



Wednesday 26 February 2025

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week Four...and to what has been some pretty warm weather! To keep your children safe, please note the school will keep students inside during break times and limit their outside play on very hot days. Mr Henry will modify Physical Education lessons and/or will not take the students outside in extreme weather. You can help us by ensuring your child has a full water bottle and ice bricks in their lunch boxes please. The school's Extreme Weather Guidelines are available on SEQTA Engage...look under the 'Documents' tab.

### **School Commissioning and Sacramental Enrolment Mass**

Thank you to all who joined us on Sunday at St Augustine's for the school Commissioning and Sacramental Enrolment Mass. Thank you, staff, members of the School Advisory Council, the Parents and Friends group and students who will be making their Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation sacraments this year. It was a wonderful celebration for our school, and it was lovely to see community members coming along to support us.

### **Year Six Ministries**

Thank you to parents and caregivers who joined us last Friday for the Year Six student ministry speeches. The students spoke with confidence, clarity and genuine passion about serving our school community. Speaking in front of an audience takes courage and they all demonstrated excellent leadership qualities. Please see who our student leaders are for 2025.

Environmental Ministry - Ruben de Jong (President), Jazmyn Hall (Vice President), Ruby Eastcott, Johnathan Humphrey-Alexander and Beau Leach.

Executive Ministry - Jacob Ieraci (President), Eric Allen (Vice President), Allirah Hudson, Aaliyah Humphrey-Alexander and Kobi Trainor.

Pastoral Ministry - Jax Smith (President), Shanara Pierson (Vice President), Jett Hague-Tyson, River Lloyd and Emma Rhodes-McMillan.

Sport Ministry - Blake Hagley (Murray), Jenna Perkins (Murray), Stephanie Fahl (MacKillop), Beau Fretwell (MacKillop), Milla Hughes (Peel) and Ryder Scally (Peel).

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Student Councillors - Crystal Matthews (Year 4), Harper Robertson (Year 4), Bridee McGifford (Year 5) and Caris Menzies (Year 5).

### **Children's University Relaunch for 2025**

As I am sure you are aware, St Joseph's have partnered with the University of Western Australia and are part of the Children's University program. This program offers opportunities and recognition to students for completing and participating in 'beyond' school learning. Artem Bourov, the Children's University Coordinator, will be visiting our Year 5 and 6 students Thursday 27 February, to relaunch the program for 2025.

### **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 9:00am. 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. As advised, students in Yr 3-6 will not be able to order food from the school canteen on this day.

### **Labour Day Long Weekend**

A reminder Monday, 3 March is a public holiday, recognising Labour Day. We look forward to seeing the students returning to school on Tuesday 4 March.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, 5 March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The season of Lent lies at the very heart of our Catholic faith and it is a time when we reflect on the dying and rising of Christ. Students will participate in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy in the Assembly Hall at 11:30am. I warmly invite you to join us.

### **Youth Leadership Academy-Dream and Lead**

Dream and Lead is a one-day, highly engaging event designed to support primary school students in discovering their leadership potential, whilst providing them with strong foundations to succeed. Several of our student leaders, as well as Mrs O'Dwyer and myself, have been invited to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Thursday 6 March to take part in this event. Throughout the day, students will participate in purposeful activities

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developing their problem-solving skills and increasing confidence and independence. Facilitated by internationally-trained young leaders, students will recognise the impact they can create as a young person.

### **Merit Award Assembly**

Please join us for a Merit Award assembly, Friday 7 March at 8:45 am in the Assembly Hall.

### **National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)**

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March for our Year Three and Year Five students. Students' skills in reading, writing and maths are assessed over four tests: writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

I will 'borrow' from another principal who wrote to his student body, reminding them that NAPLAN scores only 'tell you how you did on that day', but 'they will not tell you everything about YOU'. These tests do not measure your child's character nor their attributes. These tests do not know how thoughtful, caring and helpful your children are. These tests do not know what a great friend your child is or that they try their best. Please parents, if you or your child have any concerns, please see your child's teacher, Mrs O'Dwyer or myself. I have provided a link below that may help answer any generic questions you have about NAPLAN.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>

### **Immunisation Requirements**

A reminder to our Kindergarten and Pre-primary families about your child's routine vaccinations. Please visit [Starting or moving child care, kindergarten or school – immunisation requirements \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au) for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that your children are wearing their school uniforms correctly. Your commitment to maintaining the school's dress standards is very much appreciated...I understand the time and effort you invest in ensuring your children are prepared for school each morning and I am grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

Have a wonderful week.

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell – Principal

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