



Wednesday 12 March 2024

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week 6. I hope you had a relaxing long weekend spent with family and friends. We celebrate Labour Day to remember the achievements of workers, their marches and movements which were dedicated to obtaining a fair work week.

Faction Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students who participated in the St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival at the Murray Aquatic and Recreation Centre. All our students showed a wonderfully positive school spirit and tried their very best. Thank you to Mr Henry, who worked incredibly hard to ensure the carnival ran as smoothly as it did. Also, thank you to our parent volunteers who assisted on the day. These events simply would not run without the support from our parent body. I have outlined results from the carnival below.

First Place-Peel Faction 636	Second Place- Murray Faction 562	Third Place- MacKillop Faction 514
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Gold (Yr 3 Girl)-Matilda Allen	Silver (Yr 3 Girl)-Harlow Hague-Tyson	Bronze (Yr 3 Girl)-Jordyn Green
Gold (Yr 4 Girl)-Zoe Pash	Silver (Yr 4 Girl)-Willow Pope	Bronze (Yr 4 Girl)-Crystal Matthews & Harper Robertson
Gold (Year 5 Girl)-Isla Johns	Silver (Year 5 Girl)-Shayah Pippin	Bronze (Yr 5 Girl)-Charlee Hagley
Gold (Yr 6 Girl)-Stephanie Fahl	Silver (Yr 6 Girl)-Allira Hudson	Bronze (Yr 6 Girl)-Jenna Perkins
Gold (Yr 3 Boy)-Mason Burley	Silver (Yr 3 Boy)-Alby Johns	Bronze (Yr 3 Boy)-Hugh McLarty
Gold (Yr 4 Boy)-Harrison Greenham	Silver (Yr 4 Boy)-Finn Ferguson	Bronze (Yr 4 Boy)-Arlo Bell
Gold (Yr 5 Boy)-Henry Blythe	Silver (Yr 5 Boy)-Brax Hague-Tyson & William Judd	Bronze (Yr 5 Boy)-Alec Oliver & Anthony Brader
Gold (Yr 6 Boy)-Eric Allen	Silver (Yr 6 Boy)-Kobi Trainor	Bronze (Yr 6 Boy)-Ryder Scally

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Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting

The School Advisory Council had its first meeting of the 2025 school year, yesterday. The Council represents the interests of all the partners within our school and works positively in the service of our Catholic school community.

National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The NAPLAN test window starts today, 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. Please keep our students, their families and teachers in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Parents and Friends (P&F) Meeting

There is a P&F meeting, Friday 14 March at 9:00am in the Assembly Hall. All are welcome.

Ordination of Bishop George Kolodziej SDS

Mrs O'Dwyer, student leaders and myself are joining invited representatives from across the diocese to take part in the Episcopal Ordination Mass of Bishop George, Wednesday, 19 March 2025 at 10:30am. The Episcopal Ordination Mass will be livestreamed on the Bunbury Diocese' YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@CatholicDioceseofBunbury> from 9:30am. As we draw nearer to the Ordination date, your prayers and support are especially appreciated.

St Joseph's Feast Day Liturgy

We will be celebrating our school's Feast Day with a Liturgy, Wednesday 19 March, at 9:30am in the Assembly Hall. St Joseph's role, of course, was to protect the Holy Family that was placed in his care. Our school is proudly named after him and we look forward to acknowledging his Feast Day. I hope you can join us.

Year Three Parent Reconciliation Meeting

Students and parents of students making their Reconciliation this year are strongly encouraged to attend the Parent Information Meeting, Wednesday 19 March at 5:00pm in the Year Three classroom. I look forward to seeing you there.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day, 21 March, is part of Harmony Week, which celebrates Australia's amazing cultural diversity. During



this week, we celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional custodians of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world. Students will be participating in activities in their classrooms throughout the week as well as a whole school activity organised by our amazing P&F. Students are invited to wear something orange (Wednesday for Kindergarten, Thursday for Pre-kindergarten and Friday for PP to Year 6), as orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. With the motto 'Everyone belongs', Harmony Week encourages us to appreciate our differences and similarities, promote inclusiveness, and show mutual respect for everyone, regardless of race, colour, religion or background.

Radical Reader Awards

Please join us Monday 24 March at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall for the PP to Year 2 Radical Reader Awards.

Parent and Caregiver Interviews

Here at St Joseph's we aim to communicate and share information with you about your child's learning, development and wellbeing. One of the processes we use to achieve this is through Parent-Teacher interviews. You will be receiving communication from your child's classroom teacher, inviting you to meet and respectfully engage in shared decision-making to support your child. Please note, the bulk of the interviews will be scheduled for Week 10, Term 1, Friday 11 April, a Pupil Free Day. Interviews will be 15 minutes duration and we ask that parents and caregivers respect this time allocation. If you feel you need a longer time frame, please let your child's teacher know. As teachers will be conducting interviews throughout the day, please be aware that children will not be supervised, so we ask that care arrangements be made for your children or that they remain with you during the interviews. As always, if you have any queries, please come and see me.

Easter Egg Raffle & Project Compassion Boxes

I am hoping you have already received communication regarding the annual Easter Egg Raffle. Please buy some tickets and bring in your donations of Easter eggs, Easter baskets and Easter gifts to support Caritas Australia. Extra tickets are available at the front office.

You are also invited to place monetary donations in the Project Compassion box that went home to each family. The boxes with donations can be sent back to the office by the end of this term.

URStrong

Further to my parent letter sent last week, I would like to re-invite you all to the online Language of Friendship parent-

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child workshop for URStrong schools, Thursday 27 March at 6:00pm to 7:15pm. You are invited to attend an ONLINE Language of Friendship parent-child workshop for URSTRONG Schools on **Thursday 27 March at 6:00pm.** Dana Kerford, Founder of URSTRONG, will be live from Canada to teach you and your children skills and language to foster healthy, feel-good friendships. This workshop will take place online via Zoom. If this is a first for you, you might want to [try a test by clicking here.](#)

When it's time: [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

Meeting ID: 832 0306 9952

Password: URSTRONG

You are also invited to keep the conversation going at home with a [FREE membership for URSTRONG Families.](#) Take advantage of activities, videos and articles to continue empowering your child with friendship skills. I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to find out about how you, as parents and caregivers, can support your child/ren in fostering healthy, feel-good friendships.

Bullying Prevention Framework

Over the past weeks, St Joseph's school staff, with support from CEWA's Wellbeing Team and the URStrong Team, have developed a Bullying Prevention Framework for St Joseph's. This Bullying Prevention plan centres on our school-wide URSTRONG positive relationship strategy, designed to shift our school towards a culture of kindness and respect. You will find this in the 'document' tab in SEQTA Engage. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you have any queries.

Cattle Scheme ... A Message From St Augustine's Parish

In order to improve the parish finances, the Parish Finance Committee is looking to establish a 'Cattle Scheme' – to buy and sell cattle. Firstly, they are seeking landowners who could agist cattle and secondly, ask parishioners who would like to contribute toward the purchase of the cattle. Please speak to John Szkraba for further details on 0427 311 408.

Have a wonderful week. I'd like to conclude with the prayer we prayed on Friday for Pope Francis... 'Dear Lord, send Your Spirit of healing, that She may accompany our shepherd Pope Francis in his illness. As he endures pain and discomfort, give him strength and peace. May he experience the continued grace of your mercy. Amen.'

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell - Principal

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