Captain Charlie Plumb flew 74 consecutive successful combat missions. However, on his 75th mission his F4 Phantom fighter plane was shot down by a surface-to-air missile. Charlie was forced to eject. The only thing between him and imminent death was his parachute that he prayed would open…

Then finally he felt the opening shock of the parachute. During the 90 seconds of descent he was being shot at. Charlie made it down to the ground alive but was then captured and spent 2103 brutal days as a prisoner of war in a communist Vietnamese prison camp.

Many years later after being repatriated, Charlie, by chance, came into contact with a man at a restaurant. The “stranger” approached Charlie and asked “You’re Captain Plumb.” Charlie looked up at him and said, “Yes, I am Captain Plumb.”

The man said, “You’re that man. You flew jet fighters in Vietnam. You’re a fighter pilot, part of that “Top Gun” outfit. You launched from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, you parachuted into enemy territory and you spent six years as a prisoner of war.”

Somewhat dumfounded Charlie looked up at the man and asked, “How in the world do you know all that?” The man chuckled, smiled and said, “Because I packed your parachute.” Charlie was speechless. The man grabbed Charlie’s hand and pumped his arm and said, “I guess it worked” and walked off.

Charlie laid awake that night thinking about all the times he had walked through the long narrow room, below sea level on the aircraft carrier, with the tables where the men packed the parachutes. How many times he must have walked past this man without even saying “hi,” “good morning” or “good job” or “I appreciate what you do.” How many times did I pass the man whose job would eventually save my life… because I was a Top Gun racing around the sky at twice the speed of sound. Because I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.”

How many times in life do we pass the people who help us out the most? The people who come out of the far corners of your life just when you need them the most and pack your parachutes for you? The people who go the extra mile, the people who don’t look for kudos or the accolades or the achievement medal - the people who are just out there packing parachutes? Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give them a compliment or just do something for no reasons. As you go through this week, this month, the remainder of this school year, recognise those people who pack your parachutes.
**Dates to Remember**

**Week 3**
- July 27 - Board Meeting
- July 29 - Pupil Free Day
- July 31 - St Joey’s Athletics (Field Events)

**Week 4**
- Aug 3 - St Joey’s Athletics Carnival
- Aug 7 - August Census
- Aug 9 - Mary MacKillop Mass

**Week 5**
- Aug 12 - District Athletics

**Week 6**
- Aug 17 - P&F Meeting
- Aug 18-20 - Principal Meetings

**Week 7**
- Aug 27-28 - SW Athletics

**Week 8**
- Aug 30 - Sept 4 - Yr 6 Syd/Can Camp

**Week 9**
- Sept 7-11 - Prep Enrolment Interviews
- Sept 7 - SW Cricket Trials

**From the Principals’ Desk**

**Dear Parents,**

**School / Family Communication**

Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives - parents, teachers and other family and community members - work together to encourage and support them.

Communication between parents and school is one of the most valued and important aspects in the development of this relationship.

St Joseph’s School strives to encourage open and honest communication with parents. We use a number of avenues, namely this newsletter, email, KIT books, phone and of course the face-to-face meeting to ensure that messages are received.

Likewise parents have access to a number of modes of communication to facilitate contact with the school. The best is always the face to face discussion, but sometimes in the busy-ness of home and school life, a more convenient method is necessary be that email or a phone call to the school.

While there are a number of ways to raise concerns with the School, it is the honesty of this communication which is most valued. Sometimes, families will be reluctant to speak with the School about certain issues in an effort to not “rock the boat”. Please, never look at it this way. Our staff are professional and focused on one thing: the happiness and success of students. On occasion parents will speak with one another (sometimes referred to as “car park talk”) about concerns they have with their children in relation to school. I personally think this is a great way to share and receive feedback from other parents. In these conversations, if there is a pattern of concern developing, let the School know. We can only respond when we know.

My experience at St Joseph’s School thus far has been that, for the most part, parents are keen and willing to communicate with the School. I encourage all parents, as partners with us in the education of your children, to keep the lines of communication open.

**School Improvement Survey**

This week, you will receive the link in your inboxes to our school improvement survey. I encourage all parents to have their say and to help us to identify what we are doing well, as well as those areas of our school that need development. The survey will take approximately 10-15mins to complete and I encourage you to be very honest in your responses. All responses are confidential and anonymous. If you don’t have access to a computer or you haven’t received the link, please drop into our office where we will have a computer set up with the survey.

**Mary MacKillop Mass**

On Sunday August 9, We will be celebrating the Feast Day of Saint Mary MacKillop in our school halls with a mass at 10am. Following the mass there will be a cake cutting and picnic in the school grounds. Please BYO Food and Drink and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Sausage Sizzle**

This Friday to celebrate Catholic Education Week, we will be having a free sausage sizzle for students. For a Gold Coin donation we will have sausages available to spectators of our athletics carnival.

Have a great rest of the week

God Bless

Aaron Wells
Principal

**Free Student Sausage Sizzle Friday**
(gold coin donation for guests)

**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**
- Mon - 2.45 - 3.15pm
- Wed & Fri - 8.30 - 9.00am
We gratefully accept all 2nd hand uniforms

Uniform Co-ordinator - Anne Welke
Ph: 4668 9580  M: 0409 643 758

**Our Lady Help of Christians’ Weekend Mass**
- Sunday 26th July 9.00 am

**Miss Bowdler and Year 5 will be leading assembly on Friday at 2:30pm**
From the A.P.R.E

This week is Catholic Education Week and a time to celebrate how special it is to be a part of a catholic school community. Traditionally during this week, students and staff participate in Acts of Kindness for others. This year stays true to the tradition, with each class organising activities that connect with the theme: Engaging Minds, Igniting Hearts, and Serving Others.

Prep are saying ‘Thank You’ to the many special people and organisations in their lives, with cards, flowers and yummy baked treats. Some of the lucky recipients will be Joey’s teaching staff, Meals on Wheels and the Kindergarten.

Prep/One will visit the Retirement Village, ‘Windmill Gardens’ where the residents will open their gardens to the children. The students are creating cards to give to the residents to thank them.

Year One is doing a whole school version of Pass the Parcel, with each class having to unwrap a layer before passing it onto the next class and eventually ending up at Mr Wells office. I wonder what will be inside…?!

Each student in Year Two will create an Act of Kindness card to pass onto another student when they perform an act of kindness for them. This student then writes their act into the card and hands it to the next student they are kind to, and so on until the card is filled! Like paying it forward!

Year Three really are being true to the theme, ‘Serving Others’ with their goal to clean, decorate and maintain the upstairs Meeting room for the whole Term.

Year Four have planned lunchtime activities for all students to enjoy every day this week, including sandpit, blocks, tug of war and ball skills games.

Year Five performed their act of kindness yesterday, visiting the C&K Kindergarten to read to the young children and help out in their classrooms for the morning.

Year Six are igniting the hearts of the staff and serving morning tea today in the staffroom! They must know the way to a teacher’s heart is through coffee and cake!!

As the week progresses, the activities will be recorded through photos and work samples, then displayed on the pin board under the school near the tuckshop.

Acts of Kindness are of enormous benefit, not only for the receiver, but also for the giver! Well done to all of our students for the selfless effort they are putting into their Acts of Kindness. Let’s keep it up this week and beyond, living as Jesus taught us…loving one another.

God Bless,
Mrs Deonne Crowe
From the Sports Desk of Mrs Hart

Athletics Carnival
Our Athletics Pre Carnival Events will be held this Friday 31st July. These Events are our Field Events: Long Jump, High Jump and Shot Put along with our 800m event. Our 9 - 12 year old students are involved in Friday’s events. The timetable of events is again included in this weeks Newsletter, which outlines times of events for each of the Age Groups. Please be advised that the times are approximate and if events finish early, we will automatically start the next event.

The Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 3rd August. Students have been preparing for this Carnival in their Sports Lessons and excitement will be high as they participate in their individual and team events throughout the course of the day.

Our 5 - 8 year old Students will participate in a Sprint Race, High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Put Rotations and a Relay. 5 and 6 year old Students will run a distance of 60m and 7 and 8 year olds will run 80m in their respective Sprint Races.

9 - 12 year old students will participate in a 200m Heat, a 100m Heat and a Relay. Those 9 - 12 year old students with the fastest times in the 200m and 100m event will also go on to compete in a Final of these two events.

A Program of events for both the 5 - 8 years and 9 - 12 years students has again been included in this weeks Newsletter.

Parents, grandparents and family members are welcome to come along and cheer on their budding Athletes as they showcase their Athletic performances throughout the duration of our Athletics Carnival.

We will be looking for a few Parent Helpers with Time Keeping and Recording on Monday 3rd August. If you are able to assist on the day could you please notify Mrs Cookson in the Main Office by the end of this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 – 8 Yrs Boys &amp; Girls</th>
<th>Monday 3rd August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>Bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>March Past (Start at 100m finish line &amp; march to 100m start line where War Cries will be done.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 – 10.00</td>
<td>Class Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 – 10.30</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.00</td>
<td>High Jump, Long Jump, Novelty Events (10 min Rotations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 - 12.45</td>
<td>Lunch (Under Lunch Shed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>Organise Relay Teams. Teams of 4 – Leichhardt, Warrego students (may be boys/girls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15 – 1.30</td>
<td>Relays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 – 2.20</td>
<td>Class Time – Pack Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Presentations on Parade</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>9 - 12 Yrs Boys &amp; Girls</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>9 - 12 Yrs Pre-Events</th>
<th>Friday 31st July</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>800m</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.45 – 9.45</td>
<td>2003 (12yrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 – 11.00</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 12.00</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 – 1.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>1.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>2004</td>
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