

St Joseph's Parish School Newsletter



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Learners

From the Principal

As all students are now back in our classrooms engaging in face to face learning, the staff of St Joseph's would like to thank the parents and carers for their trust in our professionalism and willingness to work together as a team over the past 6 weeks. Parents and carers did an amazing job working closely with their child/ren to complete the learning whilst juggling work commitments and/or family life, not to mention the challenges of technology. It has been affirming to receive positive feedback from parents on the learning grids and support that was offered to students and families. Let's hope that with ongoing vigilance and embedded health protocols, we can continue to resume a more "normal" approach to school life, whilst ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all.

Enrolments for 2021

We are in the process of producing advertising materials advising Kindergarten enrolments for 2021 are now open. We would also warmly welcome other students to our class groups. Posters and brochures will be on display around the community over the next few weeks and we ask that if any parents/carers know of families who may wish to join our school community, that they spread the word.

A recent survey analysing enrolment data of a Catholic School on the Gold Coast, found that 56% of parents had come to the school via word of mouth channels and 15% through the school website. This means that 7 out of 10 people chose that school from either what they had heard or read on the website. Word of mouth is one of the best advertising tools we have at our disposal, so I urge you to spread the word. We are also in the process of updating our website to ensure it truly reflects what we offer.

Whilst on this topic of sharing our news, you would be aware that we use Compass, Facebook, the Spectator to advise of upcoming events and to share students' learning and successes. With this in mind, we are trying to avoid doubling up, so if an event has been shared in any of the above mentioned platforms, it may not necessarily be included in the newsletter.

New students to our school

We are pleased to have Rohith and Keerthana Uppala join our school community Both students have joined K/Yr1/Yr 2 with Rohith in Kindergarten and Keerthana in Year 1. It is lovely to see their beaming smiles each day.

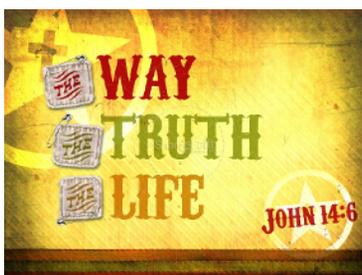


Expressing our appreciation to ...

- Mrs Lola Mulcahy who has baked an amazing number of chocolate rolls for the P&F cake stall that was held in Term 1, raising in excess of \$900 and we sincerely thank her for her support.
- David and Tabatha Sarkis who worked with staff last weekend to tidy gardens and plant trees. Their generous donation of their Toro machine, made what was looking like an arduous task, so much easier.
- The Fisk family for their donation of two hens, feed and other items that have enabled our feathered friends to settle happily into our chicken coop.

Responsible

Respectful



*"While acknowledging and engaging with the challenges of our world today,
we hold fast to the gift of faith;
so that our schools, linked in mission and purpose, and founded in the person of Jesus,
are authentic communities of faith, learning, and transformation."*

Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

an extract from the Diocesan Statement of Faith Prayer

Let Your Light Shine Before All

Principal's Message

Learn

Responsible

Respectful

SRC - Term 2

Congratulations to students from Kindergarten to Year 6 who have been voted in as SRC members for Term 2. We had decided to delay the election until we had all students back at school. Sophie Laird (President), Mrs Gordon and Mrs Dauth met with the new committee today and we are eagerly awaiting minutes of this meeting to hear our student voice on how we can continue to improve our school community.

Introducing Term 2 committee members -

Xavier Auld, Phoebe Mugavin, Jack Crow, Austin Mulcahy, Mitchell Henderson, Sophie Laird, Alyssa Peters, Matilda Fisk and Evie Mugavin.



Semester 2 Reporting

Our Director has been working with Catholic Schools NSW to clarify what reporting for Semester 1 will look like. Under Federal Government requirements schools must provide at least one formal opportunity for parents to receive information on their child's learning by the conclusion of Term 2. In light of the challenges caused by Covid -19, the scope and complexity of reporting for this semester has been narrowed to allow teacher to focus on reconnecting with their students within the classroom, wellbeing, engagement and learning.

With this in mind, parents will receive a modified written report at the end of this term. There will also be an opportunity for parents to discuss with teachers any concerns or queries they have.

Staff Matters

We welcomed Mrs Watkin back to school yesterday after her leave and we are still keeping Mrs Gaze in our thoughts and prayers as she recuperates after surgery. In Mrs Gaze's absence, Mrs Hutchison has been undertaking aspects of her role around ITC support.

Mrs Dauth will be on leave from next week and in her absence Mrs Yerbury will be with us on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mrs Watkin on Thursday and Mrs Simpkin on Friday.

Trialling changes

For the remainder of this term, we are trialling the following time changes to make optimum use of learning time. Monday School Prayer will be held straight after lunch and Friday's assembly (fortnightly) will be held at 1.00 pm. At present we are not encouraging visitors to the school, however we will continue to provide a Zoom link for parents and friends of the school to join in remotely.

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Principal's Message

Learners

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Important Reminders

Attendance - As school attendance is compulsory, parents/carers are required to offer explanations when children do not attend. There are many varied and valid reasons for non-attendance which are deemed acceptable though parent/carers must provide an explanation to the principal. This is a Compliance matter and links to the school's registration with the Government. Parents/carers may either enter this information through the parent portal on Compass, or email or phone the school. If after 7 days there is no explanation from a parent/carer, the absence is marked as unjustified. Parents/carers are required **to give a detailed description of the reason for the absence**. I apologise for asking for what may sometimes seem personal or private information, but it is what we need to have on our records. Please be assured all reasons given for absences are kept confidential.

A reminder also that the morning bell rings at 8.57 am and the roll is marked by teachers at this time. Students arriving after 8.57 am are asked to be accompanied by an adult to the admin office where parents/carers can use the Kiosk Lite to enter their arrival at school and explanation.

P and F News

Please read the important information on our P&F page, in particular the invite to participate in the Zoom Trivia experience this Saturday evening. It looks like a great way to connect with other families and have fun from the comfort of your own home. Thank you to Mrs Laird and other members of the P&F who are organising this event.

And finally,

Please keep our Director, Mr Anthony Gordon, and his family in your prayers as they await the arrival of their fifth child tomorrow. Anthony has led our Diocesan schools through the challenges of Covid-19 with calmness and a listening ear. We wish him a well-deserved break as he spends time with his family.

Looking forward to a return to "the norm" where each day we are greeted by the happy smiling faces of our beautiful students.

B. Hayes



Students in Year 5/6 participating in their online Book Club session with students from St Ignatius, Bourke.

Plastic bottle and jar lids

Mrs Ford has asked to remind everyone to continue saving plastic lids from bottles and jars as we will proceed with our plan to create a mural using the lids later in the year.

Let Your Light Shine Before All

Assembly 8th May 2020

Learners



Class Awards: Sonny, Justin, Yuvraj, Alyssa, Tamryn, Virajveer, Kathryn, Joss and Jacinta.



Principals Awards: Phoebe, Natalie, Princy, Geoffrey and Max.

Responsible



50 Nights Reading Award: Diya, Gabbie, Phoebe, Alyssa, Princy, Virajveer, Chloe, Toby and Joss.



Sports Awards: Kathryn and Yuvraj.

RE & Mission

Fundraising for Caritas in Lent

Thank you to each and every person who contributed to our Caritas fundraising during Lent. Through our Monday cake raffle, bottle and can recycling and selling second hand school uniforms at the office, we have a total of \$235.50; a fabulous amount considering how our projects had to stop due to Covid 19.

If you have not yet returned your Project Compassion box, please do so at your earliest convenience so a tally can be finalised and sent to Caritas.

Staying connected with our parish community

Follow or like our parish Face Book page



Hillston Catholic Parish
Catholic Church

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P and F News

P&F Virtual Family TRIVIA night 'ZOOM' - RSVP Friday 16th May 2020

Looking for something to do this Saturday night 16th May, your P&F is hosting a free ONLINE trivia quiz at 7pm on ZOOM.

All you need is your child's Chromebook, a sheet of paper, a comfy space in your home and a small trivia pack given out on Friday. You can play as a family or up to 10 people per team in the one home (Please be aware of Social Restrictions for NSW ; up to 5 visitors may visit another household at any one time.)

On Friday a Zoom link will be sent home to families who have RSVP to the school office, or Emma 0427421608/ Belinda 0417825258.

Please see poster for more details
Make sure you RSVP to obtain Zoom Link etc

Canteen

We are looking at opening the Canteen in Week 5!

Term 2 Canteen Roster					
	Helper 1	Helper 2	Soup Cook	Bolognese Cook	Bolognese Cook
27th April 2020	No Canteen				
4th May 2020					
11th May 2020					
18th May 2020					
25th May 2020	Belinda Mulchay				
1st June 2020					
8th June 2020	Queens Birthday Long Weekend				
15th June 2020					
22nd June 2020					
29th June 2020					

Happy and focussed learners at work today



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ST JOSEPH'S P&F ONLINE FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

What's going on?

On Saturday 16 May
7-8pm,

We're holding a fun FREE
ONLINE quiz night. All you
will need is a computer or
Child's Chromebook, Zoom,
pack from school and
**BE READY TO
HAVE A LAUGH**

RSVP

Emma 0427421608
Belinda 0417825258
or School Office
BY Friday for the
LINK

Where is it?

In the comfort of
your own home.
Max of 10 in a team

Who Can Come?

Members of your
family & up to 5 visitors
to a household at any
one time due to social
distancing restrictions

**JOIN IN THE FUN THIS SATURDAY
NIGHT 16 May 7-8 pm**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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Work Health & Safety

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

Screening of those working in schools

Working With Children Checks are undertaken by staff working in our school. Non-exempt school volunteers, outside tutors, external providers and any staff engaged by an external organisation are also expected to provide schools with their WWCC which is verified prior to engagement.

Exemptions from Working With Children Check are:

- Children (under the age of 18);
- A 'parent of a child' includes a carer or person who has legal responsibility for a child;
- A 'close relative' includes a spouse or de facto partner, child, step-child, parent, step-parent, sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, step-grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

This exemption does not apply where the work is part of a formal mentoring program or involves intimate, personal care of children with a disability, or when volunteering on overnight camps.

The purpose of the check is to exclude people from working with children who are not suitable. A person who has been convicted or found guilty of a listed serious offence against children (whether in NSW or elsewhere) is prohibited from working in a child related role.

The participation of parents and close relatives of students at the school as volunteers is welcomed and appreciated for various activities in the school. It is important that all volunteers are aware that they are subject to child protection legislation. This means all volunteers must:

- sign in on the Compass Kiosk at the front office and obtain a visitor's badge or slip as per school procedure;
- check with the school to ascertain the current legal requirements for working with children;
- not engage in any inappropriate behaviour towards any children. In particular, although parents and volunteers are not employed by the school, they are considered to be 'staff' for legal purposes and are subject to an investigation if an allegation of inappropriate behaviour towards a child or children is received.

Volunteers who are not the parent or a close relative of a child at the school will be expected to undertake a Working With Children Check.

Further information on the Working With Children Check can be found on the website for the Office of the Children's Guardian at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/>

Student Ambulance Cover Conditions

Student Ambulance Cover applies to transportation following a student accident, not an illness or medical condition. School policy is to call an ambulance in the event of a serious injury or illness (eg severe asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction, seizure etc). If your child has a pre existing medical condition that falls into this category, please be aware that the cost of the ambulance may be at the parent's expense if you do not have family ambulance cover.