Dear Parents and Friends,

Yesterday staff from across all of the Catholic schools in Mackay engaged in Professional Development centred on the theme “The Year of Mercy”. We were joined by Bishop Michael McCarthy, Diocesan Director Miss Leesa Jeffcoat and staff engaged in a variety of workshops that broke open this topic. Central to this day was the message of Pope Francis:

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium)

On Monday, we will celebrate our Opening School Mass and School Leaders' Induction at 9am in St Joseph’s Church. During this mass we will recognise our Year 6 leaders and affirm our commitment as a school to actively participate in this Year of Mercy and the challenge for us individually to welcome, love forgive and encourage. All parents and friends are welcome to attend, and morning tea will be provided in the hall following Mass for parents and our Year 6 leaders.

STUDENT SAFETY
We take the safety of our students very seriously, and regularly review our procedures and policies to ensure that this is always our first priority. At the beginning of a new school year it is timely to ensure all parents are aware of our drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Before School Routine
Students should not be dropped at school before 8.15am, as there is no supervision provided until this time. At times, we understand that it may be necessary for students to attend school before this time, however any student who is dropped at school before 8am must be booked in to our Before School Care service. Between 8am and 8.15am students are asked to move to the area under G Block and to sit and wait for the supervising teacher to open the Hall. If students are found to be at school before 8am, we will book them in to Before School Care and parents will be charged for this service.

After School Routine
At 3pm, students move to the pick-up area at the Church carpark. Supervision of students is provided until 3.20pm in this pick-up area. After this time, students are taken to the school office to wait for collection until 3.30pm. At times, we understand that there may be delays or unforeseen circumstances that hinder reaching school by this time. Please contact the office if this is the case. Students who are not collected by 3.30pm will be booked in to our After School Care service and parents will be charged for this service.
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

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

We look forward to seeing you at our Parent Information Night.

Bianca Hodges
Principal

February

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
15/2: Opening Mass
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)

Please join with us if you are able as we celebrate our Opening Mass on Monday at 9am.
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.

On Tuesday we held our pancake flip to raise funds for Project Compassion. A big thank you to two wonderful ladies Mrs Cannon and Mrs Reitano who spent many hours making pancakes on Monday night. Their contribution to the day was fantastic!!! I am happy to say we raised over $300. Thank you everyone for your wonderful support!

Thank you to year 6GG for leading us so reverently as we gathered earlier this week as school community to celebrate Ash Wednesday - the starting point for the season of Lent. In the early days of the Christian Church, sinners had to seek forgiveness by wearing sackcloth sprinkled with ashes. This practice died out about 1000 years ago but it became customary for Christians to receive ashes on their foreheads at Church on Ash Wednesday.

The season of Lent is often referred to as the springtime of the Church year, a time for reflection, renewal and new growth. Through our participation in this season, we can grow in our relationship with God and His Church and prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of Easter.

Lent is a 40 day season of spiritual preparation for Easter. It is a time for repentance, for turning to God once more. From its earliest days, the Church’s practice of repentance has been through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we celebrate this season, we are invited to live out in very practical ways this spirit of repentance.

How are you going to observe the Lenten Season this year?

As a family, you might like to try these suggestions:

- seek additional opportunities to pray as a family
- pray for the people preparing for reception into the Church at Easter
- write on your calendars, your family resolutions for Lent
  - eg We will pray for .....We will write to .....We will visit ..... 
- as a family support the Project Compassion Appeal at school
- find a purple candle (the colour of the vestments for Lent) and use it at a meal each week during Lent
- plan to attend Reconciliation as family
- be present as a family at the Holy Week ceremonies and help your child to understand them a little more
- share hot cross buns after the ceremonies on Good Friday
- as a family attend the Stations of the Cross.

May this Lent be a time of renewal and rediscovery for us all through prayer, and reflection, a time when we reflect on the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and a time when we find new life and deepen our personal faith in Jesus.

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 were sent via email on Tuesday and are due 10th March.
Please contact the office if you did not receive your invoice.
Prep R Alice McKendry
For settling in so well and always trying to do your best for the teacher. Keep up the great work Alice.

Prep W Aiden Baulch
For your wonderful start to the year. Keep it up.

1B Ann Nelson
For the impressive counting you’ve been doing in class last week! WOW!

1K Charlee Verrall
For settling in well to your new start in your new school and being eager to learn. Well done.

2R Noah Neilsen
For showing the value of service this week. Your willingness to lend a hand is appreciated. Keep it up.

2S Brooklyn Swara
For your fabulous listening and organisation. You are a wonderful role model to your peers. Keep it up Brooklyn.

3D Emily Donaldson
For settling in so well to 3D I am so proud of how quickly you became a member of our class. Thank you.

3BM Elijah Davidson
For having such a positive, have-a-go attitude toward your Maths tasks this week. Your skip counting was amazing! Great work Elijah.

4B Jules Smith
For always being willing to lend a hand to your teachers and peers. Thank you for demonstrating the value of helpfulness Jules.

4P Ruby Coleman
For the excellent way you listen to all teacher instructions. You have consistently demonstrated the value of excellence. Congratulations on an amazing start to Year 4.

5D Sarah Kirkwood
For you amazing Fractured Australian Art piece. Your attention to detail is impressive. Well done Sarah.

5S Orlando Corrie
For the enthusiasm you are showing towards Maths and Geography lessons. Keep up the great effort Orlando.

6B Mitchell Penfold
For the effort you are putting into your school work. What a great start to the year.

6GG Kayne Roberts
For your super handwriting. Well done.
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

LIBRARY NEWS

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

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

ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY TO THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

Saturday 13th February marks the 8th Anniversary of the National Apology to Australia’s First Peoples – a sacred moment in our nation’s history that must never be forgotten. Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s National Apology to the Stolen Generations formally recognised and condoned the terrible loss and pain caused by successive Australian Governments when children were stolen from their families and communities were torn apart.

The children that were removed grew up with no connection to family, land or country. They lost all links to their traditional culture, the very life blood of their identity. This disconnection from families, ancestors, community and culture has devastated their lives and has had a lasting and negative effect on the wellbeing and identity of Stolen Generations members. The deep wounds many
Aboriginal Australian’s felt from being separated from their families was clear to see in the faces of Aboriginal people as Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered his speech.

As this year has been declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy by Pope Francis we are called to see the great need for mercy and healing; especially here in our homeland. So on the Anniversary of the National Apology we reflect as individuals and as a church community on this significant moment, not only in the history of Australian national life, but in the healing of many Aboriginal Australians.

Let us pray
God of Love and Mercy,

We pray for the people of the Stolen Generations
That they continue to journey forward with strength and courage
Towards healing the pain of separation
From family, from country, from culture.

We pray that all Australians gain a deeper understanding
Of the sacredness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture
And the connections they share with this land, our great nation.

We pray for unity of all Australians
So that we may all walk together reconciled;
Towards a future of kindness,
Concern and respect for one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Bree Sinn
Regional Indigenous Education
Liaison Officer

BROTHERS BULDOGS MACKAY

Desperately chasing U10 & U11 players for the 2016 season. If you are interested in playing please contact David Brosnan – 0428 222 546 or Karen Hassall – 0418 879 616.

DRAGONS SOFTBALL CLUB

Dragons Softball Club
Are looking for new players
Girls & Boys all ages from 10 through to Men & Women. All abilities are are welcomed
2 Divisions in each grade to cater for all abilities.
SIGN ON 13th March 2016
Season starts in May
Located on Beaconsfield Road.
Come try a great family orientated team sport with lots of fun and competition.
Contact Maxine on 0439376887
Or Jodie on 0403898472

GUITAR LESSONS

After a hectic day of making ends meet wouldn’t it be nice to have your very own Troubadour to soothe the ragged edges.

If you think that your child may be inspired to learn the guitar, then please be advised that travelling Tutor Mr. Jim Scott will again be available to service your needs.

Please contact administration for further information.
WHS UPDATE

Every year the school updates medical ‘Action Plans’ for students with severe medical conditions e.g. Anaphylaxis and Asthma. If your child requires an Action Plan and you have not provided us with an updated plan, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Southern Cross
Tang Soo Do
Kids Martial Arts

Every Saturday
@ 9:00am/10:00am
First lesson free!
Instructor:
Master Gordon Rickard 6th Dan Black Belt 41 yrs. of training

at 3 Palmer Street North Mackay
For more info pls contact
Gordon Rickard on #
0411590508