Dear Parents and Friends

Our first full week at school has been a busy one. Students began our new whole school swimming program today, and feedback has been that the new program is great. Thank you for ensuring the children are sent to school with all of the items required for swimming, it makes the implementation of this program much smoother.

Last night we had our first P and F Meeting for 2016. Our P and F is such an important part of our school community, a great forum to raise ideas for the continued improvement of our school and a great way to contribute to your child’s overall school experience by having input into how we use funds raised to support new initiatives in our school. At the next meeting we will hold the AGM. We are seeking nominations for a number of positions on the P and F Executive for 2016. If you are interested, please register with the office or speak to a member of the current P and F Executive for more information.

A reminder that next Thursday 11 February is a Pupil Free Day for all Catholic School in Mackay. OSHC services are available on this day for those parents requiring child care.

In the coming weeks we will including information about our upcoming School Review and Improvement Process which will be conducted over the next few months. All members of our school community are asked to contribute feedback regarding our school through a survey that will be distributed on Friday 19 February. Your contributions to the S R and I process will assist us to formulate our school goals for future growth of our school.

**St Joseph’s Netball**
A meeting was held on Monday to discuss the viability of the St Joseph’s weekend netball teams, and following the responses to this meeting we are hopeful that we should be able to proceed with two teams this year. Mrs Hinschen will finalise the details of this and liaise with the new delegate to organise the sign on process and coaches and further information will then be sent home early next week.

**School Uniform**
This week I visited each classroom and conducted uniform checks. I am very aware of the expense that families go to in fitting out children for school, and I am very appreciative of the incredible improvement in the consistency of our uniform across the whole school this year.

The key focuses of our uniform review last year were:

- Consistent school hat – it is now compulsory for all students to wear the new bucket hat with house colour inside.
• Consistent sports shirt – the implementation phase has now passed, and all students must now wear the new sublimated sports shirt, as the cotton shirts are very badly faded and are not suitable for school.

• Clarification of style codes for boys day shorts and girls culottes – the style and style codes were listed on our uniform guidelines for ease of references for parents to ensure that the correct and consistent style of shorts and culottes were purchased for day uniforms.

• Shoes – the ‘Mary Jane’ style of school shoe was removed from the list of shoes as these cannot be worn safely on sports days. Students can wear these with the day uniform, however a black sports jogger must be worn on sports days. The committee removed this style of shoe from the list to eliminate parents needing to buy two pairs of shoes.

• Clarification of style of socks – many students have been wearing a variety of socks to school. The style selected by the uniform review committee is quarter sports socks which come just above the ankle. Students should not be wearing socks to the knees or wearing long socks and rolling them down.

On this first uniform inspection, my focus was on hats, sports shirts and shoes specifically, as these are the compulsory changes for this year. It was so pleasing to see that these changes had been implemented so thoroughly across the school. Incorrect shorts and skirts were also identified for future reference when replacing uniforms.

I thank you for your support of these guidelines, which were created in consultation with parents and communicated in a variety of ways at the end of the last school year. Our students wear their uniforms with pride, and this consistency contributes to that. Thank you.

**Parent Information Night Sessions**

Our Parent Information Night will be held on Tuesday 16 February. The format of this night has changed slightly to ensure time to gather as a school community first as a welcome for the new school year. The order of the evening is as follows:

5-6pm Welcome BBQ provided by St Joseph’s P and F – burgers and sausage sizzle
Please send return RSVP for catering by Friday 12 February

6pm Whole school parent information session – behaviour management, uniform, curriculum priorities for 2016, ICT code of conduct and general routines
During this session children will play outside under teacher supervision

6.30pm Children come inside hall where a movie will be played
Parents attend Classroom Information Session with child’s class teacher

7pm Repeat of Classroom Information Session for parents with more than one class to attend

7.30pm Pack up hall and depart

An invitation with this information and a RSVP for catering for the welcome BBQ has been sent home today. Please return this by next Friday 12 February. We look forward to seeing you at our Parent Information Night.

Bianca Hodges
Principal
February

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
25 Year 3 Safety Circus – 11.45am in the hall
26 Swimming Lessons Years 1 – 6

**APRE NEWS**

**LITURGY NEWS**

9/2: Shrove Tuesday Liturgy - SRC
10/2: Ash Wednesday Liturgy 9am. 6GG
17/3: St Patrick’s Day Liturgy – SRC
18/3: Feast Day Liturgy/ Mass – 5D
22/3: Palm Sunday Liturgy – Prep R
23/3: Last Supper Liturgy – 2D
24/3: Stations of the Cross- 9.15am. (Whole school liturgy)

**PANCAKE TUESDAY DATE CLAIMER**

Lent is traditionally a time of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter. Traditionally it is a time when we refrain from eating rich foods. Shrove Tuesday’s menu was designed to use up all the indulgences such as supplies of flour, eggs and sugar before the Lenten season started on Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is commonly known as ‘Pancake Tuesday’.

"On Tuesday February 9th we will be holding a Pancake Flip at school to raise funds for 'Project Compassion.'"

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's main fundraising campaign and is held each year during Lent. Our journey through Lent is a time for reflection on how we are living in response to God's love. Each year, during the six weeks of Lent, Project Compassion provides us with six stories from Caritas programs around the world. We learn about participation, dedication, resilience and hope within communities. We learn about the interrelationship of all peoples and what we can accomplish when we work together.

*Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation for the pleasure of a pancake on Tuesday 9th February – next Week. Sales will be limited to 2 pancakes per student.*

**BISHOPS INSERVICE – THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

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.
Prep R  Thomas Kachel
For the excellent way you have helped your new classmates learn the rules of Prep. Keep up the great work Thomas!

Prep W  Kale Madden
For being a wonderful role model for his peers. Thank you Kale.

1B  Jaxon Cranston
For the fabulous start you have made to Year 1. You have such beautiful manners.

1K  Gabby Boyle
For settling in so well to Year 1K and approaching all learning activities with enthusiasm.

2R  Mitchell Ruhl
For being a wonderful helper around the classroom this week. Well done!

2S  Cooper Boyce
For your ‘have a go’ attitude in everything that you do.

3D  The Fabulous Five
For showing excellent team work during our group sessions. Your cooperation was outstanding! Well done!

3BM  Connor Quartly
For your brilliant start to Year 3! Your enthusiasm towards your learning is so wonderful to see. Keep aiming high and reach for those goals!

4B  Tahlia Grima
For being an enthusiastic participant in all activities. Thank you for your pertinent and interesting contributions to our class discussions.

4P  Harry Whitmore
For the effort you have put into the presentation of your work. You are definitely practicing the value of ‘excellence’ as you demonstrate your best effort. Keep up the fantastic work.

5D  Lachlan Boyle
For the fantastic start you have made for the year. Your positive attitude is wonderful to see. Well done Lachlan.

5S  Trey Sturgess
For the great start you have made to Year 5. You have settled into the classroom routine and you are showing good listening skills.

6B  Anita Edet
For the mature way you have settled back to school. You are an absolute delight.

6GG  Alataya Strahan
For having a great attitude to her work and leadership role. Keep it up.
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.
Term 1 fees will be sent next week and will be due in Week 7, 10th March.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

A big thank you to all parents who have added their name to the tuckshop/homebake roster. If you would like to help but have had problems adding your name to the roster, please contact the office.
*LOLLIES ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE AT THE TUCKSHOP*

PLAY BELL ITEMS

- Ice creams/ ice blocks from 60c
- Jelly Cups $1.00
- Salami Sticks $1.50
- Slushys $2.00
- Fresh Fruit (apple/orange) $0.80
- Poppers $1.00
- Flavoured Milk $2.00
- Water $1.50

POSITION VACANT

Tuckshop coordinator position
The tuckshop is a service that will provide healthy meals for students and needs to be financial self-sufficient.

Professional knowledge and skills-
- to have completed a food handing course
- to have expertise in catering
- to have financial competence in small business
- to have excellent communication and people skills
- to comply with DCEO principles of employees

Please send resumes to:
St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
smm@rok.catholic.edu.au
PO Box 4124 South Mackay, 4740 (closing date 12-02-16)

LIBRARY NEWS

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 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

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
Hi, I'm Maxine Giles and I'm the school counsellor. I attend the school one morning a fortnight to talk to students about any problem they may be having such as anxiety, family changes, relationships with other people etc. A referral form needs to be filled out before I can see a student and I always talk to parents before seeing a student – please see the Principal or office staff who can give you this form. I can also see students at my place of work – I am employed by Centacare and work at 35 Milton St, Mackay, phone No. 1300 523 985.

I have been a Marriage and Family counsellor in the non-government sector for over 30 years. I am also an accredited mediator and facilitator/coach with the Department of Justice. My qualification include studies in relationships, children and family life stages, disabilities, domestic violence and workplace conflict. I have three adult children and I live at the beach. I enjoy swimming, yoga, dancing, singing and I love to travel whenever I can.
COME
PLAY FOOTY AND
HAVE FUN!

Is your child interested in playing rugby league? Would they like to meet new friends and be part of a team?

Sign them up with the family club today! We are currently signing players from under 6 through to under 16. Come and play in a friendly environment with dedicated, experienced coaches. Contact our registrar Kim Wilson on 0411 042 556, or register online at playnrl.com