Hi Everyone

It’s a little hard to believe that another Awards Night has come and gone already. Thank you very much to our parent community for your attendance last night. It was a beautiful evening to be outside in the grounds and the students did an amazing job. I extend my thanks to our staff for their support in preparing and coordinating the evening and hope that the presentations, performances and speeches culminated in an enjoyable evening.

Our attention now moves to the Parish Fete which is set to be an absolute cracker! As part of the newsletter this week I have put down a list of stalls that can always use extra helpers for any period of time over the night. Thank you to any members of our community who have been enlisted to help already. On the flyer attached you will see a list of stalls, preparation tasks or cleaning up opportunities. Please feel free to nominate a particular time that would suit you and or your family. Having multiple assistants on each stall ensures that no one person is locked into helping in one area all night. Every little bit of support helps but please don’t feel obligated or over committed in this very busy time of year.

Have a great week everyone, thank you for last night and I look forward to seeing you Friday.

Ben
We are now entering that very busy time where the end of the year is near, but there is a lot happening before then! Strap yourselves in and enjoy the last week and a half before the break.

Last week, the Year 4 students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at camp. They loved the variety of activities, although the clear favourite in the group was the Giant Swing. The students reported that the food was wonderful, and the teachers reported that the children slept pretty well! A big thank you goes to Mrs McGregor and Miss Lancaster for accompanying the students and helping to organise the camp, and also to Mr Roth for helping as a parent volunteer and Mr Harris for driving and helping at camp too. Thanks to Mrs Bernie for her help in preparing for camp.

On Saturday, students from the graduating class of 2015 and 2016 laid their pavers in the new Senior Walk behind the Sports Centre. It was wonderful having families and past students there to celebrate the occasion with our current Year 6s. Make sure you have a look at the path when you’re in that area!

On Tuesday evening, we held our annual Awards Night. Congratulations to all the students who were presented with an awards, and to all our students who have worked so hard this year. Thank you to our dedicated staff who helped prepare the students for their Christmas carol performances as well. The students sang beautifully and the night was very enjoyable.

This Friday, we are very much looking forward to our annual Parish Fete. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help in various ways. If you are able to assist in any way, even for an hour or so, please contact Mrs Holden, Mrs Gray or myself. Stalls will open from 5:30pm and student dance performances will start from 6pm. We have all the old favourite stalls, such as the ham wheel, major raffle and BBQ, along with some new additions such as a photobooth, clothes stall and craft stall. It should be a great night for all ages!

On Sunday, the season of Advent begins in the Church. This is a time for preparation and deliberation in the lead up to the celebration of Christ’s birth on Christmas day. You may see candles being lit on the Advent wreath at Mass in the weeks leading up to Christmas, which signify our longing for Christ’s light in our lives. During this Advent season, perhaps take some time out of the busy-ness of it all to pray and remember why we celebrate Christmas.

This Sunday is also Father Jason’s final mass with our community, and following this, we will celebrate a BBQ lunch to farewell him. Please let the office know if you are able to attend this event, and how many people you will be bringing. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Father Jason for all he has done for both our Parish and School community in his time here, and for his support and encouragement this year. Having a Parish Priest who is so enthusiastic and connected to the children is often a rarity, and we are truly blessed to have had his vibrant presence in our community. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with him and will miss his sense of humour and child-friendly homilies immensely. I wish him all the best for the future and hope our paths cross again soon.

Next week, we will have a number of events to celebrate the end of year, including:

**Monday 28 November 10:30am** – Thank you morning tea at the Big Orange. All parents and family members who have helped out at school in some way this year are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the office by Friday.

**Tuesday 29 November** – student concert at Gunther Village for the residents

**Tuesday 29 November 6pm** – Year 6 Graduation Mass, followed by dinner for the Year 6 students and their parents

**Wednesday 30 November** – Fun swim at the pool. Students will be provided with a sausage sizzle and a popper, in exchange for a gold coin donation.

**Friday 2 December** – Final liturgy at 11am to farewell our Year 6 students and staff who are leaving us. **Don’t forget that school will conclude at 12noon on this day.**

Enjoy all the busy-ness and celebrations in the lead up to next Friday!

God bless,
OFFICE NEWS:  It would be appreciated if any outstanding school fee accounts could be settled by the end of next week. Thank you.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
- Friday 25 November—St Joseph’s Parish Fete
- Tuesday 29 November—Year Six Graduation Mass & Dinner
- Friday 2 December—School finishes at 12pm, last day of school for 2016.

LIBRARY NEWS—READ ALL ABOUT IT!: Well, the year is rapidly coming to a close and it is hard to believe how quickly it has disappeared! As you would be aware, library lessons have concluded for the year and we are asking that all books be returned for an end-of-year stocktake and re-arrangement of the library.

Overdue Notices were sent home today so please have a search for any library books or classroom readers and return them to school as soon as possible. If you are unable to locate a book please let us know at smcgregor@bne.catholic.edu.au or send a message via the office.

Attached to the Newsletter today is Part 3 of information published by Scholastic. (Parts 1 and 2 were sent home a few weeks ago...apologies for the delay) This information is titled: “What Kids Want in Books” and contains some brief but interesting information.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all families how important it is for our children to keep reading over the holidays, as neglecting to do so will see them losing much of the skills they have learned throughout the year if they do not continue to practise their reading skills. Our sincere apologies that children are unable to borrow from the library over this holiday break due to the stocktake and library re-arranging. However, if your child would like to keep a record of books they have read over the break—from home, or borrowed from friends or the local library—we will recognise their effort on assembly early in the new school year.

We wish you a very safe, happy and Holy Christmas and holiday break. See you in the New Year!
Kind regards, Karen Madden & Suze McGregor.
GAYNDAH LITTLE ATHLETICS: Every Friday night, 5.30pm at the Gayndah Sports Ground.

GAYNDAH ART GALLERY: Gayndah Art Gallery invites children to make Christmas Decorations for our Christmas tree in Gallery (supplied by Rachel Koster). Drop them in when completed. Decorations will be donated to Gunther Retirement Village when we close for the Christmas break 17th December.

CENTRAL BURNETT BRUMBIES: Brumbies are having a meeting Tuesday, 29th November at the Gayndah Sports Oval at 6pm. We need a secretary for the club to continue. Expressions of interest for the positions of coaches are required in writing. Address is Gayndah Junior Rugby League, PO Box 21, Gayndah. We would love to hear from you all.

GAYNDAH GOLF CLUB: Trivia Night, fundraiser for the Clubhouse kitchen. Friday 9th December, at the Gayndah Golf Club. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. $5 per person, 6 people per team. Lucky door & multi draw raffle prizes, prizes for best dressed, supper and bar available.

TOUCH FOOTBALL: Play touch 2017 Training camps coming. Kingaroy - Sat 7th Jan Gayndah - Sun 8th Jan Childers -Tues 10th Jan Hervey Bay -Wed 11th Jan Games, Skills and Drills at your local club.

EZCOVERS: School book covers. Browse & buy at www.ezcovers.com. Choose your school from the drop down list and use the code EZ15 to increase the donation from 5cents to 15 cents for every cover purchased.