Hi Everyone

In light of the most recent NAPLAN results being sent home, I thought it timely this week to discuss some of the learnings coming out of the assessment.

**Growth, growth, growth**

The trend over the past two years has been that our students display considerable growth between years 3 – 5 in the areas of reading and numeracy. Specifically, students over that two year period demonstrated significantly higher growth than community, state and national standards. The results this year indicate this growth in those two particular areas once again. With such quality improvement over the past number of years, it would be excusable to think that we could move on from those areas as a school. However, in consultation with our staff and outside specialists, it was determined that some adjustments can be made within the early years to further support students, even prior to entering year three, to be working to their full capacity. In particular, we are working to develop effective teacher lead small group reading practices for every child on multiple occasions throughout the week. In doing so, we can ensure every child is receiving the specific reading guidance he or she requires. I will continue to keep our parent community informed and aware as the practice becomes more imbedded and refined.

**Early days but good signs**

Earlier in the year I shared with you that the development of our whole school writing practices would be a key focus area in 2016. Whilst there is considerable development still to be made, the results of hard work from all staff are beginning to show already. Our writing levels are up on previous years results and student understanding in such genres as poetry, information texts and narratives is very impressive. As the year progresses, greater development will be achieved by our students and we will have taken significant steps to refine our whole school practices.

**Support of every child, regardless of result**

In my letter to each student who completed the NAPLAN assessment I stressed the significance that this assessment is only a snap shot of their knowledge, understanding, skills and talents. There is much more to each and every one of the students at St Joseph’s than the results of one assessment. The students themselves, their enthusiasm for learning, happiness and love of school are of greater interest to me, because in my mind if students don’t want to be here, they won’t want to learn. It is the action that will follow for us as a school that will set them up for success now and into the future.

Following the results of NAPLAN like all assessment, St Joseph’s actively works to ensure that we are supporting all students and I encourage you (parents of all grades) to take time this term to speak with the classroom teacher, so as to see for yourself just how hard our staff are working to tailor learning opportunities to your child’s needs. I would be very keen to share with parents the new learning support practices implemented this term, which focus particularly on supporting students with any difficulties and extending students who are capable of exceeding year level benchmarks.

Have a great week everyone and congratulations to our Equestrian Team who took out best overall team at the South Burnett Equestrian Event last week!

Cheers

Ben
I was excited to come back to school this week and be able to share more about the pilgrimage experience at World Youth Day with the students. Over the coming weeks, I will share some snippets of my journey in the newsletter. It certainly was a most rewarding experience and I encourage anyone who is keen to experience the Catholic faith in a new and invigorating way to consider attending the next World Youth Day event, which will be held in Panama in 2019.

For me, the World Youth Day experience provided a much broader sense of the Catholic faith and the many ways we can connect with God in our daily lives. Simple actions such as showing kindness to strangers, welcoming others into your life and looking out for those in need all offer an opportunity to be a living disciple and forge a connection with God. At one of the WYD gatherings, a young man from Sydney spoke about his faith and made the valuable insight that it is in showing mercy to others that we discover God, and in this way, we can be the face of mercy to those around us.

World Youth Day also allowed me to see how people from all over the world live their faith in different ways. Seeing others who are so passionate about their faith was truly enlightening. Nothing can quite describe the experience of being at an outdoor candlelight vigil with 2.6 million other Catholics from all over the world, and not hearing a sound apart from the music and prayer.

I’ve included some photos this week that try to capture the magnitude of the events I attended. I am very grateful to have been able to participate in this experience and truly appreciate the support and encouragement I received from Brisbane Catholic Education and Ben. Thank you also to you all for your prayers and kind thoughts while I was away – it was wonderful to know I had people at home thinking of me and wishing me well. A testament to the beautiful energy of all the World Youth Day celebrations was the fact that there were no acts of violence or threats, and everybody was able to return home safely.

Special thanks must go to Bec O’Connor for the stellar job she did while I was away. If you haven’t yet seen the amazing video she put together for Catholic Education Week, make sure you check it out on the School P&F Facebook page.

This week at school, we have the Year 1/2 Class Mass on Thursday at 9am. On Friday, we will have a special assembly to farewell Mrs Sue Baker, who has retired from teaching. There will also be a lunch on the Year 5/6 deck at 12:30pm this Sunday to say goodbye and thank you to Sue, so please RSVP to the office if you are able to attend.

The Pre-Prep Program will also continue on Tuesday morning next week, and our students who are enrolled in the ICAS Maths will sit this test during the day on Tuesday. We have enjoyed having our Pre-Prep visitors for the last two weeks and look forward to seeing them come back to learn more about our wonderful school.

I leave you this week with a quote from World Youth Day that struck a chord with me. This particular saying was from St Clare of Assisi, whose feast day falls on Thursday 11 August:

“We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become.”

Let us all take time to think about what we love and how that is influencing the people we turn into.

God bless,
Amy Glisson
TOY ORDER CATALOGUES: Stock up for Christmas! Last orders due 1st week back in Term 4 to allow order processing and delivery for Christmas. Remember, our school receives 20% commission from all orders received.

P & F NEWS:
• Sports uniforms are currently discounted. Limited sizes available.
• Thank you to this week’s tuckshop helpers: Sarah Webster, Kylee Ross, Ros O’Brien, Jody Doyle, Amy Ezzy.

SPORTS NEWS:
• North Burnett Cricket Trials will be next Tuesday, 16th August.
• Congratulations to all students who competed at last week’s North Burnett Athletics carnival. Well done to Tristen Bayntun, Bridie Worland and Abby Driver who have all qualified for Wide Bay Trials.

BOOKCLUB: Issue 6 of Bookclub will be sent home today. If you would like to place an order, please return the order form and payment to the school office by Wednesday, 24th August.

PHOTOS: Do you have a great photo that you’ve taken at one of our school events? We are currently collating photos for our school magazine and next year’s calendar. If you have a photo that you think would be good for the magazine or calendar please feel free to email it to pgayndah@bne.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 Week 4
Prep: Jimmy Baker
Y1/2: Asher Bryant
Y3: Indianna Hitchcock
Y4: Trader Ahern
Y5/6: Courtney Bryant & Joe Formica
ACTING WORKSHOPS—GAYNDAH with Amie Gilholme
Theatre Skills, Building Characters, Resilience and Delivering your Best You!
Gayndah Arts Centre (upstairs) FREE (sponsored by UCC)
DAY 1—Ages 12-22 Sat 13th AUG—12pm-4pm
DAY 2—Ages 7-11 Sun 14th AUG—12pm-4pm
Bookings/Info: Rachel 0427551973
Amie is also offering an Intensive Master Class for keen actors 4:30pm-6:30pm, 13 August - Cost $25. Limited places available, phone for info, pay on attendance

MICAH’S CAR DETAILING: is back in Gayndah on 22 and 23 August.
$35 for exterior clean
$60 for interior and exterior clean
Phone 0415315678 to book in and to ask about other services available! Get in quickly as spots usually fill up!

GAYNDAH MINDFULNESS & POSITIVITY SESSIONS:
Fri 19 & Fri 26 Aug, Fri 9 September
1pm-2pm—Gayndah Arts Centre (downstairs)
Bookings/enquiries: Rachel 0427551973

GAYNDAH JUNIOR TOUCH: Every Wednesday from 4pm—5pm. Fees this year will be $30. Contact Leisa 0402 869 032 or Maria 0400 844 681.

ANGLICARE: A group aimed at meeting every day people with every day needs. Come and learn how to deal with self-esteem, assertiveness, communication skills and much more. Group meets at 61 Capper St, (opposite the Post Office) and will run from 10am to 12pm every Wednesday during the school terms. If you have any queries feel free to contact Gail on 0439 783 699.

GAYNDAH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE: Did you know that the Function Room of the Gayndah Arts & Cultural Centre is available to hire for meetings, conferences or private functions? The room has seating for up to 80, full kitchen facilities and audio visual equipment. Very reasonable rates. Contact St Joseph’s School on 4161 1889 for more information.

ST. JOSEPH’S PARISH FETE: Preparations are underway for the 2016 St. Joseph’s Parish Fete. A craft stall will be the newest addition this year featuring fabric necklaces, decorative plant pots and other beautiful gift ideas. If you would like to come along and help call Bec Holden on 0417272816. We are hoping to gather after assembly on Friday mornings just for an hour up until early next term.