Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Principal Performance Review – Survey Closing Friday, 26th February

As announced previously, Mr John Hinton is currently undertaking a Principal’s Performance Review.

On Monday, 15th February, a sample of families selected across various year levels were emailed an invitation to participate in a confidential on-line survey conducted by Ardjuna, an independent survey company. This would have appeared as from auto@ardjuna.com. Please ensure to check your in box and junk mail folders to see if your family has been chosen to participate.

Community consultation is highly valued and I thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Pitot
Area Supervisor - School Services North
Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane

Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Evening

Thank you to the many families who were able to attend the Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Evening last Tuesday. As well as the social opportunity to be casually welcomed to the 2016 school year, families were able to gather together to hear personally from their child’s teacher. This year, we also shared our School’s priorities for improvement that included:

- A research driven school plan that involves Executive Coaching for our staff and improved access to a ‘language of learning’ for our students.
- A clear and concise Homework Policy.
- A plan to gather information relating to the Catholic identity of our School.

Once again, welcome back to the 2016 school year. We all stand ready to work together for the benefit of children and their learning needs.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton

Have you seen our new classroom furniture?
Cross Country Training
On Friday, 11th March, we will be conducting our School Cross Country Carnival from 9 to 11:30am. Students will be running laps of our school block. The perimeter of our block is 500metres:
- Ages 5 and 6 – 1 lap
- Ages 7 and 8 – 2 laps
- Ages 9 and 10 – 4 laps
- Ages 11 and 12 – 6 laps

During the cross country events, students will not cross any roads and there will be supervisors on each corner of the block. If you have any problems with your child participating, please call the office by Wednesday, 9th March. If you are able to assist, please inform the school office by Thursday, 10th March.

Please be aware, Cross Country training will now occur during lunchtimes. Everyone is welcome.

NRL Tipping Competition
A ‘St Joseph’s School’ tipping competition will be registered in the next couple of weeks.

St Joseph’s School community are invited to participate. The cost will be $20 (due by round 5 of the NRL competition). Further details regarding the split of prize money will be released after round 5.

Project Compassion 2016
Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday: a significant day in the church calendar as it marked the beginning of Lent – the time leading up to Easter. As a school, we joined parishioners for Mass in the church.

During Lent we are challenged to remember that ‘Lent is a verb’ and we should aim to be people of action - using our hands, voices and our hearts to pray for and support those who are less fortunate than we are. As a connected community we aim to reach out to those in our local and global community.

Caritas Australia is a Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development and is part of a global network that spans over 200 countries and territories. Caritas Australia’s annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, “Project Compassion” brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year marks the 50th year of Project Compassion.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is ‘Learning More – Creating Change’. Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and in justice.

On Friday each student received a small donation box. If you are able to contribute to our Project Compassion appeal, your donations will assist Caritas to continue to support those in greater need than ourselves.

Thank you for your support.

I/we ......................................................... am/are available to help at the Swimming Carnival on 6th March, 2015.
P&F School Calendar
A P&F yearly school calendar is being organised. We know how much our parents enjoy attending school events and we hope that plenty of notice will assist us to be ‘A Connected Community’. We hope to have the calendar ready by the end of term 1. Subsequent calendars for future years will be timelier, the first is always a little more consuming. In the meantime, please keep up to date with the newsletter ‘DATE CLAIMERS’ and the website calendar, click on the link - http://www.stjosephschilds.qld.edu.au/news-and-events/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx

P&F AGM and Meeting
On Wednesday evening at 6.30pm, the P&F will meet to create a 2016 P&F Executive – President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. These positions are very manageable and we encourage all interested parents to come along and be a part of school life. Following the AGM, a general P&F meeting will occur. These meetings are casual and productive. We hope you might consider being a part of our P&F.

School Hats Have Arrived
If your child is in need of a new school hat, they have arrived at Direct Garment Printing Group (local business in the main street of Childers).

After School Tutoring
A previous St Joseph’s School student, who is achieving high academic results at Isis High, is available and willing to provide after school tutoring. Places are available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at a cost of $10 per hour. Please submit your interest at the school office - first come, first served.

Student Information Update
Please notify the office if you have changed your address, email, phone numbers or emergency contacts.

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming carnival will occur on Friday, 4th March (week 6). If you are available on the 4th March and would be able to help, even if it was for a short time, please fill in the slip above and return it to the school office by Monday, 29th February.

Evacuation Procedures
We have two fire drills each year. During these drills students know what is expected of them. They follow staff instructions, exit classrooms and assemble on the oval near the tennis court. If you, as an adult, are on school grounds during a fire evacuation procedure, we ask you to follow the lead of staff:
1. You will hear an evacuation alarm.
2. Classes make their way to the assembly point.
3. Follow staff instructions to the assembly area, even if you are sure it is a drill.

We have one lockdown drill each year. During this drill students know what is expected of them. They follow staff instructions, sit on the carpet and remain quiet. If you, as an adult, are on school grounds during a lockdown procedure, we ask you to follow the lead of staff:
1. You will hear a song called “This Is Our School” played over the speakers.
2. Staff will be locking doors and windows and checking the toilets and other areas.
3. Follow Staff instructions to a safe locked space, even if you are sure it is a drill.

Hot Water System Give-A-Way
We have a relatively new small hot water system that we salvaged before the administration renovation in 2015. It would be our pleasure to pass this on to a family or local sports club if it can be of use. Please submit your interest at the school office.
Student of the Week

Year 1/2 Visit to Baldwin Swamp
As a part of their investigations into Minibeasts, year 1/2 visited Baldwin Swamp. Insects were collected, analysed and identified. Students had a play at the park and fed the ducks.

School Banking
School banking will be on Wednesdays this year. Please ensure that your child’s banking is handed in to the office on their arrival to school. Packs are available for any new students who wish to join School Banking. Please enquire at the office. The Banking Rewards program will be running again with some great new rewards to collect.