



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Wandal, Queensland

~ To Love is to Serve ~

Newsletter No 8 14 March 2018

Listening: a death-defying attitude

In the following sentence fill in the space with what is important to you in your life: "The death of begins with a lack of listening." Too true, isn't it? The original sentence by Dietrich Bonhoeffer read "The death of the spiritual life begins with a lack of listening." But, as you can see from the exercise above, 'listening' is just as crucial to married life, friendship, education, love, health...even to being able to play sport well. An excellent teacher I know says that 'listening to reading' is the best thing parents can do to further the education of young children - read to them so they listen, listen to them read.

True listening is an attitude of openness to our own selves and then to the other or the occupation we are about to do. It involves respect and a certain awe. We have to listen to how we are and be in tune with ourselves... then to how the other is. Yes, this may seem a bit touchy, feely or even complicated, but think of what happens when we don't do this - blundering in with our moods, taking no notice of what is happening, ignoring the needs of the other: Big Relationship Mess. We've been there, done that...and paid the price for months. But imagine coming home from work, taking a moment to recognise how you are, then stepping in the door and taking note of how your loved ones are. You will treat yourself and them differently.

Over and over in the Scriptures, God and Jesus invite us to listen. This is not just so we will be obedient to what they have to say. No, we are made to relate to God, to others and to our world in respect and love...and to do that we have to begin by listening.

Loving God, send me your Spirit that I may listen, in wisdom and love, to my family and friends, in my work and play, to myself and to your Son, Jesus. I ask this in his name confident that you will listen to me.

Sr Kym Harris osb

From the Principal

As you read this, I will be commencing my first day of Long Service Leave. I once again thank the two Assistant to the Principal's, Miss Janette McLennan and Mrs Starr for stepping in during my absence. I look forward to catching up with you all in the last week of term.

In our thoughts On behalf of the St Joseph's Wandal School Community we express our deepest sympathy to Cedric and Kathryn Creed whose father passed away last week. We hold the Creed and Geihe family in our thoughts and prayers.

Parent Teacher Interviews - Thank you to the many of you who booked and attended a Parent Teacher Interview over the last two days. I hope you found the opportunity to 'catch-up' with your children's teachers useful. Meaningful relationships between parents and teachers are vital for maximising learning and wellbeing outcomes for students. Research identifies the benefits of continued parent engagement throughout schooling for student learning outcomes, self-esteem, school attendance and behaviour. John Hattie (2008) estimates that effective parent engagement can add the equivalent of 2 or 3 extra years to a child's education. So, from all of the staff here at school, thank you for taking an interest in your children's learning progress.

The next 'formal' reporting process, will be the distribution of Report Cards at the end of Term Two. Of course, please feel welcome to make a time to see your children's teachers at any time between now and then.

Sacrament of Penance - I am disappointed that I will not be present this evening, as a number of our children receive the Sacrament of Penance (first reconciliation) at St Joseph's Cathedral. I would like to thank Mrs Starr and Ms Gubbins for the time they have spent with our children as they have prepared for this important step on their journey in the Catholic faith.

Trivia Night - Out St Patrick's Day themed Trivia Night is on this Friday night. This is shaping up to be a wonderful night. I thank everyone who has bought a ticket supporting our school's fundraising efforts. The P and F are working hard, with last minute preparations underway we invite you to complete the eform for assistance. Thank you to all involved.

New Phone details - Please take note of the new phone number for the school. This is part of a Diocesan wide migration to a new, internet based phone system. The IT staff at the Catholic Education Office are working closely with the school to ensure a seamless transition, and a call forwarding service will be in place for a while to assist with the transition. We hope to provide each family with a fridge magnet, identifying the new number as a reminder.



<https://www.trybooking.com/357017>

Cross Country Training - A reminder that training is being held on Mondays for any interested Prep- Year 2 students from 3:10pm- 3:40pm in the undercover area. Mrs Anna McKenzie is conducting these sessions. Any Prep students attending must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Training for the Year 3-6 students is held at 7:20am on Tuesday mornings in the undercover area and concludes by 8am at the latest. Students are to bring their own breakfast. These sessions are conducted by Mrs Murphy.

Training sessions will run every Monday and Tuesday until the Cross Country on the 26th and 27th March. The final sessions will be on Monday 19th March and Tuesday 20th March.

A reminder that our Cross Country carnival will be held over two days: Years 3-6 will compete at the Southside Soccer fields on Monday 26th March, and our Prep- Year 2 students will compete at school on Tuesday 27th March. If you are able to assist please complete the eform on the skoolbag app.

Enjoy your week!

Kellie



APRE News

Prayer Corner

“Situations can change; people can change. Be the first to seek to bring good. Do not grow accustomed to evil, but defeat it with good.”
Pope Francis

Virtues of Mercy

In light of our Sacramental Team who tonight will be celebrating the Mercy of God’s love through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation it is timely that we reflect on the virtue of Mercy. Mercy is blessing others with our compassion and forgiveness and extending our tenderness beyond what is just or deserved. We are merciful when we give ourselves and others a fresh chance after an offense or mistake.

Practising Mercy

It is quick to text, but texts are devoid of what your friends and family members often long for: your voice, your presence, and your full attention. Taking the time out of your day is a small sacrifice, but making a sacrifice is an act of compassionate mercy.

Catholic Learning Journey (Sacramental Team)

Tonight we pray for our Sacramental Team as they progress further in their Catholic Learning Journey. This important Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a celebration of God’s love and forgiveness. God welcomes us all in his Mercy.

The Sacramental team will have a shared lunch on Thursday to reflect on the experience.



Feast of St Joseph (Our patron saint!) - MONDAY 19 MARCH

The feast of St Joseph holds significance for us, as St Joseph is our school’s and diocese’s patron saint.

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know that he was a working man, a compassionate and caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been engaged, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. Joseph however, loved Mary and Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. We honour St Joseph the Husband of Mary this Monday, 19 March.

Students are encouraged to wear blue, yellow or white (school colours) and a school hat to celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph. Clothing is to be sun safe and shoes are to be closed in.

Prep will lead a Prayer Assembly at 8.35am in the hall on Monday 19 March to celebrate St Joseph the Husband of Mary. In celebration of this special Feast Day, classes will be participating in an online challenge and activities focussing on St Joseph followed by cake for morning tea.

St Joseph, PRAY FOR US!

Harmony Day

Next Wednesday, a small group of students will lead prayer in the Hall to celebrate Harmony Day. Classes have then invited a guest speaker - either a parent, grandparent or community member to share their culture, through stories, artefacts, photos, clothing or in some cases food taste testing.

Prayer Assembly

Please join Year One as they lead Prayer Assembly celebrating St Patrick’s Day. Assembly will be held in the Hall at 8.35am Friday 16 March

National Day of Action Against Bullying

To raise awareness of the significance of this day for our students, our school will participate in simultaneous story time and discussion surrounding an online clip from the website.

<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay>

In classes students will then design a poster which focuses on our three school expectations - Respect for self, Respect for Others and Respect for the Environment. If students consistently follow the School Expectations then we are actively choosing 'Against Bullying' every day at St Joseph's Wandal. I look forward to seeing the creative flair from our students, some of these posters will be displayed in the hall.

Liturgy of the Word

A reminder that Children's Liturgy is held most Sundays at St Joseph's Cathedral 9.30am during the school term. It is wonderful to see our students attend. All students (particularly those preparing for sacraments) are encouraged to attend. Thank you to our dedicated teachers who assist with this important ministry.



Have a fantastic week!

Rheanna

APC News

Parent Teacher Interviews: Thank you to those parents who have made time to meet with class teachers this week. Your child's education is a partnership and teachers look forward to sharing each student's successes and challenges with you. If you have not made a time to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the office to make another time.

reSolve: Mathematics by Inquiry: St Joseph's Wandal is very fortunate to be part of the resolve Mathematics programme. This programme aims to promote innovative and engaging approaches to the teaching and learning of mathematics.

The project aims to ensure that all students finish school with strong knowledge in mathematics, and ensuring that students are inspired and equipped to take on more challenging STEM subjects, including intermediate and advanced mathematics.

I am very excited to be part of this awesome event as a reSolve Mathematics Champion. Champions have access to ongoing professional learning opportunities and are charged with promoting mathematics learning through engaging activities that are meaningful to the students, and that support the development of both the content and all four of the Proficiencies in the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics (fluency, reasoning, understanding and problem solving).

This Easter holidays I will be travelling to Brisbane to undertake three days of professional learning to allow me to continue to lead reSolve at our school.

Five reasons why you should read aloud to your kids - and pick their favourite book From Ryan Spencer, 'The Conversation' November 3, 2015 6.09am AEDT

As parents know all too well, children love to re-read their favourite books over and over again. While this may feel painfully repetitive to adults, there is something in the text that is bringing children back time after time.

Children benefit greatly from re-reading as they learn the rhyming or predictable pattern of the text - rather than spending that time trying to understand what the book's about.

Research shows that repeated reading of favourite books can boost vocabulary by up to 40%.

But this is only truly beneficial when the text is read aloud.

Research shows that when preschool children are frequently read to, their brain areas supporting comprehension and mental imagery are highly engaged. Studies show that this helps with the development of reading skills, such as word recognition, when they start to learn to read.

By assisting our children to develop these skills, we're ensuring that they know that text conveys a message, and to read on for more information when they get stuck on a word.

And it's never too early to start reading aloud to your children. Australian author and literacy studies professor Mem Fox says reading to children from birth can help develop a love for and understanding of books.

Need more convincing? Here are five ways that reading aloud can benefit your child:

1. Improves fluency

Fluency when reading is essential in order to build strong and confident readers. But it can frequently be misinterpreted as relating only to reading speed alone.

Researcher Timothy Rasinski highlights the "bridge" that fluency plays in between word recognition and understanding what the book is about. He highlights the way that reading fluently at a natural reading speed helps to ensure that comprehension is maintained when reading.

When you share a book with your child, they get to see good reading modelled for them. They establish a sense of the speed and prosody that is essential to fluent reading. This then aids in their comprehension of the story.

To help your child hear themselves as a fluent reader, choose a favourite book, and take it in turns reading a sentence, such as in the style of echo reading, where you might read a sentence or a page first then your child repeats the same part.

Hearing themselves as confident and fluent readers allows children to break out of the struggling reader mindset where every book is a challenge.

2. Expands vocabulary knowledge

Research shows that possessing a broad vocabulary is essential to making sure that children have access to a range of different words with different meanings.

It makes sense that the more words that children know when reading independently, the more they'll enjoy what they're reading.

While vocabulary lessons are taught in schools, parents can also assist in helping their children learn new words at home by reading favourite books aloud.

Before reading a book for the first time, flick through the pages with your child. Look for any interesting words that your child might not have seen before. Talk about what these words mean and where they may have seen them before.

3. Helps comprehension

Successful reading is all about making sense of what we're reading.

As adults, if we don't quite understand something that we've just read, the first thing that we tend to do is to go back and reread.

This is a vital skill that we need to encourage in our children to help them become self sufficient readers.

Reading aloud provides the means by which to clearly take about what is happening in the book and to practice this rereading skill.

The conversations about what the book is about can take place before reading with your child in order to predict what might happen. Discussions during and after reading are also usual in clarifying what your children have just read.

4. Involves family members

Fathers and other significant males in a child's life play a vital role in encouraging their children to be active readers at home.

While mothers do tend to spend more time with their children and often take on reading as a part of this experience, research demonstrates clear benefits when dads, uncles, grandfathers and male friends read with children.

Dads are often seen as the untapped resource when it comes to reading with their children and they frequently provide a different range of experiences, especially when reading aloud.

This might be through using different funny voices and even the content that is read together.

5. Brings the fun back into reading

As any avid reader knows there are few things better in life than curling up with a favourite book and not wanting to put it down.

Sharing this experience with your child is a valuable way to get them on the path to loving books as well.

Consider taking home a new book from the bookstore or library and selling this to your child.

Try talking about the pictures, look at interesting words and predict what might happen before reading together.

When you are reading the book aloud for the first time, use different voices for each character.

If you're looking for some inspiration on what to read to your child, then try the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards shortlist, or the Dymock's Top 51 Kids list which is voted for by kids for kids.

Licensed under Creative Commons <http://theconversation.com/five-reasons-why-you-should-read-aloud-to-your-kids-and-pick-their-favourite-book-49740>

Have a great week!

Janette



Awards

“Striving for Excellence” Award - (for a student who has exhibited academic improvements and / or has been applying themselves to the very best of their ability)

Declan W - For the way you applied and explained odd and even rules to problem solve.

Maisyn S - For becoming an enthusiastic writer and working towards meeting your learning goals in writing. Keep it up!

Sebastian C - For your excellent effort in your learning activities this week, especially your perseverance in writing tasks. Keep up the good work. Well done!

Ashley S - For using descriptive and emotive language, when writing. Well done, Ashley!

“To Love is to Serve” Award - (for a student who has consistently displayed leadership qualities)

Jaya D - For being an excellent role model to your peers. You consistently demonstrate our school expectations.

Nicolas G - For leading by example at Mass on Tuesday. It was particularly lovely how you gently gave some Prep students friendly reminders as to how to sit nicely.

Pramoth V - For your initiative in all facets of your learning. You are leading by example. Well done!

Leilani W - For being a positive role model and always following our school and class expectations. Well done!

Important Dates

14 March Sacrament of Penance - St Joseph's Cathedral 6pm

15 March Performance by Instrumental students on assembly

16 March Year 1 Prayer Assembly

16 March **St Patrick's Day Trivia Night**

17 March St Patrick's Race Day

19 March Feast Day of St Joseph

21 March Harmony Day

21 March Prep My 1st Year in Morning Bulletin

21 March Mass of Christm

21 March Harmony Day

23 March Holy Week Celebration - Palm Sunday - Prep and Year 6 at 2.00pm

25 March Palm Sunday

26 March Cross Country - Year 4 - 6 - Southside United Soccer Fields

26 March Holy Week Celebration - Last Supper - Years 1 & 2 at 2.00pm

27 March Holy Week Celebration - Jesus Prays in the Garden - Years 5 & 3 at 8.35am

27 March Cross Country - Prep - Year 3

27 March Year 2 Poetry Afternoon

28 March Holy Week Celebration - Crucifixion - Year 4 at 2.00pm

28 March Year 1 Book Tasting at 2.30pm

29 March Holy Week Celebration - Resurrection - Year 3 at 2.00pm

29 March Term 1 Concludes

29 March Holy Thursday

30 March Good Friday - Public Holiday

1 April Easter Sunday

2 April Easter Monday - Public Holiday

Good Morning Parents/Caregivers,

An assembly performance will be held for all Instrumental students in years 4 to 6 on Thursday, March 15.

Parents are welcome to attend.

It is important that string students arrive at the St Joseph's Library at 8:00am so that they can set up, have their instruments tuned and be ready for their performances.

Students need to bring:

- Instrument
- Rosin
- Rockstop (cello and double bass)
- Music
- Music Stand

Year 4, 5 and 6 performance pieces:

- String to String [String Basics Page 4]
- Pizzicato Passage [String Basics Page 4]
- Halves are Great [String Basics Page 5]

Year 5 and 6 performance pieces:

- Scooter Ride
- March of the Astronauts

All backing tracks can be downloaded via the link below:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UCZcDXN-IAIBq1dzH0yJxlrQcw_I5Sjo?usp=sharing

All the best,

Ayesha.

Dr Ayesha Hall

Coordinator of Instrumental Music

"Come, Live Life In All Its Fullness"

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