Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

What a wonderful first week of school we had last week! I would like to congratulate the children on their fine work ethic and ability to get straight back into our school routines and procedures. On Monday and Thursday of last week, we welcomed two new groups of pre kindy students to St Joseph’s and, on Tuesday, a new cohort of kindergarten students. I was delighted to see both groups settle quickly and demonstrate a contagious enthusiasm for learning.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Our annual Parent Information Evenings (Class Meetings) will continue to be held over the week. I strongly encourage at least one parent from each family to attend these meetings as they outline the teacher’s expectations for the year and educate parents about programs that will be running in the school in 2015. The session days and times are as follows:

Kindy: Tuesday 10th Feb at 3pm
Pre Primary: Wednesday 11th Feb at 5pm
Year One: Thursday 12th Feb at 4.30pm
Year Two: Tuesday 10th Feb at 5pm
Year Three: Tuesday 10th Feb at 5.45pm
Year Five: Thursday 12th Feb at 5.30pm
Year Six: Wednesday 11th Feb at 5.30pm

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

On Thursday we celebrated our opening school mass at All Hallows. I would like to thank Father Mark for leading us; we are delighted to have him as part of our St Joseph’s Community this year. I would also like to thank Mrs Stafford for preparing the mass, our readers and those children involved in the procession.

We also thank our parents and parishioners for celebrating with us; you continue to enrich the mass by being with us. Our next school mass is Ash Wednesday Mass on 18th February.

NEW SCHOOL JUMPERS

Our lovely new ‘V’ neck school jumpers are for sale in the uniform shop at a cost of $55.00. The Uniform Shop is currently offering families the opportunity to laybuy this item over the term in preparation for the arrival of the cooler weather. Should you wish to laybuy a jumper, please see Mrs King or Mrs Miller.

Please be mindful that the knitted jumper is the only jumper that can be worn with the formal school summer or winter uniform. The current zip up sport jacket is to be worn with the sport uniform only.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Unfortunately late last year our board members, Bernadette and Tom Saunders, moved interstate. Both Bernadette and Tom have generously given their time and expertise to the School Board over the past two years. I would like to acknowledge their contribution, particularly Bernadette who served as our Board Treasurer.

I take pleasure in welcoming Ms Tendai Magadza to the board this year in a secondment position. Tendai has most generously agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and we are delighted to have her as part of the team.

P&F EXCITEMENT

I had the pleasure of attending our first P&F Meeting for the year on Monday. The meeting was very well attended with twenty enthusiastic parents in attendance and it included a brainstorm of ideas and fundraising initiatives, which was very productive. The P&F also moved a motion to purchase a new portable sound system for the Kamballie Hall. This will be of great benefit to our students and will finally alleviate the sound difficulties we continue to suffer with an old system. As is the P&Fs practice, the motion will be discussed again at the next P&F Meeting on Monday 9th March. I look forward to seeing even more families at the next meeting.

Keep in Our Prayers

Please pray for members of our community who are sick or in need or our prayerful support:

Mrs Hoyne and family as her mother passed away recently.
HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME
Our curriculum, especially with the introduction of the Australian Curriculum across Australia, is exhaustive. Teachers work very hard to ensure the children learn what is required. With the sheer volume teachers are expected to teach nowadays, it is almost impossible for children who are absent for an extended time, this being more than a few days, to catch up. As a result, I would ask parents to please refrain from taking children out of school for family holidays as it severely impacts even the brightest child’s learning.

In addition, schools are obliged to report attendance data to the government twice a year and all children are required to maintain an attendance level of at least 90% over the course of the year.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS
Mrs Otty is looking for some canteen volunteers to assist with ice-cream sales to the children at lunchtime between 1.05-1.25pm. Unfortunately, some children are missing out on purchasing their yummy treats as the demand is so great. If you are able to assist, please see Mrs Otty in the canteen or leave your name at the office. I am sure the children will be very thankful for your assistance, especially in this very warm weather.

HOW PARENTS CAN MAKE A GOOD SCHOOL BETTER
In order for a good school to function well, effective parent and school partnerships are integral. Here are some tips on how parents can make a good school better:

- Make an effort to understand what the school is trying to do. If you can, express your support for its aims and the values it expresses.

- If at all possible, participate on committees and in discussion groups that consider educational issues and give opinions to the staff.

- See the school as YOUR school. Encourage your children to see it in the same way.

- By all means offer constructive criticism and suggestions and direct your information to the right people.

- Go to school activities - open days, plays, concerts, picnics, sporting functions, and celebrations. Take a friend.

- Join the official parent group and look after the school’s interests.

- Welcome new parents. Help them feel that they belong. Build their confidence in the school.

- Support a broad and balanced curriculum. Resist attempts by any pressure groups to narrow the curriculum to things that are purely functional and measurable.

- Encourage your children to cooperate fully, to join in all school activities and to take a pride in the buildings, the grounds and the school community as a whole.

- Let the Principal and the teachers know that you support them, even if sometimes you have to be a friendly critic or a critical friend.

(from Barry Dwyer - Parents, Teachers, Partners)

PUPIL FREE DAYS
Please remember that Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th are Pupil Free Days and the school will be closed.

May God bless our school and those within it.

Miranda Swann
Principal

ST JOSEPH'S COOKBOOKS
Available from the Front Office

$20

Simply Divine
St Joseph Primary School Cookbook

Favourite recipes from the friends & families of St Joseph's Primary School
Over the next few weeks you will notice teachers conducting specific testing on students, across all year groups. These tests are for both literacy and numeracy to help the teacher understand exactly where your child is at in these subject areas and how best to programme for their individual needs. They also reinforce our commitment as a school to differentiate the curriculum to meet each learner’s needs.

This week, students from Years Three to Six will be sitting the ACER General Ability Test (AGAT). This assessment piece is a test of general intellectual ability and is designed to assist teachers in their assessment of students’ learning potential and aptitude. The results gained from this test will shape classroom experiences and be utilised in our SEEDS program, with Mrs Paula Houston.

Also, this week students from Years Three to Six will be sitting a PAT Maths test. PAT Maths is a thoroughly researched Australian test, designed to provide objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about the level of achievement attained by their students in the skills and understanding of mathematics. Teachers are then able to utilise this data to inform their programming and create meaningful, differentiated learning experiences for all students.

Have a great week.

Mr Luke Shaw
Assistant Principal - Curriculum

It makes a difference

As the old man walked the beach at dawn he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them back into the sea.

Catching up with the youth he asked him why was he doing this. The young man answered that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

“But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish” countered the old man. “How can your effort make a difference?”

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and threw it to the safety of the waves. “It makes a difference to this one.”

Our actions towards others in our lives can make a real difference in their lives. Jesus teaches us to help others, teaching children is a way we as teachers can make a difference to a child’s life. Remember to smile at others as this small action can make a big difference to someone’s day.

Mrs Sharon Pavlinovich
Pre Kindy/Kindy Teacher

Father,
Allow me to serve others with a joyful heart;
Never keeping score;
Always giving;
Never expecting to receive.
Allow me to give of myself,
To give of my talents and of my goods,
To give of my time and of my energy,
To give of my heart and of my soul.
Amen
Week 1 Merit Award Winners

Year Four
Year Four Class
Edward Prigg

Year Six
Edward Prigg

Principal’s Award
Zachary Wren
Sipiwe Neeson

PARISH NEWS
From Fr Andrew: The saying ‘take the good times and the bad’ only makes sense if we are a fatalist, whatever will be will be, or more correctly, if we are a Christian and see the good in suffering and struggle for the sake of our Lord and His Kingdom (Job 7:1-4; 6-7). In Christ, and understanding our weakness and limitedness, we are able to empathise with and help others through encouragement, offering them genuine hope through the grace of Christ (1 Cor 9:16-23). Jesus is the power to save our souls, to raise us up from bodily and spiritual sickness. This is ‘Good News’ and for those who experience it they are called to share this with others who need to hear and be reassured (Mk 1:29-39).

CHOIR PRACTICE
At St Mary’s Church every Wednesday at 6.30pm. New members always welcome.

KALGOORLIE JUNIOR SQUASH
Eastern Goldfields Squash Racquet Association hosts Junior Squash for ages 8 and up.

Bring $5, a water bottle and your running shoes. Racquet and glasses are available.

Starting 11th February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm at the Kalgoorlie YMCA.

For further information please contact Kylie on 0499 051 573.

P&F NEWS
Wow!! What an amazing and exciting start to 2015! Our first meeting of the year was held on Monday morning and we had a fantastic turn out of 20 people. It was really great to have such an enthusiastic group and the ideas were certainly flowing (fuelled by some delicious home made treats!) with how to raise funds this year, and how to spend them. Some of the fundraising ideas included movies nights (now we have our amazing projector up and running!), a photographic competition, a car boot sale, bingo night, a lapathon, a car wash, a treasure hunt, weekend workshops, yoga classes, and the chance to ‘dress your teacher!! These ideas are of course in addition to our discos, community BBQs, raffles and stalls. We will work our way through these great ideas and let you know which ones will be happening and when.

The first P&F event of the year is our annual ‘Meet and Greet’ afternoon being held on Sunday 22nd February from 4pm - 6pm. We will be cooking a BBQ for you to enjoy, there will be outdoors games set up and bouncy castles! It is a great chance for all St Josephs families to get together and share an afternoon of fun. We look forward to seeing you there!
WATER POLO
FlippaBall Program
Goldfields Oasis

Register Now!


Junior Water Polo 8-15 years
Starts Tuesday 24 February 2015!
Time: 6-7pm
Venue: Goldfields Oasis, Johnston Street, Boulder
Cost: $20 per person (includes insurance) plus pool entry
Contact Carly Gregory on (08) 9021 0900

Proudly Sponsored by:

Water Polo
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OASIS
The Year Six students have made a wonderful start to the year. They have been working hard in class and have applied themselves from the first day.

It has been great to see the students show leadership skills on a regular basis so early in the year. In class, we have discussed the importance of living our YCDI! key of Organisation and our Core Value of ‘We each strive to be the best we can be’. Students have created a wanted poster to share information and set goals for the year. The Year Sixes have also enjoyed using iPads, particularly PicCollage, Comic Life and Popplet, as a creative learning tool.

Mr Luke Shaw & Mrs Paula Houston
Year Six Teachers