



NEWSLETTER NO 3 WEEK 4 TERM 1 FEBRUARY 22 2017

VISION STATEMENT

We at St Joseph's Primary School Queens Park are a faith based community which strives to recognise and respond to the image of Christ in us all, as we grow through work and prayer.

THE ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGES
THAT WE COME TOGETHER ON THE ANCESTRAL LANDS OF THE
WHADJUK PEOPLE

ST MARY OF THE CROSS

Let us all resign ourselves into His hands, and pray that in all things He may guide us to do His Holy will... when thoughts of this or that come I turn to Him and say "Only what you will, my God. Use me as You will".



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

MASSSES: Thank you to Year 6 Blue for preparing and celebrating with all Year 6s the first class Mass of the year this morning.

Wednesday March 1 is ASH WEDNESDAY. All students from Years 3-6 will attend Mass and a simple Water Ceremony will be conducted in the Kindy – Year 2 classes after Mass. Please come along and join us at Mass as you begin your Lenten preparation.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Tim McDonald has requested that all school communities be sent his letter regarding the Royal Commission, its findings and what we as Catholic schools are doing.



TREASURE ROAD CARPARK: Only students accompanied by an adult will be allowed to exit through the Kindy gate and into the car park on Treasure Road. If you want to drive through and pick your child up, please do so in the driveway at the front of the school. Once again thank you all for assisting us keep our children safe.

2018 ENROLMENTS: Please ensure your child is enrolled in Kindergarten for 2018 as Mr Yensch is beginning interviews next week.

SAFE SCHOOL PROGRAM: We start the year promoting a safe and happy school. Each class does this individually and we refer to it at assemblies. Students should feel safe at school and if they are seriously hurt, ignored or teased by someone who has more power they may begin to feel unsafe. We don't want this to happen so we do everything we can to give students the skills to maintain a happy and safe outlook at school.



CREATING FUTURES: Attached to this week's newsletter is a flyer called 'Creating Futures.' It is information about a support group for parents of children with a disability. If you know of families in our wider community who this may benefit, please send the information on if you think it may help.



SIBLING DISCOUNT PROGRAMME: Thank you to the over 30 families who have signed up to take advantage of the Sibling Discount Programme. This applies if you have students attending both St Norbert College and St Joseph's School. You can claim the benefit for the children at St Joseph's as Child 2 and/or 3. The offer closes on February 28. Kindly come and see Ms Dragon in the office for a form to fill in.

Yours in Christ
Kaye Savage-Morton
Short Term Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

COMMITMENT MASSES:

The Sacramental commitment envelopes went home to students of Year 4 and Year 6 on Monday of this week. Please ensure that you fill out the commitment form and take it with you to one of the Parish Masses this weekend. A reminder of the times again: Saturday evening at 6:30pm, Sunday morning at 8:30 am and again at 10:00 am. Students will be called forward during the Mass and must present the form at this time.



ASH WEDNESDAY BREAD AND BUTTER DAY:

Don't forget we have Ash Wednesday Mass on March 1 at 9 am in the church. All students from Years 3-6 will attend. All parents and community members are more than welcome to attend. Ash Wednesday is also when we have our annual "Bread and Butter Day" fundraiser for Project Compassion. Please see the attached flyer. Your support would be very much appreciated.

PRE-PRIMARY ON-ENTRY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Students in Pre-Primary have been completing the On-entry Assessment Program this past week. This is an assessment for learning to:

- Provide teachers with information about the current skills and understandings of each student.
- Inform the planning and delivery of targeted and intentional learning programs, reflective of each child's needs and capabilities.
- Identify, early in the school year, students who may require intervention, consolidation or extension. A summary for parents will be forwarded prior to the end of Term One.

Further information can be accessed

at: www.det.wa.edu.au/educationalmeasurement/detcms/navigation/on-entry/information-forparents

Ronan Kelly
Assistant Principal



ST JOSEPH'S FACTION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday March 3 (Week 5) at the Aqualife Centre in East Victoria Park. Children in Years 4 – 6 will be participating in swimming races and/or novelty events in the outdoor 50 metre pool.

All children must attend unless unable to do so due to sickness or injury.

Children will be travelling to and from the venue by bus. All buses will depart the school at 9.00am sharp. The carnival will commence at 9.45am and will conclude at approximately 2.00pm.

The canteen will be open on this day but only for the children in Junior Primary.

Mrs Tennille Eoannidis.

P & F NEWS:

If you wish to receive emails from us during the year, please send us an email at: pandf@sjsqp.wa.edu.au and we will add you to our mailing list.

The P & F are always looking for volunteers for upcoming events. Please let us know if you are interested in helping at upcoming events.

Dates for your Calendar

Monday March 13 - P & F Meeting at 7pm

Monday April 3- Easter Raffle draw

Friday May 5 - Disco

Friday May 12 – Mother's Day Stall

SOCIAL WORKER NEWS: What to look for in a parenting article

The internet has a litany of "how-to" parenting articles and countless tips about how to make our children stop doing something we don't like or teach our children how to be or do something we do like. Examples include: "How to Teach Your Child to Have Control Over Their Thinking", "How to Teach Your Child to be Humble and Kind", "How to Teach Your Child Self-Control", "How to Teach Your Children to Play With Others", "Teaching Your Toddler to Count to 100: Our Top Seven Ways" and "How to Stop the Whining and Crying".

There's nothing wrong with wanting to raise a child who is humble and kind. However, this pattern seems to suggest we ought to have an agenda for who our kids will be. Rather than focusing on ways to support our children in being the best version of themselves, we're led to believe we must intentionally shape every aspect of their personalities.

It also seems to encourage parents to change things about their children which they find uncomfortable or disagreeable. To be clear, screaming and whining can be annoying. But when an article focuses on how to stop a behaviour simply because we find it obnoxious, perhaps the intent is misplaced. Are we attempting to address a behaviour because it will benefit our kids or because we think it will make our lives easier?

Furthermore some of these articles could be a recipe for failure. For example, cooperative play and self-control require a certain amount of cognitive and emotional development. Teaching it before a child is capable of empathy and controlling impulses won't be effective and indeed can be counterproductive. Our time would be better spent acting as our child's "upstairs brain" while their immature prefrontal cortex develops (for more on brain development, the book "The Whole Brain Child" may be helpful)

Are these "how-tos" are always a good use of our time? What's the purpose of teaching a toddler to count to 100? Does that guarantee he'll be in Mensa? Is the point to give me something to brag about at playdates? Just because something is possible, doesn't mean it's worth doing or that it's the best way to spend my child's precious childhood.

Finally, research suggests there is fallacy in attempting to suppress our children's emotions. It's important to assist our children in developing a healthy expression of emotions, but attempting to squash them all together has negative, long-term consequences.

The following are some questions to ask yourself as you search for wisdom in parenting blogs and articles:

Who is writing this article? There are loads of great articles written by parents for parents, and there is no intent to diminish the beauty of families supporting one another. However, we should also recognize that other parents are speaking from experience with what worked for their specific children. Their suggestions are not necessarily based on empirical research or years of education. You may find helpful suggestions, but remember these are not authorities on the topics of development, education, or child psychology.

Does it address development? Expectations vary widely depending on age and stage of development. What may be appropriate for an eight-year-old won't necessarily apply to a five-year-old. When you're reading an article about how to teach your child something, look for information in the article about development. If the writer doesn't address this, don't assume it's appropriate for your child.

Does it represent my values? An article which encourages the use of media to teach young child academic skills may be incongruent with your values around play-based learning for small children. Sometimes as parents we can feel like we are failing our children when we read how our peers are parenting. Keeping our own personal values in mind will allow us to make intentional decisions in which we can feel confident.

What's the motivation? Most parenting is around dealing with our own "stuff". There's a big difference between an article which focuses on how we can support our children and one intended to stop a behaviour we just don't like. The former is child-centered, the latter is parent-centered. Rather than attempting to stop our kids from crying or "causing drama," our time might be better spent addressing how we can manage our own reactions while asking, "Is there an unmet need behind my child's behaviour?"

We all have high hopes for our children, but it's important to remember they are whole, complete beings who are separate from us. They deserve the right to become who they want to be. Facilitating their development without focusing on our own needs and egos is a wonderful gift. If we want to raise intelligent, kind people with self-control, the best thing we can do is work on ourselves, not our kids. Allow them to learn through exploration, model kindness and self-control, and work on your own ability to remain calm and compassionate with your children. This paradigm shift can deepen your connection with your children, and it doesn't even require flash cards!

<http://www.heysigmund.com/what-to-look-for-in-a-parenting-article/>

20 February 2017

Dear Catholic school communities



On Thursday, 16 February, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released the full report of its survey results on claims made against Catholic organisations for alleged child sexual abuse.

The public release of this information has finally provided a voice for the victims of abuse and has justifiably been deeply distressing and confronting for Catholics and society in general. As a Catholic education community in Western Australia and nationally, we are profoundly saddened and shamed by the failures of so many in our Church to care for our children and young people.

It is my deepest hope that the challenging work of the Royal Commission, and its findings, will help heal some of the unimaginable pain of the victims of this abuse. As a Catholic community, we acknowledge the victims who have come forward and shared their stories, and we thank them for their extraordinary bravery and willingness to help Australians understand what happened to them.

As the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Rev Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, has expressed, *“each substantiated case represents a child or young person who had their innocence stolen from them, nearly always with devastating and long lasting effects on their lives. Each incidence of sexual abuse by a priest represents a chilling and destructive betrayal of everything the Catholic Church purports to stand for. Beyond the almost unimaginable suffering of the victims and survivors of this abuse, the circle of suffering widens out to include their families, their friends and the wider community.”*

As a father with children in Catholic schools, I am aware of the burden that is carried by our schools and learning communities at this time. I acknowledge the damaging impact this has on the faith of many in our communities, but also the trust and confidence that families have in Catholic education.

To provide some reassurance to our Catholic education community, I accepted an invitation from the Royal Commission to participate on a panel with other members of Catholic Education in Australia. My participation last Thursday focused on the governance structures in Catholic Education Western Australia, as well as current child-protection and child-safety policies and procedures in Catholic schools.

Significantly, it illuminated the ongoing work of our schools to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care remains our highest priority. In summarising the panel discussions, Royal Commission Chair, The Hon Justice Peter McClellan AM, acknowledged the important role our schools play in providing safe learning environments and commended Catholic Education for its commitment to child safety.

I remain enlivened by the deep commitment of Principals, teachers and staff in our schools who reinforce our policies with strong pastoral support and focus on maintaining safe and engaging learning environments where all students can flourish.

This is a time of real change, a time to recognise the opportunity of healing and hope that the Royal Commission provides not only our Catholic community but our society as a whole. It allows us individually, and as Catholic learning communities, to reflect on the healing that is taking place.

This transformation will be a journey, but it is equally an imperative for Catholic Education Western Australia. I am confident that we will emerge from this time of deep reconciliation as a faith-filled Catholic education system; filled with determination and commitment to provide all students with the knowledge, skills, hope, optimism, and a Catholic worldview, to live meaningful lives, and shape and enrich the world.

As we continue to focus on our purpose of transforming learning for all, I thank you for entrusting your child’s learning to one of 163 Catholic schools in Western Australia.

Yours Sincerely



Tim McDonald





CREATING FUTURES

My Time Peer Support Group

Supporting parents of children with disabilities

Are you a parent, grandparent or anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic medical condition? Then come and join our My Time support group for coffee and a chat. It's a place for you to unwind and talk about your experiences. It's a world away from appointments and therapy.

Date: Every Wednesday
(School terms only)

Enquiries:

Hayley (Group Facilitator)

T 08 9251 5777

It's support for you.

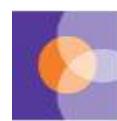
Times: 10:00am to
12:00pm

Where: Communicare
28 Cecil Avenue
Cannington

Each week there will be Group Facilitator led general discussions and activities around structured topics, providing you the opportunity to socialise and share ideas with others who understand the rewards and challenges of the caring role as well as the opportunity to learn about available community support services and research-based parenting information.

A Play Helper will also organise play activities and provide support to children while parents and carers participate in discussions and activities.

 **COMMUNICARE**

 **MyTime**
*supporting parents of
children with disabilities*