Dear St Joey's School Community,

My vision for education in our primary school is simple. I believe children need a deep knowledge of, and experience in, literacy, numeracy, spirituality and getting along with others.

This week, I share with you one way we support children getting along with others – we teach them how to. At St Joey's, we directly teach the knowledge components of our rules and allow children opportunities to experience this knowledge during the Play is the Way program.

Our school has three rules. These rules are not in place to make us feel trapped, but to increase our learning. One of our rules is ‘We are safe’.

‘We are safe’ is about being physically and emotionally safe. The Play is the Way yellow poster illustrates that ‘It takes great strength to be sensible’, and sensible is what safety is all about. It is sensible to use equipment properly. It is sensible to keep our hands and feet to ourselves. It is sensible to wear a hat. It is sensible to use soap and paper properly after using the toilet.

I look forward to sharing my vision for literacy, numeracy and spirituality in the coming weeks.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton
Farewell Mary Katt
Mary Katt has worked as a teacher aid at St Joey’s for 8 years. In this time, Mary has touched the lives of students, staff and families in her caring and humble approach to her work. We wish Mary God’s blessing in her future endeavours and look forward to her frequent visits throughout the year.

Welcome Rachel Piggott
Rachel Piggott has been filling in for Mary Katt throughout terms 2 and 3. We welcome Rachel Piggott as the full time year 1/2 class teacher aid for the remainder of 2016.

Isis Community Preschool & Kindergarten
On the 23rd (Tuesday) and 24th (Wednesday) of August from 9am, Isis Community Preschool & Kindergarten (14 Pizzey Street) will be hosting parent information sessions by Bushkids (normally about 20-minute presentation + question/discussion time).

Bushkids is a not for profit organisation providing primary health care to children and their families in rural Queensland communities. There is a centre in Bundaberg and they provide services such as Speech Language and Occupational Therapy.

The presentation covers information on Bushkids, services they provide- individual and group therapies, some milestones for children 4 years and some alternative options for support/services.

We invite any interested parents to come along. Phone 41 261 241 for further information or to RSVP

Book Donations for Fete
If anyone has spare books at home they’ve finished with, and would like to donate them to the school for our fete, it would be very much appreciated. Please feel free to drop them into the front office. Thanking you in advance. Carol Marvell.
Pre-Prep Program
Our pre-prep program commenced last week. If you would like to include your child, or know someone who would, please contact the office.

New Children’s Sacramental Program
The Brisbane Archdiocese has released a revised Sacramental Policy, which our parish will implement from 2018. There will be no Sacramental Program in 2017 to allow for the change over.

Steps in the Sacramental Program will be:

**STEP ONE:** Children (in Year 3 or older), will be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

**STEP TWO:** The following year (in Year 4 or older), children will be prepared to receive their First Holy Communion. (Children will make their first confession during this program.)

**STEP THREE:** The year after their First Holy Communion (in Year 5 or older), the children will prepare to celebrate more fully, the Sacrament of Penance – with Individual Confession (first rite)

P&F Update
Earlier this year, the P&F made the decision to support children who represent St Joseph’s School and Wide Bay at state level competition. The costs associated for this level of representation is usually over $1000, inclusive of uniforms, accommodation and fees. Support from the P&F will be through a donation of $200 towards this cost. It is important to recognise the training and commitment children make to excel in individual or team events. This term, Wesley Hinton represented St Joseph’s School and Wide Bay in Yeppoon over a 4 Day Queensland Schools Junior Golf Championship, therefore was the first child this year to receive P&F support of this kind. In 2014, another child was recognised and supported by the P&F in the same way. We look forward to being able to provide funding to more children from St Joseph’s as they strive for excellence in school sport.

Hold the Date for St Joey’s Fete

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Childers Read To Me Day

Concept: As part of Literacy week, the Childers community is invited to join us for Read to Me Day, an exciting literary event aimed at encouraging reading with children from birth to year three.

What: Groups of supervised children will take part in rotational activities throughout the central area of Childers. At each station an adult will read to the group and in some instances they will participate in an activity. This year’s event will have a circus theme – dress up in your best circus costume.

Why: To model and foster a love of reading to young children; to create interaction between families, businesses and groups; to show our children they are important and we are keen to organise events for them within our town.

When: Thursday 1st September 2016.
Where: Millennium Park, Childers and surrounding businesses. Further details to follow.

Contact: Alexia & Judy (Isis District SHS) 41 921 222;