

# ST JOSEPH'S PARISH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

EDITION 201903 WEEK 3, TERM 1 2019



## Important Dates...

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - P&F AGM @ 7.00pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – School Review

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – National Close the Gap Day



*School day fun!*

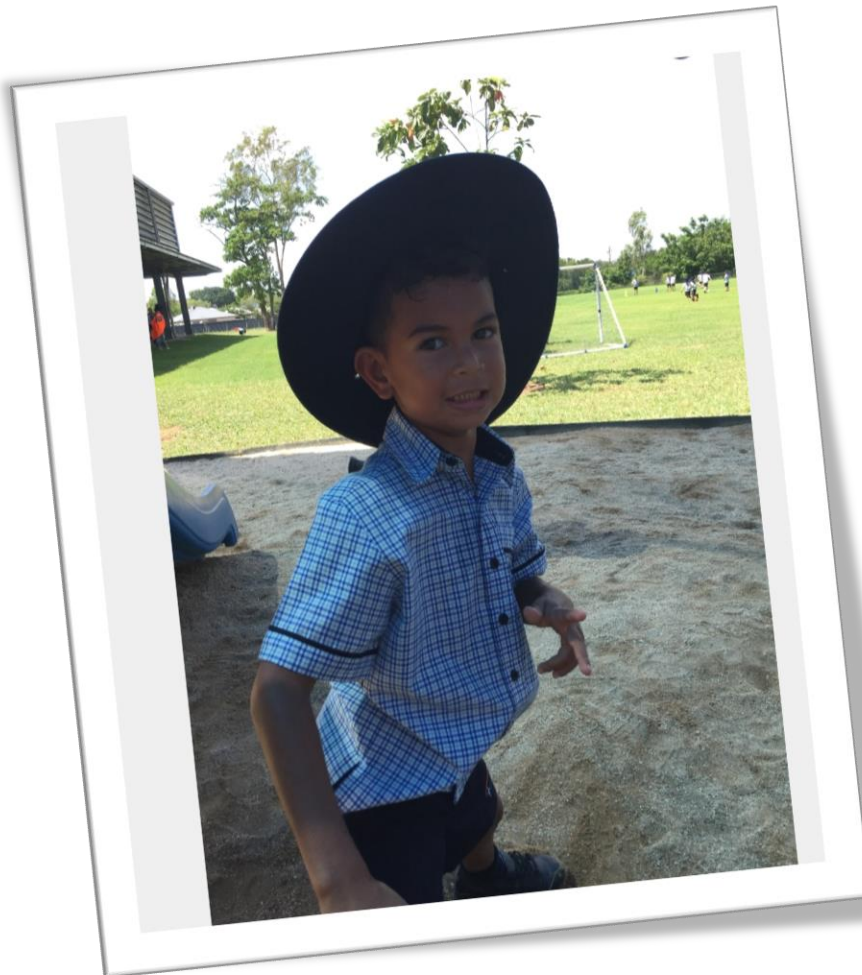
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# *News from the Principal .....*

## **Week 3 Newsletter**

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Staff, Students and Community,

Wow! What a busy three weeks we have had at St Joseph's Parish School. The energy in the air each morning as children, teachers and parents walk through the gates of the school is prevalent in the smiles on the faces, the fast-paced handball games happening around the playground, and parents huddled together sharing morning stories. This is an incredibly uplifting feeling to begin each of these busy days. Earlier this week we welcomed the Director School Effectiveness, Luke Brown to our school. Luke was impressed with the question's children asked as he visited the classrooms and walked around our great school.

### **SCHOOL REVIEW**

In line with our Diocesan Improvement agenda every school goes through a review process. As outlined in our School Effectiveness Framework the purpose of the review is to build upon the teaching and learning within the school to identify any needs and celebrate what we are doing well to embed as effective practices.

Next Monday Tuesday and Wednesday we will be having a visit from Marissa Clark, who will be conducting our review process and will be speaking to members of staff, students and families.

### **PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

It was great to see such a fantastic turn out of parents at our parent information sessions. Approximately 90 people attended.

Congratulations to the families who won the door prizes. First prized of \$250 fee reduction went to the Hancock Family, Second Prize of \$100 fee reduction went to the Jenkins family and the Third prize of \$50 flexischool voucher went to Genevieve Shelton.

The most important aspect of these nights at the beginning of each year is establishing a working relationship and open communication with the class teacher. A large part of this is your understanding and support of class routines and expectations. Our very dedicated teachers are always hoping to work with you in partnership to ensure the year is successful. I liken this partnership to paddling a canoe. If all within the canoe are working together, paddling in time in the same direction, the canoe will gain speed and momentum, ultimately reaching the destination quickly. However, if the paddlers are not working together maintaining course is difficult. When the paddlers are in opposition little or no progress will be made, the canoe could go around in circles even backwards. Through paddling in synch together we can make 2019 the most successful year for all our students.

To ensure that your child has the optimum opportunity of this all occurring, it is essential that a partnership involving trust, mutual respect and open communication exists. We will always think the best of you first and we ask that you do the same for us. I encourage all parents to get involved in school life when you can, and communicate with us, particularly with your child's class teacher.

If you have an issue or a concern, please know that we will try and deal with this together. If you need to discuss a concern with the teacher, please take the time to make an appointment as the mornings and afternoons can be busy for teachers. It is also important to know that the teacher is the first point of contact in dealing with your concerns. You are always welcome to speak with a member of the Leadership Team after speaking with your child's teacher.

Each day at St Joseph's Parish School, in collaboration, we are challenged to ask the question: "How does what we do enhance the learning culture of our school?" Schools are places of learning first and foremost

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and we need to keep this at the forefront of our minds as we go about our very important work as staff, parents and students. Together, we strive to ensure that students experience rich and diverse learning experiences in a contemporary 21st century learning context.

### **VOLUNTEER'S INDUCTION**

Volunteers are a very valuable asset to the St Joseph's community. It is a requirement by Cairns Catholic Education Services (CES) for all volunteers to attend and complete the 'Volunteers Induction Program'. Mrs Amanda Saunders, Deputy Principal, will guide all our wonderful volunteers through this. We would like to hold our first induction in week 5 so please let us know in the office if you are interested in volunteering.

### **SCHOOL STUDENT PROTECTION CONTACTS:**

The safety and wellbeing of our students is of the highest importance at St Joseph's Parish School. As with all non-state state schools, we have nominated School Student Protection Contacts who are staff members that students can raise concerns of abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour by a staff member. Just a reminder to you and your child that at St Joseph's Parish School, our School Student Protection Contacts are:

- Akira Ernst (School Counsellor)
- Andrieka Knight (Prep Teacher)
- Megan Pearce (Principal)

All school staff receive regular training and information to be able to respond to student protection concerns. Please contact the Principal should you have any queries regarding student protection processes at St Joseph's Parish School.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING NEWS**

Tips for increasing reading motivation in 2019.

As our students settle into the year and new routines become more ingrained, it is always important to try to include regular reading into that schedule. As parents and caregivers, we often hear messages in the media, about just how important it is for our children to be involved in consistent literacy activities.

Indeed, research supports this notion, "...learning to read is one of the most important factors in school success and early exposure to books and stories substantially contributes to success in early literacy. There are strong links between literacy, school performance, self-esteem and life chances, with poor literacy skills being linked with lower education, earnings, health and social outcomes" (State Library of Western Australia, 2017). But what do we do if our kids just don't seem interested in reading?

- Help your child to develop a love for books by enjoying them in a variety of interesting ways. Audio-Books in the car are often a real winner. Consulting non-fiction books for information about holiday destinations, natural phenomena, trivia, craft activities or science experiments may also pique some student's interest.
- Surround your children with reading materials in strategic places – aside from books on the bookshelf, you could try providing magazines (the Double Helix Science magazines are popular with older reluctant boys), comics, graphic novels, newspapers, recipe books...
- Visit the local library. This local facility is a real neighbourhood hive of activity.
- Be a reading role model. Allow your children to see you reading for pleasure. Talk about articles you have digested while you waited at the dentist, discuss books you have read or recipes you have seen.
- From page to stage. Use films or plays based on books to your advantage. Many children's books are being brought to life as movies or stage plays, musicals and even opera. These productions present a wonderful opportunity for children to engage with some of their favourite stories and characters, or be introduced to new ones, in a different format. We will keep you posted on these opportunities throughout the year!
- Read together or try the "you start reading the book and they finish reading it" strategy.

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- Be consistent and relaxed with reading at home. Try not to make it a chore! Reading daily is ideal but it does not have to be at the same time, for the same length of time or in the same place every day.
- Help your child to find books that feature people, places or topics that are of special interest to them. There is a plethora of sporting books available that we find most children love.
- Be patient and persistent, like most good habits, it takes time.
- Continue to read with your children even after they have learnt to read independently.
- Finally: As adults, we can sometimes take the skill of reading for granted because we've been doing it for such a long time. But, it's important to remember that reading is hard work, it requires effort, practice and concentration and it can be tiring, but it's worth it! We hope you are settling well into the year and that these tips might assist with including reading into your weekly schedule.

State Library of Western Australia. (2017).

Better Beginnings: Research About Literacy and Reading. Retrieved from: <https://www.betterbeginnings.com.au/research/research-about-literacy-and-reading>

<https://www.better-beginnings.com.au/research/researchabout-literacy-and-reading>

## **TUCKSHOP NEWS**

**PLEASE HELP:** Volunteers allow us to operate extra days to help serve our school community so please consider becoming a volunteer and helping out in the Tuckshop this year. Our busiest times are in the mornings 10 to 11am. Please let us know if you can help.

**NEW ITEMS:** White Bread - We have added white bread to our sandwich menu. Please note that our bread is fresh from the bakery each day.

God Bless

*Megan Pearce*



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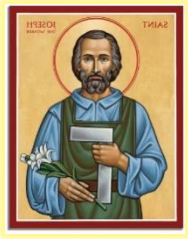
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# News from the APRE

## Week 3 2019



Well it is wonderful to see the sun shining for a couple of days after all the rain and our school and town is looking luscious and very green. This week has been an extremely busy one with Parent information evenings and the general day to day of school life.

### **Happy Valentine's Day – 14th February**

This week we celebrated St. Valentine's Day. A day where we traditionally give gifts to the ones we love. But have you ever wondered what the history is behind the day?

Valentine's Day began in the time of the Roman Empire. Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families.

As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to death.

Whilst Saint Valentine was in prison awaiting his fate, many young people came visit him. They threw flowers and notes up to his window. They wanted Saint Valentine to know that they, too, believed in love. One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit Saint Valentine in the cell. Sometimes they would sit and talk for hours.

On the day Saint Valentine was to die 14th February, 269 A.D.), he left his friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. He signed it, "Love from your Valentine." That note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. Happy Valentine's Day!

### **VOLUNTEERS**

If you wish to work with our children in any capacity in 2019 you must attend one of our annual Parent Volunteer Induction sessions. All volunteers must complete this session to be eligible to volunteer within our classrooms, tuckshop, grounds – in fact anywhere where there are our students and teachers have asked for help.

For your information any volunteers who visit the school and are not parents must also produce a Children's Commission 'Working with Children' blue card to be able to work with students.

***Session 1 for 2019 will be during week 5 with a date to be confirmed.***

***If you are interested in attending a volunteer session please register your interest with Suzy in the office and we will be in touch with the date and times of the sessions.***

Please note that inductions are needing to be completed annually so if you have completed in the past it will be necessary for you to complete the session again.

*Amanda*

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Thank you and blessings for a great weekend,

### *A Valentine's Prayer*

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His love that knows no end.



**St. Valentine,  
Bishop & Martyr,  
Pray for us!**



## **St Joseph's Cross Country 2019**

The St. Joseph's Cross Country has been set for **Friday the 29th of March** 2019 at St. Joseph's School Oval.

Training for the Cross Country will begin in Week 4 - Tuesday 19th of February and Thursday 21st of February on the Oval with Ms Libby, Mrs Bienvenu, Ms Briody and Mrs Turner at

**7.30 - 8.00am.**

This will continue every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the Term.

If you are able to assist with the Cross Country on Friday the 29th of March, 2019 please email [mturner@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mturner@cns.catholic.edu.au)

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*A SMILE SAYS IT ALL!*



*FRIENDSHIP!*

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# *School Banking*

School banking is collected on Wednesday mornings. If you wish to set up banking for your child, you can make an appointment with QCCU on 40 697 555.

You will need to take in your Drivers Licence or passport, along with the student's birth certificate.



## **Kiss & Go Car Signs**

Please ring the office if you require a sign  
with your family name to display in your car.

## *Enjoy the weekend!*

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# AN INVITATION



## MADONNA KING PARENT EVENING

What do our girls think about their fathers?  
And what are fathers struggling with when it comes to  
their relationship with their teenage daughters?

The bestselling author of 'BEING 14' now tackles the  
complicated father/daughter relationship.

**ALL PARENTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO  
ATTEND THIS FREE EVENT WITH WELL  
KNOWN JOURNALIST & AUTHOR**

at St Monica's College  
177 Abbott St Cairns  
(entry only via main gate due to ongoing building works)

**TUESDAY 12 MARCH 6.30-8PM**

6.30pm Madonna King  
7.30pm Light refreshments,  
book purchase and signing

**TO REGISTER:**

<http://www.cvent.com/d/16q9pxs>

HOSTED BY THE CAIRNS DIOCESAN P&F COUNCIL



Catholic School Parents  
Queensland

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