7 February 2017

From the Principal

Last Friday afternoon/evening’s Welcome BBQ was extremely well supported by families and I offer my thanks to those who were able to come along and informally welcome in the new school year. Particular thanks to parent, Belinda Thompson, for leading the organisation.

The Parents and Friends (P&F) Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held tonight in the school library, commencing 7.00pm. All are welcome, especially families who are new to the school this year. Cheese and wine on arrival!

The Year 1 to 6 Parent Information Night is scheduled for next Monday, and I trust that all parents make the effort to come along and lay a solid foundation for strong partnerships with teachers in 2017. The evening commences at 6.00pm, with a plenary gathering in the hall.

Also next Monday, four students will be representing our school at the Pacific Rim District Swimming Carnival. We offer our best wishes to these students and again thank Mr Armstrong for his organisation.

As well next Monday, Fitness Club commences. Mr Armstrong and Mr Buckley will soon distribute a related letter to Year 2 to 6 parents. Please note that another morning activity, Homework Help, will cease to exist in its previous form, however, the library will be open and available to students each morning from 8.10 for online or and/or book work, or just to read. Parents who wish to learn more about our school’s two major online resources for students, i.e. Literacy Planet and Mathletics, will soon be invited to a related library workshop. Please keep an eye out for this invitation.

Term 1 Tuition Fees and Charges will be issued later this week and prompt payment would be greatly appreciated as the school manages its ongoing cash flow demands. Again, please note that a discount is available to families who are able to settle the whole of their 2017 fees and charges by 28 February. Please contact our Finance Secretary, Mrs Mendo, if you’d like more detail on this discount offer.

Please note that a few students in our school community have a severe food allergy to nuts, coconuts and eggs. Any exposure to these products may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. A safe school environment is sought for all students, hence, it is not encouraged that foods which contain nuts, coconuts and/or eggs are brought to school. Also, if your child has eaten such food before school, please be sure that their hands and face are thoroughly washed. Your anticipated support regarding this important request is greatly appreciated.

Although many of our school’s senior students go onto Trinity College for a quality Catholic secondary education, families with students in Year 3 to 6 will soon be receiving a Brisbane Catholic Secondary Schools Guide, which has been provided to our school for general information purposes. Perhaps some of our families have relatives and/or friends living closer to Brisbane’s CBD who will be interested in this publication.

Yesterday, the final Royal Commission hearing into the Catholic Church began. Please find the transcript of a related video message from Brisbane Archbishop, Mark Coleridge, in a latter section of this newsletter.

Yesterday, school staff received notification of the passing of Neil Betts, the father of Pam Betts, Brisbane Catholic Education’s Executive Director. We pray that Neil finds eternal rest in God’s loving care.

With Courage, Faith and Love
Stephen Johnson
FROM THE APRE - PETER LOVEGROVE

Our Co-Founders and Our Core Values
Last week I wrote of the core values we have in the school which we all strive to exhibit in our daily lives here at St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School. I mentioned our three co-founders and the core values we attach to them. Sometimes, those of us who have been around for a while forget that people new to the school may not know the history of the school. That we call “Our Story”. Our story combines the events in history and the influences that have shaped our school as part of the Christian story, Catholic story, Australian story and Beenleigh story.
This prompted me to write a short biography of the people who started and influenced our story for our Parent Handbook.

St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School
The name of our school is determined by our co-founders. That is, the people from whom our traditions and history are sourced.

St Joseph
St Joseph is the father of Jesus. He was called upon by God to support Mary, the mother of Jesus, by being her husband. He was a man who plied his trade as a carpenter in the small village of Nazareth, in the area known as Judea. This village is now in the northern part of Israel. The characteristics we associate with St Joseph are humility, compassion, love and support of family, hard-working and reliable. He is the patron saint of families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general. His feast is on March 19.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
The name of our school and many other Catholic school’s is related to the connection St Mary MacKillop and her religious sisters had with St Joseph. Mary MacKillop founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph with Father Julian Tennyson-Woods in 1866. As the Sisters of St Joseph brought Catholic education to the poor and marginalised across the country they established in cities and country towns. This pioneering work of beginning Catholic education resulted in the naming of many schools “St Joseph’s”. Our school was staffed by the sisters from 1953 until 1994. She is the patron saint of Australia and Brisbane. Her feast is August 8.

The Rats of Tobruk (Monsignor Owen Steele)
During the Second World War Allied soldiers fought against German and Italian troops in North Africa in 1941. These soldiers held the key port of Tobruk for almost nine months against a superior force of Germans led by General Rommel. Serving with the Australian soldiers was Father Owen Steele. He was an army chaplain. Upon his return to Australia he was appointed as the parish priest to this area. He established a boarding school in honour of the men he served with. During the “Siege of Tobruk” the Allied soldiers were named the “Rats of Tobruk” in German propaganda. It was meant to be an insult but the soldiers took on the name with pride. Monsignor Steele was also the man responsible for setting up Boystown. This place helped young men at risk get back on their feet. We commemorate the beginning of the siege on 10 April and the end of the siege on November 27.
They are great characters and really add life to our story. I hope you appreciate who they are and what they have achieved. They are certainly worth Googling to find out more.
ON A MUSICAL NOTE - RENUKA HARAN

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS
Lessons will commence this week. Teachers, days and expectation are as follows:
GUITAR - Mr Michael Smith - Tuesday and Friday. Students will need their own guitar.
WOODWIND/BRASS - Mrs Kylie Chivers - Wednesday. Students need their own instrument and maybe able to loan an instrument.
KEYBOARD - Mrs Soosila Hillman - Wednesday.
STRINGS - Miss Anasuya Datta - Thursday. Students will need their own instrument and maybe able to loan an instrument.
DRUMS - Mr Patrick Stevens - Thursday and Friday. Students will need their own drum sticks.

All fees must be paid within 2 weeks of receiving the invoice. If not, lessons will cease. Teachers rely on this as their income. Please see your child’s instrumental teacher if this is a concern.

CHOIR
Congratulations to all the children who auditioned to be a part of the school choir. Students were expected to sing in pitch (in tune) and to be able to project their voices by being able to be heard. Both Mrs Giebels and I were very impressed by the quality of singing at our school.

However, due to limited numbers all students are unable to join and some students will need a little more time for their voices to develop. I would like to see all unsuccessful students to try again next year. All successful will be given a note to take home to parents.

The 1st choir practice is on Wednesday after snack. Once in the choir, students are expected to remain until the end of the year. Harmonies and melodies are learnt with all participants being involved as a team and as one choir. I look forward to working with the singers.

SPORTS NEWS - MATTHEW ARMSTRONG

Another year of sport is just beginning for the students of St Joseph’s. Currently there is plenty in the works - and students are being provided with notes and information as it comes to hand.

Fitness Club – Running on a Monday and Wednesday morning, Joeys Fitness Club is a fun way to start your day. These mornings are designed to be enjoyable, but to also help students improve their general fitness, strength and running ability. The club will run for the majority of the year. Permission notes need to be completed before students attend the club and can be found at the front office.

Pacific District Swimming - We wish to congratulate Ryan Kennedy, Locky Buchbach, Rhylee Jackson and Savannah Paniagua all the best for Monday 13 February as they head to the Sleeman Aquatic Centre to take on the best Pacific Rim has to offer. We hope all the training, effort and energy they’ve put into their swimming helps them towards a successful and enjoyable day.

Pacific District Sport – Students born ’05, ’06 & ’07 are eligible for selection in Pacific Rim District sports.

Pacific Rim District sport is the first step in the pathway for higher school sport representation (i.e. Qld selection). If you have any queries on this please contact me via email. There are a number of trials taking place in Term 1 with Rugby League, Hockey and Netball occurring over the next two weeks. Good luck to all St Joseph’s students who have nominated for these trials.

Catholic Zone Sport – We will again be participating in Catholic Zone Sport in 2017. Catholic Zone Sport is an association of Catholic schools located south of the Brisbane River, with St Joseph’s it’s most southerly member. We participate in the big three, Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. These events are designed to increase participation and enjoyment of sport by students. These events are not selection trials for further teams, however records are kept for events. Students have the opportunity to be selected for these events via our school sports carnivals. Students born ‘05, ’06, ’07 & ’08 are eligible for selection in these teams.

Gala Day Sport – Students in Year 5 and 6 will participate in the Beenleigh Zone Gala Day sports program.
Each semester there are 5 Gala Days occurring where interschool competition takes place in a number of sports. Students have already chosen their sports and notes will be coming home in the coming days notifying you of your child’s choice. We are currently waiting on confirmation of venues before these notes go out, in an attempt to keep parents as informed as possible. Semester 1 sports are; Netball, Girls Touch, Rugby League and Soccer. Dates: 10 17, 24 March, 21 and 28 April.
If you have any queries on anything sport, please get in touch with me at matthew.armstrong@bne.catholic.edu.au

TERM 1, WEEK 2 AWARDS

LITERACY PLANET (Week 2 and 3 awards to be published next week)

MATHLETICS

Gold – Jonah Madsen, Jace Higgins
Silver – Paige Heath, Hannah Morrissey, Archie Dougherty

SUPER LEARNING HEROES

Prep C: River Towell
1C: Delilah Morris
2C: Jack Umstad
3C: Shea Mason
4C: Ava McErlean
5C: Karmyn Helmore
6C: Khai Barnes

Prep F: Nic Souvannasing
1F: Jasley Furlanis
2F: Sienna Ilott
3F: Zachary Moody
4F: Sophia Dougherty
5F: Alfred Joy

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

PC: Max Curtis
1C: Sonny Bates
2C: Riley Loiselle
3C: Poni Nysaruk
4C: Loren Zajac
5C: Montana Ruhlhand
6C: Tahlia Caruana

PF: Tommas Smith
1F: Cooper Mason
2F: Eli Buttigieg
3F: Ava Rossman
4F: Coen Snelling
5F: Hannah Beckett

GOLDEN GNOME AWARDS

1st, 2nd and 3rd —THE WHOLE SCHOOL !! - WELL DONE

This is a weekly award for a class or classes who best leave their area tidy and ready for cleaning. i.e: chairs up and everything off the floor. Award winners are published each week and the overall points are tallied at the end of Term 4. The class or classes with the most points, earn themselves a pizza lunch at year’s end.
SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

SR JENNY – SCHOOL PASTORAL WORKER

The Seasons for Growth Program (Good Grief Program), is an Australian based program for children who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. These losses can include the loss of a parent or significant other (e.g. grandparents, siblings, etc) through death or separation. It also includes the loss of a parent or significant other through separation or divorce. This program aims to educate children who are experiencing grief to assist them to understand that the reactions associated with their losses are normal. It also helps children to develop skills for coping, problem solving and decision-making and for building peer support networks thus aiding the restoration of self-confidence and self-esteem. The Seasons for Growth Program is a whole school Program catering for children who are experiencing grief in Years 2 to 6.

Sr Jenny will offer this program starting the week beginning 6th March. Which year levels it will be offered to will be determined by parent response to the form at the bottom of this program outline.

I will contact parents/caregivers to let them know which year level will be involved. Please place the signed permission form in an envelope marked for Sr Jenny’s attention and return to the school office.

I can be contacteded Tuesday to Friday at St Joseph’s if you wish to know more about this program.

Thank you,

Sr Jenny Scari

School Pastoral Worker

PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE: Attention SR JENNY

PERMISSION FORM FOR THE SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

Child’s Name ___________________________________________ Year Level ____________

Grief Situation (e.g. Divorce, death) __________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

I give permission for my child to attend this program.

Parent Signature ____________________________________________________________
TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

RE: THE FINAL HEARINGS INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THE ROYAL COMMISSION

By now the Royal Commission into the institutional abuse of the young is into its fourth year. It’s been a long and agonising but very important journey for the Church and for many others as well.

On Monday the 6th of February, the final hearing into the Catholic Church will begin and it will go for about three weeks. It seems I will appear a number of times through that final hearing.
In those weeks, the Royal Commission will try to do two things:

- It will ask the question, first of all, what has the Church learnt from the experience of the Royal Commission? What have we done on the basis of what we’ve learnt and what will we do in the future? That’s a very important question.
- Secondly, the Royal Commission will ask what were the cultural factors that led to the abuse in the Church and to the mishandling of the abuse by Church leaders? That, too, is a very important question because it’s not enough to change procedures and protocols. That has to happen.

But we have to shift the culture. And that’s a much more difficult thing to do.

So, that’s why that second question – what were the cultural factors – is again a very important one.

Through these three weeks there will be some grim moments and there will be some shocks, inevitably. But there will also be a chance to tell a better story of what has been done and what is being done now and what will be done in the future to ensure that the future is very much better than the past.

We say this is the final hearing into the Catholic Church but, in fact, there will be a story to be told beyond the final hearing. The Commission will present its report at the end of the year and that will be important. But it will also have a long tail. The journey will continue long after the final report has been published.

So, I invite all of you to join me on the journey through the three weeks of this final hearing and the journey that stretches before us beyond that, so that together we can do everything possible to ensure a better future for the Church; a better future particularly for young people; and even more particularly for those who have survived abuse. That justice and healing may be done to them.

So, a better future for them and for the whole of society as well.
PARISH YOUTH NEWS

Something new is happening! We’re going to have a Young Adults meeting every Wednesday night in the church from 7.30 – 8.30pm (after Mass). It will include Praise and Worship, Scripture study, prayer and discussion. If you’re in your late teens, twenties or thirties, come and join us!

Our first United Youth meeting for this year will be on Friday, February 10th. 5.30pm – 8.30pm in the St Joseph’s School Hall for ages 10 to 20something.

Youth Masses: Sunday 19th February at 9am, with practice at 8am. If you’d like to join us in ministry at any of our Youth Masses, please let me know.

Band practice: Tuesday nights from 7-8.30pm in the office.

Cathy 0400 494 943 youth.beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au

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**CALL 0452 277 033**

$45 lifetime Membership Includes Uniform

**ONE WEEK FREE TRIAL!!!**

**Self-Discipline**

**Self-Confidence**

**Self Defence**

**AGES 4+**

**St Josephs Primary School**
53 Kokoda St, Beenleigh
Mon & Wed 3:15pm to 4:15pm

**Logan Reserve State School**
369-379 School Rd, Logan Reserve
Fri 3:15pm to 4:15pm

**Bethania - Community Centre**
118 Station Rd, Bethania
Thursday 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Ormeau**
Norfolk Village State School
83 Halfway Drive, Ormeau
Sat 9:00am to 10:00am


joe@defensivetactics.com.au

For Non Members only, can’t be used in conjunction with any other offers.
StUDENT TRAVEL REBATES
SEMESTER 1, 2017

Bus – Ferry Fare Assistance
- Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
- Does your family spend more than $33/week* on fares to and from school (* $25/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?
- Does your child live more than 3.2km for Primary or 4.8km for Secondary from their school?

Students With Disability
- Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
- Does your child have a travel capability rating of ‘semi-independent’, ‘travel assisted’, ‘dependent’, or ‘more dependent’?

What you need to do now:
1. Check eligibility for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport at www.schooltransport.com.au
2. If eligible:
   a) keep your public transport receipts to lodge a claim
   b) note in your calendar to lodge a rebate claim in May and October

BMX AUSTRALIA

2017 NATIONAL SIGN ON DAY

YOUR LOCAL CLUB IS AT:
Doug Larsen Park
corner of Boundary and Logan Streets Beenleigh

DATE TO COME AND TRY:
Sunday
19th Feb 2017
11am – 1pm

CONTACT:
Darryl Stewart
0430 763 891
beenleighbmx@hotmail.com

GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE

St Joseph’s Beenleigh
Newsletter 7 February 2017