Dear Parents and Friends

Over the past two years we have been talking of how as students and staff we can ‘Get in the Pit’. Last week I spoke with the students on assembly about what it means to be in the pit and their responses touched on the importance of sitting up nice and straight, asking questions and giving good answers when given the chance. These are all great responses in respect to how students view the expectations of behaviour and focus during classroom exercises.

However, if we are really going to hit the core of what the ‘In the Pit’ concept is all about we need to revisit what this statement truly seeks to achieve. In its purist form the intention of using this phrase in our school is to give your children a language to articulate how they are travelling in their ability to learn and develop. To be ‘In the Pit’ is to know:

- What it is that you are learning about and why.
- When you have understood the concept what that should look like.
- Who to see if you need support.
- How to articulate where you are at in your learning development.

Today I am attending a workshop that will create a framework for how the staff of St Joseph’s can encourage students to control their own learning destinies through this particular language. Much of what we are building at St Joseph’s is linked into ensuring our students have a growth mindset. A mindset that isn’t tied to what students can and can’t do but that through persistence, effort and practice can improve.

Do yourself a favour sometime this week and type into YouTube ‘growth mindset animation’. It not only has huge implications for what we are doing at school but for you as parents at home. The importance of encouraging your child to get in and give it a go and grow, all be it at whatever pace that may be for them. I’m particularly excited to see this culture continue to grow at St Joseph’s and I would welcome thoughts and feedback from parents.

To finish this week, I would like to thank all of the families and friends who helped make the working bee on Saturday a huge success. Over four pallets of turf and five tonnes of bricks were distributed around the grounds. The rejuvenated vegetable garden, classroom cleaning, new flyscreens and playground equipment looks fantastic. If you have any spare time over the passing weeks I would always welcome a helping hand to finish off the space out the front of the sports centre.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
With Lent now well underway, it is a good time to reflect on how we are travelling with our Lenten promises. Many students pledged to give something up (iPads and iPods were a popular choice) while others decided to take something on, such as extra chores around the house. Whatever you have chosen to do, this is a time to reflect on the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. This was the focus of Sunday’s Gospel reading at mass, and it is a timely reminder to us all to stay strong in the face of adversity.

I would like to thank all of the parents and children who helped out at last Saturday’s working bee. We were very successful in achieving a number of our goals, including laying turf beside the sports centre, laying the foundations for our new Senior Walk, finishing off the junior vegetable patch and giving the school a great tidy up. It is wonderful to be part of a community where people are so willing to lend a hand.

This Friday, the Year 6 students will receive their leadership shirt and badge, to be worn throughout the year. This helps staff, parents, students and visitors identify the leaders of our school, and is a constant reminder to our Year 6 students of the responsibilities of being student leaders. The Year 6s will also receive a paver engraved with their name, which will be placed in the Senior Walk later this year. This will begin a new tradition at St Joseph’s, where each class of Year 6 students will lay a paver with their name over the years to come, and gradually build up our Senior Walk. Many thanks to Laura Parr and the P&F for their generous contribution towards these pavers.

Ben and I will be completing strategic planning for the school early next week and will be offsite while this occurs. We will miss seeing the students for those few days but we are looking forward to this block of time to plan ahead for the year.

All the best for a wonderful week!

Amy Glisson
Acting APRE
School Photos—Tuesday 1st March 2016

- School photos will be held Tuesday, 1st March.
- Envelopes were sent home yesterday, please let the office know if you did not receive one.
- Formal uniform is to be worn.
- Sibling photos are not automatically taken. If you would like a sibling photo please collect a separate envelope from the office.
- Orders must be in by Monday, 29th February.
- Photos will start at 8.40am.
- Please note the instructions on the envelopes for ordering photos.
- Girls with long hair are to have it up as per our normal school dress code.

**BUS ARRANGEMENTS FORM:** A reminder that if your child will be travelling to or from school on the bus this year, please complete and return the bus arrangements form that was previously sent home.

**NEWSLETTERS:** Newsletters are issued each Wednesday, and are available by email, hard copy or via our website. You may also choose to have the newsletter emailed and also receive a hard copy. If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send an email to pgayndah@bne.catholic.edu.au and we will ensure a copy is emailed to you each week.

**SCHOOL FEES:** School fees are issued each term, and can be mailed or emailed. If you would like to have your school fee account emailed to you, please send an email to pgayndah@bne.catholic.edu.au. School fees can be paid by either cash or cheque, or we have EFTPOS facilities available in the office. You can also pay fees by either direct credit or direct debit. If you would like either our bank account details for direct credit or a direct debit form sent home, please contact the office.

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** Brekkie Club has resumed. It runs from 8.15am—8.30am on Mondays and Wednesdays. Donations are always welcome, items include: bread, milk, margarine, juice concentrate, promite, vegemite, jam and eggs.

**GET STARTED VOUCHERS:** Get Started Vouchers are part of the Qld government “Get in the Game” initiative to support sport and active recreation at the grassroots level. A maximum of $150 per voucher is available to eligible children and young people to help pay the cost of sport or recreation membership and/or participation fees. For further information about the vouchers, please contact the office, or visit www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports

**TUCKSHOP:** Thank you to our volunteers who helped out with tuckshop last week: Shelley Weston, Hayley Ahern, Jen Hitchcock, Megan MacDonald and Lisa Baker.

From left: Sienna Slattery (1/2), Jacob Smith (Y4), Phoebe Ross (Prep), Bridie Worland (5/6), Oliver Waldock (Y3), Jackson Kreis (Y4)
**ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016**

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<tr>
<th>ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016</th>
<th>CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES:</th>
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<td>Term One</td>
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<td>Wed 27 Jan—Thurs 24 March</td>
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Pupil free days to be advised.

**Diary of Coming Events**

- **Wed 24 Feb**  
  NB AFL & Softball Trials
- **Tues 1 March**  
  School Photos
- **Thurs 3 March**  
  NB Touch & Basketball Trials
- **Tues 8 March**  
  P & F Meeting
- **Fri 4 March**  
  Opening of Sports Centre
- **Fri 11 March**  
  Fish and Chips

- **MON:**  
  7:30am  
  8:30am  
  9:30am  
  10:30am

- **TUES:**  
  7:30am  
  8:30am  
  (AQUA FITNESS)

- **WED:**  
  7:30am  
  10:00am  
  (AQUA FITNESS)

- **FRIDAY:**  
  7:15am

For more information and bookings call or message Shred PT. Some afternoon sessions still available also, call and enquire now. Kirsty: 0429 628 432

**GAYNDAH SHOW SOCIETY:** It is Gayndah Showgirl competition time again. We are seeking entrants for Gayndah Miss Showgirl 2016 (18-28yrs—18yrs by 1st Aug 2016) and Gayndah Miss Junior Showgirl 2016 (10-13yrs and 14-17yrs—inclusive of that age for 2016). Please contact Stacey Duncan 0407 030 143 for entry details. Presentations are Saturday 12th March.

**GAYNDAH CORPORATE BOWLS:** Every Friday night from 26th February to 18th March 2016. To register please contact Alex Colvin 0429 898 282. Bistro opens at 5.30pm and bowls start at 6.30pm. Open to all business and social groups.

**2016 CENSUS:** Apply now to be a 2016 Census Area Supervisor! The Australian Bureau of Statistics is seeking motivated and community minded project managers to work on the 2016 Census and make a difference to your community. More information is available from the ABS website. Apply online at abs.gov.au/careers