Dear Parents and Friends

This week our school was involved in a process of reflection using the National School Improvement Tool – a framework highlighting best practice for teaching and learning based on current research. We were visited by Mrs Carmel Ryan, an independent consultant from outside of our Diocese, and Mrs Kaye Beston, principal of St Joseph’s Catholic School in Bundaberg. The team met with teachers, support staff, a variety of parents and students as they assessed our current practices and assisted us to develop goals for ongoing development to support teaching and learning at St Joseph’s and to support improved student outcomes.

We have implemented many changes this year, particularly around our whole school vision which informs all decisions around how we carry out our core business of educating our students. We look forward to sharing our Action Plan next year which will be formulated from the recommendations included in the report and will articulate our School Improvement Agenda, highlighting areas for growth in future years. There was much to celebrate about our school and what we do here, and below are some specific commendations and affirmations included in the report delivered to staff:

- St Joseph’s is a very welcoming school in which staff, students and parents express a strong sense of belonging and pride. Students and parents speak highly of the Principal, leadership team and their teachers who are providing for both their welfare and learning needs.

- The agenda for renewal and change has been significant over the past year. The Principal and leadership team have been very consultative in their quest for an invigorated workplace and staff members are to be congratulated for the way they have embraced the practices and procedures and the need for personal and professional change.

- There has been a large investment in the introduction of the Visible Learning Framework. This is beginning to enhance deliberate pedagogical practices by teachers, providing a clear direction for future improvement.

- St Joseph’s is to be congratulated for the initiative in providing regular and varied approaches to communication that keeps the families informed, in touch and connected. The recent development of the school’s website provides an avenue for dissemination of material and information to current and prospective families. eNewsletter, Facebook, Schoolstream App, ClassDojo, email, SMS were mentioned by parents as excellent means of keeping abreast of school related issues.

- The formulation of the Curriculum Framework document which outlines the school’s mission, vision and values, together with the whole school strategies to achieve that vision, will provide a solid platform for the school’s journey of continuing school improvement.

- A whole school leadership and capacity building program is the aspirational vision of the Principal and the leadership team, where the expertise of graduate teachers, support staff, classroom teachers, and administrators can all play a part in the development and delivery of quality learning in the school.

- The adoption of a Responsible Behaviour Policy based on the philosophy of Restorative Practices is contributing to a positive learning environment that is safe, respectful and inclusive. The values of Excellence, Respect, Justice, Service and Compassion being “lived” in the school contribute to its happy, optimistic feel.
• The reintroduction of music, choir and The Arts focus is valued and appreciated by parents and students and is generating renewed excitement and sense of community anticipation and involvement.

• The Action Research Project with the implementation of 1-1 devices has the potential to create a digitally rich ICT teaching and learning environment. This is a clear, explicit element of the school’s improvement agenda.

VOLUNTEERS’ AFTERNOON TEA
Last week invitations were distributed to all families for our Volunteers’ Afternoon Tea, to be held on Friday 27 November in the library from 1.30pm. We appreciate all that our families contribute to assist us in many areas of our school, and we look forward to acknowledge and celebrate this next week. RSVPs are due this coming Monday 23 November to the office by returning the slip or phone 4957 3355.

CAROLS AND ARTS NIGHT
Our end of year Arts display and Carols Night will be held next Wednesday 25 November from 5pm, with our first performance from 6pm. We look forward to a great night together, celebrating the 2016 school year.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS 2016
We are in the process of finalising class placements for 2016. If your child will not be attending St Joseph’s in 2016, can you please contact the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Bianca Hodges
Principal

NOVEMBER
25 Jump Rope For Heart Jump Off
25 Carols Night 5.00pm – 7.30pm
27 Final Whole School Mass 12noon
27 Volunteers Luncheon 1.30pm in the Hall
30 Pizza Day

DECEMBER
1 Graduation Mass, 6pm – 7pm
Graduation Supper, From 7pm
2 Year 6 Fun Day
3 Report Cards Issued
4 End of Year Liturgy 9.30am – 10.30am
Farewell Assembly 11.00am

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2016 SCHOOL YEAR.
SCHOOL WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016

SPORTING TEAM BREAK UP
On Tuesday 24th November, students that represented the school in hockey, netball, football and touch football will be having a break up. Students will meet in our undercover area at 1.30pm for a party and medallion presentation. If you have not sent your $10 to cover the cost of the break up can you please send it to the office on Monday.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART
Thank you to all our students who have help raise nearly $2900 for the Heart Foundation this year. What an extraordinary effort. Our Jump-off will be held on Wednesday afternoon from 2pm, starting in the hall. We will be treated to a display from the higher grades who will be giving us a skipping demonstration to music. Students will then be skipping with their year levels in various locations around our school.
Prep R  Jai Atkinson  
For your amazing writing this week. Thank you for not giving up when sounding out your words. Your improvement is out of sight.

Prep W  Imogen Walker  
For your amazing improvement in your letter knowledge. We’re very proud of you and the smile on your face says it all. Well done.

1B  Jorjyah Kister  
For the impressive work you have been doing with contractions in class. Great work Jorjyah.

1E  Sarah Smith  
For always being the very best that you can be. You always have a beautiful, sunny smile on your face as you have a go at anything that is asked of you. It is a pleasure to have you in our class.

2D  Brooke Scheeres  
For the excellent job you have put into writing, publishing and illustrating your Dreamtime Narrative.

2S  Lilly Barba  
For your enthusiasm and energy during dance lessons. Keep up the fabulous effort Lilly.

3R  Chayse Hollows  
For being a wonderful help at the 3R stall at the Mission Fair. You are a fantastic salesman.

3RM  Kai Wilschut  
For your reverence during prayer. Your gentle nature and calm personality is treasured in our class.

4CF  Nathan Ruhl  
For the huge effort you made to complete your DRA. Your perseverance really paid off. I knew you could do it.

5D  Austin Hirst  
For the expressive and creative way you presented your poetry recital titled The Haunted House. Well done.

5H  Sarah-Michelle Alderman  
For the wonderful effort, enthusiasm and listening skills you show during dance lessons. Well done Sarah-Michelle.

6B  Sophie O’Brien  
For displaying and understanding of independent and dependent clauses. Well done.

6GG  Isabella Dowden  
For the great effort you put into every dance lesson and into everything you do.
LITURGY NEWS

- 20/11: OR & Yr 4 Midday Mass
- 27/11: Whole school Mass 12 noon
- 1/12: Advent Liturgy 8.40am
- 2/12: Graduation Mass 6pm
- 4/12: Closing Liturgy 9.30 am

The Giving Tree Appeal

Many of us are in a position this year to reach out to help those who are finding it difficult to give their children a “Merry Christmas”. As Jesus is the reason for the season, we are called to reach out more than ever to those less fortunate than ourselves. During the lead up to Christmas, St Joseph’s School will once again be supporting a Giving Tree Appeal through encouraging families to make or donate a gift to be placed under the Giving Tree during the last two weeks of school.

Next week, in the foyer of the office our Giving Tree will be waiting to be adorned with gifts – gifts from us to those who are in a less fortunate position than ourselves this Christmas. Gift tags are available from the office. The gifts that are donated will be distributed by the St Vincent De Paul to families in need. If your family would like to make a contribution feel free to select a gift tag from under the tree in the office area, purchase or make an appropriate gift, wrap it, attach the gift tag securely and deliver it to the office.

Help make this Christmas a time of happiness, by reaching out to those in need and by celebrating the love of your families.

Saint Vincent De Paul Hamper Appeal

As in past years we will be collecting donations for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. St. Joseph’s School community has been asked to bring in any of the following items:

1 x 450 tinned beetroot
1 x 2 litre cordial (any size will do)
1 x large tinned fruit (pineapple, two fruits etc.)
1 x plum pudding

Thank you once again for your great support of this appeal.

SCHOOL FEES

Term 4 school fees have been emailed. If you did not receive your copy, please contact the office ASAP. School fees for Term 3 are now OVERDUE.

We would like to thank those families who have paid. It would be appreciated, if you have not finalised your account, to attend to this matter as soon as possible. If you are experiencing difficulties, please contact Di on 4957 3355.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

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PLEASE NOTE

The tuckshop will not operate on the last week of school.
BOOKLISTS

Booklists are now available to order online. The information needed to order is found with this newsletter. All orders must be ordered by 30th November in order to be delivered before school starts. Please note that orders are only available online and not through the school.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDERING PACKS ON-LINE FOR 2016

Go to www.kookaburra.com.au/login

1. Select Login to view your Account pricing. Enter username: STJOS139 and password: studentpack (lower case)
2. Click on Student Packs
3. Select your student’s year level for 2016
4. Add the quantity next to products required by your child, in the “Quantity” box.
5. When you are satisfied with your selection, click on “Add to Order” at the bottom of the page.
6. Review your selection.
7. Once you are satisfied with your order, click on “Complete Order” at the bottom of the page.
8. For your convenience your order will be shipped to your nominated daytime delivery address (signature required) Please ensure someone will be available to receive the goods at time of delivery. Enter your student details to this page before proceeding.
9. Proceed to “Payment Details”.
10. Select your payment method and proceed.
11. Click on “Submit Order”.
12. Complete all details required to finalise your order.
13. A copy of your order will be emailed to you as a receipt.
14. Your order has now been placed with Kookaburra. If you have any queries, please contact Kookaburra Customer Service Team customer.service@kookaburra.com.au

PLEASE NOTE:
* The cut-off date for all orders is 30th November, 2015 for delivery by 20th January, 2016.
* Orders received after 30th November, 2015 will be given a lower priority, and may not be received at your nominated delivery address prior to Term 1 2016. Orders will only be available for home delivery. Associated charges and fees will apply.
* Please also note that only online ordering is available after 30th November, 2015.
* Student Packs are unable to be collected from the school.
* All orders are firm sale.
Now with 35+ cool designs for your exercise books

Feathers  Aztec  Song & Dance  Zebra  Stripes
Matrix  Boom! Bang!  Paint Splatters  Geometrica  Space

ABOUT EZ COVER
At EZ Cover we have created an easier and cheaper way to cover school exercise books.
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ECO FRIENDLY
We love the three R's: Reusable, Recyclable & Really EZ to put onto your school exercise books!
Our covers are non-toxic, PVC free and can be used over and over again, reducing waste.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS
We’re giving back to your school! Choose your school from the drop down list at the online checkout and we will donate 5 cents from every cover purchased.
If your school joins our rebate programme we will increase our donation to 15 cents for every cover purchased.

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