



Tuesday 5 December 2023

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week Nine of Term Four and what will be my final newsletter for the 2023 academic year. As I come to the close of my inaugural year as Principal of St Joseph's, I find myself humbled and deeply grateful for the warmth and support extended by members of our wonderful school community. It has been an extraordinary journey filled with growth, learning and an overwhelming sense of togetherness and collaboration. Thank you.

Children's University Graduation

Last Tuesday evening saw Year Five and Six students, their families, Mrs O'Dwyer and myself attend the University of Western Australia for the Children's University Graduation. Children's University offers opportunities and recognition to students for completing and participating in 'beyond' school learning. Children's University facilitates educational experiences to students outside of school hours and recognises their achievements through a graduation ceremony with certificates. Educational activity providers such as museums, theatres, school clubs and sporting groups offer a wide variety of experiences to encourage students' self-efficacy, confidence and future aspirations. Congratulations to all our graduates and a huge thank you to Mrs O'Dwyer who facilitates this program at St Joseph's.

Year Six Final Assembly

Mr Cosgrove and our graduating Year Sixes didn't let us down with a fabulous assembly last Wednesday. The highly anticipated 'Who's the Baby' with a new 'Who's the Mum' segment left us all in stitches! Thank you to Mr Cosgrove and our Year Six students who entertained us and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, families and friends who joined us to support our students.

Advent Celebrations

Please join us in the Assembly Hall, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:45am for our Advent Liturgies. Advent is a Latin word meaning 'coming'. We recognise the four Sundays in Advent as a way to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Final Canteen Day-Monday 4

Please note, that Monday 4 December was our final day for canteen. The school canteen will not be open Friday 8 December (last day of school for students).

Pizza Day Lunch

A reminder that students have been rewarded for a productive year with a pizza lunch this week! Kindergarten students received their pizzas on Monday and the remainder of the school will on Thursday. We hope our students enjoy their delicious treat!

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**End of Year Concert**

I look forward to seeing you all tonight, Tuesday 5 December as we celebrate the culmination of another wonderfully successful year here at St Joseph's. It is a lovely opportunity for us to gather as a community, united by faith, values and the commitment to the well-being and education of our students. Please join us from 4:15pm for a free sausage sizzle before the concert officially begins at 5:15pm. Parking will be available on the back oval. Please follow the Traffic Marshall for directions. As in previous years, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-primary students are to be collected by parents/caregivers from the designated pick-up area after their item. Once the concert is finished, students from Years One to Six will be asked to congregate near their classroom teacher. Please collect your child/children then.

Year Six Graduation slideshow, Mass and lunch

Parents and caregivers of our Year Six students are invited to join us in the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 6 December at 9:30am for a slideshow 'The Year That Was', before gathering at St Augustine's Parish at 10:00am for the Graduation Mass. We will then be heading off to Pinjarra Paceway for lunch. Students are asked to dress appropriately, in smart casual attire.

Year Six 'Fun Day' at Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre (Pinjarra)

As a final 'sendoff' to our Year Six students, Thursday 7 December sees them enjoying a well-deserved 'fun day' at the Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Pinjarra. Students will need to bring their own recess on the day as the school will provide a free subway lunch for them to enjoy. Students are asked to wear their bathers underneath their school sport uniform (faction polo), bring thongs, a towel, sunscreen, school hat and water bottle.

2023 Thanksgiving Mass

Please join us Friday, 8 December at 9:30am in the Church for our final Mass of the 2023 academic year-the Thanksgiving Mass. This special occasion serves as a time to reflect, give thanks and express our gratitude for the blessings we have experienced throughout the year. Let us come together in reflection, celebration and thanksgiving as we farewell 2023 and look forward to the adventures that await us in the future.

Student Reports

Student academic reports (Pre-primary to Year Six) will be available via SEQTA Engage, Friday 8 December, barring any technical issues. Any change to this timeline will be communicated to you via an SMS message.

Final Day for students

Kindergarten - Wednesday 6 December

Pre-Kindergarten - Thursday 7 December

Pre-primary to Year 6 - Friday 8 December

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Pupil Free Days (PFDs) for 2024

Please note the PFDs (and public holidays) for 2024.

Students return to school WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024.

Term	Week	Day/date	First and last days of Term for students
One	1	Monday 29 January (PFD)	Wednesday 31 January Thursday 28 March
	1	Tuesday 30 January (PFD)	
	6	Monday 4 March (Labour Day)	
	9	Friday 29 March (Good Friday)	
Two	1	Monday 15 April (PFD)	Tuesday 16 April Wednesday 26 June OR Thursday 27 June (TBC)
	2	Thursday 25 April (ANZAC Day)	
	8	Monday 3 June (WA Day)	
	11	Thursday 27 June (PFD)-TBC	
	11	Friday 28 June (PFD)	
Three	1	Monday 15 July (PFD)	Tuesday 16 July Thursday 19 September
	10	Friday 20 September (PFD)	
Four	1	Monday 7 October (PFD)	Tuesday 8 October Friday 6 December

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to each one of you for making my first year as Principal such a rewarding experience. Thank you to our staff whose tireless efforts, passion and unwavering dedication to your children have transformed our school into a vibrant hub of learning and growth. Their commitment to nurturing the minds and hearts of our students is inspiring. To our students, thank you for your curiosity, creativity, eagerness to learn, your kind hearts and compassionate spirits. You reaffirm the reasons why we do what we do! Thank you, parents and caregivers. Your trust and involvement have been instrumental in creating an environment where our students and staff flourish. Your partnership is invaluable and I am deeply grateful for your continuous collaboration and support. As we look ahead to 2024, I am excited about the endless possibilities that await us. Together, we will continue to foster an environment that promotes academic excellence, nurtures spiritual growth and develops a strong sense of community.

May the love, peace and blessings of this Christmas season be with you and your families.

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell - Principal

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