Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers, Friends

Well I’m not sure what we should be waiting for next after the earthquake, cyclone and rising rivers that surround our region but hopefully we have seen our fair share to last us a while. Events such as these can be very unpredictable and don’t allow a whole lot of forward planning. Having said this though, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of our school community for the support provided and communication made to make the last fortnight as smooth as possible. If any families are still feeling the effects of the weekend and could benefit from support through the school in any way, please don’t hesitate to pop in and see me.

Last week we concluded the last of our Parent Information Sessions, of which our greatest parent attendance was recorded across all classes. As I mentioned in each of the sessions, it impresses the teachers, school officers and admin team no end to see the commitment levels of our parent body to understand the practices existing within the classroom.

Over the past five weeks the teachers have been collating a range of assessment tasks across literacy and numeracy in order understand specifically where each student sits. In my opinion, now is the time for parents to make times to sit down and discuss how your son or daughter is going with the classroom teacher. In doing so they can share with you in more detail the different components being covered in class and how your child is developing in their understanding.

I appreciated that in the first four weeks of the year, many parents took the time to share with me their concerns regarding where their child was in comparison to where they finished at the end of last year. Given that seven weeks is a long time between focused teaching sessions, parents can take confidence in knowing that across all grades now, routines and consistent classroom practices are existing and as such student capabilities when it comes to items such as homework will start to yield better results. However this may not always be the case and should you find that your child’s thoughts on how they are going aren’t positive or their ability to complete homework tasks are limited, I would encourage you to speak with the teacher and share with them what you a finding. This enables the teachers to develop a clearer picture of how your child is feeling and developing from the beginning of the year and creates an opportunity for the teacher to share some strategies that you can introduce in order to support your child from home.

I once heard a teacher telling a parent “If you tell me what’s happening at home and I keep you in the loop with everything here, we can’t do anything but ensure school is a success for your child”. No truer words could be shared when it comes to kicking off the year in regards to communicating effectively. Now is the time, ask the questions and paint the picture for the year ahead.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
First Sunday of Lent
Gospel Reading
Mark 1:12-15 (NRSVCE)

The Temptation of Jesus

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Reflection – Provided by Caritas Australia

The public life of Jesus began with his baptism by John in the River Jordan. Immediately after Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted. The temptations centred on the abuse of power – to turn stones into loaves of bread, to throw himself off the roof of the Temple, and finally to worship Satan. That Jesus was tempted showed that he is like us in all things except sin. Jesus refused to use extraordinary means. He would be human, like us. Then he left for the northern province of Galilee, far from the centre of things in Jerusalem. He preached, ‘The time has come!’, calling people to a new way of living, in harmony with the mind of God.

St. Joseph’s Memorial Windows

Last Sunday, our beautiful stained glass windows were revealed as part of our Sunday mass. These windows are a gift from the McNaught and Weekes family in memory of Mrs Keran McNaught. The windows consist of a dove and a white lily.

The Dove is symbolic of 2 major elements of our faith; the Holy Spirit and peace. The Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Holy Trinity, has often been depicted as a dove. We remember the scene at Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan river, when the Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove. Also the Dove has long been associated with the virtue of peace. The story of Noah and the flood gave us the image of the dove with an olive branch as a sign of peace.

The White Lily is also a traditional image of our faith. Firstly, it is appropriate for our church since the lily is associated with St. Joseph, spouse of Mary, through an ancient legend that he was so chosen from among other men by the blossoming of his staff like a lily. Likewise, the biblical passage, ”The just man shall blossom like the lily” is applied to St. Joseph in the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church for his feast day, March 19th. Secondly, for many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolise purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter. Hence they are also known as Easter Lilies. The 3 lilies are to signify our God as the Holy Trinity: 3 flowers from one stem.

Project Compassion:
Eric and Ma from Fiji

Twenty-five years ago, married couple Eric and Ma worked hard, but their farm was unprofitable. They had a very limited income and diet, until they took a training course at the Tutu Rural Training Centre (supported by Caritas Australia). Using the skills they learnt there, the couple have built a successful family life, and a thriving farm that provides them with a healthy diet and sustainable source of income.

Your donation to Project Compassion helps people in isolated areas of Fiji gain the skills they need to grow food for life.

For more information: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

What’s On………
Friday 27th February—Assembly—9am—Year 4
Future Events
Orange Day—National Day of Action against bullying
20 March
Purple Day for Epilepsy—Thursday 26th March
Fish and Chip Friday for Caritas—Friday 27th March
Go Blue for Autism—Thursday April 2nd.

Keep Collecting those Walkathon Sponsors!
Walkathon is on Friday 27th March
WALK-A-THON
BREAKFAST CLUB: Has resumed each Monday and Wednesday. Any donations of orange juice, apple juice, eggs, bread, and promite would be most welcome. Thank you to our wonderful helpers who serve our students breakfast with a smile.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS: Invoices for Instrumental music have been sent home with you child. Please contact the office if you have not received your account.

P & F NEWS:
- Uniform orders—please note there is an error in the uniform order form. Term One orders are due back by 27 February, (not 20 March).
- We received a fantastic response from Parents and Friends willing to support the Tuckshop. 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 now available at the office or may be downloaded from our website. Forms and payment are due in to the office by Friday 27 February. Our warehouse only supplies winter stock from April, however we do have some items in stock in our uniform shop if needed.

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 McClafferty, the office staff or email interest and queries to mcclafferty@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.

BOOKCLUB: If you would like to place an order please return your form and payment to the office by this Thursday 26 February. Cheques to be made payable to St Joseph’s School.

SCHOOL FEES: School fee accounts were posted out recently. 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.

WOODMILLAR BUS MEETING: P1690 Woodmillar Bus Run Annual Meeting
Today, Wednesday 25th February 2015 at St Josephs Primary School lunch tables at 4.30pm.
All parents of students on this bus run are required. Any business for agenda / Apologies to :- vanessa@bambling.com.au

BAN BAN SPRINGS BUS MEETING: Tomorrow, Thursday 26 February, 4pm at St Joseph’s School. New secretary needed. Virtually no time commitment needed to fulfil this position! Enquiries to Judy Skilton 41616261

YENDA BUS MEETING: Today, 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.

BYRNESTOWN BUS MEETING: Next Wednesday 4th March, 4pm at the Emmerton bus stop.

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who received awards last week:

Prep: Kendra MacDonald
Y1/2: Ella Smith
Y2/3: Jackson Kreis
Y4: Holly Ahern
Y5/6: Isabella Thornton
                     Isabella Bryant
LEARN & PLAY TENNIS: Gayndah Tennis Assoc. Inc and Bundaberg Tennis Academy's coach Kevin Banner are now taking registrations for new and existing members for Term 1, 2015. The ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Learning Program will commence at Gayndah Tennis Complex, Barrow St. Gayndah from Friday 27th February 2015 for 5-8 years 3:45-4:30pm for Red Ball; 8-11 years 3:45-5pm for Orange Ball; 10-12 years 5-6:30pm for Green Ball; and up to 6:30-8pm. Bookings are Essential. Contact Kevin Banner 4152 0753 / 0409 520 753 for further information.

CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES: Central Burnett Brumbies are having a Sign On Day and Come & Try Clinic. Saturday 28th February 2015, starting at 2.30pm and finishing with a sausage sizzle at the Gayndah Sports Ground. There will be buses organised from Monto and Biggenden with pick ups Mundubbera Eidsvold and Coulston Lakes. Come and join in and see how much fun it is for both girls and boys. For further information: Gayndah Junior: Rob Linsket 0429 611 096 Mundubbera: Amanda Luani 0403 704 577.

PONY CLUB: Held at the showgrounds every fortnight at 9am. There will be instructors for each event.

DISPOSITION OPENING NIGHT: Showcasing the works of Rhanni McCosker, Sarah Drescher, Georgina Hopley and Shaun Hyde. Opening night 7th March at 6pm at the Gayndah Art Gallery. Free entry, food, beverages, cocktails and entertainment.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY: Sunday, 1st March 2015, 7am to 10am. Entrance of Gayndah Museum in Simon Street. What to bring: hat, sunscreen, water bottle, walking shoes and a smile! Free sausage sizzle and drink will be supplied at the conclusion. For further information please contact NBRC Gayndah Office.

GUNThER GUMNUT PLAYGROUP: Every Tuesday at Gunther Village in the playground next to the Coffee Shop 9.30am – 11am. All parents with young children welcome to attend, an activity and morning tea provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

GAYNDAH SHOWGIRL: Young ladies of Gayndah. We need you! It is Gayndah Showgirl Competition time again. We are seeking entrants for: Gayndah Miss Showgirl 2015 (18-28yrs—18yrs by 01/08/2015) Gayndah Miss Junior Showgirls 10-13 years and 14-17 years (inclusive of that age for 2015) Please contact Stacey Duncan 4140 8899 for entry forms or further information.

DATECLAIMER: Gayndah Miss Showgirl Presentations Saturday 28 March—Gayndah Showgrounds. Doors open 6.30pm, Wine & Cheese Evening. $15 adults includes complimentary wine, beer or soft drink & nibbles. Bookings—Cam and Susie Meats 10 Capper St or Helen Cherry 4161 1119.

ST MARY’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE COMBINED ANNIVERSARIES: St Mary’s Convent School 1929, St Mary’s Secondary College 1965, South Burnett Catholic College 1990.

Saturday 30th May 2015: Nanango Races, combined anniversaries mass, food stalls, live entertainment.

Sunday 31st May 2015: College Open Day, memorabilia sales, sausage sizzle, classroom displays, past student and staff timeline & roll call, plaque & time capsule

Attention All Women
Connect. Laugh. Try New Experiences.
Be Pampered. Talk.
This Saturday, 28th February
Gayndah Racecourse - 10am – 3pm
LADIES DAY OFF (18+)
Tickets $15, includes lunch and activities
Enquiries to Rachel Chambers