Our vision says: In our community we aspire to create a just world that promotes the dignity of every human person.

**NEWSLETTER NO: 32**

**Thursday 23rd October 2014**

*** Supervision of students at St Joseph’s School is from 8.35am until 3.20pm ***

**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**

8.45am – 3.30pm

**PRINCIPAL**  
Mr John Faulkner

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**  
Mr Justin Colley

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**  
Mrs Sue Lucas

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

24th  SAB meeting 9am  
29th  2015 Foundation class drop-in  
31st  Family Camp begins

**NOVEMBER**

1st  Family Camp  
2nd  Family Camp  
3rd  School Closure Day  
4th  Melbourne Cup Day  
5th  Giving tree begins  
6th  Dancing  
12th  Foundation class 2015 Drop in  
14th  PFA meeting 9-10am  
17th  Sacrament of Confirmation 7pm  
21st  Working Bee 3pm-6pm  
26th  Foundation class 2015 9-11am  
28th  Special lunch day

**G’day parents and friends,**

We are still basking in the glow of the magnificent musical performances of last week, but as school life is so rich we are already into more rich learning opportunities!

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

The Community Conversation on Tuesday provided an opportunity for the voices of students and parents to influence what is taught at St Joseph’s School next year. The area that was identified for more emphasis was science, overwhelmingly so! Coming second is a focus on social skills and resilience. After that came the importance of the basics of reading, writing and in particular maths. The staff will use this information in the determining of the Annual Action Plan 2015 that outlines the parts of school life to be enhanced during the year. The feedback from the Year Six students has been disappointment that they didn’t have this opportunity last year, but all the senior students value the opportunity to be heard! I was challenged to ensure that change will really happen! Thank you to those who were able to contribute.

**TWILIGHT SPORTS**

Tomorrow night we hope that you will be able to attend our House Sports. The children are requested to wear some of their house colour – eg hair ribbons, socks, Tee shirt, shorts. Parents may also like to wear or bring something of their colour. Shifting the musical performances into this term has “stolen the thunder” of the sports a bit, but we are still hoping for some fun competition!

**CAROL SERVICE**

We are planning a Christmas Carol Service on Friday 12 December at 7pm.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**

The SAB is meeting tomorrow morning at 9am.

**WORKING BEE**

On Saturday we achieved fencing out the rabbits from the kitchen garden, cleared the gutters, weeded gardens, and cut up a fallen tree. The honour roll includes the Pietsch, Freegard, Scoble, Willemsen and Hendriks families. Thank you. The last working bee is on Friday 21 November 3-6pm.

God bless us all, John
Confirmation:

On Tuesday evening a successful confirmation information evening was held for parents and students at school. The purpose of the session was to inform parents of current thinking about confirmation and its purpose.

To summarise, confirmation is the final initiation sacrament where candidates confirm that they wish to be Catholics and follow the way of Jesus, and take up the challenge to improve relationships with God, others and creation.

The confirmed candidates are supported by Jesus through the Holy Spirit, who gives them gifts like courage, wisdom, knowledge, right judgement, reverence and understanding.

We discussed that by using the gifts of the Spirit we can then become a person of love and service, just like Jesus. We reflected on saints as role models who were close to God and showed fruits of the Spirit as a result of using the gifts.

The Spirit trees in the classrooms illustrate the connection between the gifts, fruits and our actions as Spirit-filled people.

Senior students were asked to live as “Spirit-filled people” for a few weeks. Every time they demonstrated one of the fruits at school, they added their name on a leaf to the branch that represented a certain action. Here’s the tree in Senior C.

Karen McQuade
Christian Life Leader
The secret to raising happy, confident kids
By Michael Grose

Despite what you may think, the fundamental job of the parent has not changed since the dawn of time. And it’s never too early to start.
The end game or goal for parents is redundancy. Yep, you read it right. Your job is to make yourself redundant as a parent from your child’s earliest possible age. It always has been and always should be. When redundancy is your aim most of your time, effort and energy will go into promoting independence.

Independence leads to the 4 Cs
When independence becomes your priority, suddenly will reveal a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children. These include:
Confidence comes from facing your fears and doing things for yourself.
Competence comes from the opportunity to develop self-mastery that independence offers.
Creativity is developed when kids solve problems themselves as opposed to someone solving them on their behalf or, worse, sheltering them from any risk of harm.
Character, which is essential for success, is forged under hardship and is needed if kids are to live a sturdy life.

Independence takes many forms
Independence has many guises and can be developed in many ways, though in the end it is adults who are the gatekeepers for their children’s independence.
On a basic level developing independence is about developing children’s autonomy.
Independence is built when children spend time in unpredictable circumstances and environments such as the bush, and also have the opportunity to navigate their neighbourhoods on their own.
Allowing kids to follow their own impulses even if they are different to your own is the key to gaining independence.
Allowing kids to take responsibility and own their own problems builds confidence and competence. Start by expecting kids to help at home. Look for ways to develop self-help skills and don’t take their problems on as your problems.

Create junior versions of independence
It can be scary and also difficult developing independence in one big step. So smart parents intuitively develop junior versions of independence by breaking up big activities into digestible bits.
In all the noise and commotion about raising kids today it’s easy to forget that the job description for parents hasn’t changed since the dawn of time. Love them, bond with them, teach them and spend time with them. But also work like mad to develop their real independence so they become capable of handling what life will throw their way.

KIDS OF GOLD CAMP
There is still some room left in this last opportunity to apply for this Level 1 camp. Next Level 1 won’t be until Feb 2016, so that’s a long time to wait if this one is missed!

The February 2015 camp is our next date for newcomers, from Fri. 13th –Sun 15th February 2015. Forms can be downloaded from the website at kidsofgold.org.au or a phone enquiry can be made as shown on the Promotion.

Those eligible are Year 4- Year 6 students, and is for building self-esteem and confidence. Children who are going into Year 7 next year are still eligible, as well as Year 3 children going into Year 4 next year, or who are at least 9 years old by February 2015.
Twilight Sports Night – This Friday 24th October, 5:30p.m. till around 7:45p.m. There will be a break for dinner from 6:30-6.50pm, so you can eat your picnic, and/or order your pizza or fish and chips.

Second-hand Uniform Sale- Wednesday 29th October, 9:00a.m. Gold coin donation for your purchases. If you have any spare uniform that is in decent condition, please send it in to school by Tuesday 28th. Please note that any second-hand uniform should be donated to the school, not local op shops. Thank-you.

Morning Tea- Come to the staffroom for morning tea and a chat. We will hold one on the 1st Friday of each term, and then the 1st Friday of each month. Younger children welcome.

Next P&F Meeting- Friday 14th November, 9:00 -10:00 a.m. in the Staffroom. We will be discussing our 4th term events, e.g. Lapathon, Special Lunch Day, Graduation, Christmas Hamper Raffle. We would love to see some new people attend. All welcome.

Lapathon - Monday 17th November. Please note that this date has changed again! Sorry. Look out for Sponsorship forms later this month.

The Future of the P&F- several of our long standing members will be standing down at the end of the year. Now is the perfect opportunity to start coming to meetings and events to learn the ropes! The P&F is a great way to meet people, to know what is going on at the school, and to use your skills. It looks good on a resume if you are thinking of going back to work. See Cathy Linder if you have any questions about the P&F.

Dates to mark in your diaries:

Special Lunch Day- Friday 28th November.

P&F Dinner- Friday 28th November, evening. Time and location to be confirmed.

Have a great week!

BOOKCLUB REMINDER
Remember to hand in your Scholastic Book Club orders by tomorrow Friday 24th October.
Thank you.