Principal’s Letter to Parents

Dear Parents, Guardians, Caregivers and Friends,

There are very few things in today’s society that you can be certain of. However, through the events of this week I can safely say that a love of reading is alive and well in our school community and my trumpet skills haven’t improved in the slightest since grade 4.

Our family reading morning this week was a wonderful celebration of the importance of enjoying reading. As a school we have been very deliberate with the emphasis we have placed on improving student reading capabilities by ensuring the teaching of reading is grounded in best practice and is consistent across the whole school. Yet unlike other areas of education, reading development can only occur when students first have a love/passion for not only participating in it as an individual but with others, be that teachers, friends and most importantly our family.

Days such as these wouldn’t be possible without the support of our parent and extended family communities. Thanks must also go to Mrs McGregor and Ms Madden for their support in setting up the morning and the lead up to the event by organising a range of activities with the students.

I shared a nice collection of hot chips with a few students last week to say thank you for the fact that they had given several of their own lunch times to assist in helping maintain our beautiful school grounds. There is something to be said for students having pride in the way their school looks and feels. It builds a sense of ownership, respect, hard work and appreciation for a place they will long remember after their days at St Joseph’s come to a close. The mateship and camaraderie seen over the past month is not all that dissimilar to that of a sporting team working together to achieve a goal.

In the same way, I will be speaking with students this week regarding the pride associated with wearing the correct school uniform. Although it becomes difficult heading into winter to ensure students are both warm and presentable, I am looking to see that as a school we are making the same efforts come the end of semester one as was the case from the outset of this year.

Please take time this week to familiarise yourself with the upcoming events of this term. Further information will be provided over the coming weeks regarding events such as parent teacher interviews, athletics carnivals and family fun day on a Sunday. In next week’s newsletter we will be nominating a date and time for parents and community members to come and assist in building the float. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of St Joseph’s school and our P & F Association, we wish Georgia all the best this Saturday when she attends her official judging events as part of the Orange Festival Queen competition, including the gala ball on Saturday night. She has done an exceptional job of representing our school community through a range of fundraising events and public appearances. If you see her out and about please join me in wishing her all the very best.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
Source of Love, 
you revealed the wonderful mystery of God 
by sending into the world 
the Word who speaks all truth 
and the Spirit who makes all things holy. 
May we mirror the love that we see in God, 
Father, Son and Spirit, 
so that we may bring harmony into our world 
in the unity of one God for ever and ever. 
Amen.

Trinity Sunday
This Sunday 31st May is Trinity Sunday. It is a day to recognise the triune God – God the Father, God the Son and The Holy Spirit. We recognise the trinity each time we make the Sign of the Cross. This Sunday is another occasion to celebrate the three persons in one.

These three parts of the Trinity are all separate personalities, and yet together they form one being: God. One good illustration of this that I came across was as follows; look at an egg, and its three separate but equal parts—yolk, white and shell. Each has its own identity and purpose, and yet all three make up something more. Take away one of the three parts, and it’s no longer an egg. As we return to Ordinary time in the Church calendar, may we take time this Sunday to ponder the wonder and awe of God – Three persons in One in the Holy Trinity.

National Reconciliation Week
Today marks the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. It is a week about building better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.

The staff and students will take time across the coming week to recognise the significant contribution that indigenous people have made in our community and our nation.

Reconciliation Prayer
Holy Father, God of Love, 
You are the Creator of this land and of all good things. 
We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the sufferings of our peoples, and we ask your forgiveness. 
We thank you for the survival of indigenous cultures. 
Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you. 
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son. 
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our nation. 
Teach us to respect all cultures. 
Teach us to care for our land and waters. 
Help us to share justly the resources of this land. 
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged. 
Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit. 
May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prepared by Wontulp-Bi-Buya, the Indigenous Theology Working Group.

National Walk Safely to School Day
Last Friday to celebrate National Walk Safely to School day the staff and students gathered at Jaycees Park for a walk to school. The students enjoyed the yellow balloons and stickers and created quite a spectacle in Capper Street on their way to school. It was a wonderful community event and the coming together of the two schools to celebrate was great. We had over 60 children join us for the walk, which was an awesome effort.
The national event, now in its 16th year, encourages children to walk and commute safely to school. It’s a community event seeking to promote road safety, public transport and the environment.
DATE CORRECTION: Our Interhouse Athletics carnival will be Friday, 19 June, and our Family Fun Day will be Sunday, 21st June. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

CROSS COUNTRY: Congratulations to Jess O’Brien and Tiffany Driver who competed at the North Burnett Cross Country Trials in Murgon yesterday. Jess came second in her race, and will now form part of the Wide Bay Team to compete at State Trials.

ORANGE FESTIVAL FLOAT: Our float plans are well underway and we need to finalise numbers of students who wish to be part of the parade. The children will be required on Saturday morning during the parade time, and will be required to wear black shirts and shorts/pants/skirts. Please let the office know if your child will be attending.

P & F NEWS:
• Date claimer—Family fun day Sunday 21st June. The P & F will provide a BBQ and drinks for the kids.
• The uniform shop welcomes donations of good quality second hand uniforms.
• Breakfast Club would love some donations of bread, juice concentrate and vegemite.

Family Reading Morning

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

Week Five:
Prep: Lawson Baker
Y1/2: Layla Roth
Y2/3: Olivia Doyle
Y4: Tristen Bayntun
Y5/6: Lani Ezzy
FITNESS CLASSES: Fitness classes that cater to all levels and abilities will commence on Thursday June 4th at 9am and run for the last 4 weeks of term at the Gayndah Sports Grounds. Activities will develop strength, endurance and general fitness in a fun and supportive environment. Cost is $40 for the 4 weeks. To register or for more information contact Bec Holden on 0417 272 816 or Kirsty Robertson on 0429 628 432.

SOCcer: Grassroots coaching course - GAYNDAH
Sunday 31st May 1030 am – 12.30pm
This course is FREE. Suitable for all interested adults and high school students
Must register online - Certificate provided on completion of course
Contact Laine 0428 931 151 after 5pm for registration details

GAYNDAH Y JOINS UP WITH CANE2CORAL:
Join up for this years Cane2Coral 4km or 8km Fun Run or Walk and you can take part in the YMCA's 10 week free fitness program being offered at the Gayndah YMCA and Mundubbera at Bicentennial Park. These sessions commence 7am this Saturday at both venues. www.cane2coral.com.au. If you would like more info contact Dael 0475 006 544

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE: Combined Anniversaries Celebrations. Calling all past students and staff.
Saturday 30 May:
1pm: Nanango races
6pm: Combined Anniversaries Mass
7-11pm: Combined Anniversaries dinner and live entertainment

Sunday 31st May:
10am - 2pm: College Open Day, memorabilia sales, classroom displays and tours
12.30pm: Official welcome, past student and staff time line and past staff and student roll call and plaque dedication.
RSVP at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RSVP_SM2015

Gayndah Orange Festival 2015
Sunday 7th June
Saturday Funday at Lions Park Gayndah

Morning activities commence at 9.30am with Orange Throwing Competition followed by Wheelie Bin Challenge (teams of 3 with minimum of 1 female) and Citrus Eating Competition. It’s a great morning of fun and all activities are free and there’s great prize money to be won. Nominations will be taken on the day, Senior, Intermediate and Junior sections in all events. Get a team together and see you there. Food and variety stalls will also be in the park from 8am.