Hi Everyone

Often I have parents come and speak with me about how they can best support their child through their primary education. This week I have created a touch stone for all parents to consider from day to day, week to week, throughout this year and for the subsequent years to come. Your greatest asset in supporting your child’s growth and development is their classroom teacher, so please don’t be afraid to talk with them to determine what specifically is best for your child. Throw this up on the fridge and have a read from time to time.

**MR GRAY’S TOP 5 TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH PRIMARY EDUCATION**

(wow that is a big title)

**Back to Basics**

One of the most significant roles parents/caregivers can play in the educational development of a child is to regularly find time to work on the basics. This isn’t limited to the junior school by any means, in fact I would encourage the parents of students in years 3 and up to increase the amount of times or period of time spent reviewing the foundations of learning. What are the basics?

Simple mathematical skills P-3; counting, adding, subtracting. 4-6; addition, subtraction, and times tables. The best time to review these aspects can be in the most simple of places; in the car on the way home, while completing other tasks, over the dinner table or just in any free time you have before or after school. 5 min per day will make a world of difference and build your child’s confidence no end. Additionally, sight words reading nightly and finding time to talk through spelling is essential now so as to ensure your child leaves primary school with the tools needed to be successful later in life. (Please remember to use your teacher to guide you through specific areas being covered in class or development levels of your child)

**Task Time for Prayer**

If you read this step and thought to yourself, that’s not something we do, then chances are you’re not alone. However, that doesn’t mean that today isn’t a good time to start. Just over a month ago I was staying with my in-laws and they shared grace before dinner. Innocently enough, Isla watched and listened to what was shared. It wasn’t long before prayer became a daily opportunity to share what we are grateful for. Prayer is whatever you want it to be, so my tip would be to keep it light hearted and let the kids lead, you’ll be surprised just what they have to say.

**Nominate One Way to be Involved**

Everyone is busy, there is no doubting that and as the year progresses, time and time again there are different events that take place within the school that require parent participation. Often the first thought of such ongoing events is that once you attend once, you need to be there each and every time after that. That just isn’t the case here at St Joseph’s. One prime opportunity to be involved in our school community is to ear mark one P and F meeting for the year that you can come to. Your involvement will be invaluable and the chance to support the community building will serve to keep you informed and up to speed on all things St Joseph’s. Other ways to help out include; helping with breaky club on a Monday or Wednesday, tuckshop support and classroom assistance.

**Chase the Challenge and Build Resilience**

We have a beautiful group of students here at St Joseph’s. I’m often left short of stories when other principals are sharing their behaviour management challenges, such is the strong grounding our parents provide and the guidance our staff offer. However one key area that we are working on with students this year is to build their levels of resilience when it comes to having a go during classroom exercises. As a result my forth tip is a request for parents to support us by finding opportunities to challenge your child to give things a go, don’t be afraid to fail and take comfort in learning when things don’t work out. How do you do this? Try new things together, play board games and card games, learn a new skill or try building something.

**Have Fun**

If school is to be a success for every child, they have to want to come each day! Parents and caregivers can assist with this by talking with their child about one great aspect of learning each day, “Tell me the best thing about today”. You may have to wait a moment while they reflect, granted hard work isn’t always going to be the first answer they provide but stick with it and ensure they talk of more than just lunch times and playing with their friends. Yet if they know you’re expecting a positive outlook on the day their minds will always go to that as 3pm approaches.

Apologies for the long one today but I hope you have a great week and I look forward to seeing you at the march on Monday.

Ben
With ANZAC Day approaching next Monday, we remember those who have fought and died for us in wars, and those still continuing to fight in the Armed Forces. We especially honour the ANZAC Soldiers, from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, who bravely landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915.

On Friday, we will acknowledge all those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces with a special assembly at 2pm. Mr Boyd Baker from the Gayndah RSL will speak with us, and Year 5/6 will lead us in prayer. Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to join us.

On ANZAC Day next Monday, students and their families are invited to meet at the Court House at 9:45am to march in honour of all our fallen soldiers. Students should wear their school uniform and badges will be available for them.

Next Tuesday afternoon at 3:30pm, parents who have questions about the Sacramental Program can meet with Father Jason and I in the school staffroom. As noted in the newsletter last term and in the Parish newsletter, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered for children turning 8 or older this year.

Thank you to our students, parents and staff for a wonderful Cross Country last Friday. Well done to all our students and a special congratulations to those who received a ribbon or pennant for their efforts!

I draw your attention to the prayer below, which can be used when praying for peace and remembering ANZAC Day.

God of love and liberty,
We bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy,
We remember those who in time of war faithfully served their country.
We pray for their families, and for ourselves whose freedom was won at such a cost.
Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation
neither learn war any more.
This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world:
Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

I hope we can all find time over the coming weekend to be thankful for the sacrifices others made so we can live in a peaceful country.

God bless,
Amy Glisson

AFL Auskick

This week, we were visited by Jadon from Auskick who demonstrated the skills and activities students can expect to encounter in the Auskick clinic, which runs over 7 weeks this term. The clinic will be held on Tuesdays at lunchtime on the school oval, starting on Tuesday 10 May. The cost is $75 per student. A registration form has been sent home today, so please visit www.aflauskick.com.au and follow the instructions on the form if you wish for your child to participate.
CROSS COUNTRY: Congratulations to the following students who have made it through to North Burnett Trials for Cross Country: Tristen Bayntun, Levi Bryant, Trader Ahern, Kody Baker, Abby Driver, Lizzie Roth, Bridie Worland, Tiffany Driver, Courtney Bryant, Holly Ahern, Jess O’Brien. The trials will be held on Friday 29 April, at the Biggenden Sports Reserve (football grounds).

P & F NEWS: Our next tuckshop is tomorrow, Thursday, 21 April. Thank you to our helpers this week: Shelley Weston, Maria McCosker, Nicole Slattery, Sarah Webster and Sonia Waldock.

SPORTS NEWS:
- Please remember all Gayndah shirts used at North Burnett Trials need to be returned to the office, washed and placed in a plastic bag with the student’s name on it. Thanks.

OFFICE NEWS:
- Term 2 school fees will be sent home today. If we have an email address for you they will be emailed, if not they will be mailed to your postal address. If you have not received anything within the next week, please let the office know.
- Issue 3 of Book Club was sent home last week. If you would like to place an order please return the form and payment to the office by next Wednesday, 27 April.
- We still have Autism Awareness merchandise available at the office.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
Last year the Archdiocese released its revised policy for celebrating the sacraments with children (which you received before the holidays). The new policy framework affects the timing and age eligibility for the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance. The policy was adjusted to allow children to have more time to grow and learn between each sacrament, rather than completing several sacraments within a short window of time. Children now complete their Confirmation from the year they turn 8, and their 1st Eucharist from the year they turn 9. An abbreviated preparation and celebration of Penance is begun while children are preparing to receive the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Penance is taught & celebrated in its fullness from the year a child turns 10.

A casual Q&A session will be held in the school staff room on Tuesday 26 April, for anyone who has questions about whether their child is ready & eligible for the sacraments, and what commitment is required to complete the program. Formal preparation will begin with an ORIENTATION SESSION on Thursday 5 May, leading to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 24 July.

If you would like to enquire about the program, or would like to register your child for the sacrament of Confirmation this year please email: gayndah@bncatholic.net.au or call: 4161 1315.
Blessings, Fr. Jason

RISING SUN TO SAPPERS SLEEP

A Tribute to Engineers Past & Present

From Rising Sun to Sappers Sleep
In memory of the Combat Engineers that have fallen in the fight against terrorism and all that have been injured.
Raising money & awareness for combat engineers for assistance in transition and wellbeing.

The Run
Running from the 2CER barracks memorial site to Jacob “Snowy’s” Moreland home town of Gayndah; approximately 323kms
Starting Monday 18th of April, and arriving in Gayndah approximately 1pm on Sunday 24th April. Just before ANZAC DAY, giving a whole week (approximately 5-6 days) to complete; averaging 40kms to 50kms a day

Our Mission
To raise money & awareness for combat engineers.
Creating a trust account for assistance in their transition, health and wellbeing.

Donate Now
Donate to our go fund me page & follow our Facebook page, “From Rising Sun to Sappers Sleep”.
https://www.gofundme.com/6daj69ac

“Never above you, Never below you, Always beside you”
SAINT MARY’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN: Saint Mary’s Catholic College will be holding an Equestrian Competition for schools on Thursday 28 April 2016. The competition will feature events related to stock work, and will therefore be called a Cowhorse Competition, with events such as team penning, working cow horse, Western bending, barrel race, whip cracking and lead and ridden stock horse. Information packs are available at the office.

CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES: Central Burnett Brumbies no games this weekend. We need lots of assistance with Canteen this weekend as the 47th Battalion Carnival is on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. I know it is a really big ask on parents but we really do need your help this weekend. So if your child plays junior rugby league then we need to see you on the weekend. Many hands do make light work and it would be VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. Need Ball boys as well so any boys that can do this please see Mrs Kenny before Thursday. Congratulations to the two Brumby boys playing this weekend Damon Bust and Liam Kenny good luck and play hard.

Training in Gayndah next Tuesday 4.30pm at the sports oval and our next lot of games will be 30 April 2016 for Under 6s, 8s, 10s and 12s are at Wondai, Under 14s in Chinchilla and Under 16s you could have a game in Chinchilla as well. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Sandra Kenny 41612116 (night time only) or contact your coaches.

GARAGE SALE: Monster garage sale—Anglican hall, corner of Capper & Meyer St Gayndah. This Saturday 23rd April. Outside selling begins at 8am. Hall doors open 8.30am. Quality collectables, jewellery, bed spreads, lots of linen, household goods, quality cookware, original artwork, clothes, lots of books, lots of quality furniture (old & modern) and much more.

TENNIS HOT SHOTS: Do you want to become a Tennis Hot Shot? Friday afternoon at the Gayndah Tennis complex, Barrow Street, is the place to be. Come and join Tennis Australia’s National program conducted by Bundaberg Tennis Academy Tennis Professional, Kevin Banner at Gayndah Tennis Association, Barrow Street, with lots of fun & games to suit all levels. The program commences this Friday 15th April, 2016. Times: 3.30pm-4.00pm (5-7 years); 4pm-4.45pm (7-10 years); 4.30-5.30pm (9-12 years); 5.15pm - 6.45pm (Advanced & High School). Registration is essential - confirmation to join the program must be given, for old and new players - to guarantee your spot, phone Kevin: 4152 0753 / 0409 520753

GAYNDAH SOCCER: Soccer Soccer Soccer in Gayndah, starting after Easter school holidays. Training Thursday 4-5pm Gayndah sports ground For all junior players 5yrs old up to high school students. Only $25 for the season Also seeking parents interested in helping with coaching For more information phone Laine Collins 0428 931 151

ANGLICARE: Getting back to basics. Interested in getting back to the basics? After doing the school drop why not drop in and enjoy a coffee and chat with other like-minded people. Wednesday 20 April and every week until 22nd June. 61 Capper St (opposite the Post Office) 10am—12pm. To register your interest or enquire for more information, please contact us on 1300 114 397.

GAYNDAH HOSPITAL AUXILIARY: Cent sale, Saturday 14th May, at Gayndah Bowls Club. Doors open 1pm for a 2pm start. $5 entry. This includes lucky door prize and afternoon tea. Raffle $1 a ticket. (Prize $50 meat voucher).