Principal’s Message

Last Tuesday evening, during the Parent Welcome & BBQ, I was once again very pleased to extend a warm welcome to parents new to Catholic education and those who continue.

As described on Tuesday, the education world does not stand still. A strong focus this year is on the implementation of delivering excellence in learning and teaching, particularly in English. Throughout the course of this year, our staff will participate in professional development programs and begin to implement whole school curriculum plans. In order to do this most effectively, our teachers will share their wisdom, in a collaborative way and on a continuing basis.

Beyond the school gates, there is an important role for parents to play in sharing and encouraging Catholic education in our local surrounds. In the 2014 Annual Improvement Parent Survey, wonderful words were expressed about our school - words such as:

“We are thrilled with the progress our daughter has made at the school and are extremely pleased with the school as a whole. We feel it is getting better and better and are very excited to see the addition of new resources and learning programs as well as the holistic approach to teaching that Joey’s has. We love the school and would highly recommend it.”

“A wonderful caring school.”

“We love the school one of the most loving caring schools I’ve seen. All the children get on so well with the teachers. I’ve never seen so much respect in a school. Good to see schools like this one. Good work

This year, there are 90 students enrolled at St Joseph’s from Prep to Year 6. I am confident our school's physical layout and breadth of curriculum would support an enrolment of above 100 students. I am also confident that with continued parental support, engagement and advocacy, this will occur in the years to come. For now, let’s continue to enjoy our small school and provide all the opportunities possible for our wonderful children.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton

NRL Tipping Competition
A ‘St Joseph’s School’ tipping competition has been registered at http://tipping.nrl.com/

St Joseph’s School community are invited to participate. Registration is via the website above. Our tipping competition code is K7TA49TK.

The cost is $20 which is due by round 5 of the NRL competition. Further details regarding the split of prize money will be released after round 5.
Swimming Information
Our swimming carnival will occur on Friday, 6th March (week 6). If you are available to help, even if it was for a short time, please inform the school office by Thursday, 5th March (remember prep student do not participate).

Representative swimming nominations are currently being called for 10-12 year olds. If your child is a member of a swimming club, please contact Joy Macklin for a nomination form ASAP. Nominations close 18th February.

Cross Country Information
On Friday, 27th 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 12/13 – 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, 25th March. If you are able to assist, please inform the school office by Thursday, 26th March.

Cross Country training will occur from 8.15am on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the month of March.

Project Compassion 2015
Ash Wednesday is a significant day in the church calendar as it marks the beginning of Lent - the time leading up to Easter.

St Joseph’s School will join parishioners for Mass at 9am in the church. Parents and families are most welcome to attend.

God’s people have used ashes as a powerful sign for hundreds of years and before this mass, our students will engage in discussion about the ashes and how the cross of ashes on our foreheads is a symbol we use to let others know that we are not always perfect and we can sometimes make mistakes.

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. Project Compassion for 2015 focuses on the ways Caritas empowers the world’s poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life. Today each family will receive Lenten Calendar with ideas to learn, pray and act during the time of Lent and a small donation box. If you are able to contribute to our Project Compassion appeal, your donations will assist Caritas to continue to educate and empower those less fortunate to establish sustainable food sources for life that relieve them of hunger, and allow them to develop new and improved income streams for a better future.

Thank you for your support.
School Volunteer Update
Our school benefits from active and ongoing relationships with approximately 10-15 volunteers, most of whom are parents. Strong relationships, including between teacher and parent/s, are built on mutual rights and responsibilities. If you are a volunteer in a classroom, it is expected that the classroom teacher has provided prior approval. We know that unannounced and unplanned events do not support learning and learners. With this noted, I encourage all able and willing parents to personally make contact with your child’s teacher and discuss planned ways of becoming involved in your child’s learning. Research indicates that if you do this, your child will benefit.

New Instrument Music Teacher Required
Expressions of Interest are being accepted for an Instrumental Music Teacher adept at band instruments.

Tennis Lessons
Due to swimming, tennis lessons with Mr Banner will commence on Thursday, 5th March.

Bus Committee AGM Notices

Biggenden Bus - Route S.473
Bus Committee AGM
Date & Time: Thursday, 5 March 2015 - 7.00pm
Venue: Dallarnil State School library
All parents/carers are asked for their support by attending
Meeting advice has been sent home with students
Contact: Jodie Springer - 0411 873480

Berries Rd Isis Highway Bus - Route P.1809
Bus Committee AGM
Date & Time: Friday, 27 February – 9.00am
Venue: Millenium Park, Childers (next to NAB)
All parents/carers are asked for their support by attending
Meeting advice has been sent home with students
Contact: Kylie Newsome – 0417 831435

Cyber Smart Webinar
Last Wednesday, the year 5/6 students participated in a nationwide webinar on being cyber smart. The theme of the webinar was about support victims of cyber bullying.

Parent & Friends Committee
The Parents & Friends Association is an integral part of St Joseph’s School and provides a formal structure for parents and others interested in the welfare of the students to plan and organise activities for the benefit of our students and school. The P&F AGM and subsequent 1st meeting is set for Wednesday, 18th February from 6.30pm and will conclude by 8pm. Please consider becoming actively involved in your child’s school.

Uniform Information
As discussed in previous newsletters, school uniforms are available from Direct Garment Printing Group. All accounts need to be settled at the school office (please don’t wait for a separate account to be issued for uniforms).

School Board
The first School Board meeting will occur on Wednesday, 18th February at 4.30pm.
**Happy Birthday**

Charlie Hummer  19/02
Lachlan Royan  19/02
Katie van der Heide  19/02
Ella Buckland  21/02

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**Childers Neighbourhood Centre – What is on offer**

Whether you’re looking for child and family support or help with an elderly family member, you can find out more about the services offered by Childers Neighbourhood Centre at upcoming information sessions in Woodgate and Buxton. The sessions will contain information relevant to everyone within the community from young families to seniors. If you live within the Childers area be sure to head along to the information sessions and discover how you can take advantage of this important community asset.

**Information sessions will be held at Woodgate Community Hall on:**
- Monday, February 16, from 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Tuesday, March 3 from 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Wednesday, March 18 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

**Information sessions will be held at Buxton Community Hall on:**
- Tuesday, February 24 from 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Tuesday, March 10 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

**Services offered by the Childers Neighbourhood Centre include:**
- Child & Family Support, Home & Community Care (HACC), Transport, In-home respite, Centre-based respite, Domestic assistance, Social support, Personal care, Home maintenance, Tax Help, Meals on Wheels, Social Groups, Emergency relief, Senior Broadband, Medical Aid Hire

For more information contact the centre on 4130 4690

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