Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

Perhaps it’s my over exposure to chlorine from our enjoyable start to swimming lessons this week having an effect on me, but it seems all too soon to be discussing decisions based around our school for 2015. However, as you are all aware, this term will fly by just like the previous three, so it is with high importance that I keep our school community informed of our intentions for students attending St Joseph’s in 2015.

Next year, our school will be maintaining the model of having five classes. However, our overall plan for classes will see students allocated into either a Prep, 1/2, 2/3, 4/5, or 5/6 classroom. In this configuration, you will see that there will be two year levels that are split over two classes. This decision was based on the numbers we have in each of the year levels, which currently lies around 15-17 students. Unfortunately, our student numbers don’t allow us to have single stream classes (ie single year level classes of 15-17) or combined year levels, as research has shown the adverse impact classes with over 30 students has on academic development.

In most recent years it has been a concern for a number parents to know that their child is going to be separated from their year level peers for a prolonged period of time. Alongside the social concerns parents have for their children, is the academic consideration that their child is receiving the same standard of academic rigour and support regardless of which class they are in. In order to alleviate any concerns parents may have about this decision making process, St Joseph’s will be offering two opportunities—a parent consultation period and an information session for parents of students moving into years 2 and 5 in 2015. These sessions are open to all parents. This will ensure that parents are moving into the holidays informed and confident their child will be receiving the best possible learning/social experiences on a daily basis.

Parent Consultation Period
From November 3 - 14, parents will have an opportunity to write a letter to me sharing their thoughts on why they feel their child would be better suited in either of the combined classes with the upper year level or lower year level. Whilst this is an opportunity for parents to have a voice in the decision making process based on the learning and social needs of their child, no consideration will be given to requests for particular staff members or the request for nominated students to be included or separated from a particular class. Prior to submitting your letter, I would strongly encourage you to talk with your child’s classroom teacher from this year about how your child is developing both academically and socially.

Parent Information Session
On November 3 at 6pm, parents of students moving into years 2 and 5 (along with any other interested parents) are invited to attend an information session that will discuss the social and academic considerations our school community is giving towards ensuring each and every student is supported to achieve their full potential in 2015. Discussion points on the evening will include;

- How will students be given the opportunity to maintain social connections?
- How will our current literacy and numeracy practices exist for students specifically in years 2 and 5?
- How will other subject areas be taught across the numerous multi-year level classes?

I have chosen to share this information with the whole school community based on the fact that I anticipate that we will continue to use this year level model (if determined it has been successful) to implement effective learning and teaching experiences next year and into the future.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to come and see me or contact me through the office. I assure you I will return to a shorter piece for next week’s newsletter.

Have a great week everyone.

Sincerely
Ben
Reflection
Today it is the Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila. The Prayer of St Teresa helps us to acknowledge that we are the Body of Christ in the world today.
(The following reflection is from the Brisbane Catholic Education Prayer Calendar)

We are Christ’s Body
Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
No hands but yours;
No feet but yours;
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world;
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people.
St Teresa of Avila

Catholic Faith Sharing Sessions
Do you want to know more about the mysteries of the mass? Do you want to find out why we do this, that and the other as part of the mass service? Do you have questions about church celebrations, what your children learn at school in Religion and what Catholics actually believe?

Well, we are holding 3 faith sharing sessions this term to try and answer some simple (or deeper) questions for you. We will share some information, answer questions, or discover the answers to your questions together.

Each session will last about 45 minutes, and provide the opportunity for some learning and sharing about the Catholic faith. You are most welcome to come to one, or all sessions. If you are unable to attend for any reason, or feel you would like some of this information for future reference, some handouts will be available to collect after each session.

Session 1 – Monday 10th November – 2pm – Function Room – Our Church, its seasons, its mass and sacred items.

Session 2 – Friday 14th November – 2pm – Music Room – Religion Curriculum – What does my child learn and why?

Session 3 – Thursday 20th November – 2pm – Function Room - Advent and Christmas – The key messages.

Grandparents Day
Grandparents, and people who are like grandparents to our students, you are invited to share with us in a liturgy, morning tea and see what been happening in the classrooms.

When: Friday 24th October

Where: St. Joseph’s Parish Church and St. Joseph’s Primary School Grounds.

Time: 9am – 10.15am

If grandparents have passed away, present or not able to make it to our special day we would love them to be there in some way. Can you please email any photos to mmcmclafferty@bne.catholic.edu.au or pgayndah@bne.catholic.edu.au or drop photos into the office for scanning and return. All photos need to be submitted by the afternoon of Thursday 23rd October.

CRAZY SOCK DAY—Wednesday 22nd October—Gold Coin Donation—Pull out those Crazy socks!!
MISSION MOSH DISCO—Friday 24th October— 6pm—7.30pm—$5.00 entry—which will include chips and a drink.
**LIBRARY NEWS:** This term we will be reviewing searching procedures in the library. We will also be looking at different genres (types of literature).

We hope your children have been reading and are finding some books they love. Remember to come and see us if you need some assistance. Please find attached the “Dymocks Top 51 Kids Books” to peruse.

Kind regards Mrs McGregor and Ms Madden

**P & F NEWS:**

- Uniform order forms are now available from the school office, or may be downloaded from our website. If you would like an order form sent home with your child please let the office know. Orders and payment are due in by **Friday, 31 October**.
- Our working bee is **this Saturday 18 October**. An information flyer is attached.
- Copies of each month’s minutes are available at the office. If you wish to have them emailed to you, please let the office know.
- The P & F would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution our teachers and school officers made to our recent Arts Evening. We would also like to thank Cris Bryant and Alex Colvin for working on the bar, and Mick Coulson for organising music for the disco.
- Don’t forget to check out our P & F Facebook page.

**DANCE CREW:** Dance Crew is on every Thursday afternoon. Please remember if your child is scheduled to go on the bus on a Thursday afternoon, but they are attending Dance Crew, please notify the office so that they can be taken off the bus roll.

**SWIMMING:** Our Interhouse swimming carnival will be **Friday, 31st October**. If you are able to assist at the carnival, please let the office know.

**BUS ARRANGEMENTS TERM FOUR:** A reminder to please return bus arrangement notes.

**BOOKCLUB ISSUE SEVEN:** Forms and payment are due back to the office by **Thursday 23 October 2014**. Please make cheques payable to St Joseph’s School.

**WEBSITE:** Don’t forget to check out our website. Our newsletters are published on the site, as well as information on events happening around the school.

**PARISH BUS TRIP:** Attached to today’s newsletter is information regarding the Parish Bus Trip to Eumundi Markets and Belmondos Organic Market on **1 November**.

**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. Whether it be manning a stall, setting up, or donating baking or craft, all help is appreciated. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks. Please contact the Fete coordinators, Dennis and Helen Smith, on 0429 964 454 for more information.

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**Thank you**

St Joseph’s would like to say thank you to Eric & Kate Sturgess for kindly donating the pumpkins that our students recently sold at school. We would also like to say thank you to Avelino and Erika De Nobrega from Liberty Service Station, who along with Eric & Kate, donated to us the proceeds from a bin of pumpkins that was sold at the Service Station.

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**DATECLAIMERS:**

- **Wednesday 22 October** - Crazy Sock Day
- **Friday 24 October** - Grandparents Liturgy and morning tea
- **Friday 24 October** –Mission Mosh Disco
- **Friday 31 October** - Interhouse Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 7 November** –District Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 21 November** - North Burnett Swimming Carnival
- **Tuesday 25 November** - Awards Night
- **Friday 28 November** - Parish Fete
- **Wednesday 3 December** - Graduation Mass & Dinner
- **Friday 5 December** - Last Day Term Four
GAYNDAH SWIMMING CLUB
Every Thursday night at the Gayndah Swimming Pool
All children welcome to come & join our club.
For more information contact - Benita: mob 0427 612 250,
Sam :mob 0428 734 022 or Lorinda: Ph 4161 1808

Have you registered for this year’s Gayndah Swimming Club District Triathlon & Duke and Duchess Fun Run 2014?
Start with a Fun run up Gayndah’s iconic Duke & Duchess this Saturday 18th October from 4.30pm with a BBQ and live music to follow at the pool. Then get your competitive face on for the Triathlon kicking off bright and early this Sunday morning 6am the 19th October. Online registration is now open:https://regonline.activeglobal.com/gayndahdistricttriathlon2014

Triathlon Merchandise available- Don’t stop Tri-ing shirts and singlets available now $20 each.
Bootcamp fitness is available 6am Thursday & 7am Saturday mornings at the Gayndah sportsgrounds. All welcome.
Bootcamp Membership Fee’s to be paid at the North Burnett Regional Council office.

Get a team together or try our event as an individual.
For more information contact - Sam : Mob 0428 734 022 or Kirsty: Mob 0429 628 432

GAYNDAH JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE AGM
7.00pm at Gayndah Sports Oval
Wednesday 29 October 2014

ALL POSITIONS ARE UP FOR ELECTION
We need a committee for decisions to be made for 2015 season. No committee then Junior Rugby League may not go ahead for 2015. So your help is needed.
All enquiries to Robert Linsket 0429 611 096

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

JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING
Every Monday afternoon 4pm at the Gayndah Sportsground. All ages welcome!
Saturday 18th 8:30am - Game Day, Mundubbera State School

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