From the Principal

With much of the new school year activities and rituals being taken care of, this week everyone has enjoyed a solid week of uninterrupted teaching and learning throughout the school. It has been wonderful to see how students are becoming more independent learners in their classrooms as they become comfortable with routines and procedures.

As we come to the end of Week 4, in many Learning Areas we are working within ‘tuning in’ phase of teaching units. Revision of prior learning and initial ideas are being built on and connections are being made with rich new learning experiences. While this sounds like a magnificent phase in the learning process, and don’t doubt me in thinking that it is not, it does however bring to the table a child’s ability to deal with new and challenging information and tests their ability in coping with new, often higher-order thinking concepts.

Some children revel in the idea of learning new concepts and embrace it fully, but for others new and unfamiliar ideas can bring about worry, anxiousness and defeat. Teaching our students/children to be confident, resilient people who are prepared to take risks is not something that can happen overnight, in fact this teaching and learning needs to happen all throughout one person’s life.

Michael Grose, is the author of 9 parenting books, including Thriving! and the bestselling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change it and has an education background and holds a Master of Educational Studies with research into what makes healthy families tick. He has conducted over 1,500 parenting seminars over the last two decades. His advice on raising kids with a healthy self-esteem and self-confidence is a great read and food for thought over the coming weeks.

Every parent should know these

Children with healthy self-esteem and self-confidence learn more, achieve more and are generally happier than those with low confidence levels. However building children’s and young people’s confidence is complex.

Great confidence-builders use a number of approaches that impact on how kids’ think, how they feel and what they can do.

Here are 5 practical strategies that you can use to build real self-confidence in kids of all ages:
1. **Model confident thinking**

Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour especially when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like “I’ll have a go at this. If I don’t do so well then I can try again tomorrow.” This is far more effective than “I’m no good at this. I’ll probably stuff it up.” What story are you creating that your children will copy and pass on?

2. **Focus on effort & improvement**

Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better over time in school, work, and life. One way to develop this 'growth mindset' is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what kids do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than pure ability, talents or smarts.

3. **Praise their strategies**

While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the be all and end all. Kids need a broad repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. Focus your language on better and smarter ways of improving. Comments such as “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!” and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right” are descriptive statements that have significant instructional value for kids.

4. **Develop self-help skills from an early age**

A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. **Give them real responsibility**

From a young age, start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to be independent.

Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life’s challenges and know that they can become more independent.

Confidence building is such an important factor for children’s happiness that it can’t be left to chance. Here’s the opportunity to put confidence-building strategies at your fingertips.

Yours in Education,

Jo Davison
School Fees
School Fees have been sent home in the past fortnight. If you have not received your school fees for Term 1, please see Noelene in Administration. Your continuous financial support of the school is always greatly appreciated, however if you are experiencing financial hardship or you are in need of financial assistance in paying these fees please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Uniform Policy
Last year the School Board reviewed the school uniform policy. This policy will be emailed out to parents on Monday for feedback. I encourage you to take the time to read through the uniform policy carefully and provide your feedback on the information contained in it. Once the policy has been sent out to our parent group and feedback has been received, the policy will be adopted.

School Banking Info
Did you know that we have school banking at St Joseph’s? What’s School Banking?
School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits.

Run through participating primary schools nationally, children who deposit money into their Commonwealth Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmite tokens which they can redeem for exciting rewards.

St Joseph’s P & F AGM
A reminder that the P & F AGM will be held on Monday 20th February at 3:15pm under the school. A short general meeting will follow the AGM. This meeting will also include fete information and preparation.

Easter Fete/ Tuckshop
Following on from my challenge last week and on assembly this morning, please consider how you can be mighty as parents within our school community. Our school P & F are calling for volunteers to help out at both the Tuckshop and our annual Easter Fete. If you are able to help at either of these times, please contact Amy Crook-King. Let’s remember, great partnerships equal great results.

Western Principal Meeting & Diocesan Curriculum Meeting
I will be away from Tuesday 28th February until Friday 3rd March for the Western Principal Meeting and Diocesan Curriculum Meeting. Mrs Clare Barron will be Principal in my absence. However, should you have any questions or concerns during this time, please do not hesitate to phone me on the school mobile number: 0447295335.

Blackall Magpies Junior Rugby League Sign on Day
Please note that the Blackall Junior Rugby League sign on day will take place on Wednesday 22nd March at the Blackall Aquatic Centre from 5:00pm. Any children interested in playing in 2017 are invited to attend.
News from the School Board

Current Members:
Chair: Keera Ross

School Representatives: Joanne Davison & Clare Barron

Priest: Fr Bill Senn

Parent Representatives: Amy Crook-King, Jeremy Barron

Parish Representative: Julie Hauff

Goals for 2017:
- Advertise the work of the Board to our school community
- Review School Development Plan and begin drafting a new plan following School Review & Improvement
- Review Policies

What we discussed at our last meeting:
- Discussed meeting time and day.
- School Culture 2017 – Discussed the formalised enrolment interview question process to ensure parents are committed to enrolling their children in a Catholic school for the right reasons.
- Discussed enrolment questions and further refined these. An enrolment procedure will be written for future use.
- Uniform Policy is now complete and will be sent out on the Monday of next week to parents for feedback. The distribution of the policy is to be mentioned on assembly and will include stock availability.
- School Centenary event update.
- Discuss what SR&I process will look like. The School Development Plan was distributed for review by board members. Feedback of the Development Plan will be received from individual members at our next meeting.
- It was agreed that the Minutes from each School Board meeting and Board Member Profiles will continue to be included in both the school newsletter and Parish Bulletin.
- School Board Goals for 2017 – Review school development plan
- -Review the Behaviour Policy and / or ICT Policy

This week I would like to introduce you to another one of our School Board members:
Mr Jeremy Barron

Who is Mr Jeremy Barron? Jeremy Barron is a father to Billy, Felicity and Nate. Jeremy is also the husband of Mrs Clare Barron. Jeremy is an active parent within our school community and has a passion for students being involved in sport. Jeremy is also an active member of our Parish as Communion Minister and Maintenance Committee Member.

What does he aim to achieve by being on the School Board? Jeremy is one of many parent representatives on the School Board. Jeremy hopes that he will be able to be a voice for the parents of the St Joseph’s School Community ensuring that the school is working as hard as it can to provide as many opportunities as possible for our children.

Should you have any questions regarding the work of the School Board or you are interested in becoming part of our School Board team, please contact either myself or Keera Ross.
APRE REFLECTION

Valentine’s Day
February 14th is the day dedicated to love but little is known about St Valentine. Although it has not been officially decided whether or not the stories about the life of St Valentine involve two different saints by the same name, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome. He is the patron saint of love, young people and happy marriages. Whatever the stories, the legend of St Valentine has evolved and changed over many centuries and is one of the most commercialised days in our calendar. To me, Valentine’s Day isn’t about the roses and the chocolates, but instead, it is about appreciating the love people bring into our lives whether they are our partners, children, family, friends or the people in our school community. I hope you all had a loving Valentine’s Day!

Children’s Liturgy
The dates for Children’s Liturgy this term are
- Saturday 25th February
- Saturday 11th March

All students are welcome to attend. Mass begins at 6pm and the students go with the children’s liturgy presenters for the Liturgy of the Word part of Mass. At Children’s Liturgy, the readings of Mass are presented in a child friendly way and there is an activity that relates to the reading. If your child would like to attend and you can’t make it, please let one of the teachers know and we would be happy to pick them up and take them to Mass.

Term 1 Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>28th February</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>17th March</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Day celebrations in Barcaldine</td>
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<td>21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day Liturgy</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Liturgy</td>
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<td>30th March</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Liturgy</td>
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<td>31st March</td>
<td>Good Friday Liturgy + Caritas Mini Fair</td>
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Stamps for the Josephites

As part of our Jnr Joey’s program, 5/6 will be collecting used stamps. We are asking for families and friends to keep used stamps and send them to school. We will then send these to the Josephite sisters in Sydney who will use them as part of their mission work overseas.

Sister Kim’s Reflection

‘I try to take one day at a time....’

‘...but sometimes several days attack me all at once.’* That was my experience earlier this week. I was overwhelmed by what needed to be done in the rest of the day so much so I was getting a little frantic. I stopped, sat down, tried to make myself calm...and then spent a few minutes counting my blessings and thanking God for them. What a difference it made. I got up, worked steadily through the rest of the day, got most of the work done and then didn’t worry about the rest. Civilization wouldn’t end because I hadn’t ‘succeeded’ in my tasks.

In counting my blessings, I changed my perspective. When we are very busy, we can begin to feel put upon: ‘Why is this happening to me? It is so unfair. Nobody appreciates all I do.’ You catch my drift. We each have our own ‘poor me’ script that can spoil even a good day. But by focussing on what is good in our lives, we open our vision to reality. We choose the big, good picture of life.

By thanking God, we acknowledge that we really aren’t in control of our lives and that God is looking after us. To remember and realise this, we need to constantly ‘refresh our browser’. It is so easy for our hearts and minds to slip into negativity, especially when we are overworked or when things aren’t going our way. Counting our blessings and thanking God isn’t being Pollyannaish and ignoring the challenges we face. Rather it is looking at reality the way it is: me, with all my gifts and talents, the situation with its good and bad and God, alongside me, on my side.

Loving God, you know what happens to me when life overwhelms me. Give me the wide wisdom of your Spirit to open my heart and mind to see clearly and peacefully how I can serve those I love. I ask this in Jesus’ name confident that you will hear me.

*Ashleigh Brilliant

Sr Kym Harris osb

Take care and have a great week!

Clare Barron
APRE
WHAT’S UP IN 5/6?

We have had a great week in the classroom. The full week has provided us with the time to get stuck into our work and achieve, once again, some amazing stuff. I hope you all liked our Valentine’s Day video that was shared to Facebook on Tuesday; it was great to get into technology once again.

In Maths this week, we have been looking at negative and positive numbers. This concept is very tricky and has taken us the whole week to begin to understand. We have been solving problems and sums that involve both negative and positive numbers. Many of us have had trouble completing this; however, when we changed our mindset and persevered we proved that we could be successful.

In English this week we have been learning about word origins. We have been finding root words within words, their origins and meaning. We have really enjoyed this and are getting better at using a dictionary. Next week we will explore how we find this information on an iPad. Last week we learnt about Sizzling Starts and shared our Sizzling Start we came up with together for our Narrative ‘The Worst Christmas Dinner Ever’. This week we have been looking at Tightening Tension and together we wrote our ‘pebble’ (first problem). Here it is;

The flames grow higher and brighter! Thank goodness Dad has woken up and is here to help me, I feel relieved about that! I begin to feel nauseous as I hear the WOOSH of fire spread onto our 70 year old outdoor setting. A wall of smoke and fire barricade me from Jordan. “Call the Fire Fighters Dad!” I yell anxiously at the top of my lungs.

All I can taste is fear and the beads of sweat falling from my face.

Thanks for another great week, have a great weekend.

From,

Miss Ryan and the 5/6’s
3/4 News!

Week 4

In English we have been looking at
- The difference between a fiction and non-fiction book
- When we should use commas
- What a synonym is
- How to respond to what we are reading

In Maths we have been learning how to
- Practice working as teams to solve problems
- Measure liquids
- Convert L into mL
- Convert mL into L

Our focus for religion has been
- The Josephite emblem and what it stands for

In HASS we have been discussing
- Aboriginal Australian laws and rules about land
- How Aboriginal rights have changed in Australia over time

In science we have been learning about
- What happens when you take away heat from certain liquids

We shared the love on Valentine’s Day by creating love heart trees that grow love.
1/2 News

Week 4! Another week of busy busy business!

Our highlights of the week are:-

Charlie S - Practising my handwriting

Jack C-K - Reading and writing with the Suns group

Logan - Counting with a number line

Jack - Using dominos in our Maths rotations

Summar - Writing about our favourite toy and what it was made of

Archer - Solving the number puzzles

Genia - Every Maths activities that we have done!

Georgia - Going on the Forces Treasure Hunt

Charlee-Rose - Skip counting in twos with odd numbers

Jack E - Practising my handwriting

Ethan - Getting coins when I have been listening!
Have a great weekend!

Mrs Barron and 1/2
It's been a T-T-Terrific Week in Prep!

With our letter of the week being Tt, we have had a terrific time with lots of learning around this letter. Our sound table was full, and apparently so impressive, we had a visitor from Rocky Cath Ed Office want to take a photo of it—we were very proud!

After reading the big book “To Town”, we set up streets for our own town and played with the trucks and traffic signs. The train set was also put to good use (it proved to be a favourite with our older school mates as well!)

During our Literacy Rotations this week we have used the Alphabet Construction. We found a letter card which shows pieces/shapes needed to make that letter; we have to follow the pattern to construct the letter. We tried to create all the letters in our names.

Lots of interesting stories and oral language was happening when we used the felt story boards. We had dinosaur lands, beach adventures and even ballerinas!
Maths this week was all about Number-Number 3 explicitly, as well as looking at counting the numbers 1-5 and their position along the number line. On Thursday we showed how clever we are at ordering these numbers by making collage counting caterpillars.

Other highlights included ‘Kids Yoga’ to cool down and relax after our hot playtime!

Thanks to Mrs Davison for our wonderful new prep play equipment. If you check out our sandpit there is a fantastic St Joey’s River!

Just a reminder, could your family photos please come back to school early next week as we will be using these in our History activities.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

From Prep, Mrs V and Miss Suthers.
St Joey’s River!

You will find an exciting new addition to our school grounds—located in the Prep sandpit.

After the arrival of wonderful new water and sand play toys, the students have been very busy designing, shovelling, digging and filling up our very own RIVER!

Lunch time play has never been so constructive and busy!!
Principals Award - Jock Hayman
What a Maths wizard you have been this week. Skip counting in odd and even numbers proved to be an easy task for you yesterday. You were able to tell Mrs Barron what Buzz Light-Year’s next step would be with confidence. Well done, keep up the MIGHTY effort!

Principals MJR Award - Billy Barron
For always seeing a need and doing something about it. Wow! You have definitely used your initiative this week to help others who have needed it. Keep up the great work Billy, this is a fantastic skill to possess.

Prep - Lucy Burgess
What a super little worker you have been this week! I have been blown away by your listening skills, concentration and the fantastic effort you have put into all your learning activities. Congratulations Lucy!

Year 1/2 - Charlie Scholes
Welcome to St Joseph’s! It has been fantastic having you in our class this week! Thank you for always being ready to learn and for contributing to our class discussions. I look forward to getting to know you better! Now that’s being small but MIGHTY! Congratulations Charlie!

Year 3/4 - Sarah MacCronan
You are such a pleasure to have in the classroom. You’re always willing to help me and your friends, and you always give everything a good go. I am super proud of your stamina and beautiful, neat book work this week! Well done, Sarah!

Year 5/6 - Slayde Peacock
You’ve been on fire this week! I love how involved you are in class discussions in both Literacy and Numeracy. You are leading by example and ‘Living the Joey’s Way’. Keep being you Slayde!
St Brendan’s College is a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition catering for young men both day and boarding from Years 7 to 12. We draw our enrolments from the Capricorn Coast, rural and regional towns of Central Queensland and as far north as the Torres Strait and as far south as Brisbane. The College believes that effective teaching and learning is at the core of a great education and St Brendan’s College designs the curriculum to cater for the individual student. We would like to take the opportunity to show your son what the College has to offer to advance his education.

St Brendan’s College invites 2017 Years 6 to 11 boys to attend our DISCOVERY DAY

2018 Discovery Day will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 9.00am to 2.30pm

We would like to extend an invitation for your son to attend our Years 7 to 11, 2018 Discovery Day on the 14th March, so that he may experience a day in the life of a St Brendan’s College student. The day will encompass activities in Physical Education, Practical Arts, Science and Manual Arts. He will be accompanied by a Year Level Co-ordinator and Year 11 Students, who will guide him through the day. He is to wear his normal school uniform and bring a water bottle. All other requirements will be provided by St Brendan’s College including morning tea and lunch. Please tell him to leave his school bag at home for the day.

Transport for students attending primary schools on the Capricorn Coast will be provided by St Brendan’s College. Students will be collected from their schools and returned in time to be picked up or to catch their normal buses. Students may choose to make their own way to the College and we ask that they be at the Chapel & Performing Arts Centre before 9.00am.

It would be appreciated if you could R.S.V.P. by the 7th March 2017 for catering purposes. If you would like to make any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Kylie Hedges on 49399485 or by email hedgesk@sbc.qld.edu.au