Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

At the bottom of the newsletter each week you may have noticed a symbol of five people standing in a circle and holding hands. When I first introduced the concept of St Joseph’s being “A Community of Learners” earlier this year, I listed the five components that make up our symbolic representation; students, staff, parents, our parish and the wider community. Each one of these components represents a vital element in the learning journey of our school.

Students - All that we do at St Joseph’s is focused on supporting our students to achieve their full learning and personal development potential. We have focused this year on not only introducing more consistent learning and teaching practices throughout the school but also on giving the student body a language to own where they are at in their learning through the term “In the pit”.

Staff - I have no doubt that on more than one occasion this year you have seen staff working with or heard them talking about our literacy and numeracy consultants that we employ to empower our staff to learn more about ways to best support their learners. As in many industries, teaching is seen as a lifelong learning profession. As we move into the future, St Joseph’s will continue to make data (including NAPLAN) driven decisions to direct and refine the professional development we provide for our staff.

Parents - The Mathematics evening on Monday night was the practical example of our vision for involving parents to have a better understanding about the learning and teaching that is happening in our classrooms on a daily basis. Parents are the first educators of their children and we want to recognise the important role they play in supporting their children throughout their education at St Joseph’s.

Parish - We are truly lucky to have such a wonderful Parish Priest in Fr Jason and much of our focus this year has been on making the most of having Jason in our school to share his spirituality and religious knowledge. Additionally, students have come to develop their own faith filled values through meaningful religious experiences not only in our parish church but throughout their daily school based experiences.

Wider Community - I believe that in a rural setting the acknowledgement/involvement of the wider community in the growth and development of our students is crucial. Gayndah and its surrounding suburbs form a catchment of a variety of different cultures, beliefs, values and traditions that all help to form the foundation from which our students learn. Our goal is to recognise, appreciate and support all that is great about our wider community.

In 2015 we will continue to work together in building a culture of recognising the importance of maintaining strong relationships with all key components.

For any parents who missed our Mathematics session this week and would like to learn more, we will be holding a follow up session on Thursday 9th October from 8am.

Have a great week and a well deserved holiday.

Sincerely
Ben
O God of all beginnings and endings,  
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school term  
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,  
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows,  
Give us the rest and refreshment we need these holidays.  
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,  
And guide us each day as you have done this past term  
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.  
May we continue to grow  
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace  
All the days of our lives.  

Amen.

Congratulations everyone on making it to the last week of Term Three. This term has certainly been a busy and productive term for all classes and I trust that all families are looking forward to a well-earned rest. I am sure this morning’s community breakfast highlighted all the wonderful work occurring in our classrooms and the enthusiasm the students show for their learning.

To celebrate the end of our term we will be gathering as a school community with Fr Pat and members of the parish on Friday at 9:00am in the church for mass. We have students from years three, four, five, six and seven participating in the mass by reading prayers of the faithful and presenting the gifts of bread and wine to Fr Pat. We welcome all families to attend this mass and celebrate with us.

Catholic Mission Month

When we return to School to begin Term Four we will be fundraising for the Catholic Missions by participating in “Socktober”. The purpose of Socktober is to encourage our students to reach out to children who are vulnerable and in desperate need in Jamaica and throughout the world. The theme for this year’s resources and fundraising campaign is; “When I grow up I want to be…… ALIVE”

Our fundraising activities will include “Crazy Sock Day” and a “Mission Mosh Disco” in which we will help Catholic missions to “Sock it to Poverty”. Stay tuned for more information and details early next term!

Our School History—Who are we at St. Joseph’s

Last week I shared some of the history and early beginnings of our school. Today we look more closely at the foundation Principal of our school — Mother Ignatius Duhig, who was the sister of Archbishop James Duhig, who blessed and opened the convent. He also determined that the opening of our school would be on October 6th, 1919. Mother Ignatius only spent a short time in Gayndah, as early in 1922 she was appointed to take charge of Lourdes Hill school in Brisbane. Some former pupils recalled that Mother Ignatius used to try and teach the students singing—but alas she was a terrible singer. She was succeeded at St. Joseph’s by Mother Ildephonsus who after a short time also moved on.

Sister Anthony Joseph arrived in 1921 and remained as part of the convent and school for a considerable time. She ruled with a firm hand and was known to be quite adept with the cane, firmly believing in the motto—“Use the rod, don’t spoil the child”. Sister Joseph would always be remembered as one of the “Pioneers” of the convent. Sister Anthony Joseph become Mother M. Anthony Joseph and was second in charge at the school from 1921—1929. Mother Joseph reflected at the Jubilee in 1969 that , “the 9 years that she had taught in Gayndah had been the happiest of her religious career.”

Find out more about the Sisters of the Good Samaritan on their website……

**TOY CATALOGUES:** Toy catalogue orders are due back **Friday, 10th October**. Please remember that Educational Experience orders need to be made online, direct to the company.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL:** **Friday, 31st October.** More details to follow.

**LIBRARY NEWS: READ ALL ABOUT IT!** We have been having lots of fun following up our visit by Kathryn Apel, who wrote “Bully on the Bus” and “Stuck in the Mud”. We have made shape poetry and have discussed Procedural/Instructional Texts to decorate Crazy Critter Cupcakes. Have a great and safe holiday. Mrs McGregor & Mrs Madden.

**PARISH RAFFLE:** Congratulations to Gloria Kreis who was the lucky winner of the Parish Raffle.

**PARISH FETE:** The date for our Parish Fete this year is **Friday, 28th November**. Planning has begun and there are lots of different ways to help. If you’d like to be on the Fete Committee, or have some great ideas for this year’s fete, please contact either Helen or Dennis Smith, on 0429 964 454 or 0428 611 641.
ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2014

Term One

Wed 29 Jan—Fri 4 April

Term Two

Wed 23 April—Fri 27 June

Term Three

Tues 15 July—Fri 19 Sept

Term Four

Tues 7 Oct—Fri 5 Dec

Monday 20 Oct—Pupil Free Day

Diary of Coming Events

19 Sept
Last day Term Three

7 Oct
First Day Term Four

20 Oct
Pupil Free Day

31st Oct
Swimming Carnival

Community Notices

GAYNDAH LITTLE ATHLETICS:  Friday nights at the Gayndah Sports Grounds at 6pm. Two week free trial. Ages 5—17. Run Jump Throw - Give Little Athletics A Go! Enquiries to Helen Smith 0429 964 454

TENNIS:  Register now for ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Learning program for Beginners through to High School and Advanced children for Term 4 with Bundaberg Tennis Academy Tennis Coach, Kevin Banner. Times: Beginners: 3.45 - 4.30/5pm; Intermediate: 5-6.30pm; Advanced/High School: 6.30 - 8pm ADULT CARDIO TENNIS: Class available Friday nights - check it out and loose those unwanted calories, have fun. Time: 8.15pm - 9.15pm commences Friday 10th October - 21st November 2014

GAYNDAH SWIMMING CLUB SIGN ON

This Thursday 18th September at 5-6pm.
Gayndah Swimming Pool
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
All ages welcome
Our Club is registered for GET STARTED to help with club fees.
Contact Sam on 0428 734 022 for more information.

SCRAPBOOKING:  September holiday classes. Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, 11am to 1pm (excluding Friday 26th September). Book your place for some creative fun either on 4140 8899 or call into Gayndah Jewellers.

ST MATTHEW’S SPRING FAIR:  St Matthew’s Anglican Church Gayndah.  This Friday, 19th September.  Hall entries/bonus prizes, BBQ 5.30pm, wheel, auction, variety of stalls, cent sale, children’s entertainment.

KIDS HOLIDAY BUSH WALKING BIGGENDEN:
Open to children aged 8 years and up. Adults who attend walk for free. Children must be physically active and able to hike for 4 to 6 hours.

Day 1 Monday 22nd September 8am - 4pm
Mt Woowoonga and Beyond 600 metres, 5 hour hike
Steep rainforest hike to the summit and on to a secret location.
Creek exploration and bbq at end of day. $30.00 per person

Day 2 Tuesday 23rd September 9am - 3pm
The Striped Dingo Boulder
Relaxing day to enjoy nature. Suitable for younger children.
Three hour hike, exploration, bush craft and art work.
Afternoon tea included. $30.00 per person

Day 3 Wednesday 24th September 8am - 4pm
The Three Pinnacles
Volcanic plugs 600 metres, 6 hour hike. A day of steep rock scrambling, over ancient volcanic plugs, watching eagles fly, and, at day’s end, a swim in a deep mountain rock pool. Afternoon tea provided. $30.00 per person

SAFE * CHALLENGING * FUN
The bush walks are provided by Moira Thompson of Experience Altitude, qualified Bush Walking Guide for Biggenden district’s National Parks, Mt Woowoonga and Mt Walsh. All hikes are covered by insurance and national parks permits. Adults assisting have bush walking experience. Emergency Services are notified in advance of details.

Enquiries Moira Thompson 0458 365 051
For logistics, Pre-walk Application and Registration
email: experience.altitude@gmail.com

GAYNDAH ART GALLERY:  Opening of next exhibition – Kym Connell & Alice McLaughlan from Childers
Plus our Art Attack Launch
Will be held on Friday 17th October, 2014