Dear Parents/Carers,

Family Week - This week is ‘Family Week’. Students have been engaged in lessons specific to their year level about their bodies. As per the information that came home last week, the lessons are derived from the Health and Physical Education syllabus (Australian Curriculum) and the Guidelines for Teaching Sexual Health for primary students. In conjunction with these lessons, students have been discussing the ‘Confidence’ and ‘Habits of Mind’ associated with the ‘You Can Do It’ program. Each class will be presenting what they believe being confident means to them tomorrow morning on assembly.

Prep interviews – This week saw the beginning of our prep interviews for 2017. This is an exciting time for our pre – prep students and their parents. It is also an exciting and informative time for me as I conduct these interviews. I learnt about the children and their families and gained important feedback around possible future directions for our school.

A common question coming from these interviews is, “What can I do to better prepare my child for their first year?” The answer is invariably around what parents are already doing – talking with their children. This is one way of building a child’s receptive language capabilities. Receptive language is the ability to understand words and language. This cannot be done without interaction with others that use language well. In other words, television or other technological devices do not count. Children that have poorly developed receptive language on arriving into the school setting have difficulty following instructions, consolidating routines and forming peer appropriate relationships.

Receptive communication is very important in the 0-5 years development range. “The language experiences that children have before they start school form multiple and powerful brain connections. These connections are used for language, thinking and understanding. Without activities like talking, singing and reading, the brain doesn’t develop this rich network of connections.”

Other activities that promote these important language skills could include;

- Naming items when looking at books or shopping together
- Discussing day to day activities by prompting your child to describe best parts of their day.
- Asking why and how.
- Explain new words that they are curious about.
- Explain new concepts in different ways in response to questions that are spark from curiosity.
- Playing games like ‘Simon Says’ can reinforce names of body parts and build the capacity to follow instructions.
- Talk about the pictures in books and ask them to tell you what might happen next **

The acquisition of these skills in the early years makes for a smoother transition into formal schooling for your child. If you have any further questions about the development of these skills please do not hesitate to talk to our teachers or to your current kindergarten teacher.

*http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/developing_literacy.html#communicating
** Adapted from :http://www.childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/understanding-language/receptive-language#whatisit

Acting Principal – The next two weeks sees me taking some leave to spend some time with my family. Miss Karine Preston will be the Acting Principal in this time. I know that the school will be in good hands and that the community will support Karine in this experience.

God Bless

Tyronne Maher
Principal

‘The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.’

Helen Keller

Read more at: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/helenkelle101301.html?srcht_inspirational

35 Arnold Street (PO Box 47) Allora Qld 4362  Phone: 4666 3551 Email: allora@twb.catholic.edu.au
Website: http://www.allora.catholic.edu.au
School News

**Book Week Celebrations** — The students put on quite the show last Friday during the ‘Book Week’ dress up parade. Students were encouraged to dress up as a character from their favourite book. These were later judged by Father Rod where students not only had to look the part, but also needed to be able to tell our ‘judge’ something about the book their character came from. While all of the students (and parents) did a great job, the students pictured below impressed Father Rod with both their costumes and the information they were able to provide. Everyone received an ice- block for their efforts and the winners each received a book prize.

**Author Visit** — Yesterday the students thoroughly enjoyed a visit from author and illustrator Stephen Axelsen. Stephen interacted with the children telling them about the different books he has written and the creative processes behind these creations before taking them through a short drawing workshop. The children were engaged and highly involved in this rich learning experience. Thank you Mr Axelsen.

**Darling Downs Athletics** — Congratulations to eight of our students that have been nominated to compete in the Darling Downs Athletics Carnival next week in Toowoomba. This is a magnificent achievement for our school. Joshua Hagenbach, Georgia Pendergast, Elia Hagenbach, Jack Wright, George Nott, Emily Phelan, Billy Mutch and Amy Morris were all successful in gaining nomination. We wish them good luck at next Tuesday’s carnival when they represent the Southern Downs District.

**Southern Downs Cricket Trials** — Three of our students; Jed Esson, George Nott and Joshua Hagenbach; trialed to attend the Darling Downs country cricket trials. Reports from convenors suggest that the skill level was high and the behaviour was exceptional. Well done to all three of the boys. A special congratulations goes to Joshua Hagenbach who will attend the trials in Stanthorpe tomorrow. Good luck Joshua.

**Softball Success** — A very tired Charlotte Close returned to us this week after a long weekend of competition in Brisbane in the Queensland Schools Softball Championships. She reports that the time played well and that her experience was a positive one. Being a part of representative team is a wonderful achievement and we heartily congratulate Charlotte.
Parish News

LITURGY TIMES
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH – MASS 9AM
2ND, 3RD SUNDAY OF 
MONTH – MASS 5pm (for 
winter)
4TH, 5TH SUNDAY OF 
MONTH – LITURGY OF THE 
WORD – 9 AM

PERUVIAN LUNCHEON
Friday 2nd September 12noon

Handmade items For Sale
Handmade items directly from 
areas near Peru and Lemur will be 
available for purchase tomorrow 
(Friday 2nd September) on the 
verandah of the Parish Function 
Room.
The Sisters of St Josephs will bring 
along beautiful bags, scarfs and a 
variety of children’s items, all 
profits go directly back into 
supporting the nuns to care for 
the disadvantaged in South 
America.

Sacramental Preparation
2016
Sarah Brown, Ashlee Henry, Mia 
McArthur, Georgia Pendergast, 
Jack Phelan, Aliza Schelbach, 
Mackenzie Seng and Atticus 
Sullivan will make their 
Confirmation tomorrow night and 
First Eucharist on Sunday 
morning.
The Sacrament of Confirmation 
will be celebrated on 
Friday 2 September 6:00pm 
St James and St John’s 
Church Clifton and First Holy 
communion on Sunday 4th 
September 9am Mass St 
Patrick’s Allora

Family Mass Term 4 
9am
Sunday 6th November

Next Meeting- Wednesday 14th September from 7pm in the Library.

Last Tuckshop for Term 3
Friday 16th September Sweet Treat 
baker required, please contact Kirsty 
Gibson or the school office.
What’s Happening at St Patrick’s Allora?

Before we celebrate Father’s Day on Sunday, let us define the word Father. After all, understanding this word is essential to understanding why we celebrate Father’s Day.

- The word Father is a noun.
- He is a slayer of dragons and other creatures, that we may come across during the night.
- He is a coach of all sports and teacher of all subjects.
- He is the kind and generous owner of the big wallet and the magic car.
- He is the person you go to for permission after Mum has said, “No!”
- He is the only one who thinks dancing in public like no one is watching, is cool.
- He is the person who requires really big shed, or man cave to be truly happy.
- He is the sole individual who possesses the remote control and recliner chair, throughout any televised sporting event, news program, or movie.
- He is the person responsible for eventually teaching us to drive. After all, we would all like drive like our dads, rather than our mums!
- He is a son’s first hero and a daughter’s first love.

We wish all Dads, Grandfathers, Uncles and those significant males in our lives, a Happy Father’s Day!

DATE CLAIMERS- 2016

Sept 2  Confirmation—6:00pm Clifton St James and St John’s Church.
Sept 4  First Holy Communion
Sept 13 Next Early Years Play Date
Sept 14  P&F Meeting 7pm
Sept 16  End of Term 3

Oct 4  Start of Term 4
Oct 6  Prep 2017 Orientation 8.30am to 11.15am
Oct 17  Pupil Free Day
Oct 20  Prep 2017 Orientation 8.30am to 11.15am
Oct 21  FETE
Nov 6  Family Mass 9am
Dec 2  End of Term 4