Dear Parents and Friends

Last night we held our Parents and Friends’ Association Annual General Meeting and it was great to see a few new faces and lots of returning faces for the new school year. Our P and F do wonderful work around our school and it through the involvement of our parent body in this great organisation that many of the fantastic initiatives we offer at St Joseph’s are able to continue. I would like to offer my thanks to our executive of 2015 – Mrs Nyomi Davidson, Mrs Melanie Kay, Mrs Kylee Kister and Mrs Marie Parsons, for their work on our P and F last year. I welcome our new P and F Executive for 2016 – Mrs Nyomi Davidson (President), Mrs Kylee Kister (Vice President), Mrs Sian Neubecker (Secretary) and Mrs Belinda Harvey (Treasurer).

I have been so pleased to see so many parents joining us each morning for prayer as we start our day together. This is such an important part of the ethos of our school, this term particularly linking with our mission to support Project Compassion during the Lenten season. Each week we have focused on one of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and it has been wonderful to engage with the children around each of these topics as we have worked through our fundraising activities. This week the children had the opportunity to participate in an art activity which focused on our indigenous culture and each day the hall stage was full of students supporting the work of Caritas through their donations to participate in this activity.

Next week we will begin our final fundraising activity for Project Compassion leading into Holy Week in Week 9. Our focus will be on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of SUBSIDIARITY AND PARTICIPATION.

“The people in the communities get together to talk about what they need. Everyone gets a say. Then the community decides how to fix their problems.”

Our final activity is ‘Chickitas’, where we encourage us to come together as a community to support others who are less fortunate than ourselves by providing a sustainable food source for a family or community in need. We ran this program with great success last year and would love to reach our goal of 200 chickens this year. Each chicken costs $5. For the $5 donation, each student receives a certificate of appreciation, they get to place a virtual chicken on our fundraising wall in the library and they get to nominate a teacher to go in the draw to wear the infamous CHICKEN SUIT on Thursday of Week 9 at our afternoon assembly. The (un)lucky teacher who is drawn will have to don the suit and do the chicken dance in front of the children at assembly! These chickens make great Easter presents to friends and family, knowing that you have helped to secure a sustainable food source for a family in need, and the certificates can be given as a gift.

‘Chickitas’ starts on Friday next week, with chickens on sale from the library before school and at lunchtime! It will continue through to Thursday of Week 9. Your support of the efforts of our Student Representative Council during Project Compassion has been greatly appreciated. We thank you for your continued generosity.
ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS
Next Friday 18 March we will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, our school patron saint. The day will commence with a liturgy in the hall at 9am, followed by a shared morning tea with parents and students until 10am. Parents are invited to bring a plate to share and cake will be provided for the students. We are hoping if the ground is dry we can move this activity outside, so feel free to bring a chair or picnic rug to enjoy some time with your children for our Feast Day.

Children will also participate in fun activities with their buddy classes later in the day, and as this is a special day we are inviting students to come in Free Dress. We are not asking for a donation for Free Dress, however as this is the first day of ‘Chickitas’, families may like to take this as an opportunity to purchase a chicken on this day.

We look forward to seeing many of our families at our Feast Day celebration from 9am – 10am on Friday 18 March.

March
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 – 4P
24/3: Stations of the Cross- 9.15am. (Whole school liturgy)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Stations of the Cross will be held at St Joseph’s Church on Wednesday 16 March at 7:00pm.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
In the words of Pope Francis:
“It is time for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters.”

What signs of Mercy will we place on our door?
How can we open our doors to those suffering injustice?
What door of Mercy can you open?
### 2016

#### Family Workshop 4: Reconciliation
- **[Choice of]** Sunday 6 March 10am
  - OR
  - Wednesday 9 March 7pm
  - St Joseph's School Multi-Purpose Hall

#### Ritual of Choosing
- **[Choice of]** Saturday 19 March OR Sunday 20 March
  - (At parish weekend Masses see Mass times below)

#### Parent / Child Interviews
*Parents & Children to attend. Preferred time for interview to be arranged by parish eg 3:45pm on one of the following days Monday 18 April or Tuesday 19 April or Wednesday 20 April.
  Interviews 15 minutes each.
- **[Choice of]** Monday 18 April OR Tuesday 19 April
  - OR
  - Wednesday 20 April 3:30-5:30pm
  - St Joseph's Parish Centre

#### First Reconciliation (First Confession)
- 2nd Rite to be celebrated
- **[Choice of]** Tuesday 3 May OR Wednesday 4 May OR
- Thursday 5 May 3:30pm
  - St Joseph's Church

#### Family Preparation Afternoon
- Sunday 15 May 2pm – 5:00pm
  - St Joseph's Church, St Joseph's School Hall & Parish Centre

#### Practice for Confirmation Ceremony
- Monday 23 May 3:30pm
  - St Joseph's Church

#### Celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation
- Tuesday 24 May 6:30pm
  - St Joseph's Church

#### Practice for Eucharist
- **[Choice of]** Friday 3 June 3:30pm St Joseph's
  - OR
  - Friday 3 June 3:30pm St Brendan's Church
  - Depending on which Church your child will be receiving the Sacrament

#### Celebration of Sacrament Eucharist
- **[Choice of]** Saturday 4 June OR Sunday 5 June
  - (At all parish weekend Masses see Mass times below)

#### Ritual of Commissioning
Commissioning and presentation of certificates to the newly initiated members (adults and children) of the faith community.
- **[Choice of]** Saturday 18 June OR Sunday 19 June
  - (At all parish weekend Masses see Mass times below)

### Mass Times & Children's Liturgy of the Word
- St Joseph's: Saturday 6:00pm
  - (Children's Liturgy of the Word) 2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month
- St Joseph's: Sunday 9:00am
  - (Children's Liturgy of the Word) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month
- St Brendan's: Sunday 7:30am
  - (Children's Liturgy of the Word) 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

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**STATIONS OF THE CROSS/OUTDOORS**

You are invited to join in this journey of prayer as we commemorate Jesus' last days on earth. Join us in prayer and meditation as we take each step through the Way of the Cross and open our hearts to God.

This Lent, on Holy Wednesday 23rd March 2016 starting 6.00pm in St Joseph's School Grounds continuing to St Joseph's Church Grounds and finishing in St Joseph's Church.

Followed by a shared meal in the Parish Centre
Prep R  Caitlin Edwards
For being such a great helper around the classroom. You are always there for your friends when they need you. Keep it up Caitlin.

Prep W  Flynn Pertsch
For your amazing effort when recording your work at the Sensory Space this week. Your recording sheet is spectacular.

1B  Frank Hartigan
For taking your time to sound out words carefully in your writing. Keep up the amazing work Frank.

1K  Maddison Archer
For demonstrating a consistent positive attitude towards your learning and working collaboratively with a group.

2R  Max Keen
For always using your manners. It is lovely to hear you speaking so respectfully to others.

2S  Charlotte Nemitz
For demonstrating the school value of justice. Thank you for having the integrity to do what you know is right. You are a great role model to others.

3D  Shanae Barwick
For your beautifully creative narrative “The Whispering Woods”. Your story was full of mystery and intrigue. Keep up the great work.

3BM  Zoe Wardrop
For your fabulous participation and the great pride you take in your work.

4B  Chayse Hollows
For the wonderful generosity that you have shown in supporting Project Compassion. Thank you Chayse.

4P  Seun Adepoju
For demonstrating the value of excellence in literacy rotations during the week. You put your best effort into each activity this week and worked well with your group. Congratulations and keep up the super effort in all that you do.

5D  Zane Ward
For your excellent focus to complete tasks independently. I’m so proud of you!

5S  Anna Zhang
For the amazing effort and focus you put into our daily Rapid Recall Challenge. Anna you are achieving great results.

6B  Aaron Ely
For your fabulous acting role in our “Mantle of the Expert” drama on Federation. You are a natural.

6GG  Jayde Wallace
For the great interest you take in all lessons and your application to your work. Well done.
SCHOOL FEES

Toward the end of 2015 we had a system upgrade and Parent Codes changed. All families were sent a 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 were due 10th March.

Please contact the office if you need to discuss your fees.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

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<td>Thurs 17th March</td>
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***PLEASE NOTE***

At the end of Term 1 we will stop using FLEXISCHOOLS and will change to OUR ONLINE CANTEEN to reduce the fees charged to our families. A brochure with instructions on how to register will be sent home before the end of term. If you have a credit with FLEXISCHOOLS please try to use it before the end of the term. Any monies not used will be refunded. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

HOCKEY 2016

Hockey Draw - Saturday 12/3

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| U9 Mixed |
| St Joseph’s v West Wildcats  8:15am Turf A |

| U11 Boys |
| St Joseph’s v Eimeo Combined  12:00pm Turf |
| (Please arrive ½ hr early so positions and shirts can be organised) |

NETBALL

| Under 11 St Joeys Topaz |
| Training Thursday 3:15 – 4:15 |
| Grading days Saturday 12th and 19th March (Draw still to come) |
| Games commence Saturday 16th April |

| Under 10 St Joeys Diamonds |
| Training Thursday 3:15 – 4:15 commencing 10th March |
Under 9 St Joeys Rubies
Training Wednesday 3:15 – 4:15 commencing TBA
Games commence Saturday 16th April

PREP ENROLMENTS - 2017

We are now taking enrolments for 2017. If you have a child due to commence Prep next year (born between 1 July, 2011 and 31 July 2012) please complete an enrolment form and return it to the office. If you do not have an enrolment form package please download one from the school website or collect one from the school office.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MACKAY & DISTRICT

This year we celebrate 150 years of the Catholic Church in Mackay and district. Bishop Michael McCarthy will lead us in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving held on Sunday 22nd May at St Patrick’s Church at 11am. Following Mass you are invited to a BYO picnic lunch in the grounds of St Patrick’s College to continue the celebration. (Tea, coffee and cold drinks provided)

From Friday 20 May through to Sunday 22 May there will be a display in St Patrick’s Hall, acknowledging the gift of the Church within our community. Parishes and organisations from across the region have been invited to contribute to this display which will be open to the public.

The following groups have been invited to contribute. If you are aware of a group that has been overlooked please email details of that group to stjomky@bigpond.com or stmarys@mackay.net.au
Parishes: Parish priests, administrators, & assistants; Parish Offices, Parish Councils.
All Catholic Primary & Secondary Schools
Co-ordinator of Catechists, Society of Jesus, RCIA co-ordinators
Religious Orders: Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers, Sisters of St Joseph, Franciscan Sisters, Missionary Sisters of Service, Presentation Sisters, Marist Sisters
Health & Aged Care: Mater Hospital, Francis of Assisi Aged Care Home, SVDP, Centre Care, Towards Healing, Care of the Environment, Care & Concern Grp St Joseph’s,
Organisations and Groups: CWL, Men Alive, Cherish Life, Natural Fertility Service, Catholic Deb Ball, Catholic Men’s Dinner
Prayer Groups: Charismatic Prayer Group, Christian Meditation Group, El Shaddai, Couples for Christ, Padre Pio Group
Indigenous Groups: Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islanders, South Sea Islanders
Ethnic Groups: Maltese, Italian, Filipino, Indian, Irish

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT ORAL HEALTH SERVICES MACKAY (SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE)

Dear Parents,
The School Dental Service is now offering services to students enrolled at your school.
Medical/Consent forms have been sent home and need to be fully completed and returned to the school office by: 24th March, 2016
The School Dental Service will contact the parent/guardian to make an appointment at: Nth Mackay School Dental Clinic
Further enquiries please phone 495 142 41
A parent /Guardian must transport and accompany their child to all appointments at this clinic.
For further information on this service, please visit our website:

Queensland Government
This year at St. Joseph’s we are very excited to be able to provide students with the opportunity to engage in 1:1 learning in our classrooms. We have access to two class sets of ipads (lower school and upper school) which are used in classrooms on a regular basis to support student engagement and personalised learning.

This section of the newsletter provides you with a snapshot of some of the exciting learning that is taking place in classrooms across the year levels. This week we take a look at year 2 and their current task of publishing their ‘Who am I?’ descriptions into an ebook using an app called ‘Book Creator’.

‘Book Creator’ is a fabulous app which can be used across all year levels. Students are finding it very easy to use, with the option to write, type or record their text in conjunction with using the ‘+’ button to add and ‘i’ to change. Students can insert anything from their camera roll or capture new pictures for their book. Completed ebooks can be exported/published as an EPub or ibook, PDF or video.

We can’t wait to share our completed ebooks with others.