Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the 2016 school year! It was a pleasure to see the return of familiar faces on Wednesday and to welcome our new students and families to our school community. It has been wonderful to see the students settle in to their new classrooms and the careful preparation of our teachers for another great school year.

This year we welcome the following staff to our school:

Mrs Jacqueline Koelmeyer – Year 1
Miss Ella Bicknell – Year 3
Mrs Marcelle Price – Year 4
Mrs Caireen Holt – Classroom Music Teacher
Mrs Michelle Vella – IT Support Teacher Assistant
Mrs Jessica Jackson-Gee – Tuckshop Assistant

It is a pleasure to also welcome the following new families to our school this year:

Albarracin      Fraser      Midgley
Baulch          Gogula      Pertsch
Bezzina         Hinschen    Pimm
Bryan           Holcombe    Price
Corker          Klein       Single
Donaldson       Manicaro    Verrall
Edwards         McKendry    Watson
Frank           McMurdy     Wockner

Please mark in your calendar the date for our School Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Night, which has been scheduled for **Tuesday 16 February**. We will begin the evening with the BBQ from 5pm – 6pm, followed by an information session for all parents in the hall from 6-6.20pm after which parents will move to individual classrooms for the class presentations. These sessions will ensure that you have all of the necessary information regarding school and classroom procedures for the year. Supervision will be provided for the children while parents attend these sessions and we anticipate the sessions being finished by 7.30pm. An invitation and RSVP for catering for the BBQ will be sent home next week.

Last year we introduced many new ways to communicate with you, with much of our communication being delivered electronically. Please add our school website to your favourite sites, add our school Facebook page to your news feed and download our school app. We also deliver regular communication via email or text, please ensure that your email address and mobile phone number is current and are registered with the office. This will ensure you never miss any important information regarding your child’s education or upcoming events.
School Website:  www.sjnmrok.catholic.edu.au

School App:  Download the free SchoolStream App, then add St Joseph’s Catholic PS (Mackay)

Facebook:  Search for the page “St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School North Mackay’ and like and save so that news stories appear in your news feed

We look forward to sharing some of the exciting initiatives we have planned for the 2016 school year in the coming weeks.  Best wishes for a wonderful start to the school year.

Bianca Hodges
Principal

February

4  First P & F Meeting 2016
5  Swimming Lessons Years 1 – 6
9  Shrove Tuesday
11  Bishop’s Inservice Day – PUPIL FREE DAY
12  Swimming Lessons Years 1 – 6
15  Opening Mass & Leadership Inductions
16  Welcome BBQ & Parent Information Night – 5.00pm – 7.30pm
19  Swimming Lessons Years 1 – 6
26  Swimming Lessons Years 1 – 6

WHAT IS THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY?

Jubilee years occur about every 25 years—the last occurred in 2000. These holy years are filled with special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the opportunity to experience God’s grace through the sacraments, especially confession.

In the words of Pope Francis:
“Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.”

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This Holy Door acts as a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and brings hope. Next, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome (St John Lateran) was opened. In the following weeks, the Holy Doors of all the other Papal Basilicas were opened. Similarly, a Door of Mercy was opened at every Cathedral throughout the world – and these doors will stay open for the duration of the Holy Year. In this way, every Church can be directly involved in living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal.

The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto Merciful Like the Father (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure.
Our annual Bishop’s Inservice Day will be held on Thursday 11 February. This is a PUPIL FREE DAY and all staff will be attending. The school office will be closed. Our OSHC will be open on this day. Contact their office to make a booking.
“The Holy Year of Mercy” is the theme this year. The speakers will include Bishop Michael McCarthy and Diocesan Director of Catholic Education, Miss Leesa Jeffcoat. Staff will participate in a variety of workshops. It is always a great day for personal faith development and all staff appreciate this opportunity to focus their attention and learn something new.

SCHOOL FEES

Toward the end of 2015 we had a system upgrade and Parent Codes changed. All families were sent letter to advise of your new parent code. If you pay your school fees via direct debit to your account, can you please ensure your reference number is now your 6 digit parent code.
If you need your new parent code please contact the office.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

The tuckshop will open next week and will operate on a Thursday and Friday. All tuckshop orders need to be placed online through Flexischools. Existing families will have the same login details as 2015. New families will need to register through https://www.flexischools.com.au Please use St Joseph’s Primary School Nth Mackay when searching for the school to register. Flexischools is also accessible through our School Stream App.
A link to add your name to our tuckshop and homebake roster has been added to the newsletter email.

PICK UP & DROP OFF

At St Joseph’s the safety and well-being of our children and visitors to the school is paramount. It is essential that the pick-up / drop-off area be run as smoothly as possible. For this reason, it might be appropriate to bring to your attention the routines involved in dropping off and collecting your child. Please read the following steps below carefully and consult the diagram.

- From 8:00am to 9:00am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm cars should not be parked nose into the school fence as cars will need to drive parallel to the fence at drop off and pick up times. THIS INCLUDES THE 2 PARKS AT THE FAR END OF THE DROP OFF ZONE WHICH ARE NOT MARKED WITH YELLOW PAINT. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THESE AREAS BETWEEN THESE TIMES. A painted yellow line along the gutter will indicate the path for cars to follow.

PICK UP

- Cars will follow the yellow line painted on the gutter.
- Cars will proceed past the gate and park towards the end of the Prep building in pick up locations 1, 2, 3 and 4 as identified. Families are encouraged to proceed to the far pick up location at these times to ease bottle neck congestion. As cars proceed from the parks, families are to proceed again to the far park.
- Children will wait in the pick up area until directed to move to a pick up location. A teacher will be directing children into cars from these 4 locations. If your child has not arrived and a preceeding car has left, please forward on to the next park to allow other cars to join the queue. We ask that cars stay in the queue and only move to a free park once the car immediately in front, has left.
- Parents are reminded that this is a pick-up / drop-off area and should not park and leave their car. Parents will be asked to park their car in the parks facing the church if they have been waiting more than 5 minutes for their child.
- Children will be supervised in entering their car. They will wait behind the yellow line until their car has ceased moving. Please assist us in training and educating your child on these new procedures to encourage safe and timely departure after pick-up.

DROP OFF

- Parents are to drop their children off at car park 4 closest to the gate and watch them walk through the gate into the school. Parents should then quickly move off.
- Parents are welcome to park facing the church and walk their children into the school grounds.

PLEASE BE AWARE WHEN USING THE CAR PARK:

- The church car park is used throughout the day, from early morning until late at night for various activities and there are often parishioners moving from the church to the parish. Please keep your speed limit to 5km/hour.
- That the parks in front of the church in Grendon St. should be left vacant for parish vehicles. Children are not supervised at the front of the church and should not wait for their cars there.
- That cars are often leaving and entering the parish car park next to the church and space needs to be left for these cars to move.
Parents are not to use the Staff Carpark on Canberra to pick up or drop off children.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated for the safety and well-being of our most precious possessions.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

This year is the first year the new school hat and sublimated sports shirt are compulsory. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform each day. THE SPORTS SHORTS ARE ONLY TO BE WORN WITH THE SPORTS UNIFORM.

Monday: All students to wear day uniform
Tuesday: All students to wear day uniform
Wednesday: Prep R, Prep W, 1B, 3D, 4B & 4P wear sports uniform
Thursday: 1K, 2R, 2S, 5D, 6B & 6GG wear sports uniform
Friday: All students wear sports uniform

Please refer to the enrolment tab of our school website for the full School Uniform Policy.

SWIMMING LESSONS

As part of St Joseph’s ‘Physical Education Program’, ALL students will take part in swimming lessons at ‘Paradise Aquatics Centre’ in South Mackay. Years 1-6 will participate in lessons in Term 1 whereas Preps will swim in Term 4. **Swimming lessons will commence Week 2, Friday 5th February 2016 and will continue until Friday 11th March 2016 (a total of 6 lessons).** A timetable of the swimming lessons has been included for your information.

Students will need to bring **swimmers, a sun-safe shirt, a towel, slip on shoes and goggles (if needed)**. Swimwear can be worn to school underneath the sports uniform but **school shoes must be worn to school**!

We have been fortunate enough to receive funding to subsidise our Swimming Program. This funding has covered the costs associated with travel. Lessons are $8 per child, per lesson and this will be added on to school fees for Term 1 (Term 4 for Prep).

Students will have an additional PE lesson on either Wednesday or Thursday.
SWIMMING TIMETABLE 2016

9:30am- 10:30am  Years 5 & 6
10:30am- 11:30am  Years 3 & 4
11:30am- 12:30pm  Year 2
12:30pm- 1:30pm  Year 1

***Our School Swimming Carnival will be held in Week 8 on Monday 14th March 2016 at the Pioneer Pool, North Mackay***

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to our new families, and welcome back to our returning families!
Just a few notations and reminders…

Class Library Visits
Library lessons will commence next week (week 2).
- Students must have a library bag to borrow.
  No library bag = No borrowing.
- Parents, if your child accidentally tears a library book, please do not repair it yourself.
  Please bring the library book to me to fix as I have special tape for repairs.
- All lost or damaged books must be either paid for or replaced with same/similar.

Book Covering
If you are able to assist with book covering in Term 1 please contact the office on 4957 3355, or drop in and see me in the Library. I will be doing up ‘take home’ bags from week 2, for those parents who find it easier to cover at home.

Book Club
BOOK CLUB ISSUE #1 DUE: Monday 17th February
Book Club catalogues have been issued to all students (if you need another please see me). All orders will need to be done via the Scholastic Book Club LOOP system (Linked Online Ordering & Payment system), www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP, where parents place and pay for their child’s order online - there is no requirement to send in completed order forms or cash/cheques.

Have a great week!

Ms Sheree Morrison
Library Co-Ordinator

P & F NEWS

The first P and F meeting for 2016 will be held on Thursday 4th Feb at 6 pm in the library. We welcome back all of our wonderful St Joseph’s families and extend an invitation to all the new families starting at our wonderful school this this year! If you would like to get to know new people, find out what's happening around our school or you'd just like to get involved, we'd love to see you there!

Nyomi Davidson
P & F President

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICER

Welcome to the 2016 school year, I hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas break and is ready for another great year.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to families that are joining our school community for the first time and welcome back returning families. For those who do not know me, my name is Bree Sinn and I work as the Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer for all Catholic schools in the Mackay region.

The main objective of my role is to support and assist all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families within our school community across a broad range of areas. If your child identifies as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent it is important to notify the office staff ASAP. This will ensure that you and your child have access to my services.

I will be meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and touching base with parents regularly during the term and am more than happy to discuss any matters that you may require assistance with.
If students or parents would like any further information, I can be contacted by phone on 49 694 172 or 0488 180 031.

Have a great term
Miss Bree Sinn
Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer

SCHOOL BANKING

Get involved in the School Banking program

St Joseph’s is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a silver Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards available during 2016 are:
- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is Thursday. Each week you need to hand your dollarmite bank book into the office.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Our school appreciates the help of our families and friends. This year, if you volunteer at the school three times in a term, you will receive a discount of $10 on your fees. To be eligible to receive this discount, volunteers MUST sign in at the office.

Some of the ways you can help include:
- Classroom Reading
- Tuckshop
- Homebake
- Helping in the library – book covering

2016 NETBALL

An URGENT meeting will be held in the hall on Monday afternoon, 3pm to discuss the 2016 Netball Season. All parents and players are asked to attend.
2016
ACCOUNT & DISCOUNT INFORMATION FORM

Dear Parents

PARENT CODE: ____________________

To enable us to calculate your eligible level of Discount on your 2016 school fees, the following information is required and MUST BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY to the school office in an envelope marked “CONFIDENTIAL”. Parents are asked to complete this form every year to provide our school with the information necessary to make the collection and payment of fees as simple a process as possible. Until the form is returned to the school correctly completed, no family discount can be applied. PLEASE notify the school office immediately of any changes to this information during the year.

Two separate forms need to be completed if split accounts are required.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FEES AND STATEMENT OPTIONS:
Mr & Mrs / Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss:  __________________________

☐ EMAIL ADDRESS: __________________________________________

☐ POSTAL ADDRESS: _________________________________________

STUDENTS AT DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (Including Student/s at this School)

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METHOD FOR PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES:

Fees are billed by the Term. Accounts are sent out at the beginning of each Term and payable in full within four (4) weeks of the issuing date. However, should you wish to pay more frequently this is welcomed and we encourage you to do so. We accept payment as follows:

- CASH, CHEQUE, BPAY OR CREDIT CARD
- DIRECT DEBIT: Please call in to our office to arrange completion of a “Direct Debit” form
- INTERNET BANKING: Your Parent Code (on your account) MUST be at the start of the Reference number to enable the correct account to be credited. Bank Details: BSB No. 034-210 Account No: 810170

Please contact our Finance Officer, Di Wilson on 4957 3355 if you are experiencing difficulties paying your fees. Please also note concessions do not carry on from year to year, if you have had a concession this year you will need to reapply for next year.

DECLARATION: (to be signed by both parents/guardian if possible when form is completed)

I/We certify that the statements made on this form are correct, and we undertake to inform the school should any of the details change during the 2016 School year.

PARENTS SIGNATURE: __________________________________________ DATE: ___/___/___