Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that this week marks my first Term (3 years) as principal of St Joseph’s. Despite rumours of my departure at the end of the year, I am remaining at St. Joseph’s. My contract renewal will take place in September. The contract renewal processes are in place for principals, assistant principals and religious education coordinators in all Catholic schools in Broken Bay. A letter and questionnaire/parent survey will be emailed today allowing parents to provide feedback to the Catholic Schools Office. Instructions on how to complete the survey are provided as well as options for returning the forms. Surveys are due back to the CSO by 26th August.

Thank you to the parents who were able to be at yesterday’s Parents and Friends Association meeting. Information was given about many aspects of the school, including proposals for online ordering in the canteen in 2015, progress with the Fun Fair and seminars available at no cost courtesy of the Diocesan Parent Council. Two flyers for the next two seminars can be found at the end of this newsletter. During the meeting I took the opportunity to thank all those people who contribute to the life of the school. This includes the P&F team, canteen helpers, Parent Council representatives, reading volunteers, sport assistants, book coverers, Funfair Committee and helpers, banking and sign board etc. Everything that we contribute to the school life is for the benefit of all the children in the school.

Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions. My door is always open.

Michael Gallagher

### Sunday’s Gospel Reflection

Right away, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake. But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away. Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore. It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves. A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming.

At once, Jesus said to them, “Don’t worry! I am Jesus. Don’t be afraid.”

*Matthew 14: 22-33*

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Religious Education News

God expects great love and fidelity from us all.
Hurry and fuss will destroy inner peace.
Firmness and gentleness should go hand in hand.

St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)

These thoughts are from Mary MacKillop, whose solemnity we celebrate this week. Such thoughts should be an inspiration for all of us. With beliefs such as these Mary MacKillop was able to achieve great things in her life. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, Mary pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for children. She and her ‘Josephite’ sisters shared the life of the poor, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God’s will in all things, for her charity, and for her abiding trust in God’s providence. Let us pray that we can find some of the courage that St. Mary MacKillop had and be models of this to our children.

“NEVER SEE A NEED WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT”

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR MH17 VICTIMS - THURSDAY 7th AUGUST

ST MARY OF THE CROSS (MACKILLOP) - THURSDAY 7th AUGUST at 9.15am (School Mass)

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - FRIDAY 15th AUGUST at 9.15am (School Mass)

This solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will be joined by students from our local Catholic High Schools.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - CONFIRMATION

The Children participating in the Confirmation program will be presented to the parish community at either 5.30pm Mass at St. Joseph’s on Saturday 9th August or 6pm Mass at St. Rose on Sunday 10th August.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY / PUPIL FREE DAY – 8th AUGUST

The St Joseph's School Staff will spend a day reflecting on their spiritual journey and their role as teachers in a Catholic School. We will explore further the history of our Good Samaritan background in the surroundings of the old seminary - now the ICMS International College of Management, Sydney.

Gillian Evers,
Religious Education Coordinator
Library News

**Poster and Photography competition**: Entries for these 2 competitions close next **Tuesday 12th August**. You can leave your entry on the circulation desk in the Library or hand it to Mrs Jones on next Monday or Tuesday.

**Book Fair**: This will be held in the Library on **Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th August**. Books will range in price from $5- approximately $25. You can either buy a book for yourself or donate a book to the Library, or do both. We will not hold Book Club this term.

**Dress-up Day**: This will be held on **Tuesday 19th August**. So start thinking about your costume and an alliterative phrase to go with it. See posters attached to the newsletter for further information.

Fran Jones
Teacher/Librarian

School & Office News

**REMINDER: SCHOOL FEES / STATEMENT**

OVERDUE FEES STATEMENT are being sent home this week. Payment ASAP would be very much appreciated thank you.

TIME PAYMENTS: Thank you for keeping these up to date. Just a reminder to please check the **FINAL BALANCE BEFORE settling the account**.

**HEAD LICE**

We have had a report of head lice in the school. Could you please examine your child’s hair and apply the appropriate treatment if required. Your local Pharmacy will be able to advise you in the matter.

Head lice can be treated quickly and effectively by simply following these steps:
- Purchase a specialist head lice treatment and apply it according to the directions on the pack.
- Examine all family members’ hair, and treat everyone found to have head lice at the same time.
- Wash out the treatment and use a fine tooth comb to remove the dead lice and eggs.
- Repeat the treatment in 7-10 days if lice are still present or eggs are found with 1cm of scalp.

Your co-operation in attending to this matter is greatly appreciated.

**UPDATE ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS**

Please advise the office immediately if you have changed address, email, phone numbers or person of contact in case of emergency if you cannot be reached.

Sports News

The results of the Athletics Carnival have been tallied after the completion of the remaining events at school. **The final tally stands at**: Aloysius (Green) – 1299, Therry (Yellow) – 1139, Polding (Blue) - 1036, St. Joseph (Red)- 960
Students of the Week

Kindergarten

Bonnie J: for a huge improvement in her writing.
Ryan C: for always keeping a tidy workplace.

Year 1

Anthony P: for excellent responses in Shared Reading.
Abigail B: for imaginative writing/caring class member.

Year 2

Stella N: for being happy to pack away materials.
Aaliyah V: for her musical science experiment.
Mason S: for an interesting science presentation.

Year 3

Joseph L: for fantastic effort at the Carnival.
Oliver B: for an excellent result at the Athletics Carnival.

Year 4

Sofia H: for always helping to pack away materials.
Liam A: for listening attentively in class.

Year 5

Ben O: for caring for the place you’re in.
Adam G: for excellent application in writing.

Year 6

Louis C: for always caring of the place he is in.
Talia R: for being reliable and sensible class member.

ST LUCYS

START RIGHT 1
Joshua L: for independently transitioning between taxis and class.

START RIGHT 2
Chantelle C: for doing her best hand writing.

Important Dates

Term 3

August
Thursday 7th August- St. Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) Mass at 9.15am (Whole School Mass)
Friday 8th August- Staff Development Day
Friday 12th August- Photography Competition- entries due & Poster Competition due (A4 size poster - Connect to Reading theme)
Friday 15th August– Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 9.15am (Whole School Mass)
Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th August– Book Fair in the Library 8.30-9.00am & 2.30-3.15pm
Tuesday 19th August– Dress Up Day (costume to represent a letter of the alphabet as a Connection to Reading)

September
Friday 19th September- Last day of Term