Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers

Let me begin by acknowledging how thrilled I was to see so many students and their families at the St Joseph’s Arts Evening on Friday night. I understand that given the number of people in our community that are sick at the moment and the ever changing weather conditions of last week, it was going to be difficult to expect too many families to be out during the evening. However, I was blown away by the commitment that many families showed towards not only coming to the art opening but the parent and student events that followed. I believe we had almost 50 parents attend the evening and over 50% of our student population involved in the disco and movie session. The evening was put together by the P and F as a means to create opportunities to build a greater sense of community within our school. One of the greatest components to Friday night was that many new families came along to share the evening. With this being our first foray into the field of Arts Evenings, I can safely say on behalf of all the P and F committee members that we would love to hear some feedback on the evening in order to make 2015 even bigger and better. Please don’t hesitate to come and see myself or Michelle at any time over the next week.

After drawing the winning ticket of the raffle on Friday night (Mrs Oppermann was the lucky winner), I was speaking with a parent about the importance of respecting people’s opinions within a community setting. He made a valuable point that stuck with me long after our families had left for the evening.

He said, often people in roles of responsibility fail to appreciate others opinions or choose to ignore them, because in many cases; they don’t match with your own, ask too much of you or conflict with your own ideals. The by-product of this is that you will continue along as per usual leading a business, school, council etc and find yourself slowly leading a direction that no one is following and consequently missing opportunities to improve or adjust. Alternatively, you can take the time to actively listen and give each person the time of day to share their thoughts, so as to empower the future of the organisation that you are involved in.

Granted this doesn’t mean that we jump through the hoop that is created by the strongest opinion, but if we claim to be a community of learners, then we must recognise each day as an opportunity to value the thoughts of those around us in the chance that we might just find the solution, make the adjustment or let go of a particular issue that has prevented us from achieving success. I would have to say that one of the things that the staff of St Joseph’s Primary do best, is their ability to value one another, their students and our many families. That is why this school has so many dedicated long term staff members and new employees that slide straight into our community without even skipping a beat.

This can only exist though if each person in our school community feels as though they have an opinion worth hearing and are looking above all else to support the school in bettering itself over the long term.

Finally I have just two important points to share with you for this week;

Next Friday we will be celebrating all the wonderful dads and father figures in our lives at our Friday assembly. Please remember to send in your favour pictures of your child(ren) with their dads, grandads or pops. I would like to invite all our dads along to the assembly on Friday September 5 for a BBQ breakfast prior to the assembly.

Up till this point the Guardian Pharmacy in Gayndah and Mundubbera has raised over $3,000 to support research into Moto Neurone Disease. On Thursday I was challenged to pour the buckets of ice cold water over my head in aid to fundraising through our school, which I gladly accepted. In following on from my challenge, several of my staff will be taking the challenge this Friday afternoon to help raise awareness of MND. We will be holding a free dress day where students will be asked to bring along a gold coin to support the fundraising effort. If you would like more information on MND please take the time to see either myself, Michelle or Sam and Graham Rowles.

Sincerely

Ben
Presence of God

In the silence of my innermost being,  
in the fragments of my yearned-for wholeness,  
can I hear the whispers of God's presence?  
Can I remember when I felt God's nearness?  
When we walked together and I let myself be embraced by God's love.

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Noah—What's his story?

Do you know the story of Noah? In Year 1/2 this term the children have been learning about Noah and his journey through the Great Flood. Did you know that there are actually two stories of the Great Flood contained in Genesis. Flood stories were a common theme in the ancient literature of the Middle East. These two stories have been intermingled and combined by editors to form the text commonly known as the Story of Noah and the Flood. As a result, the edited story has a number of contradictions. I wonder if you read through Genesis 6: 1— 9:17 you were able to find these contradictions. Alternatively, you may like to join us on Friday at 9am in the Hall to hear Year 1/2 tell us about the story of Noah and the Great Flood.

Raising Funds and Awareness of Motor Neurone Disease.

Congratulations to Mr. Gray who endured not one but six buckets of ice cold water on Friday afternoon to fulfil a challenge set down by Gayndah Guardian Pharmacy. It was a great spectacle for all to see, but it is even more important to be aware that this was not completed just for the entertainment of staff and students. On Friday we shared the debilitating nature of Motor Neurone Disease and the fact that at present it has no cure. For this reason we as a St. Joseph's community as well as a Gayndah community at large are raising funds for research. This Friday at 2.30pm, we will again watch as six buckets of ice cold water are tipped over the heads of willing staff members. However, the difference of this Friday's event is that we have asked all students to wear free dress and bring a Gold Coin or folding note even to add to the marvellous tally so far raised by the community. See you all Friday at 2.30pm

Don't forget!

Free Dress

Gold Coin Donation

Arts Evening

Thanks to all those who were able to join us last Friday night for our Arts Evening. I think it was a fantastic community event and great fun was had by parents and students alike. A special thanks to Sue Capewell for judging our artwork and choosing the winners in each category. If you missed it—here are some of the winners, art pieces and our choir (who made their debut!) for you to see.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL: Our St Joseph’s Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 18 October.

P & F NEWS: On Friday, 12 September after assembly there will be a morning tea/baby shower for our tuckshop coordinator, Mrs Brooke Gray. More details to follow.

TOY CATALOGUES: Attached to today’s newsletter is an Educational Experience leaflet. If you would like to place an order, please follow the directions on the leaflet.

AUGUST BOOKCLUB: Please return orders and payment to the school by tomorrow, Thursday 28 August. Please make cheques payable to St Joseph’s School.

QUEENSLAND HEALTH “DEADLY EARS EAR HEALTH PROGRAM”: A staff member from Deadly Ears Ear Health Program will be attending our school in the first week of September to provide screening of all children to identify communication and or hearing difficulties. If you would like your child to participate, please collect a form from the office, and return it to the school by tomorrow Thursday, 28th August.

FATHER’S DAY STALL: Our 6/7 students will be running a Fathers Day stall from Monday to Friday next week in the art room. The stall will be operated from 8-8.40 each morning and 3 - 3.30 in the afternoon. We have lots of great gift ideas for Dad!

PUMPKINS FOR SALE: Our senior students still have plenty of pumpkins available for sale before and after school.

LOST PROPERTY: On Friday night a watch was left in the prep room. If you think it may be yours please contact the office.

LIBRARY NEWS— “READ ALL ABOUT IT”
Author Visit: On Friday, Kathryn Apel, a children’s author originally from Gayndah, came to our school to work with all classes from Prep to Year 7. We had a wonderful day as she shared with the children her experiences of getting her books to publication, and how she gains her ideas for writing. She brought with her the three books she has published: “This is the Mud” (picture book), “Fencing With Fear” (short chapter School Reader) and her newest, “Bully on the Bus” (Free Verse Poetry). Free Verse Poetry is a “free-form poetry” that does not necessarily rhyme, is un-structured, and may have only one word on a line. It may even line up on the right hand side of the page. The positioning of the words supports the text and gives emphasis to the words eg

“Most of all, the bully hurts me with her words.

They spew out
Of her mouth like
Lava from a volcano
Red, hot, dangerous words,
Burning right down, deep inside.” p3

(Note that the words make a shape like a volcano). However, the words still go from left to right, top of the page to the bottom, and obviously have to make sense. We followed up this visit with some fun free verse poetry activities in Library classes today using Kathryn’s books!

Jackie French
Jackie French is the Australian Children’s Laureate for 2014-15. The Children’s Laureate is a not-for profit organisation that promotes literature and reading. Jackie passionately believes that – no matter what disability, disadvantage, background or location a child is from:

1 Every child has the right to have a book to go to bed with—and a bed to read it in.
2 Every child has the right to be taught to read, because without that they have lost the most vital social, educational and professional communication in the modern world.
3 Every child has the right to be guided to the books they need, and the books they will love, in schools, in libraries, and ub a safe place they call home.

If you would like to hear more from Jackie French have a look at Jackie’s monthly blog of ways to share a story at: www.childrenslaureate.org.au/blog/ OR on www.jackiefrench.com/howtoread.html. (Taken from “Connect To Reading” (2014) p14.)

I have attached some suggestions for books, series and authors your child will love! You will find books recommended by Scholastic, a book list by Jackie French from her new book “I Spy A Great Reader”, and authors that write for particular genres, or types, of literature.

If there are other books that YOU would like to recommend, please send them into the Office and I will print them in next week’s Newsletter with the favourite books nominated by the students and Staff of St Joseph’s School. Thanks!

Kind Regards Suze
ST. JOSEPH’S SCHOOL SONG WRITING WORKSHOP: Next Thursday 4th September we will begin the process of writing our school song. The song writing team from Brisbane will facilitate a gathering of ideas for our song from parents and students. Parents please join us at 8.30—8.50am on Thursday morning in the Hall to share what you value and feel makes our school unique and special. We need all the ideas from all the community to create a wonderful song.

FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST AND PHOTOS: Don’t forget Father’s Day Breakfast next Friday 5th September. Mr. Gray is still chasing photos of children with their dads for our morning prayer display. Please keep sending them into the office.