Dear Parents and Carers,

Our inaugural Parent Partnership Forum meeting is nearly here – next Wednesday at 3:30pm. I look forward to seeing you all there as we elect our executive and decide what our group will look like. Remember this is your voice to have input into our school - its growth and success.

Congratulations to our swimmers who attended the Darling Downs Swimming trials in Gatton yesterday – Erin, Chloe and Kaylah. All three girls represented our school and zone with exemplary effort and spirit. Special congratulations to Erin who has been selected in the DD team for 50m and 100m Freestyle plus a relay. Erin pulled out two PB's in coming 3rd for 50m and 1st in 100m. She will now go to Brisbane on 19th to 21st March. Well done girls!

GRIP leadership – what is it, you ask? An opportunity to experience fun while learning about how to be a leader in their school. Our three year 6 students, Toby, Goren and Jai along with Miss Olivia McNamara and Carla Trevisiol enjoyed a day with many students from around the Toowoomba region – both State, Catholic and Independent schools. We look forward to these students sharing their ideas within our school over the year. Special thank you to Inglewood SS and Texas SS for inviting us to travel via bus to this wonderful event.

A huge thank you must go to our parents who helped in any way last Friday to cater for the Ram sale at the showgrounds – cooking cakes and other delights, making sandwiches, serving lunch to the buyers and sellers and cleaning up. It was a very beneficial day for your parent group and our school. Thank you!

Our school is participating in NAPLAN Online in May – information is being included in our newsletter at regular intervals. In preparation for this we will be running a trial on 22nd March to check our equipment and internet connection. This has no bearing on the results at all.

Next Friday, St Joseph’s College Toowoomba will be bringing a group of students to complete a project and run footy training sessions. Everyone is invited to attend a free BBQ on Friday night to say thank you for their contribution to our school. They will be installing cupboards for archiving our records in a spare room which will free up space in our school. RSVP's will be needed soon. We look forward to sharing this time with St Joey’s next Friday night.

Next week Olivia will be attending Graduates mentoring meeting for two days and her second day of Reading Strategy. In her absence Marianne Jordan will be teaching Yr 4-6 students.

Leaders Mass is next Friday, 9th March at 9 am in the church. Everyone is welcome.

This week’s reflective quote is “Lord of all goodness, unite my nature with yours so I can be more like you “ The Path to Peace.

Yours in God’s love and goodness
Paula
Tuckshop Volunteers:

2nd March: Workers— Carla Trevisiol
                  Megan Blandthorn
                Home Cooking— Sara Price

9th March: Workers— Sara Price
                  Jade Marrinan
                Home Cooking— Mandy Mead

16th March: NO TUCKSHOP DUE TO SHOW HOLIDAY

Birthdays:

Leaders Mass
Friday 9th March
at 9am
Our Year 6 Leaders will be inducted.
Everyone welcome.

MacIntyre Zone Touch Trial 2018
Venue: Texas P-10 School
Date: Friday, 9th of March
Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Cost: $3
Nomination and permission forms available from the office. Must be returned by Monday 5th March.

Well done to our swimmers who attended Darling Downs Trials yesterday. Congratulations Erin on your selection into the team.

This morning on assembly, Darcy and Shenae shared their recount of the reptile show. Well done!
Oral Language: Expanding Your Child's Vocabulary
By: West Bloomfield Township Public Library

Part 1: What reading experts say

Reading and talking with children plays an important role in developing their vocabulary. Typically, more words are used in written language than in spoken language. The more you read to children, the larger vocabulary they will develop. Research has shown children learn new words by:

- Hearing a word over and over.
- Hearing words spoken by the important people in their lives: Mum, Dad, siblings, grandparents.
- Hearing words in a meaningful context – during conversation at dinner, in the car, while playing and while reading.

"Rephrase and extend your child's words, ask a clarifying question (tell me more about the man you saw), model more complex vocabulary or sentence structure (yes, I see the tall skyscraper you built with lots of windows), and ask open-ended questions," says Susan Hall and Louisa Moats of Straight Talk About Reading.
Living Lent
Fasting for Enlightenment

For those who will be baptised at Easter, the catechumens, Lent is a period of intense preparation called the ‘Period of Purification and Enlightenment’. In the light of God’s word, they examine their lives and ask the entire Christian community to pray that whatever is weak and sinful within them may be eliminated and that whatever is good and holy may be affirmed. On the first Sunday of Lent the catechumens make a significant commitment in their journey to Easter at the Rite of Election. After this rite they are known as the elect. Lent is also a time of purification and enlightenment for all of us as we strive to radiate the love of Christ in our daily life.

The Church recommends three spiritual practices to assist us in our preparation for Easter: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The practice of fasting was recommended by Christ’s example and by his teaching. The Didache, a church order dating from the late first or early second century, mentions Wednesdays and Fridays as being regular fast days. Originally, fasting meant going without food completely for whole or part of the fast day. In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal on a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day.

The spirit of the law may invite us to extend the fast to things other than food – text messaging, surfing the net, gambling or gossiping. The minimum fasting requirements make most sense when they are combined with prayer and almsgiving. These age-old disciplines reflect our most fundamental concerns: our relationship with God (prayer), with our bodies (fasting) and with others (almsgiving).

In addition, the practice helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for forty days in the desert in preparation for his ministry and provides a means of expressing our common repentance. The number forty has many Biblical references the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18); the forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8); the forty days and nights God sent rain in the great flood of Noah (Genesis 7:4); the forty years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33); the forty days Jonah in his prophecy of judgment gave the city of Nineveh in which to repent (Jonah 3:4).

The season of Lent was determined in the fifth century as a period of forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. This period does not include the Sundays. As the memorial day of the resurrection, Sunday is never a day of fasting.

The season of Lent is our annual invitation to grow in awareness of our spiritual hunger. Together with those preparing for baptism, we join in outward signs of our inner conversion.

Taken from Towards the Light © Evangelisation Brisbane Archdiocese of Brisbane 2011
We celebrate the role our library plays in student literacy and learning during Queensland School Libraries week next week.

Today, students shared what they think is great about our library and their responses will be on display in the library shortly. Most children commented on the range of books they have to choose from, a reflection of the long term and ongoing support from parents, school leaders and library staff over the years.

Our collection can support weekly loans of 4 items per student. **Students are encouraged to borrow what they are interested in reading as free choice is a powerful factor in maintaining the desire to read. In many cases, parents will need to share the reading of these books, a privilege and a responsibility of parenting.**

**Australian Children’s Laureate**

Morris Gleitzmann, well known children’s author has been named the Children’s Laureate for 2018/2019. See below for Morris’s take on this role available at http://morrisgleitzman.com/

**What’s a laureate?**

‘Your mission, Morris,’ said Ron Gorman, chair of the Australian Children’s Literature Alliance, ‘if you choose to accept it, is to don the mantle of Australian Children’s Laureate for the next two years and go into bat for stories.’

I stared at him, intrigued, excited, but completely ignorant when it came to sporting metaphors.

‘By go into bat,’ I said, ‘do you mean roam the land engaging young readers in a celebration of stories and all the precious things they get from them while at the same time encouraging adults to think more deeply and perceptively about the transformative qualities of good stories for young people and if possible read a few of them aloud?’

‘Yes,’ said Ron.

I was in.

**Please find the time this week to read aloud to your children, you cannot under estimate the value of this enjoyable activity.**

**Anne Anderson**

Teacher Librarian
**Project Compassion boxes were sent home last week. Here is some information about this year’s campaign.**

In this year’s Project Compassion, Caritas Australia celebrates A Just Future for all in conjunction with the Year of Youth.

Project Compassion 2018 shows the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to the people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Through a holistic approach which concentrates on their social, economic and spiritual development, Caritas is working with young people to become the leaders of tomorrow, pursuing a just and fair world, free of poverty and where communities are the architects of their own development.

![JANAKI, NEPAL](image1)

In Nepal, a Caritas-supported program has helped Janaki turn her life of poverty and disadvantage around. She is now running her own successful sewing business, training others and has become a role model in her community.

![EVANGELINE, AUSTRALIA](image2)

Evangeline in the Northern Territory, featured in Project Compassion 2016. She was employed by the Caritas Australia-supported Djilpin Arts and quickly rose to the role of Senior Artworker. Her career has flourished. Her work at Djilpin Arts contributes to its success, whilst providing training and opportunities for other young people in the community.

![RATTANAM, CAMBODIA](image3)

Rattanak in Cambodia contracted polio as a child and also became deaf. The Deaf Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia, helped him become a barber and he is now supporting himself, his wife and baby.

![DITOSA, MOZAMBIQUE](image4)

Ditosa in Mozambique is cared for by her grandmother, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, aged 12, thanks to Caritas Australia’s support, Ditosa has now graduated from school, with plans for university.

![BAYAN, JORDAN](image5)

Bayan is a young Syrian girl in Jordan who struggled to overcome the trauma of living in a conflict zone, facing the prospect of missing out on school. With Caritas’ support, Bayan is excelling in her studies, with ambitions to become an ophthalmologist.

![PSYCHE MAE, PHILIPPINES](image6)

When Psyche Mae featured in Project Compassion 2008, she was living in a squatter settlement, near a rubbish dump in the Philippines. She is now a social worker, with plans to study a Master’s degree, whilst helping others emerge from poverty, thanks to the support of individuals and Caritas Australia.

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**For a Just Future**

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. A Just Future has started with your support!

Donate at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone (toll free) 1800 024 413

Explore and learn more about these stories at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Join us online: #projectcompassion
### P and F

- **President:** Sara Price  
- **Secretary:** Zalae Smith  
- **Treasurer:** Sam Hobbs

#### Upcoming events:

- **Wednesday 7th March** — PPF Meeting 3:30pm  
- **Thursday 29th March** — Easter Raffle drawn  
- **Friday 25th May** — Catering for Blue Light Disco

### School Board

- **Chairman:** Mike Price  
- **Secretary:** Lexie Bennett  
- **Board Members:**  
  - Paula O’Rourke  
  - Fr Sean Lynskey  
  - Sara Price  
  - Zalae Smith  
  - Sam Hobbs

- **PPF Meeting:** Wednesday 7th March at 3:30pm

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**Queensland Health**

**Mobile Women’s Health Service**

- **5th April**
  - 9am—1:30pm
  - Appointment bookings: 4652 0777

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**Toowoomba Catholic Schools**

**Visiting services**

- **March**  
  - **15th** — Kevin Bailey — Health Safety and Environment Advisor  
  - **19th** — Angela Travers — Education Officer: RE Curriculum

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**St Maria Goretti School**

Inglewood

**Prep - Year 6**

Where Christian values are an everyday lived experience