Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome everyone to the new school year for 2015. I hope this newsletter finds all of our students and their families well and rested after the Christmas and New Year Break. It is always a pleasure to see the smiling faces of our students upon their return. Amongst those faces will be our slightly nervous yet completely excited 18 new Prep students this week. Spare a thought for their mums and dads who are as equally nervous heading into a new phase of life for their loved ones. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to welcome you to St Joseph’s Primary.

This year we welcome three new members of staff; Georgia Melville (Year 2/3 Classroom Teacher), Jaimie Roth (Year 4 School Officer) and Lorna Doyle (Prep School Officer). Due to some unforseen considerations we have made some changes within our school officer roles. Karen Madden will now continue in the role of Library Assistant in 2015 and Lorna Doyle has been employed as the full time school officer in Prep. Please take the time over the coming weeks to welcome them into our school community and introduce yourself if you haven’t yet enjoyed the opportunity. We are very fortunate to have three very passionate and committed educators joining our team of staff.

Over the holidays a new uniform shop was built under the administration building to enable Mrs Kemp and Mrs Baker to easily support the families within our school with all of their uniform needs. Whilst the shop is waiting on a few final touches, it is now operational so please see any of the office team or Cindy Kemp if you have any uniform enquiries.

With the newsletter today you will be receiving a number of key pieces of information. It is our intention that notices will be distributed where possible on a Wednesday so as to keep all the information together in one place. Please take the time to note dates and times. Alternatively, all major upcoming events will be detailed on our school website and through our P and F Facebook page.

In the spirit of all of this beautiful rain over the past weeks I thought I would share a beautiful poem by James Hackston that I heard on ABC Radio over the holidays. It’s on page three of the newsletter.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Ben
God’s Blessing on us
Today we start a new brand new school year of prayer and learning too.
We ask God’s Blessing on us, for today and all year through.
We’re in a different class this year, which scares us just a bit.
The work may be much harder, and we’re worried, we admit.
But Jesus you are with us and together we’ll do fine,
We’ll do the very best we can, and make good use of time.
We pray for all our classmates, may they be kind and fair.
And bless our teachers, too, dear Lord, for all their love and care.
AMEN

New Beginnings
As we begin a new year in this community of St. Joseph’s, we take time to consider and review what we are about and the spirit that permeates our community. Our Mission Statement, outlined below, expresses something of the spirit of our community here at St. Joseph’s:

Through its ministry as a caring Christian community based on Gospel values, St Joseph’s strives to provide an holistic education for its students recognising the uniqueness and potential of each child who is made in the image and likeness of God.

These words may be inspiring, but in fact they remain merely words unless they are made real and tangible in and through the relationships within our community. This is where the real spirit of a community is found – in people and in their particular way of being together and relating to each other.

Our daily efforts to do this, each in our own way, will enable us to truly celebrate the Spirit here amongst us. Let this be our hope and our prayer as we begin our journey together here at school and at home in our families, as the community of St. Joseph’s.

Staff Learning
As a staff community we attended 2 days of Professional Development at the Bunya Mountains last week. It was a great opportunity to centre ourselves and prepare for the year. We spent time listening, being present, and learning our story and how this can connect with the Jesus story. We also took time to delve into the essential skills for classroom management, and the FISH theory. This is an very interesting way of being present and engaged in the midst of life and work. You may enjoy learning more about it from this clip— FISH!

Trailer on You tube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKBS6qa6DeA

Opening Mass
On Friday we will celebrate our new school year with an opening mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate new beginnings and the beginning of new growth and learning. All families are most welcome to join us on Friday at 9am in the church.

OPENING MASS FRIDAY 9am ALL WELCOME
OUR CORRUGATED IRON TANK

Our tank stood on a crazy stand,
Bare to the burning sun,
White hot as glares the desert sand,
And dismal to the eye.
Its lid was like a rakish hat,
The tap bent all awry,
And with a drip so constant that
It almost dripped when dry.

It was a most convenient tank
Wherein most things could fall;
Where snakes came from the bush and drank,
And rabbits used to call,
The mice committed dangerous acts,
The gum leaves sank to rest,
And in it possums dropped like great big sacks,
And hornets made their nest.

But stark within my memory
I see it once again
When we all looked at it anxiously -
Days when we hoped for rain;
I hear the hollow sounds it made,
Like some prophetic drum,
As I tapped rung on rung, afraid
Of dreadful days to come,

When mother in despair would pray
As low the water sank:
Four rungs, three rungs, two rungs, and, aye,
How miserly we drank;
And there was none for face and hands,
Waste was a wicked thing.
There in the baked and parching lands,
With hope our only spring.

Next came the fatal 'one rung left!'
(How cruel words can be!)
As we all stood for joys bereft,
Dumb in out misery:
And then I tapped the tank in pain -
Those knells of drought and doom:
Our tank at last gone dry again,
Our home cast down in gloom;

But, Oh, the joy that filled our hearts
When came the bounteous rain,
And the drain-pipe sang in fits and starts
And we filled the tank again!
We felt as if we'd riches won,
That life again was sweet;
And overjoyed then, everyone,
We even washed our feet!

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By: Hal Gye ('James Hackston')

BUS ARRANGEMENTS FORM: Attached to today’s newsletter is a bus arrangements form. If you wish your child to travel on the bus please complete the form and return to the office.

TUCKSHOP INFORMATION FORM: Also attached to today’s newsletter is a tuckshop information sheet. If you are able to assist with tuckshop please complete and return the form.

NEWSLETTERS: Newsletters are issued each Wednesday, by either by email, hard copy and also on our website. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each week, please let the office know.

STATE ELECTION: If any parents would like information on responses received from the two major parties to issues that have been put to them from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations of Catholic Schools in Queensland, please let the office know.

UNIFORMS: Uniforms are now available from our uniform shop. The opening times will be advertised in next week’s newsletter. We can now also accept payment by eftpos at the office for uniforms.
**Community Notices**

**GAYNDAH JUNIOR CRICKET:** First training day is **this Monday 2nd February**, 4pm at the Gayndah Sports Grounds. The first skills and game day is on **Saturday 7 February**, 8.30 am for a 9am start, at the Gayndah Sports Grounds. Any enquires please contact Arthur Bambling on 4161 2104 or Scott Roth on 4161 2241.

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**ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2015**

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<th>Term One</th>
<th>Term Two</th>
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<td>Wed 28 Jan—Thurs 2 April</td>
<td>Mon 20 April—Fri 26 June</td>
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<th>Term Three</th>
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<td>Mon 13 July—Fri 18 Sept</td>
<td>Tues 6 Oct—Fri 4 Dec</td>
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Monday 8 June—Public Holiday
Monday 5 Oct—Public Holiday
Monday 19 Oct—Pupil Free Day

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**Diary of Coming Events**

- Fri 30 Jan
  - 9am School Mass

- Tues 10 Feb
  - P & F AGM 7pm

- Tues 17 Feb
  - Pancake Races

- Wed 18 Feb
  - Ash Wednesday

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**Thought of the week…**

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.

-John F. Kennedy