Principal’s Letter to Parents

Hi Everyone

Firstly this week let me begin by passing on my sincere thanks to all the parents, members of the parish and representatives from the wider community who were able to join us for the opening of the new sports centre last Friday. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to say thank you to all those who supported the project from planning right through to construction. If you haven’t had the opportunity to pop your head into the sports centre this year, I encourage you to do so. I would also like to acknowledge Mr Tony Barbelet who manufactured all of the mounting brackets for the new signage in the centre, the final product is just spectacular.

Next week we will hold our Celebration of Learning Day on Tuesday the 15th of March. As we head into 2016 we have taken on board feedback from both staff and the parent community regarding this event and made a couple of adjustments to ensure we are providing the best possible opportunity for students to share their understanding with their parents and loved ones. To ensure that all parents have the chance to come into the classrooms we have made the change to move away from either a nominated morning or afternoon to opening up the rooms either side of the school day. Beginning from 8:00 am through to 8:30am and from 3:00pm to 4:30pm parents and caregivers are encouraged to come in and not only see what the students have been producing but engage with a range of activities and demonstrations of their understanding. Parents are still welcome to make arrangements with classroom teachers outside of the nominated time. When speaking with the students both myself and the classroom teachers will be encouraging them to go beyond just showing you their book work and unpack for you how lessons have come together and where they are at in the learning journey across all subject areas.

Last night at the P and F meeting it was determined by all in attendance that we would utilise the P and F levy for Term One to complete construction around the new sports centre and have a tank and water bubblers installed to support the numerous students that utilise the space on a daily basis. Students of all ages will benefit from having a second water source in that location particularly given that close to 70% of our students use the undercover area during first break. The contribution of approx. $3,500 is greatly appreciated in support of the contributions made by the school towards the centre. This project will also be another means with which to support local business and keep your contributions towards the levy in the community. Over the next month, you will see the P and F will begin outlining business arising from the past meeting whilst also nominating what points of conversation will be coming up at our next meeting. The P and F welcome any new attendees and assure everyone that when you come along you won’t be lumped with a task or responsibility, we would simply welcome your thoughts and ideas on how the committee can continue to build community.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben.
From the Acting APRE

It has been yet another busy week here at St Joseph’s. Last Wednesday, the Year 6 students and I went to Xavier College at Hervey Bay to participate in a Just Leadership day run by Caritas. The aim of the day was to inform the students about what it means to be a ‘just’ leader, and also make them more aware of the challenges faced by many people around the world. A few of the students have written a piece in this newsletter explaining what they learnt. We all enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to meet new people and learn some different things. Year 6 are presently deciding on some sort of ‘just action’ to take on, in order to make a difference in our local community. We will keep you posted about their efforts!

Next Friday, we will celebrate the patron saint of our school, St Joseph. Our morning session will consist of some special activities to commemorate St Joseph’s Day (which falls on Saturday 19th March), and at lunch time we are offering Fish and Chips. All proceeds from the Fish and Chips day will go towards Caritas, supporting the work they do to assist the many people across the world living in poverty. An example of the people Caritas is able to help is included below:

Dominic (36) lives with his wife and four children in the Jiwaka Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG), where generational poverty has led to many challenges, including inequality, alcohol abuse and violence.

Dominic admits that he too faced some of these challenges. But when Caritas Australia and local partner, the Sisters of Notre Dame, established the Community Conversations program, he saw an opportunity to create change.

“I was inspired to hear of the different issues highlighted and processes used to come up with solutions,” Dominic explains.

Through regular Community Conversations training sessions, Dominic learnt communication and problem-solving skills that helped him lead open, respectful community discussions in his village. By empowering everyone to voice concerns and play role in community decisions, Dominic’s village has achieved greater peace and increased respect, as well as reduced violence and alcohol abuse. Now, Dominic’s community has a chance to thrive and create a better future for themselves.

“When we start to realise we have power to stand independently to change ourselves, help ourselves, we feel liberated,” says Dominic. “I am most proud of the positive changes I am witnessing. I pass my big thanks and pray God will bless our supporters in Australia.”

It would be wonderful to see many people in the community supporting the work of Caritas so that they can continue helping people like Dominic. Dominic’s story can also be viewed here: http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-3-dominic

Last Friday, we had the official opening of our Sports Centre. A big thank you to all those who attended, and to the students for their wonderful behaviour and participation. A special congratulations to the students who volunteered to be part of the choir – you sang beautifully!

From this week, teachers will be released at different times to plan for Term 2. Having dedicated time allows teachers to plan meaningful and authentic learning experiences for our students, and also gives me the opportunity to talk with teachers about how the curriculum is implemented in our classrooms. We are so fortunate to have passionate, enthusiastic teachers who are committed to ensuring quality learning outcomes for our students, as well as extremely dedicated officers who support teachers in a variety of ways. Thank you to all our staff for all they contribute to the school.

There are a few upcoming events to be aware of:

- Prep and Year 5/6 Mass on Thursday 10th March at 9am – all welcome
- Year 3 visits Gunther Village on Thursday 10th March
- Year 1/2 presents on assembly on Friday 11th March at 9am
- Celebration of Learning Day Tuesday 15th March
- St Joseph’s Day celebrations and Fish and Chips for Caritas on Friday 18th March
- Holy Week presentations will be between Monday 21st and Thursday 24th March in the afternoon. Further information about times and classes will be in next week’s newsletter.

Finally, a special congratulations must go to Rosie Halt, Tom Halt and Lizzie Roth, who were all recently selected for the North Burnett Softball Team. Well done to these talented students!

God bless,

Amy Glisson
Acting APRE
**LIBRARY NEWS:** Mrs McGregor and Ms Madden would like to say a big thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who covered books for the library. Your help is very much appreciated!

**TUCKSHOP:** Thank you to this week’s tuckshop helpers, Natasha Roth, Laura Parr, Kym Baker, Rachel Chambers and Lisa Baker.

**ICAS ASSESSMENTS:** The annual ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) testing is open to students from Year 2-6. Entries forms and fees due back to school by **Friday March 18**.

**BOOKCLUB:** Please return your orders by **Wednesday 17th March**. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St Joseph’s School.

**SPORTS NEWS:**

**Softball Trials:** The following students participated in the North Burnett Softball trials—Rosie Halt, Lizzie Roth, Tiffany Driver, Wyatt Martin and Tom Halt. Lizzie, Rosie and Tom made the North Burnett Team and will now compete at the Wide Bay trials.

**Touch Football:** Courtney Bryant and Jess O’Brien both qualified for the North Burnett Team and will compete at Wide Bay trials.

**HEAD LICE:** Please note there have been cases of head lice in the school. Parents are encouraged to check their child’s hair and treat accordingly. If you would like further information on how to treat head lice please contact the office.

**CELEBRATION OF LEARNING:** Next **Tuesday, 15 March**. The morning session will be from 8am—8.30, and the afternoon session from 3pm to 4.30pm.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** Students are currently training for the Cross Country which will be held on **Friday, 15 April**. More details will be sent home closer to the date.

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**Year 6 Just Leadership Excursion**

On our Leadership Day, we learnt about justice.

Did you know that if all the people in the world who earned less than $1.25 per day joined hands it would make a circle around the world 20 times?

Did you know that if you have a bed, refrigerator, a roof over your head and a safe place to sleep, you are one of the wealthiest people in the world?

Did you know about 6 million kids each year die from easily stopped diseases like diarrhoea and colds?

We enjoyed watching the videos and constructing things like a model tippy tap, used to wash hands.

We also saw some old friends (Alex, Maddie and Tara) on our visit.

By Georgia Slack, Tiffany Driver and Shardai Chapman-Sturgess.
Central Burnett Brumbies play Nanango at Nanango on Saturday 12 March 2016. Game times are:
- Under 6s and 8s play at 9.00am
- Under 10s play at 10.00am
- Under 12s play at 11.00am
- Under 14s play at 12.00pm
- Under 16s play at 1.00pm. Bus times to go to Nanango will be on Central Burnett Brumbies facebook page.

Training next week 15 March will be in Mundubbera. Bus leaves Gayndah Sports Oval at 3.30pm. Gold coin fee for bus NO DRINKS OR FOOD ON BUS.

Players are to train in a shirt NOT YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM. Membership is due $90.00 (includes shorts and socks). If you have any queries or concerns please contact myself or Mel Bice.

Cheers
Sandra Kenny
0741612116 (night time only)
Central Burnett Brumbies

APT8 Kids on Tour: APT8 Kids on Tour will enable children to experience and explore contemporary art from Australia, Asia and the Pacific through a range of drawing, making and multimedia activities.

For children aged 8-12 years. This Sunday 13th March, 10am to 2pm. Bring lunch and a cold drink. Gayndah Arts and Cultural Centre, 34 Meson St Gayndah.

GAYNDAH AND DISTRICT NETBALL: Junior Sign On and Come and Try Days for girls aged 5-15 years and boys aged 5-12 years.

Net Set Go ages 5-10 yrs: Monday 14th March from 4pm to 5pm at the Gayndah State School Courts.

Juniors ages 11-15 yrs: Thursday 17th March from 4pm-5pm at the YMCA.

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 (10-13 yrs and 14-17 yrs—inclusive of that age for 2016). Please contact Stacey Duncan 0407 030 143 for entry details.

GAYNDAH SOCCER:
Soccer Soccer Soccer in Gayndah, starting after Easter school holidays.
Training Thursday 4-5pm Gayndah sports ground
For all junior players 5 yrs 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

WOODMILLAR BUS MEETING:
Woodmillar bus run 2016 AGM
Monday 4.20pm 14th March
St Joseph’s lunch tables
Contact 4161 2104
vanessa@bambling.com.au