Hi Everyone

With the start of the new school year we are faced with somewhat of a conundrum surrounding new reading resources in the school. Whilst it is fabulous to have a multitude of new books purchased for the school library, we haven’t the staffing available to call upon to have them covered so as to get them into circulation sooner rather than later. I am hoping the temptation of a delicious morning tea might be motivation enough to have a group of parents/caregivers join us after assembly for a tea/coffee and book covering morning. It would only be an hour of your time and we would gladly welcome any parents/caregivers who would like to take some books home to be covered. We have all of the resources needed (rest assured we aren’t contacting books), it’s just the helping hands that would be invaluable. The covering and morning tea will kick off from just after 9:30am.

In a continuation from last year, Catholic and Religious Institute schools across Queensland remain engaged in enterprise bargaining negotiations with staff. Numerous conditions have been negotiated, however wages and a few other considerations remain unresolved. As a result, many Catholic and Religious Institute school staff have chosen to take protected action work stoppages. Industrial action within Brisbane Catholic Education is being taken on a school by school basis and I will endeavour to keep all parents and caregivers informed of current negotiations and future considerations around the education of your child here at St Joseph’s. It will always be our intention to have school continue as per normal, barring any extenuating circumstances.

Along with other Catholic school employers, I respect the right of employees to take appropriate industrial action. In our school specifically, most staff are members of the union and will be joining their fellow educators in strike action tomorrow. It is for this reason that I have begun requesting that, where possible, students remain at home given the limited supply staff available on the day. Throughout Thursday students will still be working in their classrooms and completing tasks underpinned by the curriculum aligned to our nominated school wide practices.

I can fully appreciate that the information regarding students remaining at home is short notice and not how we would like to typically keep parents informed. Subsequent to notification from the union of the proposed action, and advice from staff of their intentions to participate, we have endeavoured to engage supply staff to work for this day. However due to limited availability of relief staff in our region, we have been unable to do this. Therefore if it is convenient, it would be appreciated if students remain at home if there are child minding services readily available. If parents would be required to take leave from a workplace or have a prior commitment, I would ask that they send students as per normal to school.

I anticipate that the negotiations won’t continue much further into the school year, but I would like to sincerely thank you in advance for your support and patience during this period. If you have any further questions or would like any further clarification, please don’t hesitate to come and see me.

Have a great week everyone and I hope to catch up with you over a cuppa on Friday.

Ben
From the Acting APRE

Last Friday, we officially welcomed the Year 6 students as the leaders of our school at our weekly assembly. The students were presented with their leadership shirts and badges to wear throughout the year, and their paver that will be placed in the Senior Walk. The students pledged to be leaders through service to the school and sang their leadership song for the first time, *All that We Were Meant to Be* (written by Mr Morris’ mother, Helen Morris). We all look forward to watching our leaders rise to the challenge throughout the year.

Each Monday morning, we begin the week with a short prayer assembly. For the past few weeks, these have focused on one of our school values that are displayed at the front of the school. So far, we have explored what it means to show hospitality and compassion, and we will continue to explore our other core values throughout the year.

The theme of compassion is particularly relevant during Lent, as this is a special time for us to evaluate our choices and behaviours towards others, in order to be better people. One of the ways we can show compassion is by contributing to Caritas’ annual Project Compassion Appeal.

Another element of compassion involves showing mercy. 2016 has been decreed the Jubilee of Mercy by Pope Francis, who, in his Bull of Indiction document *Misericordiae Vultus*, notes that Jesus embodies God’s mercy for us and refers to mercy as ‘the bridge that connects God and man’. It is by being merciful to one another that we receive God’s mercy. Saint Thomas Aquinas argued that God’s mercy is a symbol of his omnipotence.

There are countless examples of God’s mercy documented in the Bible (Jesus feeding the masses being but just one). Mercy indicates God’s action towards us, especially as shown in the logo chosen to represent the Year of Mercy (shown right). As such, this year is a call to all of us to show compassion and love to everyone around us.


Ben and I are currently completing strategic planning for 2016 and listening to key messages from Brisbane Catholic Education. We look forward to being back with the students later in the week.

God bless,

Amy Glisson
Acting APRE
**Students of the Week**

- From left: Darcy Ahern (prep), Mac Ahern (Y1/2), Abby Driver (Y4), Layla Roth (Y3), Tiffany Driver (Y5/6)
**ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Term Two</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 27 Jan—</td>
<td>Mon 11 April—</td>
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<td>Thurs 24 March</td>
<td>Fri 24 June</td>
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<th>Term Three</th>
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<td>Mon 11 July—</td>
<td>Tues 4 Oct—</td>
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<td>Fri 16 Sept</td>
<td>Fri 2 Dec</td>
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Pupil free days to be advised.

**Diary of Coming Events**

**Location:** Gayndah

**SHRED PT:**
- Personal training sessions available with Brienna. 45mins-1hr Personal or Group (Up to 3 people). Sessions now open.
- For more information and bookings call or message Shred PT. Some afternoon sessions still available also, call and enquire now. Kirsty: 0429 628 432

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

**TUES:**
- 7:30am
- 8:30am
- (AQUA FITNESS)
- 10:00am

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

**FRI:**
- 7:15am