Hi Everyone

This week I want to take a moment to bring you up to speed on the future directions of Brisbane Catholic Education as a system. Earlier this year, BCE released their strategic framework for 2017-2020 which brings together the systemic values, vision, mission and nominated priorities to create a document that will underpin Catholic Education within the Brisbane Diocese. I have included a copy within your newsletter today. To make aspects a little clearer I have broken each of the key areas down below.

Whilst the vision and mission have stayed essentially the same, two aspects important to note is the introduction of ‘performance’ sitting alongside the values of excellence, integrity, justice and hope. The consideration for performance is directly related to the way in which Brisbane Catholic Education, like all other educational facilities are held accountable for the performance and growth of students and how government money is being spent to support this growth. This approach, will long term see more consistent practices between BCE schools, greater transparency of student achievement and nominated goal setting within schools relating to the needs of their students. Whilst this won’t see any adjustment for St Joseph’s Primary in how we operate, it is very encouraging to see that we will be able to work closely with other schools in the years to come.

Currently Brisbane Catholic Education has four (4) priorities that drive school reflection and renewal. From next year, there will only be three: Strong Catholic Identity, Excellent Learning and Teaching and Building a Sustainable Future. Each of these priorities has an aspiration or goal for the system which is then broken down into a series of strategies to help refine specific details relating to the running of our school communities. It is our intention as a school community that we will continue to keep parents actively involved in all decision making processes, and look to offer regular opportunities to provide feedback and direction for the future, using each of these priorities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this document further, please don’t hesitate to contact me through the office or catch me in and around the grounds.

Included with today’s newsletter will be:
- St Joseph’s Parish Fete major raffle tickets (please see the office for extra ticket books)
- Fete Unlimited rides ticket notes for family and friends
- St. Joseph’s Gayndah Strategic Plan 2017-2020
- Australian Catholics magazine

Have a wonderful week everyone.
Sincerely
Ben
It seems hard to believe that our year is rapidly drawing to a close and with it, the Year of Mercy being celebrated in the Catholic Church. As we head into the season of Advent, a new year in the Church begins and our focus will turn to preparing for Christ’s birth in December. Now is a great opportunity to reflect on our actions throughout this Year of Mercy, and to decide what we can do to finish this time. Pope Francis states, “Mercy is the divine attitude which embraces, it is God’s giving himself to us, accepting us, and vowing to forgive.” What can we do to express our gratitude for this gift from God? Showing mercy to those around us is surely a positive way to start, and it costs nothing to do this. As Pope Francis says, “We are called to serve Christ the Crucified through every marginalised person. We touch the flesh of Christ in he who is outcast, hungry, thirsty, naked, imprisoned, ill, unemployed, persecuted, in search of refuge. This is where we find our God, that is where we touch the Lord.” My question for each of us this week is: How can we show mercy to those in our lives who are less fortunate?

Thank you to all those who were able to celebrate Grandparents’ Day with us last Friday. Prep did a beautiful job of leading us in prayer, and an enjoyable morning was had by all. Be sure to check out the video dedicated to our grandparents. This was made by the talented Mrs Lorna Doyle and the Film Club, and can be found on our P&F Facebook page.

We have a number of important upcoming events. This Thursday, Year 4 will celebrate Mass at 9am, and on Friday, Year 3 will lead us in prayer to celebrate World Teacher’s Day. World Teacher’s Day is a time to thank our teachers for all they do for our students. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and passionate teaching staff at St Joseph’s, and I thank each of our teachers for all they do. Included below is a short poem which sums up some of the wonderful things about our teachers.

Next week, we begin swimming for all our classes. Students need to come to school with their togs underneath their uniform, and will be transported by bus to the pool to have their lesson before returning to school. Thank you to the parents who have already offered to assist us with supervision. Please let us know if you are able to help in any way.

On Tuesday next week, as well as celebrating Melbourne Cup Day, it is also All Saints Day in the Catholic Church. This is a day to remember all the saints of the Church, which is all those who have attained heaven. The following day is All Souls Day, which is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. These days are a good opportunity to remember those who have died in prayer, or to pray with icons of particular saints that may be of interest to you.

God bless,
Amy.
P & F NEWS:
- Sports uniforms are still discounted. Limited sizes available only.
- A huge Thank You to our tuckshop helpers for Term 4 so far: Lisa Baker, Maria McCosker, Nicole Slattery, Sonia Waldock, Jen Hitchcock, Sarah Webster, Amy Ezzy, Hayley Ahern, Ros O’Brien, Kim Kirk and Jody Doyle.

LIBRARY NEWS:
- Bookfair finishes today! Our “Buy One Get One Free” bookfair was again very popular. This bookfair is always a good chance to stock up for Christmas or just to grab a few bargains!
- Reminder: If you haven’t had a chance already, please check for overdue library books and class readers before the end of term!
ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016

Term One
Wed 27 Jan—Thurs 24 March

Term Two
Tues 12 April—Fri 24 June

Term Three
Mon 11 July—Fri 16 Sept

Term Four
Tues 4 Oct—Fri 2 Dec

Public Holiday - Mon 3 October
Pupil Free day - Mon 17th October

Community Notices

GAYNDAH LITTLE ATHLETICS: Every Friday night, 5.30pm at the Gayndah Sports Ground.

GAYNDAH STATE SCHOOL P & C: Family Fun Softball Day.
When: Saturday 29th October 10am.
Where: Peter Dunn Sports Oval
About: Games will be based on the Social 7s rules where games are quick (approx. 1hr) and high scoring due to runs for each base.
Teams of 7: Each team must include 2 children (12 or under) and 2 females. $10 per player.
Canteen and bar available.
Enquires or to register a team: Paula Wilkinson 0429 408 001 or School Office: 41603 333.

GLENEDEN ORGANIC FARM: Last meat orders from Gleneden Organic Farm. Beef, pork, lamb, mutton, ham, bacon. All cuts, sausages and mince. Christmas hams. Individual cuts, boxed packs, sides and quarters. Delivery Friday 28th of October. Email: morrises@glenedenorganicfarm.comm.au for details.

SHRED PT: Together with Dave Holleran Fitness:
ULTIMATE FITNESS CHALLENGE CLASS
Join us in testing your personal limits in a safe environment. This will be a timed event, to see who is the fittest person in the North Burnett Area.
Money raised will be donated back to the community—St Joseph’s Catholic School.
Date: 20th November 2016
Start: 7am
Venue: Gayndah Sports Ground
Entry Fee: $15
Format: (this is an indication only and format could change)
1. 1.2Km Run/Walk
2. Crossfit Challenge—(to be completed 3 times) - 20 x push ups, 20 x sit ups, 10 x burpees 100 x step ups
3. 1.2km run/walk
4. Obstacle Course—(may include: tyre drag, crawling etc)
5. 2.4 km run/walk
Entry fee needs to be paid by the 17th November. Please contact Kirsty Robertson for details, 0429 628 432.