Newsletter

St Joseph’s School Biloela

12th November 2018

From the Principal

Remembrance Day - Remembrance Day has a special significance in 2018. Sunday, 11 November 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War (1914–18).

I was very fortunate to visit the Australian War Memorial in Canberra last week with the Year 6 students and teachers. Our school captains, Lauren and Kurt did a magnificent job of laying the wreath during the very moving Last Post ceremony which allows the guests at the War Memorial to remember those Australians who lost their lives at war.

Year 6 Canberra Camp – On Thursday evening, our year 6 leaders and teachers returned to Biloela after being away in Canberra since Sunday. I was very privileged to be able to accompany the year 6 group on their trip this year. Once again, I was proud to be part of St Joseph’s as everywhere we went on our adventure, there were many comments about the behaviour of the students and their manners. Noel, our tour guide said the St Joseph’s group was the best group he’d had all year. The children and teachers learnt so much from visiting places such as Parliament House, Government House, The Royal Australian Mint, the Australian Institute of Sport, The Electoral Education Centre, the Australian War Memorial to name a few, but some of the other benefits of going on camp are as follows:

1. Social skills – there are great opportunities to develop a wide range of social skills that strengthen existing relationships among the children and develop new ones. At school, children have their ‘best friends’, but on camp being in close proximity to others for such a long time is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others better.

2. Independence skills – Camp provides an opportunity for children to take care of themselves. Most children enjoy this new found independence and recognise the need to look after themselves, each other and their environment. They need to take care of their cabins, their belongings and their own personal care.

3. Team building and development of leadership and decision-making skills – children are often expected to take on leadership roles at camp and work together to make positive decisions. They are together as a group for many days without a break, so they have to learn to get along with other children and show tolerance for others.

4. Encouragement of physical fitness and active lifestyles – during camp, children are exposed to a variety of new experiences. These are often active and encourage learning in a variety of forms, providing a greater awareness of skills and capabilities that may be new for many children. On camp there is little time for resting, as the days are full of exciting opportunities to learn new things. For some children this amount of physical activity is very challenging, and they have to find stamina and determination to keep going.

5. Personal Challenges – during camp, children may be exposed to a range of activities they may not have tried before. Often when not under the direction of their parents, they will display an adventurous spirit and be willing to have a go at something new. On camp there were many activities organised each day and in some cases, the children were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones.

Life Education Van – The Life Education Van will be visiting St Joseph’s from Tuesday to Friday this week. Each class will visit the van with their teacher to be involved in the Life Education’s health and drug education program. The program is designed to be integrated into the Australian Curriculum taught in schools from Prep to year 6. For more information or to access the parent resources to support the program, please visit this website: https://www.lifeeducation.org.au/parents/

Welcome back Mrs Stone – This week we welcome Mrs Collette Stone back to St Joseph’s for the last four weeks of school. Collette will be assisting teachers and leadership in collecting and collating data on each student to enable teachers to begin the new school year with as much knowledge and information about the students in their class as possible.

School Fee Assistance: Our Catholic Education policy on school fees states that, no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay prescribed fees. A Concession Card Discount was introduced last year to further support families in our school. Parents/carers with an eligible means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card, automatically receive a 70% discount on tuition fees. Furthermore, new or existing parents, who are experiencing financial hardship, are encouraged to discuss alternate fee discounts directly with the school principal, who will treat the situation confidentially.

Best wishes for the week ahead,
Nikki Rutten

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Mass 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Nov</td>
<td>Year 6 Soldier On Activities and Sleep Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28 Nov</td>
<td>Year 5 Chaverim Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Nov</td>
<td>Powers Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 High School Transition Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 Dec</td>
<td>End of Year Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>First Day of School for 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s time to discuss a big one.
Collaborate.

Merriam-Webster defines collaboration as ‘to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavour’.

Now don’t be frightened by the word ‘intellectual’. I almost didn’t include it, I was going to leave it out. Collaborate has been used traditionally to describe academics working together on a project or writing a book. But, when you stop and look around, regardless of the job that we are in, we are expected ‘to work jointly with others’. We are expected to share ideas, listen to ideas and together come up with a new solution.

No person can do their job successfully without some level of collaboration from others. As the old saying goes ‘two heads are better than one’.

For example: you are building a fence with a couple of friends. You don’t just start. You talk about it first, work out the approach, who is in charge of what, how can we do it faster and more effectively? You listen to each other, respond to the ideas and the end product, the fence, is more stable and effective than if you had attempted it on your own.

How can you help your child to learn how to collaborate? You need to practise being collaborative. Remember that it is a skill. It doesn’t come naturally for everyone (and not every moment requires collaboration – as the parent you still get to say no 😊) so you need to teach your child how to collaborate.

- **What is the goal?** – what is it that you are trying to achieve? E.g. We are going to make a cake.
- **Brainstorm ideas** – how are we going to make this cake? What do we need? What will we do first?
- **Listen** – encourage your child to listen to all the ideas.
- **Responding** – encourage your child to respond to those ideas through questioning, offering their own suggestions to build the idea into something bigger and better.
- **Divide the work** – who is going to be responsible getting the ingredients? Mixing? Preparing the cake tin? Most importantly – clean up!
- **Check in** – remember to keep checking in with the members of the team. Discuss how everything is going.

This of course is a very simplified overview of how to collaborate. But it gives you a place to start.

Depending on personalities, children may prefer to work on their own. That is completely fine. Collaboration isn’t for every project. However, that doesn’t mean they get to avoid collaborating with a group. By giving them the opportunities when they are younger to work with different people on a project, we are encouraging them to develop healthy work habits. They learn how to listen and accept other points of view, how to communicate effectively and they get to do this in a safe environment.

I can’t wait to hear how you went.
**Until next week,**
Claire Spence
**Acting APC**

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collaborate
accessed 11/11/2018
accessed 11/11/2018

---


In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus calls attention to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions to the temple treasury - two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow’s offering for his disciples’ consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus. To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us. Jesus himself demonstrates the ultimate act of generosity and trust in God as he gives his life for us on the cross. Read the Gospel together.

**Mark 12:41-44.** Jesus was sitting in the temple near the offering box and watching people put in their gifts. He noticed that many rich people were giving a lot of money. Finally, a poor widow came up and put in two coins that were worth only a few pennies. Jesus told his disciples to gather around him. Then he said: I tell you that this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Everyone else gave what they didn’t need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had. Now she doesn’t have a cent to live on.

It is important for children to learn that generosity is about more than giving great amounts of money or valuable possessions. Jesus teaches us that real generosity is measured by the sacrifice made to give the gift. (Sunday Connection) As a family pray the Peace Prayer of St Francis together.

**Virtue of the Week – Humility**

Thank you to Miss Mader and year 2 for presenting the virtue of HUMILITY at Assembly this morning. Often, the term humility is confused with humiliation. While both terms refer to a loss of pride, humiliation is often brought on by someone else and refers to a loss of respect; however, you can gain respect by demonstrating humility.

How to practice Humility:
- Be respectful to others.
- Do the right thing without worrying what people think.
- Accept that someone might be better than you.
- Don’t boast about your talents or achievements.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Empower others by educating them with an attitude of gratitude that you have the skills and knowledge to support them.

**Making Jesus Real Motto of the Week**

This fortnight’s MJR theme is Together Everyone Achieves More – TEAM

At St Joseph’s we strongly believe that teamwork makes the dream work! As the saying goes there is no “I” in team, to have a happy family, class, sporting team or school, we need to work as part of a team. Children need to understand their role they play within a team and not be receivers or takers. Last week I worked with the year 5 students as they planned and drafted their school captain speeches for 2019. It was wonderful to witness many of the students incorporating values, virtues and Making Jesus Real comments into their speeches. Most importantly, each child mentioned that they are a part of a team and wish for their peers to feel that way as well. The captain speeches will be presented to the school on Tuesday 4th December.

---

**Peace Prayer of St Francis**

LORD, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, let me work for healing;
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith;
Where there is despair, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, let me bring light;
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be comforted as to comfort;
To be understood as to Understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
In Forbearance that we are pardoned;
In Dying and in Dying, let us be made like Christ our Lord.

---

**Dates to Remember**

Week 7 – Prep Mass at 9am
Week 9 – Graduation Mass Monday at 5.30pm
Week 9 – Leadership Speeches Tuesday
Week 9 – End of School Year Mass Thursday at 9am

**Sunday Altar Servers**

18th Nov – Kiey and Lachlan
25th Nov – Reevindie and Declan

Yours in Faith Education,
Tina Knight
APRE
**Finance Matters**
Due date for fees was last Friday 9th November and it would be appreciated if you ensure your fees are up to date. As you would understand it is important that accounts are paid in a timely manner to allow for end of year processing.

**Confirmation of enrolment forms for 2019.**
It is essential that these forms are completed BY EVERY FAMILY ASAP to ensure a place at St Joseph’s School Biloela in 2019 and to ensure you will receive discounts if you have more than one child at a Catholic Diocesan School in 2019.

(Please note that this form must be completed even if you have only one child attending in 2019.)
We still have 28 families yet to return their forms. Spare forms are available from the office if required.

---

**Prep Post Office Excursion**
Our prep students have been writing letters to each other and posting them in their own post office. They wanted to see what a real post office looks like so they went for an excursion to the Biloela Post Office. Michaela took them out to the back area and they saw the post office boxes and parcels, they even saw the St Joseph post office box!

Before going to the post office, they wrote their own letters to some special people, and brought them with them, purchased some stamps and posted them in the mail box. Some lucky people are going to get a surprise in the mail next week!

---

**PE News**
In week 7 & 8 students will be playing ten pin bowling in PE. Students are asked to please bring in any plastic soft drink bottles to make the pins.

---

**P & F Meeting - This Evening**
As the year comes to a close we welcome everyone to our last P&F meeting for the year.

Agenda for tonight’s meeting at 5.30pm in the library:
• End of year Event
• Container for Cash
• AGM date

---

**Life Education Van**
Life Education and Healthy Harold the Giraffe are coming to our school this week from Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th November. Their mission is to empower young people to develop the skills needed to make informed decisions. Continue the conversation with your children by working on the Life Education modules together at home.

To learn more about the Life Education program and what your children are learning in the program at school, come along to their FREE parent session. It will be held on 13/11/2018 at 2:00pm.

To view more information about the parent module, visit…

---

**Life Education Van**
Life Education and Healthy Harold the Giraffe are coming to our school this week from Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th November. Their mission is to empower young people to develop the skills needed to make informed decisions. Continue the conversation with your children by working on the Life Education modules together at home.

To learn more about the Life Education program and what your children are learning in the program at school, come along to their FREE parent session. It will be held on 13/11/2018 at 2:00pm.

To view more information about the parent module, visit…

---

**St Joseph’s Primary School**
**Christmas Concert**
Join us for an evening of fun-filled festive entertainment!

Wednesday 5th December
at 6:00pm
Undercover Assembly Area

Welcome all Parents and care givers to this year’s Christmas Concert!

All the students have been working super hard on their performances that celebrate the traditions and stories of Christmas from Bethlehem to Bondi. So please come and join us to celebrate the upcoming silly season. There will be singing, dancing, acting and possibly even a chance sighting of the man in red himself.

So come one, come all to St Joseph’s Christmas Concert, it is sure to be a Ho, Ho, Ho Whole lot of fun.
Year 6 Soldier On Sleep Out

As part of our Economics & Business unit the Year 6 classes are required to select, research and donate to a charity organisation. This year our classes have chosen Soldier On as our charity organisation. On Friday 23rd November, we will be participating in a ‘Soldier On Sleep Out’. During the night we will be required to sleep out at school, participate in a number of army style drills and live on ‘rations’ for the night. This is to gain a little appreciation of what our troops deal with on a daily basis.

The Year 6 students are seeking monetary sponsorship or donations for this event which will then be collected and forwarded to Soldier On. Soldier On is an organisation that works side by side with those who have served and continue to serve our nation, and their families, to help secure their future.

If you would like to offer support for this event please see either a Year 6 student/s or our Year 6 teachers.

The students will also hold a ‘Soldier On Lunch Time Activity Day’ on Friday 23rd November. They will set up different activities which all students can participate in during lunch. Other students will be able to participate in the activities for a gold coin donation. The Year 6 students are responsible for planning the activities, creating a budget and calculating profit from their activity. All funds raised on this day will also be donated to Soldier On.

Our Year 5 students are also studying Charity Organisations. They have chosen to collect donations of items to put together care packages that they will send to Australian & New Zealand Troops serving overseas. The Year 5’s will provide more information at a later date about this event.

Thank you

Year 6 students
Congratulations to the Students of the Week for Week 6.

School Birthdays
12 Nov Brock 11
16 Nov Blair 9
17 Nov Alastair 8
17 Nov Nathanial 7
18 Nov Isaac 8

2018 Term Dates
Term Four: Last Day - Friday 7th December (9 Weeks)
2019 term Dates
Term one: Tuesday 29 January - Friday 5 April (10 weeks)
Term two: Tuesday 23 April - Friday 28 June (10 weeks)
Term three: Monday 15 July - Friday 20 September (10 weeks)
Term four: Tuesday 8 October - Friday 6 December (9 Weeks)

For the remainder of this term, the tuckshop will operate a reduced service of one day a week. The dates for tuckshop and roster for the remainder of this term are:

Week 6: Thursday 15th November - Prep and Year 1
Week 7: Thursday 22nd November - Years 1 / 2 and 2
Week 8: Thursday 29th November - Years 3 and 3 /4
Week 9: To be advised.

MJR - Motto of the Week
This weeks MJR theme is Together Everyone Achieves More – TEAM

Making Jesus Real
The virtue for last week was Trust. Congratulations to the virtue of the week award recipients.

Year 6 Canberra Camp
Year 6 students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $80 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.