Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As I reflect on the year so far at St Joseph’s, I can think of many exciting initiatives that have been developed to produce high quality student learning. Outlined below are some of the ways we are catering for all learners at St Joseph’s.

**MULTILIT/MINILIT**

This semester, St. Joseph’s has continued to work with the Multilit and Minilit programs. These individual and small group interventions target the learning of sound/letter knowledge, sight words knowledge and reading and comprehension.

The children engaged with these programs within our school have begun to show significant increases in their skills as readers and in their general confidence as learners.

**COMPUTERS**

St. Joseph’s this year has spent $45,000 on new laptop computers. The students use these computers as learning tools to access learning resources and texts online and to create and publish a wide range of quality texts.

The students from Year 2 to Year 6 now have access to a computer each, providing many enriched learning opportunities for all.

In addition, the school has been able to purchase 40 iPads equipped with high quality educational apps, through the combined support of a $15000 Language Learning grant from Brisbane Catholic Education with a further generous contribution of $10,000 from St. Joseph’s P and F. These iPads are used to add value and increase engagement during weekly Indonesian lessons and are used enthusiastically by students in day-to-day class activities including, creating digital books, recording images and creating and editing videos.

**SCHOOL WIDE LITERACY FOCUS**

St. Joseph’s have been enriching teaching and learning through our School Wide Literacy focus. With the help of our two Literacy Coaches, the staff have been enhancing their knowledge and skills as teachers of English to support their students to meet the expectations of the Australian Curriculum.

St. Joseph’s have begun steps across the school to reach these high expectations for learners. These include:

- School wide English blocks with additional support staff in each classroom.
- Professional learning in Expected and Effective literacy practices.
- Purchase of new reading books and reading resources, including online texts.
- Targeting Phonological Awareness Development in the Prep, Yr1 and Yr2 classes.
- Teachers creating collegial partnerships with teachers from other Catholic schools in the South Burnett.
- More effective school processes to gather and use student learning data to plan for future teaching and learning experiences.
- Introduced peer support reading and daily sight words practice.

The combined influence of these approaches across the school, has shown measureable increases in student competence in writing and reading. We all look forward to more success stories as this focus continues.
Principal’s message continued

RETEACH/ ENRICH
Reteach/Enrich is a Maths intervention approach St. Joseph’s has begun in Term 3 in the Yr3, Yr4 and Yr5/6 classrooms. Following each week of Maths learning, student knowledge is assessed. The following week children who did not fully grasp the concept become part of the Reteach group for the following week. Children who showed they had achieved the required skill level become part of the Enrich group for the following week, targeting enriching their understanding of the concept.
There are three, thirty minute sessions weekly for each group. This process is supported by additional teachers. Reteach/Enrich sessions are carried out in addition to usual class Maths teaching lessons.

OPTIMINDS INTERSCHOOL CHALLENGE
Children from Yrs 5 and 6 have opted to participate in the Optiminds Interschool Challenge Program for this year. The students work as a team to create a solution to a complex problem. This year’s challenge involves moving a tin of tuna from one place to another and having it return using a different method of propulsion.
This year we have a team of St. Joseph’s best thinkers and most creative minds. Good luck team.

INDONESIAN
This year saw the beginning of St. Joseph’s Indonesian Language classes taught by Mrs. Claire Dennis, from Prep to Yr6. The students have responded positively to this fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into one of Australia’s closest neighbours during their weekly 40 minute lessons in the Marcellin Multi-purpose Centre. The Indonesian classes frequently use the iPads to access online language skills programs and information regarding the cultural aspects of Indonesia.

SPORT
The children of St. Joseph’s, in addition to their Weekly 40 minute Physical Education lesson, have many other opportunities to engage in sporting activities.
This year, these have included:
- South Burnett sporting teams
- South Burnett Rugby League and Netball Gala Day
- Queensland Catholic Schools Netball Carnival
- All Schools Touch Football Competition
Many of our students have represented St. Joseph’s and themselves well in these sporting events.

The many opportunities at St. Joseph’s this year have also included:
- Castra Cobbers - fortnightly visits to Castra which gives opportunities for our children to work with the elderly people of our Murgon community.
- Wondai Art Gallery and Murgon show displays
- Various religious Feast Day celebrations throughout the year, Buddy Masses and Anointing Masses with the Castra residents
- Celebrations - Grandparents Day, Celebration of Learning Days (Open Classrooms)
- Completion of the Yulburri Garden – The Place Where Truth Meets
- Premiers Reading Challenge and National Simultaneous Storytime.

There are many things happening at St. Joseph’s, with the focus always being high expectations for our learners. Your child’s success is dependent on the strength of the partnership between the home and the school; the parent and the teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Greg Cran
Principal
Year 1
What have I done that I enjoyed this year?

Ella Peterson - I like playing and working. I like doing hard work in Science. I really like learning about Science.

Jack Riley - I like playing touch footy and bulrush, soccer & on the playground with my friends. I like doing hard work, especially in History.

In year 3 we have enjoyed in the first Semester:

Science we are learning about solids, gases and liquids:
A rock is a solid. A drink is a liquid and factories puff out smoke which is a gas.

......... By Joseph Atkins.

This semester in Year 3 we went to visit Castra. We sang songs called “Rockin’ Robin” and “Lean On Me”. We also had ice-cream and played bingo with the residents.

By Saffron Sandow

St. Joseph’s Year 4 students this Semester, have loved reading in Book Club and learning about new books. “We love sitting around in groups and discussing what we have read” ......Amelia & Athena

We love learning about Green Turtles in Science and then presenting our information to the class.......Dylan & Nathan

This Semester in Year 2, we have been learning about exits and entries in handwriting. Miss Hall times us when we do our number facts. My time is 3 minutes and 51 seconds!.....By Shontayne Cobbo

In Year 2 - Natural Resources and Mixtures, we made slime in our experiments. On our Excursion we went to Barambah A-Flat and had lots of fun. by Yuna Olbes
Year 6

This Semester at school, I have enjoyed working in our leadership groups because it is good to be able to help the school. I have also enjoyed doing Opti-Minds, I have really started to realise that working as a team is much better than doing everything by yourself. In Term 1, I also really enjoyed camp at Currimundi, it was fun to go to the beach with my friends and learn things at the same time. Science and The Arts have been some of my favourite subjects this year. We do a heap of experiments and work with complete circuits in Science. In The Arts, we get to do Art as well as Drama. In our class we have computers which are very helpful with our research. This year, school has been great.

By David Rowberry

Year 5

students this Semester have completed some great work in Science. We enjoy completing experiments and figuring out how things work. In History, we did an inquiry around The Gold Rush. I found out key dates and places where the gold was found. Being a part of the Leadership groups with the Years 6’s, has been great. I have enjoyed how Year 5’s are encouraged to come up with ideas about how we spend time with some of the Year 6 students, and also how we help out with activities. PE with Mrs Dennis has been fun. It’s great that we practise events before we compete. Drama with Mrs Dunn is fun also, and we are learning to be confident when speaking in front of a group. Learning about timetables and working with big numbers with Mr McCarthy is very interesting.

.............Jaylah Purcell