Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Yesterday, we welcomed five of our 2018 Preps and their families to the first of four transition sessions. Their day started with the fun and some nonsense that is often part of our Wednesday assemblies and continued in the Prep classroom until 10.30am with Mrs Tyler and Ellie. Our present Preps were cared for by Mrs Lockyer. Their parents attended an information session in the library. At this session, we spoke about parent engagement in the learning lives of their students and the positive effect it has on learning outcomes and well being.

Parent engagement is one of the four pillars of the Australian Government’s Students First reform agenda for schools.”

“While it’s important to stay informed and be involved in school activities where possible, there are lots of things you can do at home which can help your child to do better at school:

- Have high yet achievable expectations of your child.
- Talk regularly about school and the value of learning.
- Encourage positive attitudes and respect for school and teachers.
- Model the behaviours you would like to see in your child.

Other things you can do which have also been shown to have a positive impact are to:

- Read out loud with your child and listen to your child read out loud.
- Talk and ask about what they are learning.
- Ask what was and was not fun at school.
- Help them to develop strong work habits.”

The slides relating to the session have been placed on the parent portal.

We are practising in earnest for Saturday’s Torimba parade. The children can meet us near the mower shop by 2.30pm for the 3pm start. Many thanks to Carinda Christie for her help with this.

CES have rolled out a new model for staffing our school and despite our declining numbers, we can maintain our present staffing levels. This is really good news for us and for our budget bottom line.

Class Structures for 2018:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep.</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 6.</td>
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As you can see there are five single classes and the one composite. We have yet to determine which teachers will be where and we are still recruiting for at least one of these classes. As soon as I have something sorted, I will let you know.

As you are aware, Pauline Lockyer will retire officially at the end of this school year. On Thursday, November 16, we have the opportunity to celebrate Pauline’s wonderful work at our school and for the beautiful presence she has brought to the lives of so many of us. The good news is that Pauline will continue to do relief work for us. More details will follow.

At assembly this morning, we reminded the children that Monday, October 16 is a student free day. The staff will be working in Mareeba alongside the other Catholic Schools in the Western Deanery. We find these days very affirming and really value the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and resources with other schools.

Warm regards

Catherine.
The Month of The Rosary - October

The Catholic Church celebrates the Month of the Rosary in October. When we pray the Rosary we are asking Mary to help us to come closer to God and by saying the mysteries we follow and reflect on the life of Jesus.

The Mysteries are: The Joyful Mysteries, Mysteries of Light, Sorrowful Mysteries and Glorious Mysteries.

When we pray a decade of the rosary it consists of - The Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory be to the Father and finishing with the Sign of the Cross.

World Mission Month - Socktober

October is also World Mission Month, “SOCKTOBER” as Catholic Mission have labelled it. Catholic Mission’s are Christians committed to building a better world for all of God’s people and a world where everyone has all the basic human rights and needs to live a comfortable life.

This year’s theme: ‘I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full’ with a special action focus on ‘Uganda’.

Children can start bringing in their coins at any time for the month of October and place them into their class sock. On the 1st day of November, the money will be counted from each class. The class with the most money raised will win a prize (of course we will need to divide the amount of money raised from each class by the number of children in it to keep things fair for those smaller classes).

Next Wednesday 18th October we will hold a “Crazy Sock Day” and children can come to school wearing their craziest/ favourite pair of socks for the day. We ask that students bring in a gold coin donation on the day and put into their class sock to help us raise funds.

We will also hold a “Socktober Storytime Day” during the month where each class will read a story on the same day that has a powerful social justice message.

This year, Catholic Mission’s World Mission Appeal is inspired by Pope Francis’ World Mission Message, which reminds us all that... mission is at the heart of our faith.

Josh Arnold

Josh has been commissioned by the Tablelands Regional Council to create a Music Video promoting the message of community awareness and preparedness in the event of emergencies and natural disasters.

The aim of the song and video will be to relay a serious message in a fun and interactive way by involving the entire community. The Music Video will also showcase the scenic and unique attributes of the region along with the vibrant personalities and community spirit when times are tough.

Josh will be at our school on Wednesday October 25 to record the students singing his song. This will be at 11.15 am and you are welcome to join us. On Thursday October 26 some of our students will be travelling to Atherton to record further lyrics. More details to follow.
Next week, all students at St. Teresa’s will be participating in ‘Whole School Testing’. These tests are not something that your child/ren should be anxious about; they don’t need to study or bring along anything extra... but a good night’s sleep is always recommended. Given the timetabling and resources required to successfully run a “whole school” testing week, student attendance is vital and appreciated.

All students will complete a series of diagnostic tests that assist our staff to plot student progress and growth. Not only is that data valuable for our school and students, it is also mandated by our diocese.

The 2 Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) that they will sit are Reading Comprehension (PAT R) and Mathematics (PAT M). These tests are now online and have proven to be successful with student engagement and due to the design and layout, help students complete the test in a methodical manner. They will also partake in a Single Word Spelling Test (SWST) and the Word Journey’s annual diagnostic ‘stage’ testing, which is linked to the spelling stages for our school.

If you have any questions regarding these tests, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

2018 Prep parents enjoying activities on Transition Day.

2018 Term Dates

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Monday 22 January — Thursday 29 March</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 April—Friday 29 June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 16 July—Friday 21 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday October 8—Friday 7 December</td>
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P F Meeting

The next P and F Meeting will be held on Monday 23rd October at 4.30pm in the staffroom. Please come along. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear first hand the school plans for 2018 and to have input into how P and F funds are dispersed.
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<td>Pupil Free Day PD staff</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>P and F Meeting</td>
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<td>Prep Transition Session</td>
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<td>Arts Council Performance</td>
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OCTOBER 2017

Practising line dancing for the Torimba Procession.