Delightful news came through to staff late last week of the birth of baby Thea, a beautiful daughter and first child for Year 5/Physical Education teacher, Mrs Armstrong and his wife Tamara. We thank God for Thea’s safe arrival for two very happy parents and their families.

Please find an informative ‘Tips for Parents’ information sheet accompanying this newsletter. This sheet was recently sourced by members of our P&F Executive at a Queensland P&F Federation Meeting. I might just send a copy to Mr Armstrong during his two weeks of paternity leave!

Toys are wonderful items to be enjoyed by children in and around their homes. Please ensure that children do not bring toys to school so that upset through damage or loss can be avoided.

We are currently in the midst of Semester 1 Parent/Teacher Interviews and I thank the large majority of parents who were quick to liaise with teachers in organising these important, compulsory gatherings. Please attend to interview organisation as a matter of urgency if you haven’t done so already.

My thanks to parents of students in Year 3, 5 and 7 who have responded to the school’s Support Teacher - Inclusive Education (STIE), Mrs Vargas-Malby, regarding permitted NAPLAN adjustments. Responses from relevant parents are preferred for return prior to the upcoming holidays.

Excitement continues to build around the Term 1 St Joseph’s School Disco for all students which occurs tomorrow night in the school hall from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Easter Raffle donations continue to flow into the school office and again I thank those families who have contributed. A reminder that the raffle draw occurs next Wednesday 2 April.

The last day of Term 1, Friday 4 April, promises to be highly enjoyable for students, with the Annual St Joseph’s Cross Country Carnival being held, as well as our final Tuckshop Day for the term. Parents are encouraged to support both happenings if personal circumstances allow. Again, further details follow, as well as, next week’s CARITAS fundraising information.

St Joseph staff work exceptionally hard and when opportunity for renewal presents itself, they are entitled to access well-earned leave. Our best wishes go with the following staff who will soon access leave entitlements: Mrs Moorton (31/3 – 4/4); Mrs Haran (1/4 – 9/5) and Mrs Fenner (2/4 – 4/4). We welcome Mrs Skerman, Mrs Adams and Ms Lawler as their respective replacements.

Holy Week is still some time away, however, related reflections will occur for students as a conclusion to the school day next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the hall. Parents, relatives and friends of St Joseph’s are invited to attend each afternoon from 2.40pm.

God of Mercy, you call us into this, our Lenten journey, to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ. Renew us, strengthen us and grant us peace as your faithful servants.

With Courage, Faith and Love
Stephen Johnson
HOLY WEEK – A WEEK SET APART FROM THE REST

Holy means "set apart." A holy person is someone doing great things in the name of God and is special in this regard. Christians set apart an entire week - Holy Week - to recall the events surrounding the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. The liturgies of Holy Week are filled with some of the richest and most ancient symbols of the Catholic faith. The time from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Day is also known as the Triduum, which is Latin for “three days.”

Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday), the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.
Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday), the institution of Communion and the betrayal by Judas.
Good Friday, the arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus Christ.
Holy Saturday, the Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the grave.

Even though Holy Week falls in the holidays this year we will take time to reflect, at the end of the day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week, on these important parts of the Easter story.

EARTH HOUR 2014 – AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH A SACRIFICE

On Saturday March 29th at 8:30pm, millions of people across the world are switching off lights for one hour - to celebrate their commitment to the planet. In my home on that night we will also be switching off all screens. This is part of the sacrifice made with our Lenten promise. During the couple of hours before bed we have no TV, no computers and no devices switched on. We have played board games, read books, discussed important and unimportant family stuff, cooked and eaten new foods, gone for walks, prayed and hung out together. This sacrifice has allowed us to become closer to each other and to God. We often begin the screen free time with a reflection on why we are doing it and a chat about how our Lenten journey is progressing. I invite you to try it this weekend and perhaps to do it now and again. I recommend it!

GOLDEN GNOME

Golden Gnome: 1st–4F, 1F  . 2nd–4C, 2F  . 3rd– 2C

Dear Parents……………………about your Leonardo - MARY MCBRIDE

The top 10 skills that children learn from the arts This was written by Lisa Phillips, an American writer, who is an author, blog journalist, arts and leadership educator, speaker and business owner. We have been talking about the importance of the ability of being able to focus quite often lately in the art room. As quoted below recent research has shown that participation in the arts improves children’s abilities to concentrate and focus in other aspects of their lives.

1. Creativity – Being able to think on your feet, approach tasks from different perspectives and think ‘outside of the box’ will distinguish your child from others. In an arts program, your child might be asked to recite a monologue in 6 different ways, create a painting that represents a memory, or compose a new rhythm to enhance a piece of music. If children have practice thinking creatively, it will come naturally to them now and in their future career.

2. Confidence – The skills developed through theatre, not only train you how to convincingly deliver a message, but also build the confidence you need to take command of the stage. Theatre training gives children practice stepping out of their comfort zone and allows them to make mistakes and learn from them in rehearsal. This process gives children the confidence to perform in front of large audiences.

3. Problem Solving – Artistic creations are born through the solving of problems. How do I turn this clay into a sculpture? How do I portray a particular emotion through dance? How will my character react in this situation? Without even realizing it kids that participate in the arts are consistently being challenged to solve problems. All this practice problem solving develops children’s skills in reasoning and understanding. This will help develop important problem-solving skills necessary for success in any career.

4. Perseverance – When a child picks up a violin for the first time, she/he knows that playing Bach right away is not an option; however, when that child practices, learns the skills and techniques and doesn’t give up, that Bach concerto is that much closer. In an increasingly competitive world, where people are being asked to continually develop new skills, perseverance is essential to achieving success.

5. Focus – The ability to focus is a key skill developed through ensemble work. Keeping a balance between listening and contributing involves a great deal of concentration and focus. It requires each participant to not only think about their role, but how their role contributes to the big picture of what is being created. Recent research has shown that participation in the arts improves children’s abilities to concentrate and focus in other aspects of their lives.

6. Non-Verbal Communication – Through experiences in theatre and dance education, children learn to breakdown the mechanics of body language. They experience different ways of moving and how those movements communicate different emotions. They are then coached in performance skills to ensure they are portraying their character effectively to the audience.
7. Receiving Constructive Feedback – Receiving constructive feedback about a performance or visual art piece is a regular part of any arts instruction. Children learn that feedback is part of learning and it is not something to be offended by or to be taken personally. It is something helpful. The goal is the improvement of skills and evaluation is incorporated at every step of the process. Each arts discipline has built in parameters to ensure that critique is a valuable experience and greatly contributes to the success of the final piece.

8. Collaboration – Most arts disciplines are collaborative in nature. Through the arts, children practice working together, sharing responsibility, and compromising with others to accomplish a common goal. When a child has a part to play in a music ensemble, or a theatre or dance production, they begin to understand that their contribution is necessary for the success of the group. Through these experiences children gain confidence and start to learn that their contributions have value even if they don’t have the biggest role.

9. Dedication – When kids get to practice following through with artistic endeavours that result in a finished product or performance, they learn to associate dedication with a feeling of accomplishment. They practice developing healthy work habits of being on time for rehearsals and performances, respecting the contributions of others, and putting effort into the success of the final piece. In the performing arts, the reward for dedication is the warm feeling of an audience’s applause that comes rushing over you, making all your efforts worthwhile.

10. Accountability – When children practice creating something collaboratively they get used to the idea that their actions affect other people. They learn that when they are not prepared or on-time, that other people suffer. Through the arts, children also learn that it is important to admit that you made a mistake and take responsibility for it. Because mistakes are a regular part of the process of learning in the arts, children begin to see that mistakes happen. We acknowledge them, learn from them and move on.

YEARS 2—KIDS GO FRESH & HEALTHY

The students from Year 2 are well on their way to eating all their vegetables after attending a Brisbane Produce Market Kids Go Fresh & Healthy presentation recently.

The information session was a fun way to promote healthy eating choices to our Year 2 students. The students learnt how many serves of fruit and vegetables to eat every day, the different parts of the plant vegetables come from, and they also taste-tested some fruit and vegetables they may not have tried before. The students each received a healthy eating goodie pack, including a banana to give them lots of energy to get through their day. The Brisbane Produce Market also brought along some delicious fruit and vegetables for the students to taste. Overall, the fruit and vegetables got a big ‘thumbs up’.

YEARS 3—BERRINBA WETLANDS EXCURSION

Last Thursday, Year 3 went to Berrinba Wetlands as part of our Science Curriculum. We explored living things and participated in a nature walk where we spotted pelicans, termite nests, many trees, shrubs, birds and nests. We had a great time!

SPORT

Cross Country Carnival

Next Friday (April 4) is our school Cross Country Carnival. The carnival will begin at 9.00am. All races will begin on the oval. Years 2 to 7 will run outside of the oval for part of their race. Due to construction at Trinity College some of the race courses have been changed from previous years. The students will be shown their course in the PE lesson next week. We hope you can come and watch the students participate! A note outlining the carnival and what students need to wear and bring will be sent home this week.

Zone II Catholic Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday at the Sleeman Sports Centre, Chandler 21 Students from years 3-7 represented St Joseph’s at the Zone II Catholic Swimming Carnival. All students need to be congratulated on the way in which they represented the school, their
Sportsmanship and willingness to give different events a go. Thank you to the many students that were willing to swim up into older age groups. This allowed St Joseph’s to field a swimmer in all individual events, but also in a significant number of relay events. Special congratulations to Andrew Kennedy (Year 6), for his first place in 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly; Sasha Clark (Year 6) for her third place in 50m Breaststroke and Jacob Huth (Year 7) for his third place in the 50m Breaststroke. Thank you to Mrs Cole for your organisation and marshalling of students on the day and to all the parents who helped with transport to and from the pool. It was great to be able to observe from the pool deck the positive spirit and enthusiasm that St Joseph’s students brought on the day, cheering their friends on and trying their very best. Well done!

LIBRARY NEWS—FRIENDLY REMINDER

A friendly reminder that all library books are due back before the holidays.

P&F NEWS

A reminder that all Easter Raffle tickets are due back by 9am Wednesday April 2 to ensure your child is in their class draw. For all parents involved in Wakakirri, from next week the multipurpose room will be available during rehearsal time for you to assist your child with their homework including Mathletics and Literacy Planet. Tea and coffee facilities are also available. The P&F would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire St Joeys community for the enormous support and generosity you have all shown during this term toward all P & F fundraising initiatives. Not only have these events been a financial success but they also have promoted our sense of school spirit and community. Thankyou, Angela Houghton

ST JOSEPH’S FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

Last weekend saw around 50 parents, students and friends of St Joseph’s pack up the car and head for a fun filled weekend away at Moogerah Lake near Boonah. We were extremely blessed with some fantastic weather and even better company. The weekend saw parents and children from Prep to Year 7 make new friendships and build on existing ones. Children had a great time swimming in the lake, playing in the mud and jumping off the rock ledge into the very deep lagoon, as well as boating and fishing the weekend away. Of an evening we all gathered around the camp fire and a highlight would have had to have been Saturday nights Talent Show, which saw singing, dancing, magic and comedy acts trying their best to entertain the audience. Thanks once again to all those that made the weekend a memorable one and we always love to see new faces and they are certainly always welcome. Keep your eyes out for the next family camping weekend!

YEAR 6 & 7 - CARITAS FUNDRAISER

*Caritas Fundraiser – ‘House Days’*

The Year 6 and 7 students have been working hard to prepare some ‘House Days’ as a fundraiser for Caritas and also to build some house spirit in the lead up to Cross Country.

On either Tuesday (MacKillop - Green), Wednesday (O’Shea - Blue) or Thursday (Steele – Red) next week each house will have a day when they will have organised activities at Lunch and Snack. Students will be able to purchase tickets on the morning and then use these as admission to the different activities. Activities will run in the hall and shed and at the mango trees and on the oval, each house will also be selling some food/drink items however students will need to still bring their usual lunch. Please encourage your children to bring along a few dollars to have some fun and support Caritas at the same time. There will be activities ranging from face painting to obstacle courses, discos and ball game, there is sure to be something for everyone.

On your children’s allocated house day only, they will be able to wear their house coloured shirt, colour their hair or have coloured zinc on. Dress up in a crazy house coloured outfit to support your house and be proud of being part of your team!

If you are able to assist with donations of prizes (small toys, lollies, etc etc), arts and craft materials, or baking (all houses are selling some kind of food goods and would appreciate donations of cupcakes, slices or other individual food items) drop me an email (jokeeffe@bne.catholic.edu.au) and let me know which house you would be able to support. They would very much appreciate it.