Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At the end of last term, Ms O’Connor, Mr McCarthy and I attended a two day workshop with Dr Lyn Sharratt as part of Brisbane Catholic Education’s Literacy Project which St Joseph’s is a part of. This work is also the foundation work in achieving our school goal - Every student at St Joseph’s will demonstrate learning progress against the Australian Curriculum.

Lyn Sharratt is a world renowned educator who is successful in leading systems and schools to achieve high standards in learning for all learners. Lyn’s work focuses on the 14 Parameters, which are the key for attaining high achievement in schools and classrooms. Of these 14 parameters the first; Shared Beliefs and Understandings highlights many of the beliefs we have at St Joseph’s. At St Joseph’s we believe:

- Each student can achieve high standards, given the right time and the right support.
- Each teacher can teach to high standards, given the right assistance.
- High expectations and early and ongoing intervention are essential.

The 14th parameter is Shared Responsibility and Accountability, which highlights the importance that each child’s learning is everyone’s responsibility. This includes all staff and parents working together to achieve high standards.

Our work now is to achieve high standards in literacy with our focus being on reading and writing. To help us achieve this, each class will have a 90 minute, uninterrupted, English block for four days a week. Emphasis will be placed on the need for students to be given opportunities to engage with reading and writing activities every day. Mr McCarthy, Ms O’Connor, myself and other support teachers will support programs within and out of the classroom.

We understand this will involve hard work and focus, which will be achieved because we believe at St Joseph’s all learners can achieve.

**NAPLAN TESTING**

In week 4 (May12-14) NAPLAN testing will occur for years 3 and 5. These tests are conducted in every school in Australia and are designed to assess the skills of Australian students in literacy (reading, writing, and language conventions) and numeracy.

The specific purposes are:

* To collect data from the population of Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 students for reporting to parents/carers and schools for systemic reporting
* To accommodate the assessment of students against national minimum standards.

Students have been preparing for these tests by working through test preparation materials and previous years tests, to ensure they are ready for the testing in week 4. It is important that students do this to ensure they are familiar with the way the tests are conducted and the format used to ask questions.

The testing process is very different to the way our classrooms normally run. Normally classrooms have multiple learning activities occurring at one time, students work collaboratively, often in groups and discuss their learning. When they are confronted with a problem they ask the teacher or School Officers and receive the help they need. This contemporary learning and teaching pedagogy, coupled with the technology rich learning environment, provides an excellent learning environment for your student to learn.

Unfortunately, test conditions are very different and due to this, can often be stressful to students. It is important that we recognise this and do not put unnecessary pressure on our students to perform on these tests.

As parents, you do not need to do anything extra in preparing your child for the tests. By doing so you may cause more stress. What is important is that we remember our Program Achieve Keys to Success and encourage our students to be confident, persist with difficult questions and have a go, and be organised and prepared for when the day arises.

If you would like further information regarding NAPLAN testing please see myself or your child’s teacher.

Principal: Mr Greg Cran
Email: pmurgon@bne.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stjosephsmurgon.qld.edu.au

**Important Dates**

**MAY**

5 Edmund Rice Feast Day
4-8 Mother’s Day Stall
8 Anointing Mass Yr 5/6
10 Mother’s Day
12-14 Naplan Testing
15 Buddy Mass Yr 4 & 2
17 Cherbourg Fun Run
18 Q Cup Netball—Brisbane
22 Buddy Mass Yr 3 & 5/6
26 National Sorry Day
29 Buddy Mass Yr 2 & Prep

**JUNE**

8 Queen’s Birthday Holiday
12 Anointing Mass Yr 4
18-19 Athletics Carnival
19 Report Cards Home
23-24 Parent Teacher Interviews
26 Last day of Term 2
Principal’s Message cont’d

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Today we had many students trial for the South Burnett District Cross Country Team. They attended a cross country meet at Murgon State High School with many other top runners in our district. District carnivals are a very tough competition and these children performed well. Congratulations to Sheldon Brown, Fletch Prendergast (7th) Kaitlyn Zelinski (6th), Bridie Prendergast (5th), Lachlan Zelinski, Jeremy Hobbs, Harry Perrett (4th), Josh Peterson, and Rebecca Palmer (5th). We are proud of the efforts of everyone who ran on the day. Well done!!!

MOTHER’S DAY STALL 2015

The St Joey’s Mother’s Day Stall is here again.
The children previewed the gifts yesterday and many have written their wish list. The store was open for business from this morning and will be open every morning this week. The gifts range in price from $1.00 — $5.00. The children are able to purchase multiple gifts, as the gifts are suitable for mothers, grandparents or the special lady in their life.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Greg Cran
Principal

Welcome to Week 3, and the beginning of a special month. May is the Month of Mary.

THE MONTH OF MAY

This amazing and special woman was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son Jesus. Her faith and trust in God was so strong that despite her fears for what was to come, she said ‘Yes’ to this important role. Mary was a gentle, caring and loving person, entrusted with the upbringing of Jesus. This month we not only honour Mary, we celebrate those special and significant women who care for us and the children in our community. Mother’s Day is this Sunday and I wish all mothers a very happy and relaxing day and may you all get spoilt by your families.

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Dylan Kapernick, David Taylor, Amelia Cran and Anquon Sandow for making their Confirmation last Sunday at St Joseph’s Church. We wish them all the best as they prepare now to receive the Sacrament of Communion next month. These are very important occasions in the life of a Catholic and we congratulate these children on these special events.

BLESSED EDMUND RICE

Today we celebrated the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice. We are extremely fortunate to have Christian Brothers in our school community and we hope that Br Mick and Br Marty had a wonderful day. Congratulations to Year 6 who received a special Edmund Rice Award for their service to others. This class, under the guidance of Mrs Dunn and Mrs McCallum last year, regularly visited the residents of Castra and built valuable and wonderful relationships.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

This week we ask your prayers for those who were affected by the severe weather in Brisbane last Friday, and by the recent Earthquake in Nepal. Our Director, Pam Betts, included the following in her newsletter this week.

Caritas Australia’s Nepal Earthquake Appeal

Images of the devastation of the 7.9 magnitude earthquake which struck Nepal on Anzac Day have filled our TV screens all week. Emergency assistance is urgently needed and Caritas Australia is working to provide water, food and shelter and has launched an appeal to assist families in Nepal. If you are able to donate please do so online.

CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION

A huge thank you to everyone in the school community for your generous contribution to the Caritas Project Compassion appeal last term. The total amount raised was $342.15 and Year 4 raised the most altogether with a total of $115.05! Congratulations on such a wonderful effort and thank you.

MASS

This Friday is an Anointing Mass at which Year 5/6 will join parishioners.
Have a wonderful week!

Celia O’Connor
Acting APRE/CST

MOTHER’S DAY STALL 5TH—8TH MAY

Beautiful Mothers Day gifts to purchase from $1.00—nothing over $5.00.
Stall open every morning and lunch for the children to purchase gifts.
Thank you to Chrissy Baulch and Sarah Druery for working at the stall.
In Program Achieve students will continue their study of Organisation.

This week the **Lower Primary students** will be learning to:

- state the meaning of the “Planning My Time” way of thinking and how it helps them to become organized;
- how to use a schedule to help them keep track of what they have to do and when they have to do it.

This week the **Middle Primary students** will be learning to:

- record their daily homework assignment on daily assignment sheets;
- use an assignment folder to organise their school work and homework;
- organise materials to be taken to and from school each day;
- use a monthly assignment calendar to record assignment due dates; and
- state how a “Planning My Time” way of thinking can help them be better organised and successful.

This week the **Upper Primary students** will be learning to:

- explain how the “Planning My Time” way of thinking leads to better organisation and success, whereas the “Planning Time Poorly” way of thinking leads to general disorganisation and lack of success;
- record homework assignments efficiently;
- use a monthly assignment calendar efficiently; and
- explain the importance of taking responsibility for doing their homework.

**Conscience is the interior space in which we can listen to and hear the truth, the good, the voice of God.**

**Pope Francis**

**Guidance Counsellor News**

In Program Achieve students will continue their study of Organisation.

This week the **Lower Primary students** will be learning to:

- state the meaning of the “Planning My Time” way of thinking and how it helps them to become organized;
- how to use a schedule to help them keep track of what they have to do and when they have to do it.

This week the **Middle Primary students** will be learning to:

- record their daily homework assignment on daily assignment sheets;
- use an assignment folder to organise their school work and homework;
- organise materials to be taken to and from school each day;
- use a monthly assignment calendar to record assignment due dates; and
- state how a “Planning My Time” way of thinking can help them be better organised and successful.

This week the **Upper Primary students** will be learning to:

- explain how the “Planning My Time” way of thinking leads to better organisation and success, whereas the “Planning Time Poorly” way of thinking leads to general disorganisation and lack of success;
- record homework assignments efficiently;
- use a monthly assignment calendar efficiently; and
- explain the importance of taking responsibility for doing their homework.

**David Francis**

**Guidance Counsellor**

St Joseph’s Primary School, Murgon, **Mon, Tues, Wed** Ph 4168 1627

**REPORT FROM THE NURTURE GROUP—TERM 1**

Last term in the Nurture group, we started off with fun lunch time activities to build positive relationships with each other. Our first lunch time activity was Dodgeball. The grades Preps, 1 and 2, had lots of fun scoring points by hitting the bins. While the 3, 4 and 5 played proper Dodgeball. Everyone had a ball and it solved lunch time problems. Next up was a game called, Guards and Goblins. Then for Easter we changed Rob the Nest to Rob the Easter Nest because Easter was right around the corner. For the kids participation they all received an Easter egg. To start off term 2 we will have a football competition including a student vs teacher game.
From our Pastor

On the feast of Corpus Christi (Latin for Body of Christ) on June 6/7 some of our students at St Joseph’s will receive their First Communion during the celebration of the Eucharist. This Thursday night they commence their preparation. To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Eucharist it is firstly important to appreciate the importance of Baptism. When we are splashed with the waters of baptism we become a new person in Christ. St Paul describes baptism as entering in the tomb with Jesus and then rising with him. (Romans 6:3-11) In other words we die to ourselves and have faith that we will experience the resurrection. In every day life, living out our baptism means that we show generosity, compassion and consideration to others, even though it might not be reciprocated here on earth, because we have faith that we shall experience the resurrection with Jesus Christ. That generosity is our response to God’s generosity in sending His son on earth, proclaiming his Father’s Kingdom and dying on the cross.

After we are baptized we are called to live out our Christian vocation, that is to be a Christian in the world, to be a generous person. During our journey here on earth we meet many types of people. Some people are selfless, considerate of others. Some are not so selfless. Do we enjoy meeting them? I enjoy meeting people who are generous. Those people reflect the words of St Paul, I urge you therefore, sisters and brothers, the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

What does offering to God mean? It means giving to God our ability to make this world a more Christian community. I often say to the boys and girls you have the ability to help your parents with the household chores. I encourage them to offer that ability to God. In the Eucharist we join that offering to the offering of Jesus to the Father. We are called to make our day God’s day by offering our talents to God. This is called living the Eucharist. Wouldn’t this world be a wonderful place if everyone lived the Eucharist?

Fr Michael Carroll sm

Parish Mass Times

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Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Carroll sm PH 41681406

ST. JOSEPH’S PARISH HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR RENT FOR UNLICENSED FUNCTIONS 41681406

News from ‘THE ARTS’ curriculum....

Terms 2 and 3 will feature all aspects of drama. Students from Prep to Year 6 will be involved in making, creating, performing, responding and appreciating drama. This will incorporate many different elements of drama. These will include: mood, time, focus, contrast, space, audience skills, symbols, staging and sets, lighting, costumes and make-up, sound effects, music, masks and props. Students enjoyed participating in drama activities recently with Carole Danby re-enacting the Easter Story.

MAY

Happy Birthday

Year 1: Justin Robinson Xavier Greenwood
Year 2: Logan Robinson Draysharn Arnold
Year 3: Alessa Druery Daniel Rowberry Jilleal Bligh
Year 4: DJ Olbes
Year 6: Morgan McPhail Damien Baulch Lachlan Bligh Jermey Hobbs
Next P & F Meeting
20th May 6pm
in the Administration Block
All Welcome!

TUCKSHOP MONDAYS
WINTER WARMER SPECIAL
TOASTED HAM SANDWICHES
onion, cheese, tomato
(please specify)
$3.50

ST JOSEPH’S PARISH FETE
⇒ People willing to join Fete Committee.
⇒ Assistants for stalls
⇒ Lolly stall Co-ordinator
⇒ Plants & Cuttings
All Donations will be much appreciated.
Phone Leisa Walker on 41 681 293 for more info after 5pm.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TRAVEL REBATE
Semester 1, 2015
• Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
• Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at www.schooltransport.com.au by 31 May 2015.
Late applications cannot be accepted.

WE WELCOMED SPECIAL VISITORS FROM JAMAICA TO OUR SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL ON 24TH APRIL.

The Cross Country Champions are:-
Under 10 Boys: Sheldon Brown
Under 11 Boys: Lachlan Zelinski
Under 12 Boys: Harry Perrett
Under 10 Girls: Sophie Gleich
Under 11 Girls: Bridie Prendergast
Under 12 Girls: Jamie Atkins

Congratulations to the Blue Team who were Champions on the day!
Sunday 17th May 8am
The Cherbourg Community Welcomes you to The Ration Shed’s RECONCILIATION FUN RUN
Stalls, games, foods, dance, music and lots of other FUN things to do and see including: Tours of the ration shed.
For more information on the event visit our Reconciliation Fun Run page!
$2.00 per student if they register through the school.

Murgon Police Charity Golf Day
9 May, 2015  Murgon Golf Club
3 Ball Ambrose - 18 Hole

TIME: 9am final registration or register beforehand at Murgon Police Station, sign on sheet is available at front counter during business hours or contact Pepe Gangemi on 0400418965. Shotgun Tee Off at 10am sharp.
Cost:  $30, which includes Green Fees, all day sausage sizzle, access to 3 prize draws of:-
1st Broncos pack - 2nd $150 service voucher from Huston Ford/Nissan/Suzuki at Kingaroy - 3rd 55litre esky from BCF – For the lucky door prizes you must be present at end of event at the clubhouse.
Sponsors: This event has proudly been supported by Crow FM, Dusty Hills Winery, Telstra Shop Kingaroy, MJ Huston and Sons, Neil Smith Picture Framing, Betta Electrical Murgon, Adam Scott Foundation, Cowboys, BCF Kingaroy, South Burnett PCYC, Cherbourg Rangers, Broncos, BP Murgon, and Pratt Agencies Murgon.

CHARITY: SOUTH BURNETT PCYC AND CHERBOURG POLICE RANGERS PROGRAM WILL BE THE RECIPIENTS OF MONEY RAISED DURING THE EVENT.

Saint Mary’s Catholic College
Combined Anniversaries Celebrations

Saturday 30th May 2015
10.00am - 11.00pm  Narango Races
6.00pm  Combined Anniversaries Mass
7.00pm - 9.00pm  Combined Anniversaries Dinner and live entertainment

Sunday 31st May 2015
10.00am - 11.00pm  College Open Day, memorabilia sales, classroom displays and tours.
12.30pm  Official welcome, past student and staff line up and past staff and student not call and plaque dedication.

Edmund Rice Award 2015 Recipients
St. Joseph’s ANZAC day choir

Edmund Rice Award 2015 Recipients
St. Joseph’s ANZAC day choir