



Wednesday 7 February 2024

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome back! I trust the first week of the 2024 academic year has been enjoyable for both you and your children. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome new staff and families to St Joseph's...I am thrilled that you have decided to join our wonderful community!

Welcoming Mass

Thank you to Mrs O'Dwyer who prepared a beautiful 'Welcoming Mass' for us last Friday. This was a wonderful way to begin the 2024 year...gathering as a community and focusing on all our blessings. I spoke about making kindness our guiding principle, as it has the power to create a positive and nurturing environment for everyone. With kindness as our foundation and Jesus as our guide, we can build a school community with strong connections, a community that fosters understanding and a community that cultivates a sense of belonging.

P&F Meeting

Please join the P&F for the first meeting of the year, Thursday 8 February at 3:15pm in the Assembly Hall. Children are welcome to stay in the hall with parents. Come along to take on a role or come just for the camaraderie! Either way, we'd love to see you there.

Merit Assembly

Our first Merit Award assembly will take place Friday 9 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, 14 February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent lies at the very heart of our Catholic faith and it is a time when we reflect on the dying and rising of Christ. Our Kindergarten and Pre-primary students will participate in a Liturgy in their classrooms, while our Year 1-6 students will join parishioners at St Augustine's Parish at 9:30am. I warmly invite you to join us at St Augustine's church.

CARITAS BOXES - Next week each family will receive a Project Compassion box in which donations can be put into over the Lenten period. The money can then be sent into the office by the end of Term One and it will be donated to CARITAS Australia which is an international aid organisation.

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Parent Information Session

Please join us for the annual Parent Information Session, Wednesday, 14 February at 3:30pm in the Assembly Hall. I will address you all as a group in the Hall from 3:30pm to 4:00pm then teachers will address you in their classrooms from 4:00pm to 4:30pm. Students will be supervised in the STREAM centre in the new build from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. For those who are unable to make it, Information Booklets from the sessions will be available on SEQTA Engage...look under the 'Documents' tab. My presentation will also be available for you to view.

Faction Swimming Carnival

Students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in the St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival, Friday 16 February at The Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre, start time 9:30am. Please return swimming notes as soon as possible so Mr Henry can organise events for your children. If you are able to assist in a volunteer capacity on the day, i.e., timers, ribbon presenters etc, please call the front office on 9530 5500 and indicate your willingness to help.

Easter Egg Raffle

I am hoping you received communication regarding the annual Easter Egg Raffle earlier in the week. We are drawing your attention to this fundraiser early, as this term is only 9 weeks AND our Year 5 and 6 students are on camp week 9, so we will need to draw the raffle early. Please buy some tickets and bring in your donations of Easter eggs, Easter baskets and Easter gifts to support Caritas Australia. Extra tickets are available at the front office.

Staff Commissioning and Sacramental Enrolment Mass

Please note, Sunday, 18 February is the School Commissioning Mass for staff, the School Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends members. It is also the Sacramental Enrolment Mass for students who will be making their Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation sacraments in 2024. It is a wonderful celebration for our school and I would love to see community members coming along to support us. I look forward to seeing you at St Augustine's Parish at 10:00am.

Year 6 Ministry Speeches

Please join us Friday 23 February in the Assembly Hall for the Year 6 Ministry speeches at 11:20am. The students have been preparing their speeches to join either the Environmental, Executive, Pastoral or Sport Ministries. Our Year 6 leaders play a pivotal role in setting an example for the rest of the school. Being part of the Year 6 leadership group provides students with the opportunity to organise and carry out school

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activities and service projects and to work with teachers to foster a positive learning environment. Our Year 6 leaders promote the voice of the student body and help create a practical agenda for change that other students can identify with.

Please note, presentation of badges for Ministry members and Year 4 and 5 Student Councillors will be on Monday, 26 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bookclub

All orders are to be placed online. NO CASH ORDERS will be taken through the office. Orders are due on Wednesday, 14 February.

Special Days

The St Joseph's staff have been discussing how we can make our Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparent's Day celebrations more special! We want to be able to join together with you all more authentically, so we are suggesting the following...

Mother's Day Liturgy, Friday 10 May.

Breakfast with mums and other female role models at the school at 7:30am. Liturgy in the Church afterwards.

Father's Day Liturgy, Friday 30 August.

Breakfast with dads and other male role models at the school at 7:30am. Liturgy in the Church afterwards.

Grandparent's Day Liturgy, Monday 29 July.

Liturgy in the Church at 9:00am with grandparents and other family members. Morning tea in the Assembly hall afterwards.

I am hoping that the early notification of these dates will help in the scheduling of family's work and other commitments so as many of you as possible can join us.

Enjoy your week and I look forward to connecting with you at our Parent Information Session.

God bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell
Principal