



23 AUGUST 2019

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As a school we are always seeking to improve. First and foremost we want to ensure **each student has learning as the focus** for each day at school. Learning not just the academic curriculum but spiritually and personally. As a staff we monitor and critically evaluate what we are teaching and why. We discuss the curriculum and students' learning to determine our next steps. As teachers we need to respond to the needs of our students. At the same time we are teaching students to become responsible for their learning and to understand what good learning looks like. In other words, what are the standards expected of a particular stage of learning. At times we want to stretch and challenge students. Students learn best when they are challenged to take risks.

The staff are reviewing our current annual improvement plan and critically assessing where we are at in order to prioritise for 2020. To do this we need to analyse and discuss the available data and research. The school community will also have input into the plan. I have been impressed with the way staff have openly entered these discussions and the degree to which each demonstrates a real passion toward school improvement.

The role of parents in learning

In recent years a great deal of research has emerged about our brains and learning. Traditionally, people believed that you were born with a certain level of intelligence and giftedness. This view has been well and truly debunked over the last decade.

Wendy Berliner and Deborah Eyre have written a book titled, *Great Minds and How to Grow Them*. They argue that:

Based on the overall body of research, we believe the balance of evidence is that genetics have minimal significance on how well you can perform at school ... we believe that a combination of potential and motivation underpinned by learning opportunities and support delivers high performance ... and that parents are crucial in helping to mix that learning cocktail.

Research from both the US and UK shows that:

Children of parents who were involved with the school had fewer behavioural problems, better academic outcomes and were more likely to finish high school.

The more parents are seen by their children to be working in **tandem with the school** the more this reinforced the importance of learning to students.

Thank you,

Simon Fleming
Principal



FATHER'S DAY STALL

Our Mini Vinnies group will run a stall for Father's Day again on Thursday 29 August. Items will be available for purchase by our students with prices ranging from \$2 to \$5 with the optional extra of wrapping. All money raised will go towards Children's Mission.



RE NEWS

Weekend Mass: Sunday, 25 August, 9am at St John's, Barraba

ICAS TESTING

ICAS testing is available for interested families in September. ICAS are international tests in different subject areas administered in Australia by the University of NSW. The online tests give children an experience of an examination as well as giving parents an indication of how their child is performing. Tests are \$14.50 each. Please let the Office know if you are interested in the following tests by the dates indicated. **Note: the Science test closes this Monday.**

ICAS Science	Closing date: 26 August	Sitting dates: 4, 5, 6 September
ICAS Writing	Closing date: 2 September	Sitting dates: 9, 10, 11 September
ICAS Spelling Bee	Closing date: 2 September	Sitting dates: 11, 12, 13 September
ICAS English	Closing date: 11 September	Sitting dates: 16, 17, 18 September
ICAS Maths	Closing date: 11 September	Sitting dates: 18, 19, 20 September

FUNDRAISING

Ninja Knock Out in Term 4

The date for the organisational meeting for the Term 4 Ninja Knock Out has changed. The meeting is now on **Thursday 5 September at 3.30pm** at the Barraba Cafe. Call Mel Bowman on 0438 300 674 with any questions. Everyone is invited to join the organising group.

WEEKLY AWARDS

Our weekly assembly where students of the week and other awards are given has been deferred until Monday.

Front cover: Laura dressed as Mary Poppins. Opposite page: Izzy's Dad fixing her hair for her outfit as Fern from Charlotte's Web.

LIBRARY NEWS

A big congratulations to all the school community for a terrific and successful celebration of Book Week for 2019. We are very proud of the effort put into this day and a huge **thank you goes out to everyone who has spent time sewing, researching, pinning, plaiting, painting and creating.** Your efforts really do make this day something very special for our school and we do appreciate it. The level of participation from the school students was just wonderful to see. A big congratulations to Myles and Zara for being our talented MCs for the parade.



participation from the school students was just wonderful to see. A big congratulations to Myles and Zara for being our talented MCs for the parade.

Thank you also to all the staff for joining in the fun of the day and helping to create some unforgettable memories for our students. We are super proud of the tradition of great support we get from our staff here at St Joseph's. They are very brave, considering some need to meet school buses and purchase lunches from the main street before arriving at school... in costume!

It was **terrific to see the Preschool children** so enthusiastic and confident in their parading of characters. Thanks to all our Year 6 students for helping out with the Preschoolers with our activities based on the book "Heads and Tails, Insects" in the library during the afternoon. Thanks also to the Preschool

teachers and helpers for bringing these fabulous people along.

We have had a wonderful group of **community members who have given their time generously this week to come into the classrooms and share some books** with the students. It is wonderful for our students to see that adults read too, and love it! Thank you to Sr Petra, Mr Tom Bowman, Mrs Rachel Caskey (and Darcy), Mrs Toni Wauch, Mrs Pamela King, Mrs Lyn Forbes, Mr Bill Kelly, and Mrs Penny Kelly.

Keep reading!

Deb McDouall





Clockwise from top left: Nate as a pirate and Arley as an old man. Mrs Maria Wilson as the White Witch from the Narnia series, Sybella and Zara as the witches from Roald's Dahl's "The Witches", Declan as Iron Man, Jack Kelly as the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Opposite top: Darci as Batgirl and Opposite lower: Miley as Wonder Woman.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Big Write and Talk Homework

As a part of the preparation for the Big Write session on Wednesday 28 August, students will be given 'Talk Homework' the day before the Big Write. The idea of 'Talk Homework' is that *"if children cannot say it, they cannot write it"*.

In order to develop a child's writing ability, we need to develop language and listening skills. Talk Homework is an approach developed through Big Write that promotes conversations to support writing.

Some key points to think about to help you and your child get the most out of Talk Homework:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in the Talk Homework. A good place is around the meal table. (It is a conversation, not writing).
- Turn off the TV and electronic devices. Try to ensure that this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- When giving your opinion, use the 'because' word to explain why you think something.
- Link the topic you are given to discuss back to something that you remember from when you were a child and say why things may be different now. Then project forward to how things may be different in the future.
- Ask your child for his/her opinion and tell them to use the 'because' word to explain what they think.
- Don't write anything down. We are aiming to improve students' oral language, but we are also want to improve memory links.



DIARY

Amended or new dates are in red.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat/Sun
19 Canteen	20 Book Week parade	21 Centacare Mass Noon K/1/2	22 Father's Day Stall	23 Canteen Dio Athletics Carnival (Tam)	24/25 Sun 9am Mass
26 Canteen	27 Cricket team to Manilla	28 Centacare "Resilience" "Big Write"	29 Father's Day Stall	30 Canteen	31/1 Sat evening Mass
2 Sept Canteen	3	4 Centacare "Resilience"	5 Ninja Knock Out meeting 3.30pm Barraba Cafe	6 Canteen	7/8 First HC mass 9am
9 Canteen	10 Centacare	11	12	13 Canteen	14/15
16 Canteen Canberra	17 Canberra	18 Canberra	19 Canberra	20 Canteen Canberra	21/22
23 Canteen	24 Centacare Dress Rehearsal Lion King	25 Evening performance Lion King	26 Matinee and Evening performances Lion King	27 Canteen	28/29



Above: Prize winners at the 2019 Book Parade.

Left: Indi and Chloe as Oompa Loompas.

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At St Joseph's it is our shared responsibility to help children develop spiritually, academically, and socially, according to their abilities through the teaching of all key learning areas.

SPORT

Mrs Abell and Mrs Wilson accompanied a team of 20 students to the Diocesan Athletics Carnival today in Tamworth. A great day was had by all. Congratulations to Charlotte Gillogly for 8th place in the 8-10 year old Girls' 800m, to Matilda for 7th place in the 11 year old Girls' 800m, Bailey for 8th place in the 12-13 year old Boys' 800m, to Spencer for 5th place overall in the long jump, to Tilie for 1st place in the 100m heat, and Myles for 3rd place in the 200m heat. At the time of printing the relays had not been run.

