St Joseph's School



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Term 1 | Newsletter 5

Dear St Joseph's Families,

Every 4 years, schools undergo a thorough educational review. For us, this was completed last week when we were measured against the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT). I am delighted to let you know that the Reviewers saw what we already know about our school. Below is the introduction to the Reviewers report...

The School Reviewers would like to acknowledge and thank the principal, staff, students, parents and parish priest of St Joseph's Primary school for their hospitality, welcome and positive engagement in the School Review process.

The staff are to be commended on their collective desire to make a difference to their students' learning outcomes and their focus towards engaging in evidence-informed practices that support all students to learn.

The students' pride in their school, open and friendly manner and willingness to have a go in their learning is admired, inspirational and noted by all members of the school community. Parents attest to the changing face of the school, the high standards and efforts of all staff and proudly describe St Joseph's as their school of choice.

The report is quite detailed and offers us constructive feedback which will inform our next four year plan. This plan will articulate a vision to maintain, enhance and strengthen the excellent school we have.

Thank you all for a wonderfully busy, happy term. There has been so much happening and there is so much to celebrate. As I wander around the school, I see settled, engaged children and staff who have given their very best.

I hope this Easter, you experience Christ's absolute love for us through the sacrifice He made on Good Friday and that His Resurrection on Easter Sunday is a time of joy for you and your families.



I wish us all a safe and restful holiday and look forward to Term 2 which begins on Tuesday, April 22nd.

Sharon

Sharon Anderson

RECONCILIATION RETREAT

On Monday our grade 3 students enjoyed a Reconciliation Retreat at Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College. This event witnessed the culmination of the students' preparation for this Sacrament of Healing and forgiveness. We are grateful to Miss Nicole Dudman and the senior students who make up the Youth Ministry class at Mary Mackillop College who led our students and those from St Laurence's Primary School in a day of prayer, reflection and fun activities in celebration of this sacrament.





HOLY WEEK PRAYER SERVICE

Students from all classes played an integral role in our Holy Week Prayer Service which told the story of Jesus' last days of life on earth. This event was enacted on the basketball court on the final day of school this term.





At the start of Lent we sent home Project Compassion boxes to each family. By placing money into the box throughout Lent we help raise funds to support vulnerable communities around the world. If you forgot to return your box you can contribute online caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

5th and 6th of April 2025

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

This week we have been excited to be able to cook and taste using some of the produce from the Vegetable Garden. We have had lots of tomatoes and capsicum so at the Open Library Lunchtime on Tuesday a number of students helped chop and prepare the vegetables for **RATATOUILLE- a French vegetable stew**

We had great success at the taste testings on Tuesday and Wednesday- many were surprised that they liked it!

Here is the recipe that we used if you want to try it at home- we chopped into small pieces but they were not even, it didn't matter.





Ingredients

Eggplant: cut first and leave the chopped eggplant in a bowl with the salt sprinkled on top

● 1 eggplant (aubergine), cut into 2cm -leave skin on sprinkled with 1/2 tsp salt

Other ingredients for Ratatouille:

- 3 large tomatoes, chopped (we used more because we had lots) You can puree them too or use a can of tomatoes
- 6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 brown onion, chopped
- 2 capsicum (1 red, 1 green), cut into 2cm
- 2 zucchinis (courgettes), diced into 1.5cm
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

What to Do:

- Chop the eggplant first and leave for 30 mins in a bowl sprinkled with the salt as you continue preparing
- 2. Chop the rest of the vegetables
- 3. Put a little oil in a frypan. Cook the eggplant first for 4-5 mins, stirring as you go til it gets some colour, then put aside in a bowl
- 4. Cook the onion and garlic in the same pan until soft (approx 3mins) add to the bowl
- 5. Add tbsp oil to the frypan, add the other chopped vegetables and sauté for 3-4 mins with the salt and pepper.
- 6. Add the eggplant and onion mixture back to the pan and simmer for 20-25 mins, uncovered
- 7. Season to taste you might like to use basil or other herbs

Serve by itself, with bread or use as a vegetable side dish ENJOY



SENIOR ATHLETICS

Students ran, threw and jumped their way through several events, showing great support of their classmates' efforts and successes. Well done to all the students for giving their best and trying their hardest! A special thank you to all the parents who helped out on the day, these events wouldn't be possible without your support. It was great to see so many parents supporting the students. Some students will now advance to the district athletic championships, which will be held next term.





NEWS FROM OUR FOUNDATION ROOM

What a fantastic first term it has been for our Foundation students! They have settled into school life beautifully and have been working so hard each and every day. We are all so incredibly proud of their efforts, they are truly on their way to becoming amazing learners. Our Foundation students are beginning to understand just how important it is to take charge of their own thinking, and it's been wonderful to see their love of learning grow.

Well done, Foundation, we can't wait to see what you achieve next term!



HONOURING A FORMER STUDENT

Pilot Officer Samuel Donald Whiteside



From left: Adam Whiteside, Donna Matthews, Sam Whiteside, Donna Wylie, Ally Whiteside-Horsfall

Former Saint Joseph's student and local hero, Pilot Officer Samuel Donald (Don) Whiteside, was recently honoured at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra during a Last Post ceremony. Don, who served with 460 Squadron in WWII, lost his life during a night raid over Germany in 1944. His bravery and service were remembered by family members, including ex-student Adam Whiteside, Donna Matthews (née Whiteside), Donna Wylie, and Sam Whiteside who laid wreaths in his honour. The Whiteside family remains a valued part of our school community today.

P&F END OF TERM UPDATE

P&F EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS DRAWN ON 3/4/2025

Congratulations to:

Amanda - 1st | Georgia - 2nd | Annika - 3rd

Other winners of the 38 prizes (and some whose names were drawn more than once) were: Laine; Eleanor; Cooper; Alexander; Deb N; Chris; Dylan; Mia; Amos; Deni; Robyn; Jocelyn; Liam; Frankie; Sam; Caleb; Stanley; Levi; Tania; Celina; Kye; Erika; Quinn and Ted.

Thank you to everybody who participated!

St Joseph's P&F's fundraising efforts have been off to a great start. The amount of \$270 has been raised from the Hot Cross Buns; and \$607 from the Easter Raffle.

The first instalment of our new playground equipment will be installed over the holidays!

St Joe's P&F thank everyone for their support and wish you all a lovely holiday and Happy Easter!

ORDER SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR TERM 2





KORUMBURRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

Grade 5 & 6 students and their parents are invited to our

2026 Year 7 Information Night

Tuesday 29th April 2025

6.15pm—Arrive at the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

The College Staff look forward to introducing you to the next phase of your education and will be showcasing the exciting academic program that is available at our College.

You will also receive valuable resources outlining the ethos and curriculum programs at our College.

We believe that Grade 5 students will also benefit from beginning to familiarise themselves with the Transition Process and are very welcome to attend.

Further enquiries can be directed to: Mr. Christopher Cronin - Middle School/Transition Coordinator on (03) 56 551566

DATES TO REMEMBER – TERM 1 TERM 2	
Fri, 4 th April	Whole School Easter Assembly Holy Week Prayer Service @ 12.30pm On the Basketball Court All Welcome
	Last day of Term 1 – early school finish for students at 2.30 pm (buses will depart at this time too)
Monday, 7 th April to Monday, 21 st April (inclusive)	School Holidays Begin
Tues, 22 nd April	Start of Term 2 All Students back at school
Wed, 23 rd April	Big 5 Cricket
Thurs, 24 th April	Big 5 Netball, Basketball, AFL & Soccer
Fri, 25 th April	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Fri, 2 nd May	Cross Country Grade 3 to 6 Mary MacKillop 9am to 11am
Tues, 6 th May	District Athletics Leongatha Velodrome



St Joseph's Child Safety and Wellbeing Statement

St Joseph's Primary School is committed to embedding a culture of Child Safety and Wellbeing in everything we do, adhering to the Child Safety Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises (Ministerial Order no. 1359). We believe that ensuring the safety of the students in our care is an integral part of who we are as a Catholic Faith community. The school acts in accordance with the Ministerial Order through policies, procedures, measures and practices, staff training and, ultimately, through the strategies used in working with the students and families within our school community. We continue to maintain and develop a safe and supportive learning environment where staff are focused on engaging students in a meaningful, relevant, and challenging learning experiences.

If at the time you have any issues or concerns you feel you need to raise, please contact our Principal Sharon Anderson or our Child Safety Officer Robyn Brownett on 5655 2040.