Dear Parents and Friends

This week was full of many wonderful events for our school community! On Monday we celebrated our Opening School Mass, with our Year 6 students inducted as our school leaders. At the Mass Father Stephen broke open the theme of the Year of Mercy in a wonderful way for the students, highlighting the link between ‘mercy’ and our school motto “With Christ We Grow”. He challenged the children and all who are members of our school community to take the opportunity of the Year of Mercy to grow through following Jesus’ example of mercy and to remember this challenge by thinking of the letters K F C – we are called to bring to life the Kingdom through Kindness, lived in Faith and Friendship as a Community reflecting Christ.

Congratulations to our elected leaders for 2016:

School Captains  Melayna Zeglio and Declan Jones

Red House Captains  Ella Parsons and Jacob Wicks

Green House Captains  Anita Edet and Nash Byrne

Gold House Captains  Madison Dowden and Dane Wilson

We also appointed all of our Year 6 students to our Student Representative Council, which will take responsibility for lunchtime games supervision, fundraising initiatives and other leadership activities. We look forward to the contributions this great group of students will make to our school in their final year of primary school.

On Tuesday night we hosted our Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Session for 2016. It was fantastic to see so many families in attendance. Sincere thanks to our P and F and all volunteers who assisted with the BBQ, it was a great way to start the night together.

This session was an opportunity for us to outline our goals for 2016. One of the significant events for us this year will be our involvement in the School Review and Improvement process, which starts this week with the a survey that will be sent home to all families. In an effort to achieve maximum input from all families in our community we are running a competition for the class who is first with all families completing the survey.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and at the end of the survey you will receive a code word. Write the code word on the competition token that has been sent home and return it to your child’s teacher. The survey only needs to be completed once per family.
We will also be opening the technology lab each morning before school for the next two weeks during the survey period. Any parents wishing to complete the survey at school can do so during this time.

DATE CLAIMERS:
MONDAY 14 MARCH  School Swimming Carnival at Pioneer Pool
FRIDAY 18 MARCH  St Joseph’s Feast Day and shared morning tea 9am

Lunchtime Clubs
Last year we introduced Lunchtime clubs, more structured opportunities for children to engage with others at lunch time in activities that they are interested in. At the start of this term we surveyed all of the students and got ideas for the clubs they were interested in. Next week we begin our Lunchtime Clubs, which have been expanded to include a Homework Club before school. Homework Club is designed for any students who may need some assistance with elements of homework and will run from 8.10am – 8.30am in the Library on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Other clubs on offer this term are:
MONDAY:  Dance Club, Reading Club, Ukulele Band (Years 4-6)
TUESDAY:  Homework Club (before school), Lego Club, Technology Lab
WEDNESDAY:  Homework Club (before school), Junior Choir (Year 2 and 3), Basketball Club Senior (Years 4 – 6)
THURSDAY:  Homework Club (before school), Lego Club, Senior Choir (Years 4 – 6), Basketball Club Junior (Prep – Year 3)
FRIDAY:  Junior Art Club (Prep – Year 2)

As the year progresses, the clubs on offer will change to offer a greater variety of activities. These clubs are only made possible through the generosity of our staff with their time.

Bianca Hodges
Principal

Mark Your Calendar

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

March
3  P&F AGM, 6pm – 7pm
8  Board Meeting, 6pm – 7pm
14  Swimming Carnival – Pioneer Pool
18  St Joseph’s Feast Day Mass/Liturgy
22  Parent Teacher Interviews
24  End Term 1

APRE NEWS

LITURGY NEWS
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)

Wednesday 10th February was Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. It has been designated by the Church as a day of fast and abstinence, as is Good Friday.

In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day. The law of fasting applies to people from 18 to 59 years old.
Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older is bound by the law of abstinence from meat.

The practice of fasting and abstinence aims at leading us to interior conversion by making us more disciplined and more charitable. We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others. In addition, the practice helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for 40 days in the desert.

The ashes that are marked on our foreheads on the first day of Lent are a symbol of humility, purification and sorrow and remind us of the need to repent our failings. But we remember also that we are Easter people – that good can come out of evil, that death gives way to new life and that there is hope in the midst of despair.

Lent
The name ‘Lent’ comes from an old English word meaning ‘to lengthen’. It was used to describe the 6-week period leading to Easter because in the northern hemisphere it coincided with the time when the short winter days were gradually growing longer. Lent began as a brief period of preparation for those adults who were to be baptised at Easter. Eventually the rest of the Community showed their solidarity with the catechumens by also observing an intense period of prayer and fasting before Easter.

When adult baptism became the exception rather than the norm, Lent changed from focusing on preparation for baptism or renewing one’s baptismal promises to being an intensely penitential period.

The second Vatican Council restored the balance by describing Lent as being marked by two themes, the baptismal and penitential.

For those who will be baptised at Easter, Lent is a period of intense preparation called the “Period of Purification and Enlightenment”. Together with those who are preparing for Christian initiation at Easter, we all look to a deeper conversion of heart during the weeks of Lent.

PRAYERS PLEASE
Please remember in your prayers the De Thomasis and Marshall families who have suffered the loss of a loved one recently. (Frances – mother / mother in law of Eddie and Karen) and (Thelma, mother / mother in law of Berb and Anne).

We remember also the Dodds family whose son Troy - a past pupil of St Joseph’s School sadly passed away last week. We pray that God will comfort them and give them peace in this time of sadness.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
may perpetual light shine upon them
may they rest in peace. Amen.

We remember all those in our community who are unwell or recovering from illness. We especially ask for prayers for Zac Grima’s grandfather, father of Kylie, who is seriously ill in Brisbane.

Lord bless all who are sick,
especially those in our school community.
May they experience, in a special way,
the great love and concern Jesus has for them.

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 last week and are due 10th March.
Please contact the office if you did not receive your invoice.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Covering
THANK YOU to all of the lovely parents and grandparents who have been assisting with book covering. It has been great to see so many parents offering to help. The take home bags are working well! All covering is up to date for now. I will advertise in the newsletter when we have more covering to do.

Book Club
BOOK CLUB ISSUE #1 DUE: 17th February. All ordering is now finished and lodged.

Have a great week!
Ms Sheree Morrison
Library Co-Ordinator
Prep R  Jack Watson
For the fabulous start you have made in Prep. Thank you for always listening and having a go. Keep it up Jack!

Prep W  Ky Wockner
For the fabulous self-portrait! It really shows the time and effort you put into it. We all love it!

1B  Gabriella Turner
For demonstrating the value of service with our classroom. You are always willing to help other around you. Thank you.

1K  Axle Barrett
For fabulous work with reading his red sight words and showing great enthusiasm when he is learning his sounds.

2R  Cooper Anderson
For demonstrating the value of excellence in all of your work. Well done and keep up the hard work.

2S  Bailey Smith
For showing great respect and working to the very best of your ability. Fabulous work, Bailey. Keep it up!

3D  Olivia Radke
For consistently demonstrating our school values of excellence, respect, service, compassion and justice. You are a role model for your peers. Congratulations.

3BM  Tess Radke
For the fabulous way that you listen to your teachers and your peers, and for your cheerful and enthusiastic attitude to learning. What a great role model you are.

4B  William Radke
For the respect that you consistently show towards your teachers and peers. Thank you, Will.

4P  Billie-Jo Alderman
For the wonderful way you listen to the teacher and constantly use your manners. You have consistently demonstrated the value of respect. Thank you and congratulations on a super start to Year Four.

5D  Madeline Pace
For her amazing results during our Rapid Recall sessions. I am so impressed with your sensational effort. Keep it up.

5S  Gwen Laffy
For the amazing start you have made in Year 5. Thank you for always following instructions and putting your best effort into all learning tasks. Well done Gwen.

6B  Darby Coleman
For your talent in art. You have an eye for detail and you artwork is presented beautifully!

6GG  Jorell Eulalia
For participating so enthusiastically in all class discussions.
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

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPEECH AND DRAMA

My name is Eleanor Woodman and I am the new Extra Curricular Speech and Drama Teacher at St Joseph's, taking over from Mrs Di O'Connell. I am Trinity College of London Qualified and will be taking group lessons focusing on developing good communication skills, improvisation, miming and building confidence! The students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Local Mackay Eisteddfod in both group and solo performances, from Prep to Grade 6. For further information and to express your interest please contact the front office by Friday the 26th of February so we can start taking enrolments.

Kind Regards
Eleanor Woodman

WHIS 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.

HOCKEY 2016

HOCKEY SIGN ON MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY, 3.15pm UNDER ‘G’ BLOCK

The Get Into Hockey Program is due to start the last week of February. Information on this currently is sessions will be from 3.30-4.30pm at the locations below. The cost is $70.00 which includes a stick, shin pads, ball and runs once per week for 5 weeks. Players will get an introduction to hockey and learn basic skills from coaches.

Monday – Fitzgerald State School
Tuesday – Mackay Hockey Fields
Wednesday – Eimeo State School

The 2016 season is due to start on Saturday 5th March.
U7 and U9 will play at 8.00am Registration cost for the season is $140.00
U11 will play at 8.55am
U13 will play at 10.05am
U15 will play at 11.15am
Registrations for U11 – U15 is $220 including $60 payment to Hockey Qld.

This year every registered player will receive welcome packs from Hockey Qld as follows.
· Every single person who signs on to play hockey in the 2016 season will receive an
  HQ lanyard with a Sports Pass rewards card
· All junior 4-9 year old players will receive a coupon to collect a free hockey stick from
  Just Hockey (Mackay)
· All 10-18 year old players will receive a HQ drawstring bag
· All senior players will receive a HQ branded microfiber towels
A life-changing 90 minutes!

FREE SEMINAR

Free Triple P – Power of Positive Parenting Seminar with Professor Matt Sanders

Ever wondered: ‘why does my child do that?’ Find out how to get more of the behaviour you like – and less of the behaviour you don’t like!

Wednesday March 2 – 6.30pm
Mackay North State High School Hall, Valley Street, North Mackay

Come early for tea and coffee – seminar starts promptly at 6.30pm

Proudly hosted by MP Julieanne Gilbert

Register at www.triplep-parenting.net

Mackay Relay For Life!

FAMILY 5K FUN RUN + WALK

Sunday 20th March 8am Sharp!
Mackay Southern Breakwater

Registrations from 7am Mulherin Park

Followed by a Sausage Sizzle + Prizes!
Proceeds to Mackay Relay for Life – Team NQBP Social Club

Hope Lives Here
RELAY FOR LIFE
Borthwicks
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation