G’day parents and friends,

Absences
Research into achievement has shown that children with more absences usually attain lower learning outcomes. Parents are to note that holidays in term time are to be avoided, as are days off when well! Where possible, children who are a bit unwell may be able to come for the first part of the day for literacy and numeracy and then go home to rest! Of course, sick children should be at home! We are required by the government to keep records and follow up reasons for absences from school. If we don’t receive phone calls or notes when children return to school you will have follow up calls from school! TIQBIZ messages are acceptable.

Photos
Because the new two-tone shirts are for special occasions as well as PE, we will have them for the school photos on Wednesday the 9 March which will also be the first Wednesday for the Foundation students.
We are endeavouring to collect family photos of you, our community! Could you please bring or send in photos. We will copy and return them to you straight away. We are happy to receive different photos for separated families.

School BBQ Friday 26 February
Each year we have a BBQ to welcome the Foundation and new families. This year we would like to encourage everyone to come! Come and meet new and old friends; those your kids play with! and talk about! A sausage sizzle will be provided! BYO drinks, any other things you wish to cook, and chairs!
Please complete and return the attached form.

Emergencies
Many schools have been affected by hoaxes in recent times. I wish to reassure you that our procedures at school have been reviewed for evacuation and lockdown emergencies. This week we practised evacuating to the Foundation classroom which is deemed the safest part of our buildings. We had accounted for every person in the school in 4 minutes. With practice we will get faster. Next week we will practise a lockdown.
Please recall that the school is only closed on any Code Red fire risk day, but open other fire warning days.
In all emergencies we will contact you with information using TIQBIZ. In emergencies we also wish to access your child’s medical and contact information using CareMonkey. Go to www.caremonkey.com.au where you easily open a free account and securely save information about your children that we then access at school. It will save parents lots of repetitive form filling and help manage student information in any emergency. About a third of students have completed profiles. Thank you to those who have completed this already.

Cont’d…….
SCHOOL BARBECUE

☐ We will be attending
☐ We will not be attending

the BBQ on Friday 26th February at 6.00pm.

Sausages will be available free!

__________ Adults

__________ School age children

The ___________________ family.

---

Head lice
This week we have had a few cases of lice and found nits (eggs) in some hair. Four cases in Juniors and two in Foundation, and a few in the upper school. Please regularly check! Please comb out nits, dead and alive! Repeat treatment after a week!

Camp
Senior students are on camp in Gembrook till Friday. We are having a great time! Mr McKenna is in charge will I am away.

Golf
Some very competent swings were displayed this week when we had golf pros teaching our students. Did you see the Facebook photos? Thank you to Miss McLean for organising this.

Pick up
After school staff have meetings on a number of days. Teachers are missing these whilst supervising groups of students! Last year we had a number of students that were left at school beyond the 3:15 supervision time. From next week, remaining students will be brought inside and parents will need to come in to the office and sign them out! If you are going to be picking up after 3:15 then the aftercare program should be used. UYCH care can be contacted on: 5967 1315

Parent Teacher Meetings
Remember to book your time online!
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use Code EJ9EB to find St Joseph's School!

God bless us all,
John
Yesterday we began the season of Lent with a Mass for Ash Wednesday. Everyone received ashes to remind us of our own mortality and God’s mercy – forgiveness, love and care. The ashes also remind us that we belong to God and are grateful for the gift of Jesus, our teacher, who showed us how to love and help others.

The words in the song we sang at Mass, ‘Turn Back to God’, remind us that sometimes we are not as good as God expects and Lent is a time for a change of heart, looking for a brand new start, making a whole new plan to change our lives.

The children will be making Lenten promises in class as an attempt to become better people by reflecting, praying and helping others.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
This year we will be holding a market day / car boot sale on Sunday 20 March from 10am – 3pm.

We are hoping to have a variety of stalls with food, handmade items, second hand goods, local businesses and community groups etc.

You are invited to book a spot – more details to come shortly.

Quality second-hand goods (not clothing) can be brought in to school at the beginning of March.

- Next meeting of PFA will be held on 18 February at 9.15am in the staffroom.

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will be open on Thursdays from approximately 2.45pm – 3.30pm.

Orders may be handed in at the office on any day but will only be filled when the uniform shop is open.

2016 price lists will be available shortly.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

If you live more than 4.8 km from school and have not filled out a conveyance allowance form for your child, please ask me to send one home. Applications need to be in shortly.

CSEF

Each year you need to complete a new Camps, Sports and Excursions form for your child if you have a health care card or pensioner concession card. Please look for the form in your child’s bag or ask at the office if you have not received one.

Applications are due now.
Welcome back to the Scholastic Book Club in 2016. Here’s some details to help you understand the process.

There are two Book Club brochures distributed each term, which are given out to students to take home to look through.

If you would like to make an order, please write your child's name and class on the form, along with the receipt number if you are paying online or via phone with a credit card. Orders can also be paid for with cash if you wish. Once you have filled out the form, please return to your child's teacher (with the correct amount of money if necessary) or to the office by the due date which will be advertised in the newsletter.

It usually takes about two- three weeks for the books to come back to us once the order has been placed. I will deliver them back to the classrooms as soon as possible for the teachers to give out.

If you would like a discreet delivery, for birthdays or surprises, please make a note on your form when returning it with your name & mobile number, and I will let you know when the item/s have arrived for you to pick up from the office.

Sometimes a book may be sold out or no longer available, in which case Scholastic gives the student a gift (book or poster) and a credit voucher for the amount you have paid. You can then use this voucher to get your money back or choose a different book in the next Book Club.

Our school receives 20% of all book sales to use to buy books & resources for our library and classrooms.

If there are any problems, please feel free to talk to me (I will be in the Library every Thursday), Happy reading, Di Hendriks.

THE FIRST BOOK CLUB BROCHURES HAVE GONE HOME AND THE ORDER FORMS ARE DUE BACK BY MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY
Hi, my name is Natalie.
If you are looking for quality childcare in a warm, loving, clean and friendly home environment, then I may be able to help you.
I am very active in the community, involving the children in playgroups and Story Time at our local library.
I am also able to offer all kinder runs, before and After School Care and school pickups if numbers permit.
The scheme I operate under is Lets Go Family Day Care.
The scheme is locally ran, CCB & CCR approved and registered with the Department of Education and Training.
Please contact me on 0433 489 383 for all enquiries.

2016 introductory meetings

Introductory meetings for parents to meet with your child/ren’s class teacher are to be booked at:

www.schoolinterviews.com.au

The event code is EJ9EB