Dear parents and carers,

we celebrated our 2017 Opening School Mass on Monday. As a Christ-centred Community we gathered to mark the start of the academic year and to launch this year’s focus, Growing through the Holy Spirit. With so many family members present, it was a joyous occasion. Thank you so much to all who were able to join us. The children loved being able to sit with their family. A special thank you to Fr Paul Nulley and to Luke Donnelly, REC, for his preparation and organisation for the Mass.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As parents we anticipate and mark milestones in our children’s lives and remember significant events with pride and fondness. Yesterday our Years 5 and 6 students marked such an occasion with many family members supporting them as they received their leadership badges which promoted them to Year 6 Leaders and Year 5 Leaders-in-Training. The Leadership Prayer Celebration was very respectful and meaningful for the students, staff and parents.

The students have been preparing for this occasion in class and they are now members of particular teams with different tasks and responsibilities associated with each. We wish our student leaders success and growth as individuals and as a group over the course of this year.

The teams are:
- ELC
- Hub
- Hospitality
- One in, All In
- Sport
- Sustainability and
- ICT

CLASS CONTACTS

Thank you to those who have offered to be a Parent Contact. We still require contacts for Years 1 Purple, 1 Teal, 2 Magenta, 3 Silver, 3 Lime, 4 Blue, 5 Orange and 6 Green. A letter went home this week seeking the contact details of parents which will be given to the Class contact. Please return this form if you would like to be on the Parent Contact’s list. It’s attached today for those who may have missed it.

LEARNING TO READ WORKSHOP

Parents of Foundation and Year 1 students met last evening to hear about how they can assist their child at home as they learn to read. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend and to the teachers who presented.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher on February 27 and 28 to talk about how their child has settled into the new year. It will enable both teacher and parent to highlight any concerns so plans can be put in place to address them. Please refer to the notice sent home today for instructions about booking a time on-line.

WALK TO SCHOOL

St Joseph’s own Walk to School will be held tomorrow with teachers walking from the O’Connor and Lyneham Shops at 8:15 am. Come along and enjoy the fresh air. The Walk will be followed by Community Cuppa in the Learning Hub.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual Swimming Carnival for Years 2 – 6 will be held on Friday 3 March at Dickson Pool. We hope to see you there.

SPORT SHOES

Thank you very much to those who follow our uniform policy. There are still many students wearing incorrect sport shoes to school. Sport shoes should be predominately white. Highly coloured shoes are not part of our uniform.

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Volunteers at school in any capacity must have a Working with Vulnerable People Card with them when they are at school. When you sign in at the Front Office please ask for a lanyard to display your card in.

If you are assisting on a one-off occasion, such as at a carnival, you are required to complete a Statutory Declaration. This is available at the Front Office and needs to be completed before the event. This is a strict requirement which is subject to random checks at schools by members of the Office of Regulatory Services.

AFTERNOON PICK

During Term 1 the students are to be collected from their class tree between the ELC and school. Please don’t arrange with your child for them to walk unaccompanied to the car. If a relative or friend is to collect your child, please ensure that person knows the children must be collected.

Together we will keep everyone at St Joseph’s safe.

COMING EVENTS

24 Feb - Foundation rest day and assessments, 8:15 am SJO Walk to School Day
27 Feb – 3:30 – 5:30 pm and 6:00 – 7:00 pm Parent / Teacher interviews
28 Feb – 3:30 – 5:30 pm Parent / Teacher interviews
1 Mar – 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Mass
3 Mar – Swimming Carnival

Thank you everyone and may God bless you in all that you do,

Sue Dempsey
Principal
NAPLAN Online

In 2017 our Year 3 and 5 students will complete NAPLAN Online during the period 8 to 19 May.

Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN Online include:

- Assessments will use a tailored test design. Students will answer an initial set of questions and then be directed to subsequent sets of questions based on the accuracy of their responses. Students with a high number of questions correct will be directed to more challenging questions. Students who have a lower level of accuracy in the initial set of questions will be directed to questions that are less challenging.
- Tailored testing will provide teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on their students’ performance on the tests.
- Use of a computer-based environment provides the opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.
- Delivery of assessments online will significantly reduce the time it takes to provide feedback to schools, students and parents.
- ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with computer-based tests.

The key ICT skills students will require to complete the tests are:

- Locate and select an answer from a list;
- Type an answer;
- Read the screen and navigate a web page;
- Manipulate objects on a screen;
- Read and comprehend digital texts;
- Plan and compose text using word processing;
- Listen using a headset.

At St Joseph’s we are providing students with opportunities to develop these skills in preparation for the tests. If you would like to know more please view or visit NAPLAN Online.

Vanessa Ross

Opening School Mass

On Monday we gathered in the church for our opening school Mass. It was wonderful to see so many families sitting together for the Mass. Thank you to all those people who helped during the Mass particularly our parents, grandparents and great-grandparent who processed in with the prayer mats.

Project Compassion

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent. Lent is a time for almsgiving when we give to charity in private. The school will be encouraging students to participate in almsgiving by placing money into a project compassion box.

Please encourage your child to participate in almsgiving during Lent. We will have an Ash Wednesday liturgy at the Church at 12pm. All families are welcome to attend.

Yours in Christ,

Luke Donnelly
Religious Education Coordinator
luke.donnelly@cg.catholic.edu.au
Merit Awards - Week 4 Term 1

Congratulations to the following students who will receive an award at tomorrow’s Morning Gathering

**Being Mindful**

**Year 1 Purple:** James A, Max M  
**Year 1 Teal:** Dexta W, Sienna S  
**Year 2 Magenta:** Addison F, Sophie P  
**Year 2 Yellow:** Emilia R, Thomas F  
**Year 3 Lime:** Madeleine S, Andie McF  
**Year 3 Silver:** Tenzin T, Cameron J  
**Year 4 Blue:** Emmanuel A, Emberlyn C, Finn K  
**Year 5 Orange:** Ryan O, Isaac A  
**Year 6 Green:** Olivia K, Edward E

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**Uniform Shop**

**Hours of Operation**
Wednesday 8:30am—9:00am  
Friday 8:45am—9.15am

Details of Winter Uniform Drive are attached to this Newsletter

Please direct any queries to:  
Uniformshop_stjosephs_oconnor@yahoo.com.au

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**P&F UPDATE**

**DATE FOR THE DIARY:** The second P&F meeting for 2017 will be held on Wednesday 8 March at 7pm in the staffroom. All parents are warmly invited and welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion. Agenda is below. P&F meetings are held Weeks 2 and 6 each term. Please contact Sasha Billett, President, 0414 621 605 if you would like more information.

**P&F MEETING AGENDA - 8 March**

1. Minutes & actions of previous meeting  
2. Principal’s report  
3. School Board report  
4. President’s report  
5. Treasurer’s report  
6. Sub Committee Reports (Canteen, Uniform Shop, Fundraising)  
7. Other business:
   - Fundraising ideas for 2017

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Happy Birthday

*This week to:*

Carlos P  
Dinugi W-D  
Will P  
Alec F  
Liam W  
Lucy E

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**Play Rugby**

*Uni-Norths Juniors*  
*Home Ground - Southwell Park, Lyneham*  
**Boys and Girls**  
*Register online*  

**Come and Try / Rego Day**

*Sunday 5th March - Southwell Park, Lyneham*  
*12 noon - 3pm*

*For more information*  
uninorthsjnrs@gmail.com
Volunteer Roster

A big thank you to the many parents who have been able to help run the canteen. Can you help? You can come for the morning and help prepare food, or just come and serve during the breaks. Please email stjosephscanteen@gmail.com or contact Sasha Billett on 0414 621 605 if you can volunteer some time. Please remember you need a Working with Vulnerable People Card (or receipt showing you have applied).

The school swimming carnival is on Friday 3 March. The canteen will be open for Foundation and Year One students if there are volunteers to open it. Otherwise, it will close for the day.

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Please join us for Community Cuppa in the Hub
Friday 24 February after Walk to School
Term 1 Week 4
The Blue Geckos have been getting to know their teachers and forming friendships amongst their peers. They have been learning the routine, discovering where their possessions go and how to take care of them. The children have also been learning about how to keep the class as part of our sustainable centre, using different bins, feeding and caring for the chickens and putting food scraps into the compost bins.
On Wednesday we enjoyed a visit from Healthy Harold. The children played games and listened to stories about eating healthy foods, drinking water, keeping clean and resting their bodies. They had lots of questions and things to say to Harold throughout the session. The children have met their lovely Year 3 buddy class again, enjoying sharing stories sitting in the shade outside. This week we will spend more time together, forming new relationships and getting crafty with our buddies.

Elizabeth Hargrave and Deanne Barnes

We held our first ELC Parent Committee meeting on Tuesday evening. Although many parents were unable to attend we accomplished quite a lot and have elected our Parent Committee Coordinator, Tiffany Fletcher (Annabelle and Harry’s Mum, BG EOW) and our secretary, Tracy Fox (Leo’s Mum, BG EOW). The Parent Committee organises social events, working bees and fundraisers for the ELC. The minutes from our first meeting will be sent out to all families and anyone interested in helping or participating in future events is more than welcome. Parent Teacher Interviews for the ELC Children will be held in Weeks 6 and 7. A sign up sheet will be on the door to your child’s class next week.

For your diaries please note the following dates:

March 7 and 8 - Green Frog Parent Teacher Interviews
March 8 and 9 - Blue Gecko EOW- Parent Teacher Interviews
March 14 and 15 - Blue Gecko BOW - Parent Teacher Interviews
March 25 - ELC Working Bee (10:00 - 12:00am) All Welcome

Birthday Wishes to the following child: Mary M.

God Bless
Molly Henson