Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers and Friends,

During the holidays I happened to overhear a member of the public speaking of St Joseph’s and they referred to us as the ‘Private’ school across the road. I wasn’t surprised or upset in any way that St Joseph’s was referred to in this way, but it got me thinking about the significance of how much we value our identity of being a ‘Catholic’ school.

I know that when each of you made a conscious choice to enroll your child(ren) in St Joseph’s Primary, that you did so with the intention that they would receive an education that is value based and distinctly Catholic in its dealings and practices. Part of my role in combination with Miss McClafferty and all of the staff members is to recognise, support and help grow the Catholic ethos of our school community. You may have seen over the past week the new signs that have been installed at the front of the school. These ‘Value Signs’ help to bring to the fore all that we stand for and value as part of our school culture on a daily basis. They weren’t installed to make the school anymore ‘Catholic’, rather they complement and highlight our history and heritage of all those who have gone before us.

On a practical nature I see our Catholic Ethos most in the interactions that occur on a daily basis both in and outside of school hours. I know our school is distinctively catholic, when I walk the grounds of an afternoon and see parents joining together in prayer for their children and our school as a whole. I hear it at the end of the day when students leave the classrooms singing “My God is a great big God”. I see it when in the playground even the youngest members of our school take the time to support and care for each other because ‘that’s just what we do at St Joseph’s’ and I know that this a direct reflection of the example their buddies have set for them from day one.

I’ll finish with an excerpt that Judy Skilton shared at the 2014 graduation dinner that sums up perfectly the Catholic spirit and ethos that exists at St Joseph’s.

“The spirit of St Joseph’s can be best summed up in what we call the ‘St Joey’s Gift’. Let me try to describe it for you. It has something to do with the wonderful sense of community we have at our school where everybody is valued, and welcome. Students, staff, grandparents, older and younger siblings alike.

It has something to do with our staff’s commitment and dedication and love for our students and school. The way they constantly go above and beyond. This gift has something to do with the giving and the sharing being actively encouraged and celebrated within our students. Values which are so needed in today’s world.

It has something to do with the opportunity to learn about God and grow in faith. I hope this will continue for the rest of your lives. It has something to do with respect being highly valued and expected. Still, it has something to do with the coming together of many to make things happen. Perhaps most of all - It has something to do with St Joey’s being a truly caring place, where everyone is supported during their successes and their challenges.

For the students that move through our classrooms and on to bigger and better things our greatest wish is for all of these gifts to be taken with you. They move to being your gifts now, you’ve been given them but these gifts aren’t yours to keep – they are yours to share with others. Share your sense of community, your giving, sharing and respectful selves, your faith, your commitment, your willingness to get on board and help out. Then everyone will know you have the St Joeys gift!”

If you would like to know more about our parent prayer group (Mums In Touch) please contact Helen in the school office.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – Wednesday 11th February

Today we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. This feast day celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to a peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous on several occasions around Lourdes in France. We often see Our Lady displayed in a garden landscape or grotto to symbolise these visitations. It is on this day we also pray for the sick people in our community, as the holy well spring at Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing.

At our school we celebrate these important visitations of Mary by naming our house colours after those witnessed at Lourdes and at Fatima.

Mail Out of News

Attached to today’s newsletter are two publications that I can highly recommend. Australian Catholics magazine contains articles of relevance for the world today. This issue has numerous articles commemorating the heroism of soldiers in World War 1 and how we can continue their legacy today. Australian Catholics magazine can also be accessed from their website - http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/

The second publication has been released by Evangelisation Brisbane, and is a resource produced in conjunction with Archbishop Mark Coleridge. This resource is a practical journey through Lent, with activities and quizzes connected to the Gospels of each week throughout the season. I recommend you take the time to engage with this resource and journey through Lent as a family. This resource and many other practical support can be found on the Evangelisation Brisbane website at http://bne.catholic.net.au/faithlife/

Shrove Tuesday

Next Tuesday, 17th February is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. This is the day to discuss with your family what the season of Lent is about and how we can give to others at this time. It is a time to “get off the bus” and look around at what we can do to make a difference.

On this day we traditionally make Lenten Promises. These can be the promise to do something more or to go without something.

During Lent, people traditionally fasted and avoided food containing eggs and dairy products. Therefore, families would have a feast on Shrove Tuesday. It was a time for them to eat food that contained these ingredients so that meals would not be wasted. Pancakes are a perfect example of this, so the tradition to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday was born.

All classes will participate in pancake races at 2:30pm on Shrove Tuesday (17th February) and families are most welcome to join us. Pancake races are thought to have begun in 1445. A woman had lost track of the time on Shrove Tuesday, and was busy cooking pancakes in her kitchen. Suddenly she heard the church bell ringing to call the faithful to church for confession. The woman raced out of her house and ran all the way to church; still holding her frying pan and wearing her apron.

What’s On

Please join us in the upcoming celebrations of our faith community at St. Joseph’s

Assembly  Friday 13th February  9am  Hall  - Sisters of the Good Samaritan, who were they? Miss Mack and volunteers leading.

Ash Wednesday Mass  9am  Wednesday 18th March

Lenten Assembly  Friday 20th February  9am  Hall  Miss Mack and volunteers leading.
**SPORTS NOTES:** Revised North Burnett Sports notes have been sent home today with students from years four to six with amended trial dates on them.

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** Has resumed each Monday and Wednesday. Any donations of orange juice, apple juice, eggs, bread, promite, or nuttlex would be most welcome. Thank you to our wonderful helpers who serve our students breakfast with a smile.

**HOT POT NIGHT:** Don’t forget our Hot Pot Welcome night is *this Friday, 13 February at 6pm.* Please bring any kind of dish to share. BYO drinks. Plates, cutlery and dessert will be provided, along with a sausage sizzle for the children. Please RSVP to the office.

**P & F NEWS:**
- We received a fantastic response from Parents and Friends willing to support the Tuckshop. A roster for helpers and sweet treat bakers has been sent out today. A big thank you to all those who have dropped in donations of paper towels, paper bags, aluminium foil and gladwrap to the office. The cupboards are now overflowing!
- Uniform shop—at this stage the uniform shop will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings around 8.30am. We are now able to accept eftpos payment for uniforms at the office. We are currently collecting orders for Term One, forms are available at the office or may be downloaded from our website. Forms and payment are due in to the office by Friday 20 March. Our warehouse only supplies winter stock from April, however we do have some items in stock in our uniform shop if needed.

**WIDE BAY SCHOOLS SWIMMING TEAM:** If you would like more information on the qualifying criteria for the Wide Bay School Swimming please contact the office. Nomination close 18 February.

**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS:**
Parent Information nights will be held on *Thursday 12th February and Tuesday 17th February.* Times as follows:

**Thursday 12 Feb:**
- Prep 6pm—Prep classroom  
- Year 2/3 6.30pm—2/3 classroom

**Tuesday 17th Feb:**
- Year 1/2—6pm– 1/2 classroom  
- Years 4/5/6—7pm in 5/6 classroom

**SCHOOL FEES:** School fee accounts will be issued in the coming weeks. School fees may be paid by various methods including cash or cheque, direct deposit to the school account, direct debit or eftpos. If you paid by direct debit last year and wish to do the same this year, you will need to complete a new form.

**BUNDABERG EISTEDDFOD:** Expressions of Interest—Bundaberg Eisteddfod—Speech and Drama.
The Bundaberg Speech and Drama Eisteddfod will be held in May. We are seeking interest from those children who may like to compete in set poetry, Australian poetry or choral poetry recital competition. The cost of entry and competitors ticket will be covered by the school, and children will be assisted to learn their poems and practice for expression and clear articulation for presentation. Dependent on interest, the school may also provide transport for the students. If you would like to find out more, or are interested in your child attending please see Michelle McCafferty, the office staff or email interest and queries to mccafferty@bne.catholic.edu.au

**PAINTING OF THE CHURCH:** Over the next couple of weeks the exterior of the Church will be painted. Children and parents are asked to please avoid the fenced off area around the Church for safety reasons.

**YENDA BUS MEETING:** *Wednesday 25 February, 6pm* at 365 Smith’s Road Gayndah. Contact Stacey Smith on 0417 079 904 if unable to attend and/or if any issues need to be discussed. Please drive carefully along our road—paying particular attention at both cement causeways.

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**Students of the Week**

Congratulations to the following students who received “Doing Your Best Awards” last Friday:

Prep: Archie Webster  
Y 1/2: Shyloh Terry  
Y 2/3: Lizzie Roth  
Y 4: Levi Bryant  
Y5/6: Kohdy George (absent from photo)
**Community Notices**

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

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<tr>
<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**

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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12 Feb</td>
<td>Parent info night Prep &amp; Yr 2/3</td>
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<td>Fri 13 Feb</td>
<td>Welcome Hot Pot Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17 Feb</td>
<td>Pancake Races</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17 Feb</td>
<td>Parent info night 1/2 &amp; 4/5/6</td>
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<td>Wed 18 Feb</td>
<td>Fri March 27</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Walkathon</td>
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**SWIMMING LESSONS:** Starting 9 Feb. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons from 4.30pm. $10 per lesson per child. Contact Gayndah Pool for enquiries 4161 1990.

**GAYNDAH JUNIOR TENNIS:**
Now is the time to get into tennis!! Due to the extreme heat at this time of year, we have decided to run from 4.30 – 6.00pm. All children are eligible to participate in these sessions.

Cost : $3 per child per day.
Membership : $10 per term or $30 per year per child.

**CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES:** Central Burnett Brumbies are having a Sign On Day and Come & Try Clinics Saturday 28th February 2015, starting at 2.30pm and finishing with a sausage sizzle at the Gayndah Sports Ground.

For further information: Gayndah Junior: Rob Linsket 0429611096 Mundubbera : Amanda Luani 0403 704 577.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES CADETS:** If you’re aged between 12 and 17 years then why not consider becoming an emergency services cadet? For more information contact Michael Imhoff 0447 096 001 or Amanda Imhoff 0427 316 398.

**GUITARS FOR SALE:**
1 x “one quarter” size, (suitable for ages approx. 5—8) - $50
1 x “traveller” size (approx. one half—one quarter size) - $150 neg.

Contact Lisa Baker 0428 745 969

**GAYNDAH JUNIOR CRICKET:** Training Mondays 4 - 5.30pm Any questions phone Arthur on 41612104 arthur@bambling.com.au