



St Joseph's School

1-3 Bridge Street
Korumburra 3950

Phone: 5655 2040

Email: principal@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 | Newsletter 4

Dear St Joseph's Families,

Last Thursday, some of our Year 3 children, along with children from St Laurence's, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was a warm evening and the Church was filled with the gentle sunlight of early evening as well as a Spirit of peace. All of our middle school children have been learning about the Sacrament and have supported those who took the next step last week. I would like to thank Catherine Riseley, our Religious Education Leader, Year 3/4 teacher, Natasha Kuyer and of course, the families for their guidance in preparing the children.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we consider ways that we can be more like Jesus. He shows us how to be inclusive, understanding and forgiving. Today is also Harmony Day and we have been reflecting on the beauty of each individual. Each human is unique and is created by God. Everyone is welcome at St Joseph's and celebrated for who they are and what they bring to our school community.



Next week, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, our school will be undergoing a Review. This happens every 4 years and is an opportunity for us to reflect on the goals we have set, to celebrate our successes and to look forward to the future. I am so very proud of this school and the exemplary work that is done here for the benefit of our children. I am confident that the Reviewers will see this too and I look forward to their feedback which will strengthen us and inform our next strategic plan.

Finally, I want to thank you, our Parents...your support is the scaffold of our work. Last Monday, our Parents and Friends put on a welcome BBQ. It was a lovely evening of friendship and fun. One parent said "this, this sense of community, is why we chose St Joe's".

If you can, please support the P and F's work for our Easter egg raffle by donating an egg or two to be added to the many prizes on offer, as well as the Hot Cross Bun Drive. You can order buns and easter egg raffle tickets online, via CDF Pay. All money raised will be put towards our Playground Plan.

Wishing you a safe and restful weekend.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Andersen".

Sharon

RECONCILIATION CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Ava Anderson, Mason Nichols, Arianna Nobile, Kye Whiteside, Dallas Martin and Lily Phillips who made their First Reconciliation on Thursday, March 13. We are most grateful to Fr Stanly Devasia and his cousin Fr. Avinash George who led the reflective liturgy and were very gentle in offering forgiveness for sins and guiding these debutantes towards reconciliation with God and their community.

The culminating event for the grade 3's religious education on the sacrament of Reconciliation will involve an excursion to Mary Mackillop Catholic College, on Monday, March 31, for a Reconciliation Retreat. Senior students who make up the Youth Ministry class will lead the grade three students from St Laurence's and St Joseph's Primary School in a day of prayer, reflection and fun activities in celebration of this sacrament.



Second Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 17 March)

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) is a 13-year-old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students' education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school, students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000 L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students are now able to focus on education and improved hygiene.

"Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm happy that we don't have to go home early anymore." – said Toefuata'iga.

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world.

[Watch Toefuata'iga's story here.](#)

Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

Holy Week Prayer Service

We would like to invite you to our Holy Week Prayer Service which will be held on the last day of term Friday, April 4 at 11:45 am. Students from all classes will play an integral part in the story of Jesus' last days of life on earth which will be enacted this year on the basketball court. At the start of Lent we sent home Project Compassion boxes to each family. By placing money into the box throughout Lent we help raise funds to support vulnerable communities around the world. **At the start of our Prayer Service a wheelbarrow will be pushed around and students are encouraged to place their family's Project Compassion box into the wheelbarrow. If you have misplaced your box please bring your contribution in an envelope or plastic zip lock bag. Thank you.**

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast club continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before the bell this year. It is not meant to replace breakfast at home as we only offer toast with jam or vegemite but it is welcomed by many students as a top up before they start learning for the day.

A big thank you to Kelly's Bakery for donating surplus bread to our school.

READING AT HOME WITH BEGINNING READERS



Thank you to Natalie Kratz, our Foundation Teacher, for presenting an informative session for our Foundation parents on our approach to teaching reading here at St Joseph's and how to help beginning readers with their reading homework. Handouts were provided to all Foundation families but if you were not able to make it and would like some more information please contact Nat for a chat.

Here are a few tips:

BEFORE YOU START READING

With your child, look at the front cover, talk about what they notice, who is there, what they might be doing.

With many of the books at the beginning of the phonic sequence, there is not a lot of text so it is important to talk about the pictures as these tell some of the story and reinforce the story in the text.

1. Encourage your child to sound out the word (not guess) using their finger to track across the word so that they make the letter sound connection. Sounding out will be slow at the start or for more complex words as the books increase in difficulty.
2. Often after the first run at the sounds for a word e.g.: c—a—t you will need to ask your child to do it again but 'crash' the sounds into each other (this means continue to say the /c/ until the /a/ takes over and then keep saying the /a/ until the /t/)
3. It is called continuous blending and is more helpful for your child to be able to hear the word they are saying than chopping the word into sounds that are far apart. You will probably have to do it together to start with or as a reminder at various times over the year.

Most importantly, we want the reading experience to be enjoyable, so if it seems too much of a struggle any day then change it up and share the reading - you can read together or you read a page and they repeat it or take turns reading a page. It can be good to keep a challenging book for more than one night for repeated reading and building of fluency.

SNR SWIMMING | SNR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Senior Swimming Continues for another Week Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 Monday, 24th March to Thursday, 27th March



Our Grade 3-6 students will be participating in another week of swimming lessons next week.

Students will travel by bus to and from Leongatha and will participate in swimming lessons run by the qualified staff of South Gippsland Splash (YMCA). **Students will need to bring an extra small bag to take with them and ensure they have appropriate bathers, a towel and goggles if they have them. If students wear their bathers to school, please ensure they have a change of underwear.**

Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 Interschool Athletics Friday, 26th March



Students in Grade 3-6 will be participating in the athletics carnival on Friday 28th of March. Students will travel by bus to the Leongatha Velodrome on Friday 28th of March, leaving school at approximately 9:00 am and returning in time for the afternoon buses at approximately 3pm.

Students will need to wear their sports uniform and bring a packed lunch and drink bottle. Please ensure that they wear their wide brim hats also. There will be sunscreen available on the day however if you have a particular brand you would like to use please provide that for your child and make sure you have applied before school.

Students will participate in a number of athletic events throughout the day so extra healthy snacks might be a good idea.

Parents & Friends Announcements

Term 1 Update

The P & F is a great way to be a part of our school community and everyone is welcome. This year we welcome Ellie Priestley, Shelley Banders, Anneliese Auddino, Kristen Rudland, Dominic Chizzoniti and Melissa Greaves. Our returning members are Heidi Greenwood, Cindy Bui, Amber Out, Felicity Spicuzza, Kylie Taylor, Kristy Uren, Kaylene Clay, Clare Hermans and Jessica Sorrell. Thank you all for your commitment.

Term 1 always seems to go so fast as we settle back into school life. The P & F organised the Welcome BBQ held on Monday 17th of March, it was a great opportunity to meet new families and catch up with friends. We have also organised two fundraisers for Term 1, they are the Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Raffle. We appreciate any support you can give.

Throughout the year we will hold a number of fundraisers, and we understand given the current financial times, it is not always possible to support each and every one. We intend to offer a variety of fundraisers to appeal to our school community and we value any support you can give. Every little bit helps!!

The P & F also aim to hold some fun social events and this year one of our P & F Members, Felicity, is going to plan a parent catch up at a local location such as a cafe or park. The aim is for us to build connections among our school community. Please keep an eye out for a note from Felicity for the details.

We will also be doing some fun activities like the school disco and we intend to finish off the year with another colour run, which was a great fun day had by all last year.

The money raised by the P & F has gone to Stage 1 of the new playground and we will continue to raise funds this year for the next stage. The P & F also decided at the end of last year, that part of funds raised would cover the cost of the Grade 6's 'Graduation Fun Day'. We thought it was a nice way to say thank you and a chance to give back to the families who have supported the P & F fundraising efforts over the years.

In 2025 the P & F will meet on Fridays after assembly in the staff room. **If you would like to come along and join in the fun, you are most welcome.** We will at times call for help with things such as stalls, some parents have indicated they can't attend meetings, but can help with those things, so that may be also something to consider.

Warm wishes
The Parents and Friends of St Joseph's



St Joseph's

PARENTS & FRIENDS

EASTER RAFFLE

We are seeking Easter egg donations for our upcoming Easter raffle!

If each family could please donate an Easter egg or two, or a small non-chocolate Easter gift, this would be greatly appreciated.

All donations to be given to the office by Tuesday 1st of April.

The more Donations, the more prizes we will have to offer!

**TICKETS ARE \$2.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5.00
AND CAN BE PURCHASED VIA**

<https://user.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/register>

**THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT 3.00PM
THURSDAY 3RD OF APRIL IN THE LIBRARY**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

Out of Dough

**ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER**

PER 1/2 DOZEN

TRADITIONAL \$6.50

NO FRUIT \$6.50

APPLE & CINNAMON \$7.00

CHOC CHIP \$7.00

**ORDER VIA CDF PAY BY TUESDAY 25TH MARCH
ORDERS DELIVERED WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL**

Your family and friends can be sent the following link(s) and purchase tickets for the above Hot Cross Bun Drive or Easter Raffle:

- <https://ordering.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/m/st-josephs-school-korumburra-events-hot-cross-bun-fundraiser>
- <https://ordering.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/m/st-josephs-school-korumburra-events-p-f-easter-raffle>

**REMINDER: LAST DAY OF TERM 1 IS FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL
EARLY FINISH FOR STUDENTS AT 2.30 PM
THE BUSES WILL RUN AT THIS TIME**



DATES TO REMEMBER – TERM 1 | TERM 2

Mon, 24 th March	Senior Swimming Lessons continues (Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6) 24 th March to 27 th March
Fri, 28 th March	Combined Athletics Grades 3 to 6 Leongatha Velodrome
Mon, 31 st March	Reconciliation Retreat Grade 3 Mary MacKillop
Wed, 2 nd April	P&F Hot Cross Bun Delivery Day
Thurs, 3 rd April	P&F Easter Raffle Draw (after lunch)
Fri, 4 th April	Whole School Easter Assembly @ 11.45 am On the Basketball Court All Welcome Last day of Term 1 – early school finish for students at 2.30 pm (buses will depart at this time)
Monday, 7th April to Monday, 21st April inclusive	School Holidays Begin
Tues, 22nd April	Start of Term 2
Wed, 23 rd April	Big 5 Cricket
Thurs, 24 th April	Big 5 Netball, Basketball, AFL & Soccer
Fri, 25th April	Anzac Day Public Holiday



St Joseph's Child Safety and Wellbeing Statement

St Joseph's Primary School is committed to embedding a culture of Child Safety and Wellbeing in everything we do, adhering to the Child Safety Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises (**Ministerial Order no. 1359**). We believe that ensuring the safety of the students in our care is an integral part of who we are as a Catholic Faith community. The school acts in accordance with the Ministerial Order through policies, procedures, measures and practices, staff training and, ultimately, through the strategies used in working with the students and families within our school community. We continue to maintain and develop a safe and supportive learning environment where staff are focused on engaging students in a meaningful, relevant, and challenging learning experiences.

If at the time you have any issues or concerns you feel you need to raise, please contact our Principal Sharon Anderson or our Child Safety Officer Robyn Brownnett on 5655 2040.