Dear Parents, Grandparents, Carers, Friends

Last week we held our P & F AGM and the second of our general meetings for 2015. During our Annual General Meeting, new members were elected as per the publication in the newsletter for week 7. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Laura Parr into the role of President, along with Kate Colvin who returns in the Vice-President role, Chris Prygoda will manage the Treasurer responsibilities, Jody Doyle will continue as Secretary, Shelley Weston and Sarah Webster in the Tuckshop Convenor role and Kym Baker has taken on the management of Uniform Shop. Each of whom are well suited for their nominated roles and will bring with them an enthusiasm for working with our team of parents in helping to support our beautiful school in the best ways possible. If you have the opportunity over the coming weeks, please take the time to congratulate them on their appointment and thank them for the ongoing support of our school community.

For our outgoing members Andrew Bryant – President, Cindy Kemp – Uniform Shop Convenor and Melissa Ahe rn – Treasurer, I extend a very sincere thank you for the time and commitment each of you have put into making this school the wonderful faith filled community that it is. With the years combined, their total exceeds two decades and I know their ideas and wisdom will continue to be welcomed within our P & F committee meetings. This Friday on assembly we will take the opportunity to thank each of these parents for the tireless efforts they have put into our P and F committee in overseeing key implementations of such components as: The P & F Levy, Financial Account Adjustments and the new Uniform Shop.

For me, one of the most significant moments that came from our collective meetings was the emphasis placed on ensuring the P & F Levy is being allocated effectively to support the learning and development of all students. Given that we are into our second year of the levy, parents who were present played an instrumental role in voicing the collective opinions of our parent body by unanimously voting to nominate an amount of funds to support the school on a termly basis. The contributions will be based around the St Joseph’s Annual Goals, the current circumstances of school facilities and the intention to support the vision and Catholic mission of our school. The contribution for this term will see $3,000 donated to support reading development within our school. Since 2014, St Joseph’s has focused a great deal of attention to the effective learning and teaching experiences that exist within our reading development programs across the whole school. Parents of students in Prep are now experiencing our deliberate intention to support the reading development of students from the very outset of their schooling through the ‘Chatting Children’ program. This program provides students with a quality piece of literature to be shared with a parent or care giver (over a period of a week) alongside a range of discussion starters and activities. The funds donated by the P and F will go a long way to support the home reader, classroom reader, guided and shared reading resources within the school. In doing so it will ensure that reading development continues to be effectively implemented across the whole school.

Through a shared contribution towards resources, development of effective and consistent implementation of teacher practice and regular parent information sessions, students will be supported to achieve their full potential at every level. Early in Term 2, we will hold the second phase of our Parent Information Sessions on reading. The sessions will focus on a practical demonstration and explanation of what steps we are taking as a school on a daily basis within our English block. By supporting parents to know what is happening within the classroom they can provide the best possible support from home.

Through a shared vision, collectively working together and a school wide focus to support every individual, St Joseph’s will continue to ensure that each student shares in the feeling of school being a success for them.

The Deadly Ears initiative is a non-compulsory service that is offered to all schools in the district. The document attached enables parents to take advantage of a free ear check on school grounds. A team of specialists visit our region on an annual basis as a government program to support the learning of all students in rural areas. If you have any further questions please contact the school office or see any of the administration team.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
St. Patrick’s Breastplate Prayer
St Patrick’s Breastplate is an ancient prayer for protection. The purpose of this prayer is to call for God’s help against all that could harm us. Although we cannot see God, we can find God in the love and kindness of other people. Although we cannot feel him, we can find him in your own heart when we are kind and good to others. Let us pray for the protecting love of Jesus Christ all around us. On Tuesday we celebrated St. Patrick’s Day.

St. Joseph’s Day
Tomorrow, 19th March, we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph – the husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus and the Patron of our Parish and School. St Joseph was an ordinary manual labourer although he descended from the royal house of David. He was a just man - an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God’s greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary. Please join us for 9am mass tomorrow; this mass will include the presentation of our Year 6 leaders to the school community. Following mass we will cut the St. Joseph’s Day cake and the take part in a few fun activities before a Sausage Sizzle lunch.

Project Compassion Fundraiser
Order forms are attached to today’s newsletter for our Project Compassion Fish and Chip Day on Friday 27th March. The cost for lunch is $5.00. The students will receive some Hot Chips and Crumbed Hoki Fillets. Please complete the slip below and return to the school office by Monday 23rd March If any parents are available to assist with cooking fish and packaging on Friday between 9.15 – 10.40am, your help would be appreciated, can you please let the office know or call the office on 4161 1889.

National Day of Action against Bullying
This Friday is the National Day of Action against Bullying. This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time. To support this cause we ask all children to wear something Orange on Friday in recognition that Bullying can and does happen in our community, and our nation. By wearing Orange we want to highlight that it is NOT OKAY to bully others and we work hard to make sure that Bully Bulldozer doesn’t exist in our school. Some more information about this will accompany today’s newsletter.

What’s On………
Keep Collecting those Walkathon Sponsors!
Walkathon is on Friday 27th March


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.
**PURPLE DAY FOR EPILEPSY:** Next **Thursday 26 March** is Purple Day for Epilepsy. Merchandise will be on sale at the school office. Prices range from $2 to $5.

**P & F NEWS:**
- Next meeting Tuesday **12th May** 7pm in the school staffroom. All welcome.
- For the remaining weeks of the term the uniform shop will be open by appointment. Please phone our uniform coordinator Kym Baker on 0409 961 490 or contact the school office.

**OFFICE NEWS:**
- Permission slips and sponsorship forms for the Walkathon are due back to the school by **Thursday 26 March**.

**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.

**DEADLY EARS:** A staff member from Deadly Ears Ear Health Program will be attending our school on **Monday 18 May**. This program provides screening of all children from Prep to Year Three to identify communication or hearing difficulties. If you would like your child to be screened, please complete and return the attached consent form.

**BOOKCLUB ISSUE TWO:** Orders & payment due back by **Thursday 26 March**. Please make cheques payable to St Joseph’s School.

**PREP:** Prep are looking for donations of “hard bodied” baby dolls (ie not dolls made of cloth, as they will be getting wet) and any old doll furniture in good condition. If you are able to help donations can be left at the prep room or the office.

**ORANGE DAY FOR ANTI BULLYING:** This **Friday 20 March** students are invited to wear orange to support Anti-Bullying Day.

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** Donations of peanut butter, eggs, honey and promite would be appreciated.

**ORANGE FESTIVAL 2015**
St. Joseph’s Primary and St. Joseph’s P&F are proud to announce that **Miss Georgia Melville** will be our Orange Festival entrant in 2015. The theme this year is “Going Mandarin in the Asian Century.” We would love some parents to help form a group to organise our parade float, assist with fundraising and preparing for Parade day.

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**Calling all Dancing Queens**

**Date Claimer...**

**“THE MUM PROM”**

**When:** Saturday 2nd May  
**Where:** Gayndah Town Hall  
**What:** A fundraiser for our Festival Queen entrant Georgia Melville. Drag out that old prom or bridesmaid dress (or support the OP shops and get a new one), put on your dancing shoes, find a babysitter and enjoy a night out with other mum’s (and ladies who enjoy a great night out, but are not mum’s), have some fun and let loose on the dance floor to your favourite 70’s, 80’s and 90’s dance tracks.

The Prom Queen will be crowned, and there will be various prizes throughout the night. Stay tuned for more news soon on the best party in town!

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**Students of the Week**

Congratulations to the following students:

**Week 7:**  
Prep: Blake Harris  
Y1/2: Tate Kirk  
Y2/3: Kaida MacDonald  
Y4: Torra MacDonald  
Y5/6: Ainsley George
**ACTING WORKSHOPS:** Acting Workshops with Amie Gilholme & Neighbours star Kym Valentine (Libby Kennedy)

**SAT 18 APRIL** - Grades 1 to 7 students
**SUN 19 APRIL** - Grades 8 to age 19
At the Gayndah Arts & Cultural Centre Conference Room
10:30am-4:30pm

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED** (Limited places)
0427 551 973

**JUNIOR NETBALL CAMP:** Gayndah & District Netball are holding a two day netball camp *this Saturday 21st March and Sunday 22nd March* at the Gayndah YMCA. Boys aged 10-12 years and girls 10-15 years are invited to come along and participate in a weekend of netball. Opportunity for you to have a go if you’re not sure or haven’t played before, lots of fun. Fully funded and catered for. Starts at 9am Saturday and finishes 3pm Sunday. Camping overnight at the YMCA for those who wish to. Fun evening activities. Enquiries contact: Chris Duncan 0419 518 423 or 4161 6156 or email chris.duncan@health.qld.gov.au

**SOUTH PACIFIC TAEKWONDO:** Held at the Gayndah State Primary School every Tuesday and Thursday 6pm. Our classes include: family classes, children classes age 5 & up, adult classes, stranger danger and anti bullying, increase coordination and discipline, weight loss and stress relief, build your self confidence and self control. Unlimited training plus free uniform offer. You don’t have to be fit, flexible or have any prior experience! South Pacific Taekwondo is suitable for anyone of any age. Reach your goals with us! For more information contact 4724 1000 or www.southpacifictkd.com.au

**KIAH PARK HORSE RIDING FOR LIFE:** Horse Riding Camps for ages 6 years—teens, all riding abilities are welcome. 7 Day riding camps. Fun horse riding camps every school holidays. Includes arena lessons, learning how to keep and care for a horse/pony, trial rides twice a day, gymnkhana and night activities. Easter Camps: 4—11 April...includes Easter Egg hunt! and 11-18 April. Contact 07 5486 6166 or visit www.kiahpark.com.au

**SOCCER SOCCER SOCCER:** Soccer returns to Gayndah after Easter Holidays.
We are seeking interest from parents or community members experienced in coaching Juniors. We will also be offering a free Grassroots coaching clinic in Gayndah for interested people. Open to High School Students as well. Great Social Club, not a huge time commitment - 1hr training per week/ 6 games for the season.
For more info contact Laine - 0428 931 151

**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!

**JUNIOR KIDS FISHING DAY:** This Sunday 22 March 2015 at Paradise Dam hosted by Biggenden Fishing Club. We are looking for 25 children from the ages of 7 to 13 who are interested in learning the basic fundamentals of recreational fishing and the environment. We will be taking registrations up to the 19th March. Interested children can register by phone or email to: John or Ruth 4127 7252 or email jnrrok@gmail.com

**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.

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### Diary of Coming Events

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