

St Joseph's Parish School Newsletter



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Learners

From the Principal

Writing for Fun Success

Congratulations to the following students whose efforts are being recognised in the accompanying letter.

- Sophie Laird - Yr 6
- Alyssa Peters - Yr 6
- Evie Mugavin - Yr 6
- Lucy Irvine - Yr 6
- Kiah Auld - Yr 5
- Kathryn Neal - Yr 5
- Hugh Cleton - Yr 5
- Amira Gergi - Yr 4
- Xavier Auld - Yr 3
- Tamryn Meyer - Yr 2

Each of these students received a letter from Write4fun, explaining how their work may be published in "The Inside Story".

Throughout the year, Mrs Hutchison in her role as Literacy and Numeracy Focus Teacher, offers a variety of enrichment activities. Students who choose to accept these learning challenges, whilst given support and direction from Mrs Hutchison, complete these tasks in their own time.

It is with great pride therefore, that we wish to share the letter that we received last Friday. These students have shown initiative and tenacity. Well done to them all.

Issue 9 Term 2 10 June, 2020

IMPORTANT TERM DATES

Last day of Term 2 - Friday July 3

First day of Term 3 - Monday July 20



www.write4fun.net
PO Box 2734,
Nerang DC QLD 4211
Ph: (07) 5574 3622 Fax: (07) 5574 3644
Email: admin@write4fun.net
ABN: 67 654 747 264

Congratulations
on your
Achievement

May, 2020

000045
St Joseph's School
PO Box 16
HILLSTON NSW 2675

RE: 2020 SCHOOLS WRITING COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Write4Fun is proud to announce that **St Joseph's School** had 10 or more students successfully progress past the initial judging in the 2020 Schools Writing Competition.

This year, the competition was held throughout primary and secondary schools within Australia and we received over 7,000 entries! Your school has been recognised for outstanding student writing as less than 5% percent of schools showed this level of achievement.

Please find enclosed a Certificate of Excellence for your school.

The winners of the competition will be announced on Wednesday 24th June and can be viewed on our website at www.write4fun.net. Best of luck!

Once again, congratulations on your school's achievement.

Kind regards,

Julia Woods
MANAGING EDITOR

The Feast of the Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Sunday is celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday in honour of the most fundamental of Christian beliefs - belief in the Holy Trinity. We can never fully understand the mystery, but we can sum it up in the following way: God is three Persons in one Nature.

The Three Persons of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - they are equally God, and they cannot be divided.

During our School Prayer on Monday, the following link was shared in order to help us all with our understanding of the Holy Trinity. Perhaps students and their families might like to explore this together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-1AdUwbWLw>

THREE IN ONE



Let Your Light Shine Before All

Principal's Message

Capturing Voices from the Field - In response to Covid 19 , "What have we learnt from our experiences that will change the way we learn, lead and educate into the future?"

With travel restrictions being eased, it was with delight that we welcomed Mrs Mary-Ellen Dempsey, Deputy Director of Catholic Education for the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, our School Consultant, Mrs Vicki Bourne-Fallon and Mrs Melissa Hill, our Education Officer, to our school for our Tuesday staff meeting.

The purpose of their visit was to meet with staff members and through a reflective process, gather their thoughts on the challenges and complexities that the COVID-19 pandemic had, and continues to have, on our school. This process will be repeated in all schools across the Diocese with Hillston being the first. These responses when gathered will be used to help the Diocese formulate their next 5 year strategic plan. The process was based on the premise that school communities across the globe have responded rapidly and positively to new ways of working. We want to avoid a 'snapback' to defaults and ingrained habits of practice.

Our responses were listed under:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| What were our successes? | What were our challenges? |
| What will we keep? | What will we lose? |
| What will we change? | What new ideas do we wish to explore? |

Gathering Voices from our parents and carers

As part of Tuesday's staff meeting, members of staff decided that this process would be enriched by hearing from our parents and carers, to capture their valuable comments on what they have learnt from their experiences of learning during the Covid pandemic when we were faced with providing both face to face and remote learning opportunities.

In the coming week, a quick survey will be sent as a Google Form and we ask that you take the time to let us learn from your wisdom.

Peer Support Programme

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who led their first Peer Support session last Monday. This week, due to the long weekend, Session 2 will be held on Thursday.

In their session this week, students will look at the qualities their friends may have and that we choose our friends based on the qualities we admire in them. They will also explore the skills of friendship; especially those of cooperating and listening.

During the week you might like to take the opportunity to encourage your child to show they are interested in the person they are talking with by practising active listening skills.

Mini Vinnie Initiative

Our Mini Vinnie group, led by Alyssa Peters, ran the first of their 4 Tuesday morning Hot Drink events in support of the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. This is a great way to warm up on a cold and frosty winter's morning.



Hot chocolate Tuesday
Are you cold and need something to warm you up?
You can get a delicious Hot Trea for only \$2

All you need to do if you want a Hot treat is bring a travel mug and your and meet us at the Canteen

Student Representative Council - Winter Raffle

Our SRC thanks Mrs McGuinness for generously sharing her time to print and organise the Winter Raffle tickets. The students are really pleased with the response so far, and have asked that families be reminded to sell their tickets. Thanks also to Mrs Gray at Peggy's Store and Mr and Mrs Trikamdasoth at Hillston Hardware who have offered to sell tickets from their premises.

Let Your Light Shine Before All

Principal's Message

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2021 - now open

Thank you to our current Kindergarten students who decorated 'sample bags' with their own personal touch and message. The bags provide information on what we offer families and students. Bags are available at Play'N'Learn and Billylids and here at school.

There has been a change in our Diocese to the date we can now accept student enrolments for Kindergarten. Prospective students must turn 5 years of age before July 31 (not April 30 as in the past) in the year they enrol for Kindergarten.

Please spread this message to any friends or families you may know and encourage them to collect their sample bag.



Using the Compass Parent Portal to advise of a student absence

Thank you to all the parents and carers who are taking advantage of the parent portal to advise of their child's absence from school. The take up has been amazing!

When choosing the reason that applies to your child, you will notice there is a **details/comment box**.

In order to have this **approved as an explained absence**, parents and carers **MUST** provide a detailed explanation, eg if it is a medical appointment please give details of the professional service and where the appointment is being held. In the case of illness, please provide details of the symptoms and duration.

Whilst this may appear to be intrusive or pedantic this is the requirement that has always been in place. Principals are held responsible in ensuring that student attendance at school each day is a priority. If students are absent for any period of time, principals are required in all NSW schools, to approve any time away from school.

If a detailed reason is provided, this makes the task simple.

In addition, if you are using the KioskLite in the administration office, please do not be offended if you are asked to provide details of your child's absence by either Mrs Simpkin or Mrs Sarkis.

NAIDOC 2020 Activities

Planning is well underway for this important event on Friday July 3. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are still unsure whether we will be able to invite parents, families and wider community members to our celebrations. In the past this has always been a great day for our school and we will keep our fingers crossed that we can all come together on the last day of term. More details will be shared in Week 9.

Celebrating Sacraments in 2020

Dates have been set for the reception of Sacraments (revised due to Covid 10 postponements in Term 2).

Sacrament of Penance - will be celebrated on Wednesday 21 October (Week 2 Term 4) at 5 pm

Sacrament of the Eucharist - First Holy Communion will be celebrated during the Parish Mass on Sunday 25 October (Week 2 Term 4) at 9.00am in Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Hillston. A letter will be sent home with all Year 2 and Year 3 students today, providing more details including how parents can support their child to be ready to receive the Sacraments.

Welcome back Lachlan Eade who has again joined the Yr 5/6 group. We wish him, his parents, Rachael and Ken, and family all the very best as they relocate to Hillston.

Finally, thank you to all our families who were able to overlook the incorrect dates on this week's Facebook and Compass *Week at a Glance*. Just goes to show what can happen when we are busy enjoying the long week end. With every good wish.

B. Hayes

Let Your Light Shine Before All

Assembly 5 June 2020

Learners



Class Awards: Samantha, Princy, Diya, Chloe, Natalie, Lucy, Sophie, Chantelle and Ari.



50 Nights Reading Award: Sophie Laird

Mass is back!

It was so lovely to have our parish community celebrate Mass together on the weekend for the first time since the Covid 19 restrictions. It was a whole 11 weekends without being able to celebrate Mass! We pray for continued safety and good health for everyone.



Anyone wanting to be on the Sunday Mass roster for altar serving, reading or church cleaning, please inform Mrs Hutchison. Please see roster for the coming weeks below;



Principals Awards: Toby, Samantha, Diya, Kiah, Saxon, Tim and Hugh. Absent; Matilda and Taye.



Sports Awards: Rohith and James



100 Nights Reading Awards:
Xavier, Gabbie, Diya, Kiah and Mia.

Date of Sunday	Altar Serving	Reading Liturgy of the Word	Reading Prayer of the Faithful	Church cleaning
14 June	Kiah Auld	Lyn Manton	Bev Hayes	Jenny Cleton
21 June	Xavier Auld	Mandy Hutchison	Meyer family	Carole Storrier

Parents & Friends Assoc

Parents & Friends News

We need your help and it is easy - the Grant would go towards making our 2020 Christmas Tree greater for our community! <https://essentialenergy.cmail19.com/t/i-l-xdulhky-jitkdykjk-t/>

We are zone 2 ; Scroll through to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Hillston and

VOTE - You can vote every day!



Canteen - We need helpers for this coming Monday the 15th of June 2020

Term 2 Canteen Roster

	Helper 1	Helper 2	Soup Cook	Bolognese Cook	Bolognese Cook
15th June 2020	Tabatha sarkis	Amy Gergi			
22nd June 2020	Belinda Mulcahy	Jenny Cleton			
29th June 2020	Emma Laird	Tabatha Sarkis			

Save the Date

Roadside Clean Up - Saturday 5th September 2020

NEXT P&F MEETING

Monday 27th July at 5pm

We are calling for items to be added to our agenda, so please contact Belinda Mulcahy 0417 825 258 or the school office.

If you have ideas, or are able to help at any events please come along to the meeting or let us know!

Work Health & Safety

Walking together safely to and from school

Walking to school and back home again is a great way to spend time with your children and encourage safe and healthy behaviours.

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children safer as a pedestrian:

- Talk with your children about being alert in the road environment.
- Plan and practice your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.
- Always hold your child's hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
- Meet your child near the school gate and don't call them from across the road.
- Explain why the place you have chosen is the safest place to cross.
- Remind your child to STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK! every time they cross the road and keep checking until safely across.
- Talk to them about why they should stop, look, listen, think before crossing a driveway, road or car park.

Young children can learn and practice these safe pedestrian behaviours with you. This will help them to be safer pedestrians when they are old enough to travel alone.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au



Until they're ten, children must always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road

Riding to School Guidelines

- The Catholic Education Office and Transport NSW recommend that children **under the age of 10 years of age DO NOT** ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult.
- Children must wear a Standards Australia approved bicycle helmet.
- Children under 12 years should ride away from busy roads.

FOR MORE DETAILS PARENTS ARE ASKED TO REFER TO EACH SCHOOL'S GUIDELINES FOR SAFE USE OF BICYCLES BY STUDENTS



CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS COMPLAINTS

We take complaints seriously and try to resolve them in the most appropriate, efficient and confidential manner possible:

- If you or your child has a complaint about a student other than your own child you should raise it with your child's class teacher.
- If you or your child has a complaint about academic achievement or wellbeing issues you should raise it with your child's class teacher.
- If you or your child has a complaint about a staff member relating to teaching and learning, the issue should be discussed with the principal.
- If you or your child has a complaint about the inappropriate behaviour of staff, misconduct or reportable conduct towards any child or young person, your concern should be directed to the Principal and confidentiality must be maintained. All complaints regarding inappropriate behaviour of staff, misconduct or reportable conduct will be acknowledged within 15 business days.

ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY STAFF

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. This includes addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour by staff (including parents, volunteers and contractors) towards any child or young person.

Such complaints are handled differently to other types of complaints which may arise in the school because of legal obligations established by the NSW Ombudsman Act 1974. The NSW Ombudsman is a government agency which requires schools and other organisations working with children to ensure systems are in place for recording and responding to all allegations of a child protection nature against staff. You should be aware that 'staff' includes volunteer helpers (including parents), contractors as well as paid staff. If you have concerns about alleged inappropriate behaviour by a staff member towards any child or young person it is important that you discuss your concerns with the Principal who in turn will consult with the Catholic Education Office.



UNSW Global

In recent years parents/carers have been given the opportunity to choose whether they wish their children to participate in the ICAS Assessment. They are now open for 2020. ICAS Assessments are open to any student in years 3-6 and these test are run through the University of New South Wales. New technology this year will see these tests being available online for students to access here at school. Payments will also be online using our special school code.

Below are the details of when each test will be available and the cost of each test. Mrs Watkin will be facilitating the students during each test. If you have any questions regarding these test please contact the Admin office. A note will go home soon for students who would like to register.

Dates

Australia, New Zealand, Pacific & International Schools

2020

Each subject will be open for a 5-day sitting window period (see dates below)

Subject	Sitting Dates#	Closing Date^
ICAS Science	Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August 2020	Monday, 10 August 2020
ICAS Writing*	No longer available in 2020	
ICAS Digital Technologies	Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August 2020	Monday, 17 August 2020
ICAS English	Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August 2020	Monday, 17 August 2020
ICAS Mathematics	Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September 2020	Monday, 24 August 2020
ICAS Spelling Bee	Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September 2020	Monday, 24 August 2020

[^]It is at a school's discretion to set earlier closing dates than the ones listed above.

*Offline assessments only available for Years 3 & 4 (AU) and Years 4 & 5 (NZ), closing date Tuesday, 20 July 2020.

UNSW Global recognises International schools that are registered with the Council of International Schools (CIS).

2020 Pricing

Subjects	Online Test
ICAS Science	\$15.95 AUD (inc GST)
ICAS Writing*	No longer available in 2020
ICAS Digital Technologies	\$15.95 AUD (inc GST)
ICAS English	\$15.95 AUD (inc GST)
ICAS Mathematics	\$15.95 AUD (inc GST)