Hi Everyone

As we enter into the silly season where the ‘N’ word is thrown around regularly in the press and the community, it’s worth acknowledging a couple of key aspects in relation to ‘NAPLAN’. In particular three questions come to mind; What is the significance of NAPLAN testing in our school? What impact does NAPLAN have on your child? How are our students achieving in regards to NAPLAN assessment?

**What is the significance of NAPLAN testing in our school?**

As recently as 2-3 years ago the significance placed on national standardised testing varied significantly from one school to the next, be that State, Catholic or Independent educational facilities. The standpoint for St Joseph’s Primary and Brisbane Catholic Education is that the testing that is being completed over the next three days is a valuable snap shot for teaching staff to be able to make guided judgements in the future direction of classroom practices. Essentially, it provides another form of assessment (on top of what we currently conduct) that highlights for teachers areas that their students require support/extension with in order to achieve or exceed year level standards (In the past this hasn’t been possible as the marking of the tests wasn’t completed until much later in the year). The testing also allows us to track student development throughout the school and student capabilities coming into year 3. By using NAPLAN in such a way we can make more informed decisions regarding our whole school practices and teacher professional development.

**What impact does NAPLAN have on my child?**

Over the past three years we have focused on implementing effective school wide practices in both reading and numeracy. In particular, these two areas have seen a significant growth in student understanding (See graph below). However in 2013 and 2014 it was noted that our students weren’t achieving the same standards in their writing. As a staff we have been working to develop school wide practices that will better identify areas of development and work together to build consistency in our classroom practices and support processes. Some of the very practical aspects of this review and adjustment include; a school wide genre map (all students working on the same genre at the same time of year but at varying levels of depth and expectations), greater emphasis on the spelling of high frequency words, greater rigor on students ability to proof their writing and more clarity for staff in how to support students across the key components of student writing eg idea creation, punctuation and grammar.

**How are our students achieving in NAPLAN?**

Primary education is a journey of growth and development. Our ultimate goal for your children is to ensure we are supporting them in the best possible way to achieve their full potential. Having said that, the data coming out of NAPLAN testing that I look closest at is the ‘growth’ that students are making. I have placed some screen shots below that highlight just how well our students are developing off the back of excellent learning and teaching. I have included shots that highlight how our students are developing in relation to schools similar to our size to make their achievements relative regardless of our rural community context (we were above the line also when compared to the state and nation). I genuinely appreciate the way in which our staff aren’t driven by the test but use their quality teaching pedagogy to prepare and support the students through this snap shot of growth and understanding.

It should be noted that in more recent times the federal government has begun taking measures to link funding support given to all schooling/educational buddies based on the results achieved through such standardised tests as NAPLAN. Unfortunately this will result in greater significance being placed on results and as such, even greater scrutiny in the public eye.

As with all things related to school, I encourage you to speak with your classroom teacher or myself as we would be all too happy to answer any questions or discuss ways you can support your child’s education in relation to NAPLAN or any other assessment tools currently being utilised.

Have a great week everyone.

Ben
On Sunday, as well as celebrating the wonderful mothers in our lives, the Church also celebrated the Feast of the Ascension. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he ascended body and soul into heaven. This was witnessed by his disciples and was the final act of Christ’s redemption for us that He began by dying on the cross for our sins. In the days between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday (which is celebrated the Sunday after the Ascension), people traditionally pray to receive the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, just as the disciples received the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Jesus’ death.

This coming Sunday, therefore, the Church will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. In our community, this Sunday’s Mass will be a special time to not only remember the disciples who received the Holy Spirit, but also to acknowledge those children who will be completing the Sacrament of Confirmation later in the year. The Sacrament of Confirmation is when a candidate receives the Holy Spirit and confirms their baptismal promises, and this Sunday we will recognise the commitment that the Confirmation candidates are making in their preparation for this sacrament. We wish these students all the best as they begin this journey. All are welcome to join us on Sunday at 9am in the Church for this special occasion.

Last Friday, we were visited by Brett Otto from the Melanoma Awareness Foundation, who was part of the group of walkers completing a trek from Gladstone to Kingaroy to raise awareness and money for melanoma research. Brett reminded us all of the importance of being sun safe, and having regular skin checks. We wish the walkers all the best as they continue on their journey!

On Tuesday, Auskick began at lunchtime for our students. If you are interested in registering your child and haven’t yet done so, see the office for a form and further information. Thanks to Jadon and the Auskick team for providing this opportunity for our students.

Next Friday 20 May is National Walk Safely to School Day. All students and parents are invited to meet us at Jaycee’s Park (opposite the Museum) at 8:15am next Friday and we will walk to school together.

Finally, well done to our Year 3 and 5 students who sat their NAPLAN tests this week. The students worked well and tried their best in all the tasks, which was wonderful to see.

God bless,
Amy Glisson
Acting APRE
P & F NEWS:
- Our next Tuckshop day is Thursday May 19th. Please return orders with payment by Monday 16th May.
- We had a productive P & F meeting last night. It was great to see new faces and your input is always valued.

Each Term the P & F will discuss and decide on an area or project to support within our school. Last night it was agreed that the P & F would sponsor The Arts and Literacy for Term 2. To support this, Artist Sue Capewell has been working with the students during art lessons, who’ve been producing some fantastic pieces—well done! Local author Kathryn Apel will visit and workshop with the students in Week 7. Kathryn has visited our school before and her visits are always popular with the students.

SPORTS NEWS:
- Congratulations to the following students who have qualified to compete at the Wide Bay Cross Country Trials: Tristen Bayntun, Jess O’Brien, Tiffany Driver and Abby Driver.

LIBRARY NEWS: READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Book Fair is coming and we are all very excited! The theme for this year is: “Monster Book Fair – Reading Is So Much Fun, You’ll get Goosebumps.”

When: Tuesday the 10th to Wednesday the 18th of May.
(Please note the change of dates as we have moved it forward a week as the books arrived early.)
The books will be packed up and sent back on the afternoon of the 18th.

Times: There will be no sales on Mondays.

Sale times are as follows:
- Tuesday the 10th: 8.00am to 4.00pm
- Wednesday 11th: 8.00am to 4.00pm
- Thursday 12th, and Friday the 13th: 8.00 am to 3.15 pm to 4.00pm (I will be working with Yr 4 during the day)
- Tuesday the 17th: 8.00am to 4.00pm
- Wednesday 18th: 8.00 am to 2.00pm

If you are unable to attend during these times please feel free to:
- either call the Office or contact Karen or myself to make an alternative time OR
- send cash and book order Wish List with your child OR
- you may also contact Scholastic directly to place an order.

Competitions and Prizes: Once again there will be some great competitions where your children have the opportunity to win Book prizes. There will be the:
- Lucky Door Prize for everyone who makes a purchase at the Book Fair
- “Create Your Own Monster” art piece (One Winner per Class)
- Guessing Game: How Many Eyeballs in the Jar?

Family Reading Morning: Tuesday 31st of May. Students are welcome to dress up as monsters, so start planning your costume! NB: Dressing up is entirely voluntary and you will need to get back into your school uniform at the conclusion of the Reading Morning.

Also Kathryn Apel the author will be visiting in Week 7.

Have a great day and happy reading!
Kind Regards,
Suze McGregor

In just 2 days, Bookfair has had over $1200 in sales! Awesome work! Remember every sale helps support our Library!

Students of the Week

Week 4
Yr 3 Indianna Hitchcock, Yr 4 Eli Roberts, Yr 1/2 Kendra MacDonald, Yr 5/6 Joe Formica, Prep Jimmy Baker
**Diary of Coming Events**

**ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016**

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<td>Tues 12 April—</td>
<td>Mon 11 July—</td>
<td>Tues 4 Oct—</td>
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<td>Thurs 24 March</td>
<td>Fri 24 June</td>
<td>Fri 16 Sept</td>
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Pupil free days to be advised.

**CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES:**
Central Burnett Brumbies play Nanango this weekend 14 May 2016 in Gayndah the times are as follows:-

- Under 6s and 8s play at 10.00am
- Under 10s play at 11.00am
- Under 12s play at 12.00pm
- Under 14s play at 1.00pm
- Under 16s play at 2.00pm

Helpers will be required this weekend in the canteen, setting up and packing up. It is really appreciated when everyone can help in some way.

Training in Mundubbera next Tuesday 17 May. Bus leaving Gayndah Sports Oval at 3.30pm gold coin.

**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

**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).

**2016 CENSUS FIELD OFFICERS:**
Up to 38,000 opportunities to make a difference…
We’re seeking up to 38,000 Census Field Officers to join our team and play a role in shaping the future of Australia.
Census Field Officers:
- Are casual positions, with flexible working hours
- Earn $21.61 per hour (inclusive of 25% loading)
- Will be responsible for making contact with households to make sure everyone can complete the Census.

Apply now at abs.gov.au/careers

**Do you feel drawn to discover more about the life of Jesus? Ever wanted to learn more about the Catholic faith? Have you wondered how the Church began and what it stands for?**

**EPISODE ONE:** “Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man”
The strange and dangerous words of Jesus of Nazareth set up a drama that will culminate in a surprising battle between two kings, and in the wake of this conflict, an empire will be defeated – and the world will be changed.

Bishop Robert Barron illuminates and explains the conviction of the Catholic Faith that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, and the revelation of God become man. He shows how Jesus fulfills the four tasks of the Messiah, according to the Old and New Testaments, and how the living legacy of Christ, God and Messiah, is proclaimed by the Church. Join Bishop Barron as he addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus Christ and travels through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the eternal city of Rome.

WHERE: Gayndah Arts and Cultural Centre conference room (upstairs).

HOW LONG: 10—11:30
An hour of documentary content interspersed with small group discussions. **Plus time for morning tea.**

WHEN: May 14th, June 4th & June 19th

CONTACT: gayndah@bne.catholic.net.au or 4161 1315