FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

WELCOME: We welcomed Father Gayan into our school this week and what a great first impact he has had on our staff and students. Up to the challenge, starting with the Kindy students, Father diligently moved through the school spending time with all classes, getting to know names and sharing his story. I was thrilled with his involvement and I know the school is very excited to build on this connection with Father.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL – Well, Well, Well! From the outset...what a brilliant day for our school with the running of our recent faction swimming carnival. The event was a huge success. It is no coincidence the YOU CAN DO IT PROGRAM is up and running in our school. The persistence and confidence shown from participants was wonderful. I was extremely impressed with the quality of swimming. There were outstanding individual performances highlighting the grace and skill the sport of swimming involves. I also saw an abundance of courageous efforts from students, who put themselves out of their comfort zone. They simply wanted to do their best to earn points for their faction. To all our students, I applaud your resilience. Congratulations to all the factions especially to the winning team Murray who were closely followed by Peel.

The biggest winner from the day was what I would call the atmosphere: loud, energetic, encouraging, supportive and happy. What more could we ask for? Super effort to Mrs Gundry for her planning, coordination and implementation of the carnival. The logistics of running a day like this are immense and it is no coincidence that the huge amount of energy she applied towards this day resulted in a wonderful carnival.

Thank you to our staff, parents and the students; a fabulous day with great results!

You will find the results of the winners from our faction swimming carnival further into this newsletter.
From this faction carnival Mrs Gundry will select the school team who will represent us at the Interschool Carnival on 30 March. We wish them well and know they will represent St Joseph’s with dignity and pride.

RECENT FIRES – Unbelievably, we all awoke last Monday morning to the news of more fires affecting homes within the Peel region, including families from our school. From all reports there has been no loss of homes but some damage to property. As I write this, the fires are still being monitored. To all families affected our continued love and support goes to you.

MERIT ASSEMBLY – Our recent merit assembly once again recognised students achieving great things. As I present these awards it really does brighten my day when I hear just what students are being recognised for. Academic achievement is wonderful but it is also great to hear qualities of kindness, happiness, perseverance, confidence and friendship shining through in the comments.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY: EARRINGS – I need to highlight the policy around earrings being worn to school. Our policy may not be clear to some families so I thought it best to point it out. As part of our uniform policy the wearing of earrings states: Children who have pierced ears are to wear plain gold or silver studs or sleepers only. All students wearing earrings are to have an earring in each ear. Specific to this I have noted a growing group of boys wearing one earring. Not that I wish to cause distress to anyone but if this does concern your child could you please endeavour to implement this condition moving forward.

YEAR FIVE PRAYER ASSEMBLY – Well done to Mr Papp and the Year Five students for our recent Prayer assembly. There was great involvement by all students. I was particularly impressed with the message of the prayer and the reflective demeanour the students displayed in sharing this service with us.

EDUCATION ASSISTANTS – The commitment of our staff is very obvious. I do, however, wish to recognise the work of our Education Assistants. As I walk around the school this group of ladies continue to humble me in their willingness to help, love and care for our students. They are a ‘jack of all trades’ doing whatever it takes to impact on our student’s wellbeing and learning.

PLAY 4 LIFE – Last Friday night was a wonderful social evening for our school, with the Parents and Friends providing a community event presented by the ‘Play 4 Life group’. Although I am told numbers were down on previous years, it was great to see families join together in games and dance to have fun. Thank you to the P&F for their continued support of our school. Particular thanks to the mums and dads who cooked, served, and cleaned on the evening.

YEAR THREE RECONCILIATION – Congratulations to our Year Three students who made their commitment to the Parish at last Sunday’s Mass. It was uplifting to see our parents and students present to the congregation with such positiveness. Please, as a community, keep these families in your thoughts as they prepare for this very important step in their sacramental life. Thank you to Miss Flatt, Mrs Lenzarini and Mrs Ripley for your preparation and support of these students on the day.

PUPIL FREE DAY – On Monday our staff had a great learning opportunity with representatives from Catholic Education on the topic of child safety and protective behaviours. The lessons learnt were most valuable and crucial in our staff development to provide the best care for our students. At times these days can be an inconvenience to families but they are vital for staff professional learning. So a huge thank you to our families for the adjustment made to this week’s program.

UNDERCOVER WALL – It may have come to your attention the transformation of the wall behind the stage in the undercover area. Once a boring white wall, now a wall full of meaning. Thank you to Mrs Boone for the time and energy put into transforming this area in to our ‘MJR wall.’ It’s full of messages, slogans and ideas on how we can all work to impart a little bit of MJR into our lives.

ST JOSEPH’S FEAST DAY – Tomorrow, Friday 18 March, we will celebrate our Feast day. Please note there will be a Mass starting at 9:30am in the Church. Family and friends are most welcome to attend. As part of the celebration on the day, the school will provide a sausage sizzle lunch for all students, so parents please take this into account when packing the lunch box in the morning.

Please note the canteen will not be available on this day.
EASTER - Next week we will break for the Easter holiday long weekend from Friday 25 March until Tuesday 29 March.

The week leading up to Easter will be busy. On Tuesday I will be attending the Cathedral in Bunbury with the student leadership team, to participate in the Mass of the Holy Oils. In classrooms, students will be completing Easter activities as well as participating in the Stations of the Cross. On Holy Thursday we will have the Easter raffle and Easter hat display.

Easter is the culmination of Lent. Obviously this serves as a great time to be with family and friends, but please in your time away if you do not already do so, use this break to reflect on the Easter story and the significance of having Jesus in our lives.

MJR – Please see our MJR tip of the week. Having the right attitude and developing habits of greeting others in a kind manner can go a long way to Making Jesus Real.

Don’t forget the YEAR OF MERCY – “Year of Large Heartedness” as it was referred to in our last newsletter. Have a wonderful fortnight and in the motto of St Josephs, let us aspire to grow in Faith and Trust in all aspects of our lives.

Stay safe and may God’s blessing be with you.

Darrin Croft - PRINCIPAL

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MJR WEEKLY FOCUS

Making Jesus Real comes at you at 360 degrees.

Don’t leave Jesus as a person in History, connect with his message everyday living out your religion in all that you say and do.

GREET, TREAT AND SPEAK

Do you start your day with a smile and a ‘good morning’ to your family members or fellow work mates or are you “not a morning person”? Try it! You will be surprised how good it makes you feel as well as making someone feel special, noticed and welcome.

How we GREET, TREAT and SPEAK to people is a good place to start with MJR.

EVERYBODY NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT

“Encouragement plays a vital role in how a child grows and develops and how adults thrive in their day-to-day lives. The benefits of encouragement far outweigh the effect of criticism”. (What are the Benefits of Encouragement? By Lauren Romano)

Your attitude is like a motor in a car—if you have a good attitude you will go places in life! Happiness comes in giving yourself to others.
UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 17/03 5pm School Board Meeting
FRIDAY 18/03 9.30am St Joseph’s Day Mass followed by whole school activities. NO CANTEEN SERVICE TODAY - FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR LUNCH
SUNDAY 20/03 10am Mass at St Augustine’s, Pinjarra
MONDAY 21/03 9am Water Incursion PP-Yr 6
TUESDAY 22/03 3pm-4pm After School Sports (For those enrolled)
WEDNESDAY 23/03 9am Stations of the Cross - Year 3 & Year 4 (Parents welcome)
THURSDAY 24/03 9am Stations of the Cross - Year 2 & Year 6 (Parents welcome)
FRIDAY 25/03 Good Friday Public Holiday
SUNDAY 27/03 10am St Augustine’s Easter Sunday Mass
MONDAY 28/03 Easter Monday Public Holiday
TUESDAY 29/03 Easter Tuesday Holiday for St Josephs Students and Staff

PRE KINDERGARTEN PLACES 2016
Please contact the office if you are interested in enrolment in the 3 Year Old Kindergarten Program for 2016. Children must have turned 3 years of age.

BOOK CLUB orders are due tomorrow, Friday 18 March. This includes online orders which will incur a late fee for postage if ordered after the due date.

EGG-STRAVAGANZAI
Don’t forget our Easter Raffle is on again! Families are asked to send in a donation of eggs or chocolates for the raffle. The more donated, the more prizes there will be to win! Raffle tickets are due back by Friday 18 March. If you need more tickets, please ask at the office. All funds raised will go to CARITAS, an Australian and International Catholic Aid Organisation. Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24 March.

ST. AUGUSTINE’S PARISH - Easter Ceremonies
Pinjarra
Holy Thursday - 7:00pm (Mass of the Lord’s Supper)
Good Friday - 10:00am (Stations of the Cross)
3:00pm (Celebration of the Passion)
Easter Saturday Night - 7:00pm
Easter Sunday Mass - 10:00am

Boddington:
Good Friday - 10:00am (Stations of the Cross)
Easter Sunday Mass - 8:00am

Dwellingup:

SCHOOL WEBPAGE
Please take the time to take a look at our school webpage and the lovely work that is being done by our students. You can find all the exciting news about their work in ‘Our Classes’. Clink on the link below, or copy and paste the link into your browser:
http://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/

CANTEEN ROSTER

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P&F Snippets

??? Did you know that parents and friends attending our latest meeting:

- elected 2016 office bearers
- identified members for the school uniform committee
- discussed preparation for events including the Play for Life evening, school discos and our June Country Fair; and
- agreed to donate more than $5000 towards a variety of items with direct benefit to students and the school community.

Read more in the minutes that are downloadable from the school webpage under the Communications link.

We are also keen to hear from people who might like to be involved in our Catering Committee, Social Committee and Fair Committees. Please leave a message for your P&F President, Tamara Harrington, with school reception and Tamara will contact you with details.

? Save the date!!

The next P&F meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at 3.30pm. ALL welcome – you do not need to be involved with a committee to attend.
St Mary’s School Donnybrook
Invites you to our
100th Anniversary
Sunday 1st May 2016
10am Mass
followed by an Open school event 11am—3pm
(digital displays, memorabilia, time capsule)
Morning tea & Sausage sizzle available for
purchase or bring your own picnic.
Please RSVP 08 9731 1496 or email
admin@stmarysdbrl.wa.edu.au
By April 1st 2016
Please tell all past staff and students about it.
We would love to see you there!
A centennial magazine will be available for
purchase on the day.

Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival
Dwellingup Primary School
KIDS COMPETITIONS
All categories divided into 4 age groups - (K/PP) (1,2) (3,4) (5,6,7)
Cost - 50c per entry
1st Prize $2
2nd Prize $1
Best in Show Ribbon and Prize
Deliver Entries between 9 - 11am
Collect your creation between 3 - 4pm.

Categories
Fruit and Vege Creative (animal / monster / alien etc)
Miniature Garden (on 20cm tray)
Lego Model (own design)
Acrylic Painting (any topic)
Pencil Drawing (any topic)
Chocolate Cake (no icing)
Pumpkin Scones (not buttered)
Four Decorated Cupcakes (all in one theme, eg. animals, faces)
Flower Arrangement in a Vase (any kind)
Sand Saucer Flower Arrangement (no sand showing)

Celebrating the Installation of Otto, His Wife and Their Chicks, Stripy, Crikey, and Sheila.
What’s on?
- Meet the artist Otto Hampe who kindly made and donated the fabulous emu family to the FHC.
- Participate in a 2 hr Illustrators talk and drawing lesson with Wendy Binks of Stunned Emu Designs and learn how to draw your very own ‘stunned emu’ plus more.

$15 ADULTS
$10 Children under 17
Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

All day activities.
- Get involved in some emu arts and crafts and emu feather craft activities.
- Name ‘Otto’s wife’ to win a creative workshop voucher.
- Walk Trail tours at 10am and 1pm.