

DATES TO REMEMBER

****Newsletter will be published fortnightly in odd weeks****

Mondays – Ice blocks for sale

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Week 6

Thursday 27th August and

Week 10

Friday 25th September



Infants and Primary: Monday and Friday

ALL UNIFORM ENQUIRIES:



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St Joey's News

'Truth in Christ'

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
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Email: admin@charlestown.catholic.edu.au
Website: <https://www.charlestown.catholic.edu.au/>

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people.
We pay our respect to their elders past and present.*

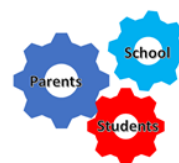


21st August 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the halfway mark of the term and things are moving along well. The children have been really settled and calm and there is a real focus on excellent teaching and learning across the school. Our embedding of learning intentions and success criteria during lessons has been a wonderful improvement in student's focus and connection to their learning. Our School Improvement writing goals are being consistently developed in every classroom and it has been wonderful to hear about and read some of the students Big Write ideas and writing samples.



This week we participated in Science Week activities across the school. A Year 6 STEM day, paper plane competitions, bridge construction, design and building working catapults and Ocean in a Jar creations are just a few of the engaging activities that happened in and out of classrooms this week. Science is such a wonderful area of learning that promotes wonder, curiosity, experimentation, and construction. See our photos below!

Further COVID-19 restrictions have been issued this week and we see more changes to the way we can do things in the school. Please read the correspondence on Compass from our Director, which aligns our procedures with NSW health and government advice. We are committed to keeping our students and staff safe and will adhere to the advice issued. Please continue to support us by keeping unwell children at home. To assist you in determining if the symptoms they are presenting with require COVID testing, please seek advice from your GP and refer to the information in this link: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing>

We are so proud of our students and the way they have handled the constant changes and especially how they have shown acceptance of news of cancellation of events. Our Year 5 & 6 students in particular, should be commended on their resilience in coping with the disappointment of no Stage 3 camp next week and the news of cancellation to the end of year mass and other celebrations involving our wider community. We have many ideas on how to still offer special celebrations for our Year 6 students at the end of the year to mark this important time in their lives. We will film presentations, blessing and speeches for our parents too, so you will be able to feel a part of these events.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Please remember our upcoming rescheduled pupil free days:

**NEXT Thursday 27th August -WRITING Professional Development and
WEEK 10 – Friday 25th September – CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING**

Interrelate Reproduction and Puberty Family Programs – Thank you to those parents who have signed up and paid for these programs which will be run next Thursday 27th August via an ONLINE link so you can participate with your children from home. The sessions will be: *Where Did I Come From?* - 6pm and *Preparing for Puberty* 7:15pm. We are grateful to our P & F committee for agreeing to subsidise the cost of the program to assist as many families to participate as possible. The link to the sessions will be sent early next week.



Congratulations to our colleague Emma McGlynn, husband Daniel, Ruby and Ellie as they welcomed their new baby to their family. Ruby was very excited to share the news of Henry's arrival with us all! We wish you all much love and joy at this special time!



Please continue to stay safe and well.

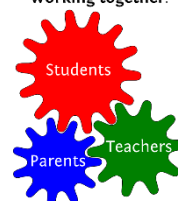
God Bless,
Kate Drake
Acting Principal

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you making the time to talk to your child's teacher. The research is clear that when parents and teachers work in partnership, positive outcomes for students are the result. Regular communication, like these meetings, are an important part of this relationship. Children are learning and developing their academic skills, their ability to self-regulate their emotions, as well as navigate friendship issues, and learn to make amends when they make poor choices. Teachers are here to assist and support our students be the best they can be, and to help them develop all aspects of their personal, academic, emotional and spiritual dimensions. All teacher communication, even when it is to alert you to a PBL issue for example, is always approached from a restorative and proactive perspective, and to gain your support to ensure any incidents can be a great source of learning. During the rest of 2020, we encourage you to keep in touch with your child's teacher when you have noticed something positive, have a good news story, as well as when you have questions or concerns.

Education works best when all the parts are working together.



Absences

We understand things are tricky at the moment with the need to err on the side of caution and have COVID tests for cold and flu symptoms but we encourage everyone to make school attendance a priority as much as possible. The following table highlights the impact of regular absences over a child's time at school.

EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



PBL

Well done to the following students who have received Joey awards this week for **STRIVING HIGH, LIVING LIKE JESUS and CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**. Also, until normal assemblies resume, teachers will now alert parents when children have received a PBL Joey award through SEESAW (K-4) or email (Year 5-6).

PBL Awards Term 3 Week 5

BRONZE 30	BRONZE 30	SILVER 60	GOLD 90	PLATINUM 120	MEDAL 150
Mya C Sienna L Nash W Julian W Marlo E Ruby McG Hugo G Evelyn M	Bruno Z Daniel B Rose G Ivy T Chloe M Danny G	Lauren S Charlee F Isla M Abigail C Alice D Molly J Xanthia W Nikki C Joshua A Mikeala Mc Ruby I William S Alice D Isabella B	Adelina D Huon C Joel D Ciara H Emily D Sienna D Oliver E Maddi G Jackson S Vivienne R		

Every place, every time AND with everybody we remember to use our magic words at St Joseph's.



Karen Nolan
Acting Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

With the many changes continuing to impact on the way we live. It is worth reflecting upon how we can maintain and even increase the purpose and meaning in the events that we celebrate. This month's **Australian Catholic** tackled this very topic.

Re-discovering What's Important (Reprinted from *Australian Catholic*; Spring 2020)

Molly Brabham | 19 August 2020

COVID-19 might have changed the way we can celebrate special events, but the impact hasn't been completely bad.

Every year it's the same, yet it always comes as a surprise.

It's February and you stroll into your local supermarket and they're there. Everywhere. Around every corner, down every aisle, there are Easter eggs on display. For most people, it's not Lent that signifies the approach of Easter, but the sight of eggs in stores – often before Lent even begins.

I know that I have had this exact experience. And I have seen it for most annual holidays, especially Easter and Christmas. We've gotten to the point that society is more focused on the 'bells and whistles' of these holidays, rather than remembering and celebrating their true meaning.

But what if these holidays were stripped back? What if we no longer had the bells and whistles? Would this give them more meaning?

This year, with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen this actually take place. So far, we've experienced several community celebrations without the usual 'spectacle' around them. Two prime examples are Easter and ANZAC Day.

During all this panic it didn't seem like anyone had really stopped to think about the true meaning of Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This was until the Easter Sunday Mass was televised and society remembered that Easter was a holiday with Christian significance.

FINDING WAYS TO CELEBRATE

COVID-19 progressed, restrictions became more strict, and ANZAC Day was soon upon us. Perhaps it was because we'd had more time to prepare, but this time Australians found more ways to commemorate this important event.

Australians were coming together as a community, and using their initiative to find new ways of commemorating the people who used these same skills on the battlefield.

LOOKING AHEAD

This made me wonder what Christmas will be like if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place. How will having a COVID-Christmas change how we celebrate it and remember it?

Although COVID-19 has devastated the planet, I think that we can learn from it. Having our lives so restricted has been challenging, but we have discovered how to celebrate important events in our lives in creative, loving and compassionate ways. This is how society is meant to be celebrating!



Many Blessings,

Clare Paff
Religious Education Coordinator

Big Write at St Joseph's

Big Write is a teaching method aimed at helping children improve their writing. It was developed by Ros Wilson and is used by many schools throughout the U.K. and Australia. To hear Ros Wilson explain the idea behind the development of Big Write visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWDdpn6vQ8s>

You will begin to hear the term V.C.O.P from your child.

V-Vocabulary C- Connectives O-Openers P- Punctuation

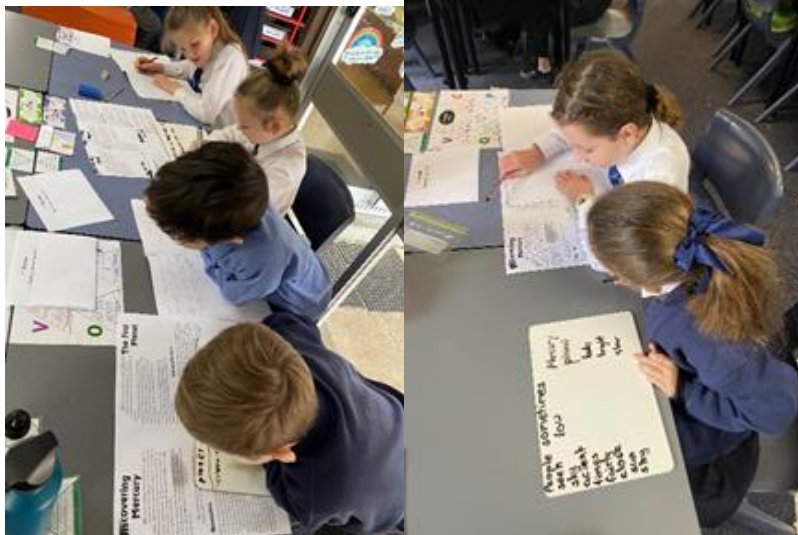
The Big write will be a time in class where they will produce a piece of writing to be proud of, in which they will use all the writing tips that they have been shown in class. Evidence suggests that for children to write well, they need to have talked about their ideas as much as possible first.

"If they can't say it, they can't write it!"

TALK HOMEWORK: This is where you can help as before your child completes a Big Write they will bring home a "Talk Homework" sheet explaining the topic and planning space. It works best if you try the following tips:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in the "Talk Homework", possibly around the dinner table.
- Switch off any distractions! Try to ensure this is dedicated talking and listening time.
- Help your child to think through and discuss initial ideas to develop the thought process.
 - Link the topic back to your experiences or knowledge
 - Discuss V.C.O.P ideas for the topic.

Here are some pictures of V.C.O.P in action:



Ice Blocks for Sale!!

We are selling ice blocks for our Year 6 fundraiser every Monday for \$1. Thank-you for your support. It's surprising to see so many children still love to enjoy an ice block despite the winter weather.



Nude Food Day Out of Uniform Day- 14th September

The children of St Joseph's are participating in a *Nude Food Day* to encourage healthy food choices that are less processed and packaged. Our *Nude Food Day* will be held on **Monday the 14th of September (Week 9)**. On this day we encourage you to send in healthy food for your children with as little processing and packaging as you can. **The children are also invited to dress as their favourite fruit or vegetable (or even just in the colour of their favourite fruit/ vegetable).** We will also be having a raffle on this day with prizes that have generously been donated by our school P&F Committee. The raffle tickets will be awarded to children who display **St Joseph's School Values** related to caring for the environment in the weeks leading up to *Nude Food Day*:

Keep our school clean

Care for our surroundings



The prizes support a nude food lifestyle:

2 x Munchboxes (one for boys, one for girls)

2 x 470mL Thermos food jars (both red)

Highly processed and packaged foods can have a significant negative impact on our health and the health of the environment. Food processing can result in removing nutrients from and adding kilojoules to the foods we eat. These processes may use large amounts of energy and water, thereby contributing to global warming and air pollution. In addition, packaging if not recycled is contributing to landfill and polluting our planet. Choosing whole fresh food with little processing and packaging is good for the environment and is also the best choice for our health.

Food with no packaging:

banana
Kiwi fruit
orange
boiled egg
apple
carrot
beans
snow Peas

Food in small reusable containers:

yoghurt
fruit salad
cheese cubes
vegetable sticks with dip
sandwiches or salads
wholegrain crackers with cheese slices
plain/fruit/savoury scones or pikelets
homemade savoury or fruit muffins
pasta or rice dishes
soup in a thermos

St Joseph's is committed to ensuring good health for our children and for our planet. We hope our *Nude Food Day* encourages a sustained healthy and environmentally friendly change to our children's lunches and for their future.

We appreciate your support and involvement on this day. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact Mrs Kathryn Hill or Mrs Kyla Flanagan.



Mini Vinnies Mission Day Fundraiser

Monday Week 7 – 31st August

Please come dressed up as your favourite movie character and bring a Gold coin donation for Mini Vinnies. Bring your spare change for other activities and treats such as hairspray, nail painting, cupcakes and much more.



National Science week:

Science has led to the discovery of everything from gravity to medicine. Science is based on curiosity—and when children aim to learn more about the world around them, it is science that often holds the clues they need for a better understanding. This week St Joseph's has been busy experimenting, constructing and exploring as part of our Science Week celebrations.











Warm regards,
Mrs. Kathryn Hill
Acting Co-ordinator

ORDERS ARE STILL BEING TAKEN FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

The Entertainment Digital Memberships have started. ***There are no more hard copy books only digital.*** Digital memberships are the way of the future and you can have your membership on many devices and see the savings as you go. With school holidays fast approaching what better way to entertain the children using the vouchers. Did you know that 20% of your membership sale goes directly back to P & F? Spread the word - memberships can be purchased by anyone – family, friends, neighbours, just give them the link to the online payment process to start saving now.

For orders, please follow the link: <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/3407f9>

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to the following children who celebrate their birthday this fortnight .

Nikki C- 16 th August	Felix C- 17 th August	Benji H- 17 th August
Matt G- 18 th August	Lukas T- 19 th August	Luca M- 21 st August
Landon K- 23 rd August	William S- 25 th August	Ivy T- 29 th August
Sam G- 1 st September	Jydon Crossley- 3 rd September	



The Premier's Reading Challenge will close on Friday 28 August, 2020.

So time is running out to complete the challenge. If your child is desperately trying to finish the challenge, and needs to borrow a few extra books a week to achieve that. Please ask them to speak to Mrs Hoffmann and I will help them as much as I can.

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2020. Well done!

James Cherry	Kinder
Ruby McGlynn	Year 1
Evelyn Manning	Year 1
Eli Smith	Year 1
Isabella Brown	Year 2
Abigail Cherry	Year 2
Alice Dunkley	Year 2
Sinead Wadwell	Year 2
Isla Evans	Year 4
Kate Whitby	Year 5
Kiara Barr	Year 6
Emily Dunkley	Year 6
Oliver Evans	Year 6
All students in	KRed
All students in	KBlue

Mrs Hoffmann — PRC Coordinator

