



Wednesday 12 February 2025

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome back! I trust the first week of the 2025 academic year has been enjoyable for both you and your children. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome new staff and families to St Joseph's...I am thrilled that you have decided to join our wonderful community!

Welcoming Liturgy

Thank you to Mrs O'Dwyer who prepared a beautiful 'Welcoming Liturgy' for us last Friday. This was a wonderful way to begin the 2025 year...gathering as a community and focusing on all our blessings. I spoke about making kindness our guiding principle...our North Star, as it has the power to create a positive and nurturing environment for everyone. With kindness as our foundation and Jesus as our guide, we can build a school community with strong connections, a community that fosters understanding and a community that cultivates a sense of belonging. Thank you to our Year Six students who read beautifully, having only a very short time to prepare.

Merit Award Assembly

Our first Merit Award assembly will take place Friday 14 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall.

On-entry assessment for Pre-primary students

Over the next few weeks, Pre-primary students throughout the state will take part in the On-entry assessment. The main purpose of this assessment program is to provide teachers with information about the skills and understandings that a child brings to school. Conducting this assessment early in the year ensures that your child's teacher has information about the current skills and understandings of each child. This will assist in the planning and development of targeted learning programs that address the needs of each individual and identify children who may require early intervention or extension. Please note, there is no 'pass' nor 'fail' in this assessment. Please use the link below if you would like more information about how you can support your child's learning at home.

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/on-entry-assessment>

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Parent Information Session

Please join us for the annual Parent Information Session, Wednesday, 19 February, starting at 3:30pm. Teachers will address you in their classrooms from 3:30pm to 4:00pm, then repeat the session from 4:00pm to 4:30pm to cater for families with more than one child. We are providing the opportunity for students to be supervised in the STREAM centre from 3:30pm to 4:30pm if you are unable to find care for your children while you attend the session(s). For those who are unable to make it, Information Booklets from the sessions will be available on SEQTA Engage...look under the 'Documents' tab. Please note that these sessions are designed as general information presentations for all parents. For discussions about your individual child's progress or specific needs, we encourage you to schedule a personal meeting with your child's teacher at another time.

Merit Award Assembly and Year 6 Ministry Speeches

Please join us Friday, 21 February in the Assembly Hall for a Merit Award Assembly at 8:45am, followed immediately by the Year 6 Ministry speeches. The students have been preparing their speeches to join either the Environmental, Executive, Pastoral or Sport Ministries. Our Year 6 leaders play a pivotal role in setting an example for the rest of the school. Being part of the Year 6 leadership group provides students with the opportunity to organise and carry out school activities and service projects and to work with teachers to foster a positive learning environment. Our Year 6 leaders promote the voice of the student body and help create a practical agenda for change that other students can identify with.

Please note, presentation of badges for Ministry members and Year 4 and 5 Student Councillors will be on Monday, 24 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Staff Commissioning and Sacramental Enrolment Mass

Please note, Sunday, 23 February is the School Commissioning Mass for staff, the School Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends members. It is also the Sacramental Enrolment Mass for students who will be making their Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation sacraments in 2025. It is a wonderful celebration for our school and I would love to see community members coming along to support us. I look forward to seeing you at St Augustine's Parish at 10:00am.

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Faction Swimming Carnival

Students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in the St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival, Friday 28 February at The Murray Aquatic and Recreation Centre, start time 9:30am. Please return swimming notes as soon as possible so Mr Henry can organise events for your children. If you are able to assist in a volunteer capacity on the day, i.e., timers, ribbon presenters etc, please call the front office on 9530 5500 and indicate your willingness to help.

Bushfire Response

As I am sure you are aware, St Joseph's is situated within a high fire danger zone as determined by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). As a result, the School is required to have a Bushfire Evacuation Plan. This plan can be found on our website <https://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/our-school/bushfire-response/>

If we are given advanced warning by DFES to close the school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff, you will be notified by SMS on the day before the planned closure. The school will keep you up to date on further developments, including the re-opening of the school. It is imperative, therefore, that the school has current contact details for all parents and caregivers. Please contact the school if you have any queries about the Bushfire Plan.

Afternoon Pick-up arrangements

To help the school to run smoothly, I am asking that parents and caregivers advise the front office early in the day regarding changes in your child's afternoon pick-up arrangements. As you can imagine, the end of the school day is particularly busy and it is very difficult to pass on messages to teachers late in the day. I would very much appreciate your support in this area.

Enjoy your week and I look forward to connecting with you at our Parent Information Sessions.

God bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal

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