

Important dates...

✓ **Term 1 2018 Starts – Monday 22nd January 2018**



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News from Ms Harrison..

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who celebrated the end of their primary schooling last night. The students and their families gathered at the Weipa Bowls Club to share a meal and presentation of awards and certificates.

Congratulations to our special award winners this year:

Academic award for academic excellence – Brayden Keough

Cultural Award for participation across the arts – Brianna Peet

Sporting Excellence and Representative Achievement – Patrick Dorahy

The Spirit of St Joseph's Award for demonstrating the qualities of Humility, Justice & Compassion Caleb Hill



This morning we celebrated our end of year Liturgy in the church. It was lovely to have Fr Dariusz present with us to lead the Liturgy beautifully prepared by Mrs Saunders. The children enjoyed the experience of being in the church to come together in a special pray of celebration for our wonderful year at St Joseph's.

This was also an opportunity for us to thank and acknowledge the families who are leaving our school community.

I pay special tribute to Michael and Donna Machin who will be leaving our school community at the end of the year. Donna in particular has been a steadfast supporter of the school in its first two years of operation as well as our foundation P & F President. Donna, your support of me personally in those early days before the school opened will always be treasured and remembered. Thank you.

I also wish to acknowledge the staff who are moving on from St Joseph's. Mrs Cassie Lobley and Mrs Majella Boundy. May you continue to enrich the lives of the many students you are yet to meet in future classrooms. St Joseph's is all the richer for your presence over the past two years.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday break full of peace and blessings,

May you travel safely and return to us on January 22nd happy, refreshed and renewed,

God Bless,

Rosie

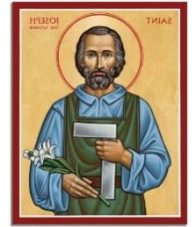
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The time has arrived and we have finished our final week for 2017. What another amazing year full of celebration, events and lots of teaching and learning together. The weeks ahead will be very busy as we begin to celebrate the festive season with our families so it is a time to reflect and enjoy the company of others.

Reports

As mentioned in previous weeks, this semester student reports will be uploaded to the Parent Portal and instructions have been sent out via email on how to access the information in previous weeks. If you are having trouble you will need to contact the office and let us know what it is not doing for you. It is important to remember to focus on your child's strengths rather than focus on areas that need improving.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about their strengths first before looking at areas needing improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

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

Today we farewelled our Year 6 students, any families leaving us on their new journeys and the last day of our school year. Father Dariusz was here to help us celebrate these occasions so I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you all for your support to our community throughout 2017.

Whilst we are now on holidays we will not have the chance to celebrate Advent together. Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year and this year it begins on Sunday 3rd December. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. The sights and sounds of Advent attempt to focus our attention on Jesus' comings - at Bethlehem, today and in the fullness of time.

Symbols of Advent - Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a circle of green foliage (evergreens – unending life) and red holly with four candles spaced evenly, and purple decorations. The candles represent the four weeks before Christmas. The three purple candles are lit on the 'penitential' Sundays (first, second and fourth) and a rose-coloured candle for 'Gaudete' (joy), the joyful Sunday (third). The candles are lit in sequence to present the themes of the different Sundays and to highlight the personal preparation to meet Christ in the various ways he comes.



The colour purple is used for three of the candles, as it is associated with the traditional penitential colour for the season. Purple symbolises the spirit of repentance, longing and waiting for the long awaited Messiah: Jesus. The rose-colour of the remaining candle is associated with the third Sunday of Advent and represents a theme of joy along with longing and penance. The symbolism of the colour of the candles is also reflected in the readings chosen for each of the Sundays of Advent.

First Sunday: 'Get Ready' **Second Sunday:** 'Prepare' **Third Sunday:** 'Joy' **Fourth Sunday:** 'Hope'

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The shape of the wreath is symbolic to God's love that has no beginning or end but is everlasting. The circle also represents the years that we wait for Jesus' second and final coming into glory. This is the endlessness of time in which God remains united with humanity.

The use of candles is also symbolic in another way. For Christians, Jesus is the Light of the World. The message, the good news Jesus came to give, was 'to bring light to the world'. Light is used as a symbol for Jesus.

Keep Christ in Christmas



"He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree." (Author unknown)

The universal theme for Christmas is peace, the gift that Jesus gave the Apostles when he said to them, "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you." (John 14:27)

Peace is a gift that resides in the heart – not under the tree. It is Jesus' influence in our lives that stirs within us more kindness, more respect, more love, and more concern. It is because of Him and His teaching that we are motivated to reach out to those in trouble, distressed and in need, wherever they may be. As we approach this wonderful feast of Christ's birthday let us spread the message of the season to one and all.

A Happy and Holy Christmas to everyone.

Amanda



Classroom News...

Prep... We have had a great final week of the year in Prep with lots of fun filled learning activities. We continued with our English rotations with year one. We did hands on learning with concrete materials in maths and also have been enjoying counting with doing dot to dots. We have been practicing our Christmas carols through the week. We enjoyed singing *Jingle Bells* as a class and *Away in a Manger* with the school participating in the Starry Starry Night concert. We did some Christmas craft which included a wreath, Christmas decorations and a calendar for 2018. We participated respectfully in the whole school Liturgy in the Church on our final day. Thanks to Miss K and Miss Cass for teaching as well in Prep this week. Thanks to all of our parent volunteers who helped with reading throughout the year. Mrs Mellner and I would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year in 2018.

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Year 1... I would like to thank you all for a wonderful year and for all of your help and support throughout the year. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This week the children have written a short story about an elf and they have had to come up with an idea about what the elf could do to make the elf interesting and exciting. We have also, been creating some amazing pieces of craft to take home. We have been busy getting ready for Starry, Starry Night and cleaning up our room, ready for the New Year.

Once again, thank you and Merry Christmas!

Year 2... Today every child took home some beautiful Christmas decorations made with love. It has been a tricky week to get through as routine goes out the window and so many things are happening. We had a lovely class party today and in the true spirit of Christmas, everyone received a lovely gift for our Secret Santa. The kids sang their hearts out at Starry, Starry Night and I was very proud of them!

Well, we made it to the end of our school year. Have a wonderful break everyone!

Year 3... Year 3 have been busy setting up their packages for their Australian Soldier for Christmas, making and sewing things for their secret Santa's and finishing off their work for year 3. We've been sorting and sending home some of their things so they don't all have piles on Friday. We've also been practising for the Christmas Concert on Wednesday night. On Thursday, we will have our wet day and break up party to conclude our amazing year. Thank you all so much for your support and encouragement. 2017 was amazing!

Year 4... This week in Year 4 we followed a procedure to make our own advent calendar. The students practised their figurative writing by creating personalised messages (warm fuzzies) for each of the other students. These messages became our treasures to include for each day on the advent calendar. We continued learning about the events surrounding the birth of Christ, and how these are represented in many Christmas carols. I would like to thank every family for making this year amazing. I have learned a lot and know our students will continue to grow and develop too. Merry Christmas and have a happy and safe holiday. See you next year!

Year 5-6... We've made it! This week the students shined at Starry Starry night. I'm so proud of their hard work leading up to this event. We farewelled the year 6 students at Graduation on Thursday night and passed these leadership positions on to next year's leaders. Thank you to all families for your support in 2017. Best wishes to those students headed into high school and those leaving us for new adventures in faraway places. Have a safe and happy holidays.



Prep.. Sophia Clements + Ruby Scarabello + Kooper Baylis.

Year 1.. Tre Bobongie + Taj Kappu + Louis Argent + Luke Wright

Year 2.. Brendan Ward + James Hayman

Year 3.. Jake McDonnell and Baia Spodniewski

Year 4.. Isaac Morton

Year 5-6.. Damian Parr + Tom Hockey + Makayla Lobleby + Ava Steele

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Play is the Way and SEL Program 2017



This Semester St. Joseph's participated in the Play is the Way and Social Emotional Program. The classes played the Play is the Way games 3 times per week for 20 minutes and focussed on the keys Confidence, Resilience and Getting Along. On Tuesday the 14th November we completed the SEL Program and the school participated in a SEL Celebration with Snacks and watched the Movie Sing Rated G.

St. Joseph's Swimming Carnival 2017

On Thursday the 16th of November St. Joseph's Parish School, Weipa celebrated its inaugural Twilight Swimming Carnival at the Town Pool. We would like to congratulate the follow students on their success.

Age Champions – Swimming Carnival 2017



2008 Boys - Jaiden Kappu

2008 Girls - Emma Smith

2007 Boys - Kunio Sagigi

2007 Girls - Kimberley Hutchinson

2006 Boys - Tom Hockey

2006 Girls - Annabelle Clements

2005 Boys - Brayden Keough

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.



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School Crossing Supervisor Casual Position Available



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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