

St. Joseph's

NEWSLETTER

Friday, 6th March, 2020

Vol 28 No 3.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Gen 12:1-4



From the Principal

Dear Families & Friends,

Thanks for another week of learning, as finish of Week 6, I must say the term is flying by.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents that were able to attend our Term 1 Parent Forum meeting this week. This meeting was an opportunity to plan out the year ahead as a group and making sure it is focused on 'Parent Voice & Parent Community'. I would like to reiterate that ALL PARENTS are welcome to attend our Parent Forum Meetings each term, it is not a closed meeting, so please if you are even interested in finding out more, make sure to attend our Term 2 meeting.

Strengthening our Parent Partnership is one of our goals as a school and part of doing this is ensuring we are able to provide regular opportunities for parents to "learn", as we know we are "learners" and it is essential that we as a school work alongside our parents in providing professional development in areas of interest or need. As such, at this meeting the group allocated the following Parent Learning opportunities to occur on a termly basis for our families, you will note that all 3 of these nights align themselves to our 3 focus areas as a school community:

Term 2 - How to support your child in Writing (Teaching & Learning)

Term 3 - Supporting Healthy Friendships (Pastoral Care & Wellbeing)

Term 4 - Understanding our Mercy Values & Christian Meditation (Catholic Identity & Mission)

Pupil Free Days

Throughout this year the school will be undertaking a number of Professional Learning Days which will result in the school holding Pupil Free Days. These days are essential in ensuring staff are able to not only develop themselves as educators but, also support the direction of the school. As you can see from below all of these days are aligned to our Vision as a school and come under our 3 Domains, that is, Teaching & Learning, Catholic Identity & Mission and Pastoral Care & Wellbeing. Whilst we understand the implications these may place on our families, we appreciate your support in these days:

Term 2 - Reading & Comprehension PD Day (Monday 27th April)

Term 2 - Mathematics PD Day (Friday 3rd July)

Term 3 - Mercy Values & RE Curriculum PD Day (Monday 20th July)

Term 3 - Staff Parish Retreat (Friday 25th September)

Additionally this year, all staff will be attending 1 X twilight PD night per term. These nights will focus on developing a whole-school approach to support our students in their Social & Emotional Wellbeing. The PD nights will be facilitated by our CSO Pastoral Care consultant to ensure we as a school are consistent with our approach to student well being.

Teacher Goal Setting

During this week (and into next week) our classroom teachers have been provided a day to plan and set professional goals for this year. This process allows teachers, with the input of our Leaders of Learning (Mrs Bailey & Mrs Mullins) to think through and set goals that ultimately lead them to improvement in their teaching practice (also known as pedagogy). Ultimately, this process will allow our teachers to deliberately learn how to get better because to stand still is a disservice to the students we teach. This demands a culture of improvement in our school, which aligns with our 2018 - 2020 Direction of "Ensuring a quality contemporary pedagogy". I thank the staff for their diligence in working alongside one another in this process and their commitment to continually strive for excellence in their teaching teams and the school.

St Joseph's Feast Day

Just a reminder that we are celebrating St. Joseph's Day on Friday 20th March at Brooms Head. This is a lovely day where students and teachers participate in a Liturgy followed by a day of fun, beach games and activities together with a BBQ lunch. Parents and families are welcome to attend. A permission note will be sent home next week with more details.

Thanking you,

RE Focus

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

Last Wednesday our senior leaders ran a beautiful Ash Wednesday liturgy to mark the beginning of Lent. Lent is the season in which we prepare for Easter and the colour purple is used to denote this season. Lent lasts for 40 days which mirrors Jesus' time of temptation in the desert. In Religious Education lessons, all students are learning about Lent and how they can be more like Jesus in prayer, fasting and giving to the needy.



Incitäre - Year 6 Retreat

Just a reminder that Year 6 students will be travelling to McAuley Catholic College in Grafton next Friday to attend a Diocese retreat. Student will need lunch and snacks, a drink, hat and be wearing full school uniform.



St Joseph's Feast Day

Once again the whole school will be celebrating St. Joseph's Day at Brooms Head. We commence with a Liturgy to acknowledge our Patron Saint and then spend the day enjoying our beautiful environment and each other. This is a day to build relationships and memories. Families and friends are all welcome.

Altar Serving

This week Joy DeRoos commenced Altar Serving training with some S2 and S3 students. They are all very excited to have the opportunity to assist Father Nicolas during School Mass on Fridays. All students have been placed on a roster which is located in their classrooms.

Parish School Mass

All families and friends are warmly invited to our Term 1 Mass. Any students who wish to assist are encouraged to let me know.

Mrs Mullins

Important Dates

MARCH

9	St2 Basketball Gala Day
12	St1 Mareeba Visit
13	Incitäre Retreat (Year 6) DIO Winter Sports Trials
16	S3 Basketball Gala Day
18	MHS Transition Day
19	St Joseph's Feast Day
19	St2 Whiddon /Mareeba
20	St Joseph's Celebration Day
23-27	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
24	School Swimming Carnival
25	McAuley CSW Excursion
26	Kindy Mareeba Visit
27	Wizard of Oz Performance

APRIL

2	St 1/ 3 Mareeba/Whiddon
3	School Cross Country
	World of Maths Incursion
9	Easter Liturgy
	Last Day of Term 1

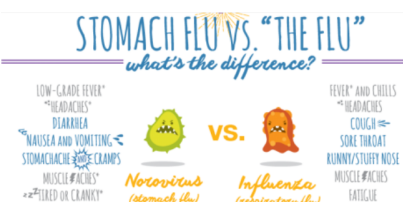
School Messages

Student Illness Procedures

To ensure the continued health and wellbeing of our students, staff and our school community, particularly with the current heightendness around illness in our society, the school would like to remind families about our Illness Procedures.

The school asks that if everyone could remain diligent in keeping their child home until they have recovered. We acknowledge and understand that colds/flu can be difficult to gauge when students are ready to return and place unwanted difficulties on child care however, if students return whilst still unwell it becomes a 'domino' affect in the classroom.

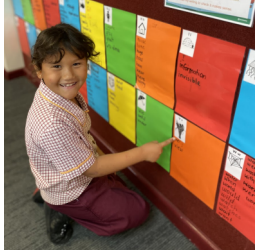
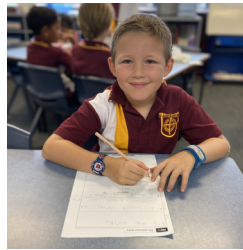
With 'gastro', the school would like to reiterate that students who experience symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea are not to be present at school until 24 hours has lapsed with no symptoms. The school would appreciate all families following these requests.



Leaders of Learning

Learning In Infants

In English, Kindergarten and Stage 1 have been reading and writing stories which we also call *Narratives*. Kindergarten's focus is on retelling stories they have heard and know well (for example Little Red Riding Hood), and making sure they include the beginning, middle and end of the story. They have been retelling stories in lots of different ways: through pictures, pictures and



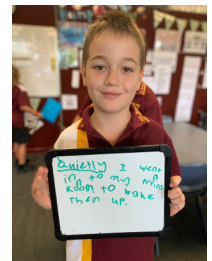
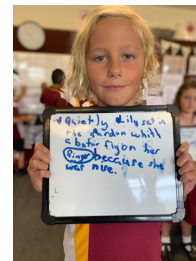
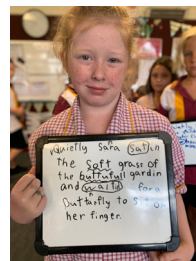
labels, writing, using puppets, story stones and drama. Our photos this week show Byron, Lila, Cooper and Sam creating their own story with props of their choice and a story map they created for the setting.

In Stage 1 students concentrate more on writing and then supporting their story with illustrations. They learn how word choice has a big impact on how interesting stories can be and experiment with a variety of Tier 2 words ("high frequency words for mature users). such as demanded, investigated, shiver, gigantic and enormous. They use prompts from around the room to help them find great words. Students can work on their own, with a partner or in a small group.

Mrs Bailey

Learning In Primary

Year 3 have been improving their writing through developing their grammar through daily 'quick' sentence where they compose a sentence using a set criteria. It is amazing to see the writing growth in these students in just a few short weeks. In our photos this week, all the students have started their sentence with the adverb, 'Quietly,' and many have used a conjunction to create a longer, more complex sentence. Year 4 have also been improving their writing through a focus on punctuation. They have played 'Kung fu' punctuation; a fun activity where they use actions to demonstrate punctuation whilst reading. This is a very powerful way to indentify different types of punctuation and where particular punctuation is used.



In Mathematics, Stage 3 have been working on Multiplication and Division with a particular focus on improving fluency when recalling multiplication facts. Warm ups have consisted of students 'drilling' their facts through games and activities. Together, teacher and students have identified what facts they know/don't know in order to target their learning around the unknown facts. To recall any facts, ie. addition, subtraction, multiplication and division WITH fluency allows students to become better problem solvers of mathematical problems. It allows their working memory space to do complex thinking, and not be consumed by working out answers to basic facts. The students also have a bit of 'friendly competition' with themselves by challenging to improve their Personal Best times when recalling facts.



Mrs Mullins

Awards

Award Winners for Term 1, Week 6

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our assembly this week.

Principal Awards: Sam Kirkland, Meesha Ellis, Lachlan Coulter, Xavier Adamson, Olivia Senz

Class Awards:

Class	Values Award	Learning Award
Kindy	Jai Agic	Lila Salter
Stage 1	Bailey Smidt Grace Bell	Oskar Bailey Reece Bennett
Yr 3	Billy Opalniuk Hudson Ardrey	Alexander Frame Thomas Hourigan
Yr 4	Jason Maitz Hugh Bell	Aiden Wells Makenzee Dahlenburg
Stage 3	Reuben Lewis Grace Johnson	Peter Hammond Kaiden McLaren



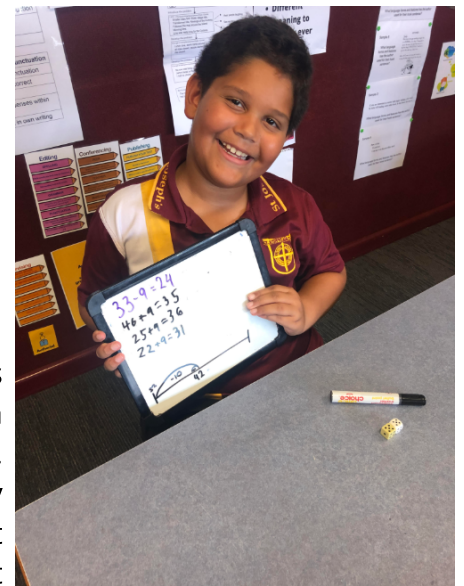
Classroom Learning - Year 3

Year Three have been working very hard to improve in all areas of their learning. I often remind the students that in order to make progress you may need to take a risk or make a mistake. We call this a growth mindset. Students learn that they will only learn new things if they engage in challenging work - not too easy, and not too hard! This term, I introduced the 'Riskometre'. We have been using this to identify what risks and challenges we are taking and how they might make us feel when we are learning new information. This has allowed many students to 'feel comfortable being uncomfortable' and give them opportunity to show some really creative and critical thinking strategies they may not have used before. We cannot wait to share some of our learning with you regularly through the Seesaw app and in person at the end of term!

Miss Ayres



Harry was teaching the class about his strategies for solving this problem $3_+1_=_2$. This was a high risk task for him. Bronx is also demonstrating risk-taking by subtracting nine from two digit numbers. It is great to see students rising to meet challenges.



Chaplaincy

SRC - Shrove Tuesday

With many thanks to our parents, our students enjoyed delicious pancakes with cream and maple syrup. With the incredible help of the SRC and the Year 6 Captains, the School Community raised \$215 towards Project Compassion. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness appeal. A huge thank you to the SRC and the Year 6 Captains who helped in many ways, from setting up tables, cooking pancakes, to serving our School Community and the Music Academy staff. It was an honour working alongside you. Making over 600 pancakes wouldn't have been possible without the tireless help of Kathy Johnson and Miss Alesha. Thank you so much.



The Project Compassion theme for 2020 is **'Go Further Together'**.

During Week 1 of Lent, we begin Project Compassion learning about the story of Shirley. Shirley was struggling to support her family and keep her children in school. She faced regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting her family's access to food, education, employment and healthcare. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker. She has learnt to supplement her income and is able to feed her family. The program has also empowered Shirley to send her children to school.

Project Compassion giving boxes can be found on the Prayer Table in each of the classrooms and in the Office if anyone would like to make any other donations.



Community Connect - Grand friends

We are so fortunate to be able to offer our students visits to the residents at aged care facilities, Mareeba and Whiddon. These visits result in mutual benefits for both generations, enhancing the opportunities for children and people of all ages to have frequent interaction. The visit offers children opportunities to: learn more about the normal aging process, accept people with disabilities, be involved with people who are two or three generations apart, along with receiving and giving unconditional love and attention.

Juana Mead

School Chaplain



Sport

Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports Trials:

Peter Hammond and Mahala Hitchings will be representing the school as well as the Clarence Zone when they participate in the Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports Trials in Grafton next Friday. We wish them all the best and hope they have a memorable experience.



Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Trials:

On Friday the 20th March Peter Hammond and Reuben Lewis will be heading to Hepburn Park Touch Fields Holland Street, Goonellabah in a bid to qualify for the Lismore Diocesan Touch Football team. The trial was postponed several times in Term 4 last year. Hopefully everything goes smoothly this time around and they get to strap the boots on to show their talent on the touch field. Good luck boys!



Mr Hitchings

Sports Coordinator

Social & Emotion Well being

Five areas of social and emotional learning

In the last school newsletter, I mentioned that empathy is an integral part of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). This involves learning to understand and manage our emotions, establish positive relationships, develop empathy for others, set and achieve goals and feel good about ourselves. During our Friendship groups we are learning skills from the five areas of social and emotional learning.

Here is some information from beyou.edu.au about Social and Emotional Learning.

Self-awareness

This is the ability to recognise and understand your own feelings, thoughts and values, and understand how they affect your behaviour. It's about understanding and assessing your personal strengths and understanding that abilities and intelligence can be developed and improved. This then leads to an increased awareness of how your actions can impact others. The main skills include:

- identifying emotions
- understanding strengths
- self-efficacy.
- self-perception
- self-confidence

Self-management

This is the ability to manage and regulate your emotions and behaviour, including managing stress, controlling impulses and keeping yourself motivated. The main skills include:

- impulse control
- self-discipline
- goal-setting
- stress management
- self-motivation
- organisational skills

Social awareness

This is the ability to understand and empathise with people from a range of diverse backgrounds, and to understand social and ethical norms of behaviour. The main skills include:

- perspective-taking
- appreciating diversity
- empathy
- respect for others.

Relationship skills

These involve the ability to develop and maintain healthy and positive relationships with others. They include the ability to communicate clearly, listen, cooperate, resist peer pressure, and negotiate and resolve conflict. The main skills include:

- communication
- relationship building
- social engagement
- teamwork.

Responsible decision-making

This is the ability to make informed and responsible decisions about personal behaviour and social interactions with others, based on adherence to ethical standards, safety concerns and social norms. It also includes the ability to consider the wellbeing of others and weigh up the outcomes of different decisions. The main skills include:

- identifying problems
- solving problems
- self-reflection
- analysing situations
- self-evaluation
- ethical responsibility

For more information about Social and Emotional learning watch this video from [kidsmatter.](http://kidsmatter.org.au)

Kate Naylor

School Counsellor & Art Therapist

Parent Forum

Parent Forum Executive 2020/21

Thank you to the following Parents that were nominated, and accepted positions to lead the Parent Forum in the next couple of years. We appreciate the commitment these parents will give to the roles and the important role they will play in our School Community:

Chairperson - Nikki Venn
Secretary - Lauren Kirkland
Treasurer - Sarah Hourigan
Parish Rep - Louise Senz
Parent Assembly - Louise Eckersley

Stage 1 Parent Rep - Steve Kirkland
Year 3 Parent Rep - Jody Coulter
Year 4 Parent Rep - Amelia Bell
Stage 3 Parent Rep - Alison Barrett



We are still looking for a Kindy Parent Rep, so if you are interested please see Dale or Nikki.

Easter Egg Raffle

Parent Forum are holding an Easter Egg Raffle at the Easter Liturgy on Thursday 9th April. Families are invited to contribute to the fundraiser by donating Easter Eggs. A booklet of raffle tickets will be sent home with each family next week. Please remember to return your booklets and/or unsold tickets to school by Tuesday 7th April. The Easter Raffle will be drawn following our Easter Liturgy on the last Day of the Term.



Parent Forum

Communities Notices



Creating our futures
at McAuley.



Come to our Open Night

Tuesday 17 March 2020 from 5.00pm

Meet our teachers, talk to students, and tour the College.
Find out how McAuley Catholic College can bring out
the best in your child.

Enquiries 02 6643 1434

McAuley Catholic College • Grafton

spirit • pride • wisdom

Family Retreat

4th and 5th April 2020

The Francis Retreat Centre, Bonny Hills

**Spend a weekend deepening your family's faith,
enjoying beautiful surroundings and connecting
with other friendly families.**

The Family Retreat is open to all families with children in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lismore. Enjoy some time out from the busy-ness of life to reconnect with God and each other.

- Saturday 10am - Sunday 2pm.
- Engaging faith programs for all ages from infants to adults.
- Adult Faith Sessions facilitated by the exuberant Fr Elio Capra who brings humour, joy and passion to deepening your faith. Learn more about the foundations of our faith: Scripture, Prayer and Service.
- Celebration of the Eucharist and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Fun outdoor activities to do as a family at this beautiful retreat centre which has a pool, tennis and basketball courts and beach access.
- **FREE:** All costs covered by Lismore Catholic Schools Parent Assembly.
- **To register click [HERE](http://bit.ly/3bsVhkj) or go to <http://bit.ly/3bsVhkj>**

**Build your family life on
Firm Foundations**

DIocese of LISMORE
Catholic Schools Parent Assembly For more information contact the Parent Assembly Team
Peta Rourke peta.rourke@lism.catholic.edu.au 0400420614
Parents in Partnership Christine Morrison christine.morrison@lism.catholic.edu.au 0436666578