Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community,

Happy Easter

I trust you all had a wonderful Easter break with your families.

On Tuesday morning, I was lucky enough to be on morning duty to see the children’s smiles and listen to them chatter about Easter Sunday; the Easter Bunny, chocolates and family time. If your children bowled their Easter eggs to smash against your walls, please blame Father Mick for that. Personally, I sometimes feel a little sad that my children have now finished school and therefore Easter mornings (whilst I get to sleep in) aren’t quite the same. I remember when my children were young, an older lady once told me to never wish away the years. She also told me to play with the children instead of doing housework as the dust would still be there when the children have grown up!

I know your lives are extremely busy at present but please make sure you appreciate every single moment.

Of course we must never forget what Easter and the Resurrection really mean to each of us today. In the words of Pope Francis

“Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness... and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive! Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won’t be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don’t be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.”

Whilst the rainy weather prevented us from holding our outside activities on St Joseph’s Day, we still had a fun time inside and raised over $100 for Project Compassion. Next term, we will have another fundraiser for the children living in poverty in Laos. According to the girls in Year 3, a pyjama day is ‘needed’ at St Josephs. I can think of nothing better than coming to school in flannelette pjs and ugg boots in the middle of winter. I will keep you posted.

This Saturday is the St Mary’s Parish Debutante Ball. Our hardworking SCC are working tirelessly alongside the Catholic Ladies Organisation, to make sure it is a huge success. We are all looking forward to a night out and catching up with any parents there on the night.

Friday April 8 is the last day of Term 1. School begins again for the children on Wednesday April 27. On Anzac Day (Monday 25th) if possible, we would like all children to attend the March downtown. Dressed in full school uniform, the children will meet the staff at 10.40 am at the RSL club.

Mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers, please keep aside Wednesday May 4 for our Mother’s Day Breakfast, Mass and Stall. More information to follow.

Noeleen O’Neill, Principal

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“Remember we are but travellers here”  St Mary MacKillop (1873)
Wellbeing and Diversity

The Wellbeing and Diversity (yes, another name change) program is developing and changing quickly, based on the changing needs of our students. The teaching staff are placing all of their students on the Literacy Continuum based on assessment in reading, comprehension and writing. We then use the cluster descriptors to create learning goals for students that might require support or extension in particular areas of their learning. The goals form student Personal Plans that are continually adapted to the students' progress.

The Learning Support Assistants are busily supporting students in class, making numeracy resources and implementing the Multilit program. The LSA’s also record their interactions with their students for the teachers to use in their reporting and planning. Our LSA’s do a wonderful job to support the continually changing needs of their students. We thank you, Wendy and Mary!

In early Term 2, invitations for Personal Plan meetings will be arranged to discuss particular students goals and learning programs.

Gill Forrester
Learning Support Teacher

Lost Property

As the colder months are nearing we are starting to collect a number of unlabelled school jumpers and jackets in the lost property basket. Parents/Carers and Students are able to check lost property during school office hours 8.30am til 3.30pm.

Mercy Booklet

Each family will have received a ‘Mercy’ booklet today. Father Mick has kindly purchased one for each of our St Joseph’s families.

Please take the time to review this booklet, even if you are not Catholic or religious it is a useful tool for self reflection.
NETBALL CLINIC

On Monday April 11th 2016 (first week of school holidays), Netball NSW will be holding a School Holiday Clinic at Sapphire Coast Netball Association for children aged 5 - 10 years.

It will be held between 9.00am – 12.00pm. The clinic costs $40 to attend and each participant will receive a Netball NSW goodie bag and a Certificate of Participation.

The clinic will be a great opportunity for children to get out of the house, have some fun, learn new skills, make new friends and play some mini games!

If you could promote this around your school, place it in your newsletter and spread the word, it would be greatly appreciated! The details are as followed:

Monday 11 April 2016
Sapphire Coast Netball Association
TBC
From 9am – 12pm
Registrations close: Friday 1 April 2016
To register visit letsplaynetball.com or call 02 9951 5000

OPEN DAY

- All Welcome  Wednesday, 4 May 2016 - 9:00am to 5:00pm
  Information Session: 11:45am.  Tours: 9:00am to 5:00pm

ORIENTATION DAY

- YEAR 7, 2017  Friday, 25 November, 2016 – 9:00am to 3:25pm
  Students wear their primary sports uniform and runners. Bring pencil case, recess, lunch, drink & hat. Please note a sausage sizzle will also be held at lunchtime.