Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

Late last week my beautiful daughter Isla turned two. As Brooke and I thought about how we could spend this special occasion together as a family, I couldn't help but think back to when I was a young boy and how my family made the venture up the coast to visit Steve Irwin to celebrate one of my early birthdays.

Whilst the zoo had none of the bells and whistles that it has now, I still remember standing along the hand crafted wooden fence and staring in absolute awe and wonder as Steve bounced around the holding cage with great enthusiasm. I remember distinctly, the team of fellas he had with him jumping on the back of this croc to demonstrate exactly what they would get up to when they rescued a beast from the waters of North Queensland. The day seemed to go on forever, with one amazing experience after another. All of these flashbacks got me thinking that we should plan this incredible day out in order to create not only wonderful experiences for Isla but long lasting memories for us as a family.

As we arrived at the zoo Isla was taken aback by the sheer enormity of the place and all of the sights and sounds of the multitude of animal displays. Whilst she had a great time seeing all of the animals and exhibits I couldn’t help but catch myself waiting for this experience of wonder and amazement to occur. As the day moved on we made our way through each of the zones before energy levels began running low and Miss Gray fell agonisingly short of being allowed to go on the jumping castle, at which point we agreed it was time to head home. Don’t get me wrong, it was wonderful to spend time together as a family but I couldn’t help to feel as though I hadn’t succeeded in creating this grand experience as a family.

Experiences are a great thing, but I was going about it the wrong way. The gen Y gene had gotten the better of me. My mistake was imagining that I needed to set up a big experience in order to introduce wonder into my daughter’s world.

It was that later that night that we were all sitting down together watching the wiggles and getting ready for a well deserved sleep when Isla sprung to her feet and said “Dance Daddy”. Now I can tell you now that dancing was the last thing that I felt like doing at that point in time. However, something inside told me that I needed to make the effort. Boy am I glad I did. We must have spent the next thirty minutes dancing around the living room like absolute crazy people and by the end of it all my cheeks were hurting from smiling and laughing. I didn’t need to plan a grand day out because the most significant part of our weekend was those thirty minutes we spent dancing together. How do I know? Isla has asked to do the same thing every night since.

Children have a habit of helping adults to see the wonders of the world that they have grown accustomed to, even bored with. However we don’t need children to remind us. Growing up isn’t about being serious all of the time. Yes, growing up means learning to be responsible, caring for others and fulfilling our obligations even when we don’t feel like it. But if we ever lose that sense of child-like wonder at the world, we would be losing something more precious than we can imagine. Whether it’s through the eyes of a child or a grown up, the world is a place of great wonder. There is nothing better than losing yourself in the moment and when you look at the world through a lens of wonder you can’t help but to seize the moment and enjoy every second.

Have a great week everyone.

Cheers

Sincerely
Ben
BE THE GOODNESS OF GOD TO OTHERS.
If we are going to be serious about being followers of Jesus, our words and actions must always be for the improvement of others.

Holy God,
You are the source of all goodness,
And through the Spirit of your Son Jesus,
We are blessed by your goodness.
May your Word find its home in our hearts,
So that as we begin our term 3 journey,
We may have the grace to embrace the way of Jesus.
Amen.

Catholic Education Week – 27th July – 2nd August.
Catholic Education Week will be celebrated across Queensland from 27 July - 2 August this year.

This annual event is held to promote the special ethos of Catholic schools and to highlight the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

The theme for this year’s celebrations is: **Come, live life in all its fullness.**

This inspirational call is based on the Gospel of John (10:10), challenging those who answer it to “live fully”.

Reflecting this Gospel call, our school, like all Catholic schools, strives to provide a learning experience through which every young person has the opportunity to reach their full human potential - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, culturally and physically - and know what it means to engage in all that life has to offer.

There are 296 Catholic schools in Queensland that educate around 143,000 students and employ almost 17,000 teachers and staff, and most will celebrate Catholic Education Week in some way.

Next week we will highlight the wonderful work of our students in the windows of some local businesses. We will also have a fun filled day next Friday when St. Joseph’s Childers comes to spend the day at our school. The children will meet with the buddies that they wrote to earlier this year and join together for a mass, a BBQ lunch and some fun activities.

**Celebration of Confirmation**

All families at St. Joseph’s School are invited to join with the Parish to celebrate the Confirmation in the faith of Allana Ezzy, Alexandra Gwin, Hamish Driver and Bridget Voigt. Bishop Brian Finnigan will be presiding at the ceremony which is to be held in St. Joseph’s Church on August 15th at 6pm. This will be followed by a shared supper in the Parish Hall. Please come along to support these young people with your prayerful presence.

**Miss Mack’s Adventures**

I have had a wonderful time on my Long Service Leave visiting my family in Canada. As shared in an earlier newsletter last term, my sister gave birth to a baby girl on June 1st (whilst I was on my way there). I felt extremely blessed to be able to share in the first six weeks of little Nell’s life and am glad they will all be home in Australia again in November for a visit. I also managed to see some magnificent sites in the Rocky Mountains, Whistler and Alaska and journey on planes, ships, trains and gondolas through the amazing landscapes. Of the thousands of photos taken, here are just a few favourites to share.

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**What’s On**

- Year 2/3 Class Mass—9am Thursday—Church
- Year 4/5 Gunther Village—Thursday
- Catholic Education Week Mass Friday 1st August 10.30am—Church
- Catholic Education Week Sunday 27th July to Saturday 2nd August 2014

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Goodbye cuddles last Tuesday just before it was time to leave.
**LIBRARY NEWS:**
In library we have started looking at Shortlisted Books for Children’s Book Week, which will be held from the 16th to the 22nd of August. There are some lovely books again this year and the children are already getting excited about our dress up day, which will be held on **Tuesday the 19th of August**. Put it on your Calendar! More info and dress up ideas to follow!

**Issue 5 of Book Club has some great competitions.** If your child would like to participate just log onto: **www.scholastic.com.au/competitions** to participate in one or all of the following:

- “Pig the Pug” colouring in Competition
- Design and Draw the Craziest Race Car Competition
- Write a Short Adventure Story Contest AND
- Baby Face Competition (where you have to match the Baby Photos to the popular Australian Children’s Authors and illustrators)

There are lots of great prizes to be won, so have some fun and give it a go! You may even be a winner!

Have a great week! Mrs Madden and Mrs McGregor.

**SPORTS NEWS:**
Our District Sports Day is **This Friday, 25 July** at the Gayndah Sports Ground, commencing at 9am. High Jump events were held today at the State School Oval.

**FRIDAY 25th July—Gayndah Sports Oval**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>March Past</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>200m 9years-Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sprint Heats and Finals, followed by All Ages Relay</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Round 1 Field Events: 9yrs Rest, 10yrs Long Jump, 11yrs Shot Put, 12yrs/Open Discus</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Round 2 Field Events: 12yrs/Open Rest, 9yrs Long Jump, 10yrs Shot Put, 11yrs Discus</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:55</td>
<td>Round 3 Field Events: 11yrs Rest, 12yrs/Open Long Jump, 9yrs Shot Put, 10yrs Discus</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Round 4 Field Events: 10yrs Rest, 11yrs Long Jump, 12yrs/Open Shot Put, 9yrs Discus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>400m (9yrs), 800m (10-13yrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Relays</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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**P & F NEWS:**
We will be running the canteen at the District Sports Day this Friday. If you are able to assist with preparation, serving or baking, could you please let the office know.

**SCHOOL UNIFORMS:**
Just a reminder that school uniform orders are due in **next Thursday 31st July**.

**BREAKFAST CLUB:**
Did you know that our Breakfast Club serves on average, 50 students each Monday and Wednesday? Any donations of bulk Milo, apple or orange juice (Just Juice brand preferred), promite, margarine etc would be greatly appreciated.

**JULY BOOKCLUB:** Attached to today's newsletter are the July book club order forms. Orders due **Thursday August 7**. Please make cheques payable to St Joseph’s School.

**CHOIR:** Choir has started with a large group of excited students. All interested students are invited to join Mrs Bryant on **Wednesdays** at lunch time to get musical!
GAYNDAH SOCCER (5-18yo) Training every Thursday, 4—5pm Gayndah Sports Fields. New players always welcome. Ph 0428 931 151
Soccer - 2-way soccer meet this Saturday 26th July Mundubbera School Oval, 9am start.

CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE:
Game times for this Saturday at Gayndah against Murgon Mustangs are:
Under 6s and 8s play at 10.00am
Under 10s play at 11.15am
Under 12s play at 12.15pm
Under 14s play at 1.15pm
Under 16s play at 2.15pm

Also a must for all players to be present at the grounds by 10.45am (including Under 12s, 14s and 16s) for a very large team photo.
There is an A Grade game after Under 16s between the Gayndah Gladiators and Mundubbera Tigers.
If you have any queries or concerns please contact Robert Linsket 0429 611 096 or Sandra Kenny 4161 2116.

GAYNDAH JUNIOR TOUCH SIGN ON: Today 23rd July 4-5pm. Ages include children turning six this year, through to Grade 7. $30 per player. Anyone wishing to help in any small way on Wednesday afternoons would be greatly appreciated. Contact Leisa Darlington 0402 869 032 or Maria McCosker 0400 844 681.

ZUMBA: A fun filled fitness class incorporating world dance styles and aerobics. If you’re looking for an exciting, enjoyable way to work out come along and have a go. All ages, fitness abilities catered for, everybody welcome!!
Adults: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm at St Joseph’s Hall, Fielding St, Gayndah. Cost: $10
Children: Thursdays 4.30pm—5.15pm Cost: $8
Instructor—TJ Viney, phone 0401 465 066.

TENNIS: Vacancies exist for children to learn tennis and have fun, every Friday afternoon after school, conducted by Bundaberg Tennis Academy Coach, Kevin Banner at Gayndah Tennis Club, Barrow Street, Gayndah. Inquiries and to register, please contact Kevin 0409 520 753.

ASHTON CIRCUS: Gayndah Showgrounds, 25—27 July 2014. Show times:
Friday 25th—7pm
Saturday 26th—4pm & 7pm
Sunday 27th—11am
Under the heated Big Top. Booking or information 0407 120 953.
www.ashtonentertainment.com

MONSTER GARAGE SALE: ST MATTHEWS ANGLICAN HALL: Sat. 23rd August. Outside selling begins 8am. Hall doors open 8:30am.
Furniture, collectables, household goods, linen, large range of jewellery, Vacola bottling kit & much more plus classic book full collections for tender.

CHILDERS FESTIVAL: Sat 26th & Sun 27th July.
Live entertainment and children’s activities offered including Linsey Pollak’s “Live & Loopy” music show, Pirate Pete, Robotec, Ronald McDonald and Friends stage show and free badge making workshops