Dear St Joseph’s Families,

There has been extensive media coverage of the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in recent times given the focus of the Commission on a case study from a Catholic school in in the Diocese of Toowoomba. Brisbane Catholic Education does not have oversight of Catholic schools in that diocese, but the resurfacing of this case may again undermine the confidence of the broader community in the safety of students in Catholic schools generally.

The hearings uncovered further disturbing information about the way in which the Church has so poorly handled allegations of sexual abuse against children. We can only begin to imagine the suffering of those children and the impact on their families. We offer our most sincere apologies, again, for what occurred and reiterate our absolute determination to do all we can to ensure that children and young people are safe in our schools and that crimes like this do not happen again.

Please be assured that our school, along with all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, has in place clear policies and procedures for dealing with all allegations of sexual abuse, including those not related to a school setting. These policies and procedures are available to all parents and are published on the Brisbane Catholic Education website.

Parents will receive in the mail a letter from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and Pam Betts, Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, to assure parents of our continued commitment to ensuring our Catholic schools are safe for your children. If you did not receive a copy of the letter, please contact the school office and we will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

Have a great week!

Greg Cran,
Principal

Congratulations to Teagan O’Sullivan, Bridget Jones, Lloyd Langton, Bridie and Fletch Prendergast, who were confirmed by Bishop Finnigan on the weekend.

A big thankyou to our Year 6/7 Leaders for conducting our handball competition.

Congratulation to the winners from each class. This created much excitement across the school!
Welcome to week 6!

Yesterday the National Evangelisation Team from NET Ministries visited St Joseph’s and worked with our Year 6/7 students. This was a wonderful opportunity for our student leaders to become engaged with the Christian ‘Steppin Up Leadership’ program conducted by the NET Team. Congratulations to our year 6/7 class for their excellent participation throughout the day. A special thanks to Br Tim for making our visitors feel welcome, and for cooking a great BBQ lunch.

Recently I became aware that ‘Random Acts of Kindness day’ was celebrated by many communities. As I listened to the radio driving to school, I enjoyed the random compliments being given by the radio hosts to their callers. Whilst it was a lovely idea and made me smile, it also left me wondering why a special day has to be set aside to remind us to show kindness to others.

At St. Joseph’s, it’s uplifting to witness many acts of kindness on a daily basis. An older student brought a young peer to the office when her slushie spilt on her uniform, and waited there to make sure she was okay. A Year 6/7 student offered to walk all the way out to the wheelie bins to empty an overflowing office bin as well as another student from 6/7 who walks children safely across the road near the pool every afternoon and puts them safely onto the buses. Year 5 students assisted Castra parishioners at Mass recently. Two members of our school community have volunteered to sew hems onto our class prayer table cloths (Thank you so much!) No matter how small, an act of kindness is living the way Jesus taught us. It fills each other’s hearts with happiness and connects us to the values we uphold here. Respect and nurture for each other and our environment is visible through the many acts of kindness amongst our students, staff, parents and community. Let’s continue to make every day a random act of kindness day!

Have an awesome week!

**Lent and Project Compassion**

This Wednesday 5th March, is Ash Wednesday. It is the first day of LENT.

Lent is a time when believers prepare for Easter.

Easter is the time to celebrate how much God loves us and that God is the giver of life.

It is the most important feast that Christians celebrate.

During the 40 days of Lent, we prepare for Easter by taking time to be quiet in our hearts, by doing good deeds, showing acts of kindness to others, by being forgiving and asking for forgiveness.

We will receive ashes on our foreheads during our Ash Wednesday liturgy to remind us that we need to try to be more like Jesus.

During Lent we try to concern ourselves less with temporary ways to gain happiness, like toys, computer games, and lollies. It’s the perfect time to do without some of these comforts, and work on helping others less comfortable than us. Each year the organisation Caritas Australia, conducts Project Compassion, through which schools can direct their energy into assisting people in poor communities. Basic essentials like clean water, food and education aren’t readily available to many in our world. Social justice and children’s basic rights are investigated in class, through Project Compassion as well.

Each class will be given a small collection box in which children are invited to put in a few coins to assist in raising funds for Project Compassion. The project will continue for the duration of Lent, the next 4 weeks.

Thank you to the year 6/7 leaders in the Faith Group for their organisation and enthusiastic participation in leading this project for our school.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Celia O’Connor

APRE

Year 6/7 enjoying one of the activities conducted by the NET Team during their Leadership Retreat Day yesterday.
Around The Classrooms

**Prep**

Students in prep have had a very busy start to their learning careers. They have been learning about numbers and letters, along with much more. But they decided to create some of these letters and numbers with their bodies which was lots of fun!

**Year 1**

Year 1 has well and truly started. In Term 1 we are learning about so many new and exciting things. We have transformed our Year 1 classroom into a Jungle, with real Jungle fish as our class pets. We put names in a hat and drew out the names, Rosie and Goldie for our pet fish. In Science this Term we will be studying the features and needs of living things, especially fish, spiders and plants.

**Year 2**

We have been very busy in Year 2, learning about the seasons and the months of the Year. This week we are concentrating on how to tell the time! Quarter to and quarter past we are mastering well!

**Year 3**

This month in Year 3 we have been exploring different types of materials. We have been describing solids, liquids and gasses. At the end of the lesson we discuss what we have learnt that day. This week we learnt that air has weight – we weighed a deflated football and then a pumped up football and the difference was 44 grams. Interesting!

**Year 4**

With the start of the school year, a variety of things have occurred. 4 children in our class celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. Each day in Prayer Time, we pray, sing and reflect together of God's goodness. As a class we have taken 'time' to learn to work together as a ‘team’. When working in groups, we have learnt to work independently or have been guided by our teacher. We have stretched our brains doing 'Maths Mentals' each day!

**Year 5**

Year 5 had a great start to the school year. A trip to Mrs Dunn’s farm, getting to use the iPads and attending an Anointing Mass were the highlights. After going to Mrs Dunn’s farm we wrote our own vision board about what we would do if we weren’t afraid. Elise told us that our class totem, the Kangaroo, encourages us to move out of our comfort zone so we are increasing our confidence by doing public speaking in class as well as role playing being a judge!

**Year 6/7**

As well as our normal class activities we have been concentrating on our Year 6/7 leadership skills.

**A Bird’s End.**

It was a warm summer’s day and a perfect day for bird watching. Anna was quietly observing a baby bird take its first flight towards her wild bird feeder. Suddenly Anna heard a loud noise and turned to see a murky animal creep slowly. The savage creature started to sprint towards the feeder. It ran as fast as lightning but more determined than an eagle. The animal was on a quick prowl towards the bird. A creature with razor-sharp claws, leapt for the beautiful rainbow lorikeet. The animal was successful. The baby bird tried to soar away. But the flapping of the gorgeous bird’s wings wasn’t enough to startle the wild animal. The creature had acted out of instinct; the bird slowly stopped struggling and was motionless now. The savage cat rapidly dragged its unfortunate prey towards a hay stack. The cat steadily pierced the bird’s wing with its fangs like a hot knife through butter. The lorikeet wasn’t brightly coloured anymore; it was dark shades, wet and bloodstained. The bird was no more.

By Brooke Heness Year 7
The South Burnett Primary U/12 Softball trials (for boys and girls) will be held at Taabinga SS on Monday March 10.
Children need to be able to throw overarm over 10m and with some accuracy and also be able to hit the moving ball.
Trials start 9:15am and will run til 2:30pm.
Please ensure nominated students bring a school medical and permission form with them on the day.
Zone selection trails for Boys and Girls Mixed Teams AFL for the 2014 season will be held Monday 10th March at TAABINGA STATE SCHOOL from 9:30am – 2:30pm. You are invited to send boys and girls from Years 5, 6 or 7 who are turning 10, 11 or 12 years old this year and who have exhibited potential in AFL. This could mean they are an all-round athlete, have a background in another contact sport or have a nice kick and catch.
Please note that AFL is a contact sport and there will be contact drills during the trials. Students who turn 13 or more this year are not eligible for zone or regional selection.

February School Fees due by Friday 7th March
Dear Parents
Just a reminder February School Fees must be paid by Friday 7th March. Reminder statements will be sent home next week to families who have not settled their account or made payment arrangements with the Office. These will be on coloured paper so that they can be identified from the original statement previously posted out. So please if you have not already contacted paid the outstanding amount or need a little extra time, please contact the office immediately to prevent us doing unnecessary fee follow up procedures.

Electronic Newsletters: We currently run off newsletters each Tuesday and have a small number of parents receiving their copy electronically. We are keen to replace as many paper copies with electronic as it is better for both environmental and financial reasons. Most Brisbane Catholic Education schools have already moved to an electronic newsletter over the past few years.
To make this move successfully, I will need our parent and carer community to assist with a few things:
- For those happy to receive an electronic newsletter: Please make sure that your email address is updated with us as soon as it changes. (See form later in newsletter)
- For those needing a paper newsletter (eg. No internet access): Please make sure that your eldest or most responsible child is well trained to collect it each Tuesday or let the office know if you only have a younger child who may ensure that it reaches home. (See form later in newsletter)
- Please take the time to open and read the new electronic newsletter each week. While there are significant environmental and financial savings for our community, I would not like to see the newsletter sit unread in an inbox. Of course, this is also true for paper newsletters left in students bags.

Guidance Counsellor
This fortnight in Program Achieve students continued their study of Resilience. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adverse events that may happen in a child’s life.
Lower Primary
- Students will be able to state that when they get very upset (angry, sad or worried) they can calm down by relaxing.
- Students will be able to state that when they get very upset (angry, sad or worried) they can calm by finding something fun to do.
- Students will be able to state that when they get very upset (angry, sad and worried) they can calm down by finding a grown-up to talk to.
Middle Primary
- Students will be able to state that when they are faced with challenging and demanding situations, they can stay calm and calm down by relaxing.
- Students will be able to state that when they are very upset, they can calm down by finding someone to talk to.
- Students will learn that when they are feeling upset it can be helpful to exercise.
- Students will learn that a helpful way of thinking that will boost their resilience when faced with mistakes, criticism or rejection is the “Accepting Myself” way of
Upper Primary
- Students will learn a variety of skills for developing their resilience’s including: walking away, relations, locating a time out area, finding someone to talk to, finding something fun to do, use positive self-talk, asserting yourself and exercising.
- Students will develop a plan for strengthening their resilience skills.

Regards,
David Francis
Guidance Counsellor
St Joseph’s Primary School, Murgon
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Welcome to the new year of 2014. We would personally like to welcome our new and existing families. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month @ 6pm, in the admin block unless otherwise stated in the newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to participate in our very casual meetings and many different functions throughout the year. Every cent benefits all our children and with emphasis on fundraising for the Canberra Trip this year (5, 6&7’s.) We are about to start our fundraising very shortly with some exciting things rapidly approaching.

Easter Raffle [Tickets enclosed] (Donations of Easter Eggs for a free dress day, Date to be advised)

Family Holiday Raffle (Watch this space!!!!!!)

Mothers Day Stall (Week 5th – 9th May)

We have our next meeting on the 19th March, please mark this in your diary or phone.

It has been great to hear and see classes experiencing the benefits of the new iPads we have funded the school with. GREAT JOB P & F!!! This also includes all the tireless Mums, Grandmothers, Aunts and Friends who help in the tuckshop each and every week. We thank you and are sure the children are even more grateful.

So please if you can help in anyway possible that would be great. We’re doing it for the kids!!!! If you can help out with tuckshop or would like to be a supplier for the year, please see Sheree in the office. You can become a supplier for the tuckshop to help buy ingredients if you cannot help in the tuckshop on a working basis. Every little bit helps.

Regards

P and F Committee

Environmental Committee

*Nude Food Day — Tuesday, 11th March. Remember to try and avoid all wrappers etc.*

**Book Club** flyers are being sent home this week. These orders are due back on **Monday 17 March**. Please note that if you are paying for your order by cheque, kindly make it payable to St Joseph’s Primary School.

Regards Nell Guteridge

Librarian

**Wondai Art Gallery**

All of the students at St Joseph’s School have been invited to exhibit, this month, at the Wondai Art Gallery in 'Kids Korner’. The theme is Indigenous Art. **The opening night will be on Friday 7th March at 6pm**. All the family is welcome to attend.

**March Birthdays**

- **Prep**: Catherine Voigt, Catelyn Purcell
- **Year 1**: Jaime M’Effer
- **Year 2**: Taylor Forrest
- **Year 3**: Riley Robinson, Tarnia Bligh, Nathan Roderick
- **Year 5**: Romana Ricketts
- **Year 6/7**: Brooke Heness

**Student of the Week – Week 5**

- **Prep**: Lily Broome
- **Year 1**: Mia Shaw
- **Year 2**: Trent Aubrey
- **Year 3**: Athena Ricketts
- **Year 4**: Teagan O’Sullivan
- **Year 5**: Romana Ricketts
- **Year 6/7**: Tyler Brushe
Parish Mass Times

Saturday 8th March
9.00am Mass – Proston
6.00pm Mass – Murgon

Sunday 9th March
8.00am Mass – Wondai
10:30am Mass – Durong

Parish Phone No: 4168 1406

---

TUCKSHOP
Wednesday 5th March, 2014

MARCH Special

Fish Fingers and Wedges (with or without Sour Cream)
With a choice of drink (popper/flavoured milk/LOL Drink) $6.00

---

MURGON BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Diggers Room, Murgon RSL
FRIDAY 21ST March, 2014
6.30p, to 8.30pm SHARP
Cost:- $5.00 includes a hot dog
NO PASSES OUT OF BUILDING UNLESS WITH AN ADULT.
PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY.

---

PCYC CHARITY BALL

in aid of Shona

Time: 6:00pm
Date: 29th March 2014
Place: Murgon PCYC, Macalister Street, Murgon
Dress: Black Tie Event

$90

Help Shona Walk Again

---

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

7th MARCH

STADIUM GAMES
CRAZIE HAIR
X BOX
POOL TABLES
TEN PIN
ART SPORT
FACE PAINTING
& MUCH MUCH MORE

8$ Entry
Food & Drinks Available
Free Bus Transfers from Goomeri & Wondai
Fun for All Primary & High School Students
Fun Safe & Supervised Activities

Ph 4168 1889

Help Shona Walk Again