Dear Parents

FIRE AT ST MARY’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – BEAUDESERT
On Sunday morning around 1am, the principal at St Mary’s Beaudesert got that dreaded phone call that one of his school buildings was on fire. You would have perhaps seen and heard some coverage in the media. Having been through it all ourselves on 21 October 2006, we can truly empathise with Tim Stinson (Principal), Fr Bernie Gallagher (Parish Priest) and the St Mary’s school and parish communities. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this very difficult time. I contacted Tim on Monday and said that we would be in touch regarding the offer of some support. I am suggesting that we take down to the school a special staff morning tea and run a sausage sizzle for the kids on a day that is suitable for them. I would like the assistance of parents who can offer their time to assist and the attendance of our school captains. If you can donate items towards our staff care package (biscuits, slice, donuts, wine, coffee pods, chips etc), please drop them in at the office and say ‘care package for St Mary’s’. Please let me know if you can spare a day to assist with the sausage sizzle – I can’t tell you a date as yet.

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS ON FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
For over 180 years, Catholic schools have educated children in Australia. Today, Catholic schools enrol 735,000 students in 1,706 schools across the country. Both major parties have committed to increases in school funding over the next four years. It is important to understand the facts about funding for Catholic schools.

One-in-five Australian students currently attend a Catholic school. Catholic schools have a strong social justice mission to form well-rounded individuals who make a positive contribution to their local communities. A strong Catholic education system contributes to a strong Australian community.

All governments provide important funding for Catholic schools along with families who contribute to the costs of Catholic education through fees and fundraising. According to the Australian Government’s My School website, Catholic students receive, on average, 20 per cent less government funding than students in government schools. Even when parent fees are taken into consideration, Catholic schools operate with an average of 10 per cent less recurrent funding than government schools.

Even with fewer resources per student, the Australian Catholic school system is amongst the best in the world, compared to Shanghai, Finland and Singapore on international tests, for student performance across all socio-economic backgrounds.

Catholic schools save the taxpayer $2.2 billion each year which helps take the pressure off government schools. Ahead of the Federal election on 7 September, both major parties have been asked a number of questions about funding for Catholic schools. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

For further information please visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au
BOOK FAIR & BOOK WEEK
Congratulations and thank you to Lyn Giebels, Karen Cole and Irene Witham for your organisation of Book Week and Book Fair. I love picture books and bought several for Christmas and birthday gifts for nieces, nephews and the grandchild! Thank you also to the classes for their displays in the library and to families for your support with the character parade costumes and book purchases.

BEWARE – PARKING INSPECTORS
A number of parents have been booked for parking infringements in Tobruk Street. We can only advise parents to obey the parking rules clearly signed in Tobruk Street.

WAKAKIRRI NEWS
Congratulations to our fabulous Wakakirri team who once again have made it through to the next round. Their next performance date is Friday 13 September. We wish them well as they prepare for this challenge!

Unfortunately, like last year, there is a clash of dates with the Year 6 camp and Wakakirri finals held on the same day – Friday 13 September. I will be hiring a people mover and driving up to camp to collect the students concerned, returning them to the school ready for lunch and their make-up session (12.15pm). Parents of Yr 6 camp children will need to collect their baggage from the school office as this will not travel with them to their Wakakirri performance at the Logan Entertainment Centre. Please ensure that Year 6 camp children have their school shoes at school on Friday! (Ms Dair will ask them to leave the shoes at school at their practice on Tuesday, so please put some extra joggers in their school bag on Tuesday 10 September).

SALE OF ICE-BLOCKS IN AID OF THE QUEENSLAND CANCER COUNCIL
Many thanks from the Babin family for your generous support of our ice-blocks sales over the last two weeks. Through the sale of the ice-blocks, over $240 was raised for the Queensland Cancer Council.

CHEERLEADING AT LUNCH TIME
A number of Yr 7 children inquired about whether it was possible for a cheerleading class to be held in the hall at lunch time during the school week. I met with Linda Soutter who is the owner of the Logan East Fitness and Dance Studios. Linda is willing to take the class if there is enough interest. There will be a cost involved of approximately $3 per lesson depending on the numbers of students. The class will be held on a Thursday in the hall at lunch-time if we can secure enough interested students from years 3-7. Return forms were due yesterday – I’ll be checking them tomorrow!!!

PARENT WORKSHOP – GUIDED READING AND COMPUTATION
Staff will present to parents in a workshop at school how we support children’s reading and comprehension through a guided reading process. We will also teach parents computation strategies that children are learning at various age appropriate levels throughout the school. We are still settling on a date – with camps coming up it is difficult to lock a time in but we will let you know!

CAMPS
School camps are coming up for Years 5 and 6. These camps are compulsory school events. Children are expected to attend therefore. If a payment plan is needed, please contact the school and see Ros Mendo, our finance secretary, who can assist families with inquiries about payment plans. It is expected that the camp will be paid for before the day of departure. The cost of the camp is shared across the number of children in the year level. Should a child have a medical reason for not attending, a medical certificate is required. It is also important to point out that the cost of the bus still needs to be paid, even if a child does not attend camp for medical reasons. This is because we calculate the cost of the bus by dividing the quote by the number of children. This makes it cheaper for families.

NEW STORAGE SHEDS
Our sheds are being installed. It is hoped that they will be up by the end of the week. One will be located behind the sandpit in the P-2 play area. The second will stand beside the sports shed which is positioned on the bank to the oval, in the shelter shed. Funding for these sheds was obtained by the P & F through the Gambling Community Benefits Fund.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
PC: Hannah Morrissey, Ava McErlean
1C: Duncan Fekete
3C: Tayla Eichmann
4C: Hannah Marsh, Peter Filips
5C: Kody Zipf, Nicholas Houghton
7C: Joel Clack

St Joseph’s Beenleigh Newsletter 22 August 2013
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHOIR

At the Catholic Schools Music Festival held at Villanova, our school choir once again was awarded with a Gold Certificate. This means that their performance was at a very high standard and judged to be at a Gold Standard according to the criteria for adjudication. Congratulations to the children, Renuka Haran (Music Teacher/Choir Conductor) and Colleen South (accompanist) on another wonderful performance. The children were great ambassadors for St Joseph’s. Sincere thanks to Mr Boulton and Mrs Schloman and the many parents who came along to support their children and the school.

MULTICULTURAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

This Sunday 25 August, the choir will perform at a concert held in the school hall as part of St Patrick’s Parish Multicultural Day celebrations. Families are welcome to attend the mass at 9.00am in the church and the concert/food festival held afterwards from 11.00am. Children in the choir assemble in the music room at 10.40am. Thank you for your continued support of school and parish activities.

ST JOSEPH’S 60th ANNIVERSARY

St Joseph’s invite all past and present families and community members (adults only) to come along and celebrate our 60th Anniversary in the school hall. Get a table of family and friends together. $20 pp Tickets go on sale in September. Dress 50’s optional

7.00pm 19 October

AUSDANCE

Dancing through the Decades

1.30pm 17 September

AusDance will be taking place in the hall on Mondays from 9.15am. We will be having a “dancing through the decades’ theme this year as part of our 60th Anniversary as a school. Children will perform for families on Tuesday 17 September at 1.30 pm in the school hall.

A MUSICAL NOTE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHOIR

At the Catholic Schools Music Festival held at Villanova, our school choir once again was awarded with a Gold Certificate. This means that their performance was at a very high standard and judged to be at a Gold Standard according to the criteria for adjudication. Congratulations to the children, Renuka Haran (Music Teacher/Choir Conductor) and Colleen South (accompanist) on another wonderful performance. The children were great ambassadors for St Joseph’s. Sincere thanks to Mr Boulton and Mrs Schloman and the many parents who came along to support their children and the school.

ST JOSEPH’S ROCK N’ ROLL CELEBRATION DANCE

St Joseph’s invite all past and present families and community members (adults only) to come along and celebrate our 60th Anniversary in the school hall. Get a table of family and friends together. $20 pp Tickets go on sale in September. Dress 50’s optional

7.00pm 19 October

St Joseph’s Beenleigh Newsletter 22 August 2013
FATHER’S DAY STALL-ANGELA HOUGHTON

Our annual Father’s Day Stall will be held in the hall on Thursday and Friday 29 and 30 August. Donations can be left at the office. A note will be sent home this week with further details. For more this week with further details. For more information please call Angela Houghton 0403 824 112.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check your children’s jumpers and hats regularly. The lost property was full of jumpers this morning. FOUND: Purse with Australian Teachers of Dancing badges inside. Brown Sunglasses. LOST: 2 Story Tree house books.

Safe Browser - $4.99

Description: You might remember at the start of the year I added a ‘Parent Knowledge’ piece into the newsletter opening our eyes to our children’s safety on hand held devices. As parents, how can we put restrictions on these devices to keep our loved ones safe from inappropriate content? Well here is a great app that looks just like Safari but has the filters in place to ensure that only appropriate sites are available. Websites available through the browser are determined through a number of factors. Parents may set on-line security controls based on a child’s age, or by creating a custom list of allowed or restricted sites. Parents also have the added bonus of creating an on-line account so they can retrieve reports on what their children are accessing or trying to access and also how long they spend online. Suitable for: Parents, Caregivers, Grand Parents or Teachers. Compatible with: all iOS devices. Look at www.applepieces.com for more educational apps.

WELL DONE TOUGH MUDDERS

Six months ago seven brave staff and parents joined the GI Joey's team for Queensland's first Tough Mudder event. On Sunday it was "GI Joey's" turn to take on Tough Mudder. We are pleased to say that all seven GI Joey's made it through the mud, high walls, barbed wire, electric shocks and ice water to finish the course. Tough Mudder was tough, a lot of fun and gave us a great sense of achievement. Congratulations to Mr Lovegrove, Mr O'Keefe, Mrs Rorke, Jeanine Phelan and Angela Houghton for finishing Tough Mudder, and to the other parents of the school who completed it with other teams. We will have another crack at Tough Mudder next year after the soreness goes away and the mud finally gets out of our skin (and we forget the electric shocks). Have a think about joining us - you can do it!

COMMUNITY NEWS

HELLO EVERYONE. It's WALK time again!! I have had Type 1 Diabetes for 7 years now, since I was 5! JDRF is doing so much research to help find a cure and to find ways to make my life easier. You see I have plans to live a long life. I want to be healthy. I want to be able to keep my sight. I want to be able to feel the ground below me when I walk and I want to keep all my limbs. I don't want to spend my days on dialysis and I don't want to worry about having a stroke or heart attack while I am young. That's why I support JDRF and why I need your help!

JDRF are currently funding more than 26 Australian T1D research projects, but there are dozens more that need our help right now. Please click on the link below and read my story! If you decide to donate, your donation will help turn research projects into clinical trials that lead to major developments and breakthroughs. We really need the clinical trials to become a reality. You don't have to worry about your money not being directed to right where it is needed. JDRF win awards EVERY YEAR for their fundraising ethics and work with a skeleton staff relying on many volunteers just like me and my Mum and Dad. Please join the JOSIE BEANS to walk this year and PLEASE donate as much as you can. http://walk.jdrf.org.au/teamParticipant.asp?participantID=1661

LIVE WELL WITH ASTHMA

Are you or someone you care for living well with asthma? If you: wake up coughing, wheezing or breathless, struggle to keep up with normal activity, use your blue reliever puffer more than three times a week, are unsure about the way your medications can work best for you. If your asthma is limiting your quality of life, Asthma Foundation Queensland invites you to join us for a free one hour Live Well with Asthma workshop.


Where: Beenleigh Library When: Tuesday, 17 September 2013 Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

SEEING EYE DOGS, a division of Vision Australia is hosting a Meet and Greet Day on Saturday 31 August from 10am to 2pm at 373 Old Cleveland Road Coorparoo. Gold coin donation on entry to help us train more Seeing Eye Dogs to become the eyes of a person who is blind or has low vision. Come and meet the class of 2013, see demonstrations of Seeing Eye Dogs in action, enjoy a BBQ lunch with entertainment and a Kids’ Chill Zone. See Vision Australia’s TEXPO at the same time. For more information please visit www.seda.org.au or call 1300 847 466 or get regular updates on www.facebook.com/seeingeyedogs.