interests. In Maths, we are champions at doubles facts now and our symbolic spheres are really taking shape! Awesome work Yr 2!

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Year 3

Year 3 have worked very hard to complete their first English assessment pieces and working on money and change in Math. They have been learning about living and non-living animals in Science and learning about Lent in RE while Miss Cass has been in Cairns, and filling in for other staff Mrs Clements and Miss Nerida have done an amazing job with year 3 and we have been so grateful. Mrs Saunders will be back on Tuesday and both Miss Cass and Mrs Saunders will be back on Year 3 on Wednesday.

Year 4

We continued our Lenten journey this week by reflecting on how we see and hear others treating people as they want to be treated. We explored probability and chance, and our words of the week were the terms certain, impossible, possible, unlikely and likely. We finished reading our class novel Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. It had a VERY surprising ending... It was Mrs Bienvenu's last week this week and she had a great time in Year 4. Over to you Mrs Haardt!

Year 5 - 6

Year 5 and 6 have had an interesting week. After changing our leadership positions, it has been important to learn our new roles and fulfil them to the best of our ability. Every student has shown the responsibility and skills required for these roles and we will remain in these positions until the end of the term. We are continuing to write our "Choose-Your-Own-Adventure" narratives, which are getting scarier by the day! Everyone has very different plots, with our imaginations conjuring characters like evil clowns, scary minions, and rogue teletubbies! We have been inspired by the works of R.L. Stine and hope to include similar elements of humour in our narratives to make them funny as well! We have turned our minds to subtraction in mathematics. One of our favourite activities has been applying these skills by playing "Countdown", which is a version of the maths game on the "Letters and Numbers" TV show. It is so interesting to see how everyone approaches the challenge and the many different strategies that are used to solve the problem. We will be undertaking more whole class challenges over the year to help us to apply our mathematical knowledge and learn from each other. We completed the second part of our Lenten journey by writing out kind words that have been said or could be said at St Joseph's. Our Lenten rainbow is such a bright addition to our room and we are definitely enjoying the process of filling this with lovely thoughts and words. Being budding scientists, we are currently designing experiments to learn more about the best conditions for mould to grow. It will be interesting to see the results once these experiments are up and running.



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Prep.. Sophie Hoad, Sophia Clements + Aiden O'Connor

Year 1.. Toby Abood, Taj Kappu + Charlotte Guy

Year 2.. Ryan Potter + Samantha Guy

Year 3.. Ethan Abood, Matilda Machan and Jayden Kappu

Year 4.. Ryley Wellby + Wylie Clarke

Year 5 – 6.. Mia Williams + Taj Barba

National Closing the Gap day..

Next Thursday 16th March, St Joseph's will be hosting a Healthy Lunch along with games for all ages to join in, this event will run from 1.00 – 1.50pm with games from 1.20pm in celebration of National Closing the Gap day.

We will be providing an assortment of healthy choice wraps and fresh fruit, we ask that children bring along \$3 to go towards their lunch.

We would appreciate any parent helpers to assist in food preparation and supervising / coordinating the games.

RSVP & payment of \$3 for catering purposes is due by 3pm Tuesday 14th March – to Laura in the office..

To find out more about National Closing the Gap day please follow the link

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/indigenous-australia/national-close-the-gap-day/>



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Our FNQ Swimming Champions

Over the weekend, Brayden and Kimberley competed at the FNQ Swimming Championships in Cairns. This competition comprises of swimmers from 15 clubs in the FNQ region including Weipa Swimming Club and is the final competition on the Long Course swimming calendar for 2017.

Brayden Keough competed in all 50m events for each stroke achieving 1st in his age group (11yrs) for 50m breaststroke. He also competed in 100m freestyle and placed 2nd in his age group for 100m breaststroke. Brayden achieved Personal Bests in 5 of his 6 events, a fantastic performance.

Kimberley Hutchinson competed in all 50m events for each stroke and achieved 1st in her age group (9yrs) for breaststroke and 2nd for backstroke, she achieved Personal Bests in all four events, a wonderful result

Both swimmers should be extremely proud of their efforts.

They have trained hard to achieve these results including early morning and afternoon intense training sessions not to mention their other sporting interests and schoolwork.

This takes a special type of commitment, which displays dedication and determination to do their personal best, amazing effort and congratulations to both of you.



Tuckshop...

Thursdays we are now offering fish and chips!

Please note there will be no Tuckshop on the last day of term, Friday 31st March.

We welcome parent volunteers to assist in the Tuckshop, please contact Thu if you can volunteer your time 4069 9500

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