11 February, 2016

From the Principal

A lot of good feedback has been received about last Friday’s 2016 Welcome BBQ and I thank all families who supported the event, as well as our Joey’s Engagement Teams (JETs) ‘Partnerships’ Coordinators, Belinda Thompson and Dominic Barnes for their organisational leadership.

On Tuesday night, the first of the year’s JETs General Meetings was held in the staffroom and I thank all parents and staff who attended. Some good initial 2016 planning occurred on the night, much of which will be revealed in the meeting minutes which will be published with next week’s newsletter.

The season of Lent is now upon us with yesterday being Ash Wednesday, when students, staff and many parents, relatives and friends of the school gathered in the hall to mark the commencement of this penitential time.

The 2016 Year 1 to 6 Parent Information Night was held last night and staff relished the opportunity to receive and inform parents as their educational partners. For those parents unable to attend, I encourage appointments with teachers well before Parent-Teacher Interviews are held towards the end of this term.

Homework was one of the many topics addressed by teachers last night (and last week at the Prep Parent Information Night). Accompanying this newsletter is a letter that was distributed last night, addressing new homework direction and practice at St Joseph’s.

Also last night, I mentioned to attendees that the school’s 2016 Parent Handbook and new Positive Behaviour for Learning Support Plan will be published on the school’s website within the next week. Please take the opportunity to peruse these documents in the near future.

An important document that can be currently found on the school’s website is our new Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy. Please also peruse, at your earliest convenience.

St Joseph’s has many positive points of difference compared to other local schools, one of which is our music offerings for students. In light of this, I’m delighted that in excess of 100 students will be involved in this year’s Instrumental Music Program and that close to 50 students will be 2016 choir members.

The school will soon publish a Business Directory, in which the businesses of parents, relatives and friends of St Joseph’s will be promoted. Another request for such business cards to be placed in the small basket on the external window sill of Mrs Mendo’s finance office in the reception area.

Statements related to Term 1 Tuition Fees and Charges will be issued in the very near future. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, prompt payment is encouraged and always appreciated as the school deals with its ongoing cash flow demand.

Best wishes to the 14 students who have been invited to participate in next Monday’s District Swimming Carnival, as well as our 48 Year 6 students who will be on excursion to Brisbane’s Parliament House next Tuesday as a complement to their current studies on government.

Thank you to JETs for organising the first Tuckshop Day for 2016, which occurs on Friday of next week (19 February). Please note that orders are due next Wednesday 17 February (9.00am). Further information can be found in a latter section.

JETs have also been working steadily behind the scenes, in preparation for our upcoming Twilight Markets. I sincerely thank the team for all that they are doing to provide an enjoyable community event and raise necessary funds for planned library refurbishment. To express interest in joining the Twilight Markets organising team, go to: stjosephstwilightmarket@gmail.com

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us pray for Mrs Syeda Bukhari (mother of Jazbiah – 5F) who is currently hospitalised with a serious condition. In our preparations for the upcoming commemoration of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus, may our Lent be prayerful, as we turn back to God, seeking reconciliation.

With Courage, Faith and Love

Stephen Johnson
**FROM THE APRE - PETER LOVEGROVE**

**Lent**
Lent is the season of preparation before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends when the Easter season begins on Holy Thursday.
Lent is a time of reconciliation. A time when we make space in our lives to think about our relationship with our heavenly Father and the ways in which we are responding or failing to respond to his love and care for us.
Rituals we take for granted may not always be completely understood by children. If we assume that they understand these rituals, we might not take the time to explain what we do and why.

**Baptismal Character of Lent**
From the earliest times, Lent has been a time of preparation for baptism. Eventually, it also became time for renewal of the already baptised. We must integrate the baptismal character of Lent into our daily lives. In preparation for the renewal of baptismal promises during the Easter season, children can research their own baptism: date, place, godparents, promises made, etc. This information can be put on a collage, in a booklet, or a drawing and displayed where it will be a reminder to the children to live out their baptism every day. Also discuss with children how they are living their baptismal promises.

**Ashes**
The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. This tangible ritual is a stark reminder that we do not have a lasting place on this earth. We are disciples on a journey that ends with death.
Lent is about participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus, about dying to an old identity and being born into a new identity.
To prepare, we must die now to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Being marked with ashes at the beginning of our Lenten journey is a reminder of our need for deeper conversion.

**Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**
The key to renewal of spirit in the Lenten observance—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—is to see their link to baptism.

- Lent is a good time to focus on prayer, especially the prayer of the church in the liturgy and their own personal prayer.
- Fasting should be linked to concern for the poor who are forced to fast by their poverty. Our baptism requires us to show Christ’s love to the poor.
- Almsgiving, too, is linked to our baptismal commitment. We are called to works of charity and justice.

Have children pray for the grace to live out their baptismal promises more fully. Ask them to also pray for the elect who will be baptised at Easter.

Children can be encouraged to “fast” from fast food and their favourite snacks, TV, the internet, video games, movies, etc., and spend more time helping the poor in a variety of ways like donating items to Vinnies and helping out with activities at home and school.

Money saved from fasting from movies, and such can be donated to Project Compassion or other charitable causes.

**2016 Twilight Markets 18 March 2016 (5 weeks to go)**

Don’t forget to be in touch with your child’s classroom teacher about donating your time as a volunteer for the market on 18 March. We are also seeking donations of raffle prizes. If you know someone in the community who would like a stall at the market, please have them apply as soon as possible. If you have contacts who might like to sponsor the market, please put them in touch with our team.

Contact Belinda Harris, our co-ordinator at: stjosephstwilightmarket@gmail.com

All the information can be found at: Our FB Event Page:

https://www.facebook.com/events/1685672268312487/

Documents for Stall Holders:


Online application form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RoXwD9Kw8TQ5-jdVpGg8LJv5WZjS4n6owl_W9Oidfls/viewform
CODING CLUB is BACK at St Joseph's!

WHY? Programming is a highly useful skill for our students to learn as it is another way of teaching problem-solving, creativity, and communication skills. And it's a whole lot of fun as well!

WHEN? After school on a Tuesday from 3.10 to 4.10 pm.

WHY? To give interested students the opportunity to learn how to code with SCRATCH. [https://scratch.mit.edu/hoc2014/]

If your child in Year 3 to Year 6 would like to sign up for the sessions starting Tuesday March 1, please email sehall@bne.catholic.edu.au with your student's name and class as soon as possible. The 20 places in this course will be allocated as they are received.

PLEASE NOTE:
- This is not a babysitting service. Children must be picked up at 4.10 pm from our Library.
- We need to limit the size of this activity to 20 students.
- It is expected that students who sign up for Coding Club attend each week.

From your Captain Coder, Melissa Burgess and Vice Captain Coder, Sue Hall

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Mini - MI SMARTS

Mini MI SMARTS is back at lunch times at St Joseph's!

At our lunch break at Joseph's, on most days of the school week, you will see some of our students choosing to participate in one of the mini MI SMARTS we offer to students other than being in the playground. Students can choose from a variety of activities and can change mini smarts as they wish over the term.

For details of activities check the notice board outside the Green Room.

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Gardening Club with Mrs Schloman: as notified

Library open every day for computers

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JETs NEWS

Last Friday evening the school and JETs hosted a welcome BBQ for all St Joseph’s families and staff. Everyone on the JETS teams would like to extend a warm thank you to families and staff who were able to attend. We would also like to thank the parents and staff who helped serve food and drinks and made the night a success.
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, Joey’s 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 our Pacific District Swim Team all the best for Monday 15 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 have put into their swimming helps them towards a successful and enjoyable day.

**Gold Coast Suns Open Day**
We were lucky enough to have 3 members of the Gold Coast Suns, Tom Lynch, Dion Pestia and Josh Shoenfeld, attend some PE lessons this week to promote their upcoming community open day. This open day commences at 8am Saturday 13 February at Carrara Stadium. As a part of the open day there will be a full intraclub match. More details are available on the Suns website.

**AusKick**
Qld AFL will be running an 8 week Auskick program here at St Joseph’s, beginning in week 5. Students will be provided with registration forms and it is open to students of all ages. If your child is interested, please contact the school for further information.

**Pacific District Sport**
Students born 2004, 2005 and 2006 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 etc.). If you have any queries on this please contact me via email. There are a number of trials occurring in term 1 with Rugby League 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 2016. 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 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 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 day’s 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; 11 and 18 March, 15, 22 and 29 April.

If you have any queries on anything sport, please get in touch with me on matthew.armstrong@bne.catholic.edu.au
A MUSICAL NOTE - RENUKA HARAN

Choir
Congratulations to the 48 students who auditioned successfully and are in the school choir. All successful members were notified by letter. We had our first practice today and the choir is rich in sound and in enthusiasm.

Instrumental Music Lessons
Woodwind, brass, guitar and drum lessons commenced this week. Violin will start on Tuesday. At this stage lessons for guitar, keyboard and violin are full and further students will be put on a waitlist. Please inform the instrumental teacher if your child is unable to attend a lesson.

GOLDEN GNOME AWARDS

Congratulations to the following classes.

1st: Year 5C and 5F  
2nd: Prep C and Prep F  
3rd: Year 1C and 1F

This is an award given to a class or classes who leave their area tidy and ready for cleaning - e.g. chairs up and everything off the floor. Acknowledgements are published every 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 day at year’s end.

SR JENNY – SCHOOL PASTORAL WORKER

SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

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 programme 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 Programme 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 7 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 contacted 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 ________________________________________
**Sacramental Program for Confirmation**

The Sacramental Program for Confirmation is beginning with a general information session for parents about sacramental preparation, presented by Carole Danby from Evangelisation Brisbane, on **1 March, 6.30pm at St Patrick’s Catholic Church Beenleigh**.

Parents who intend to enrol their children for sacramental preparation for 2016 and 2017 are encouraged to attend this session, which will explain the **important changes** to the Archdiocesan Sacramental Program. Please be aware that only baptised children 8 years and older are able to commence the Sacramental Program this year.

For further information please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office on 3287 2282

**Sacraments Dates 2016**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>General Parent Information session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 April</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>Children’s Activity day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 April</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Parent Information Confirmation Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun 16/17 April</td>
<td>6pm-9am Masses</td>
<td>Rite of Enrolment Weekend Confirmation</td>
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<td>Monday 18 April</td>
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<td>Home Activity week</td>
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<td>Monday 25 April</td>
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<td>Home Activity week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun 30 Apr/1 May</td>
<td>6pm-9am Masses</td>
<td>Presentation of Creed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 May</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Parish Confirmation session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22 May</td>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>Confirmation family session (Carole)</td>
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<td>Saturday 28 May</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Confirmation Practise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 June</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Confirmation Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 5 June</td>
<td>9am Mass</td>
<td>Parish Celebration Cake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 July</td>
<td>9am-3pm</td>
<td>Alive in the Spirit Children’s Activity Day</td>
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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

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**ST PATRICK’S PARISH - YOUTH NEWS**

**United Youth**

Our next meetings are Friday 26 Feb and 11 March; 5.30pm at the St Joseph’s School Hall.

**Youth Masses:**

9am Sunday 21 February, with practice at 8am; 6pm Sunday 6 March, with practice at 4pm. We would love to have more young people available to read at our Youth Masses. If you would like to be a part of ministry at our Youth Masses, please let me know.

**Band practice:**

On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays of the month, in the Church from 7 – 8.30pm.

**Good Friday:**

The youth have been asked to present the Way of the Cross on Good Friday morning this year. I would love to hear from anyone in the parish (under 35) who would like to be involved. Please give a call asap.

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

It’s Tuckshop Day!! We will be holding a Tuckshop Day on Friday 19 February. All students will be offered a hamburger, packet of chips and a popper or bottled water for $5. Any student requiring a vegetarian or gluten free option, due to dietary needs, will be catered for. Please indicate on the order form below.

Please complete the order form below, (ONE PER STUDENT), if you would like to participate in the Tuckshop Day on Friday 19 February. This order form needs to be sent back to school no later than 9.00am Wednesday 17 February 2016.

Payment: Please download the Qkr! app from the App Store or Play Store and register your children. Find St Joseph’s and place the order.

If for some reason you can’t use the app, please fill in the slip below and return to school in an envelope with payment.

If you could LABEL THE ENVELOPE with TUCKSHOP DAY with your child’s NAME and CLASS that would be a great help to teachers, office ladies and volunteer parents!

Orders due back, NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY by 9:00am please!

Many thanks,

JETS (Joey’s Engagement Teams)

Att: JETS

JETS TUCKSHOP DAY

My child ___________________ in class _____________ would like to participate in Tuckshop Day on Friday 19 February.

Please tick option A or B

☐ (A) I have paid $5.00 for my child through the Qkr! app
☐ (B) I have enclosed $5.00 for my child in an envelope

My child’s order is:

- Hamburger
  - with cheese or no cheese
  - tomato sauce or BBQ sauce   (Please circle)

- Popper or Bottled Water   (Please circle)

My child requires:

☐ Gluten free
☐ Vegetarian
Dear Parents,

As you would be aware, a trial of new homework procedures occurred across all year levels in Term 4 last year. As a reminder, I provide below, in italicised text, a related newsletter excerpt from late in Term 3, prior to this trial:

'After a series of JTIs Homework Action Team Meetings this term, involving staff and parents, the school will trial new evidence/research based homework procedures in Term 4. I will detail information related to this homework trial and it will be sent home to parents with the first installment of homework for each year level next term. An early flag for parents, that a homework mindset shift will be necessary for some, regarding this trial.'

This excerpt's mentioned detail of information can be found in the two 'dot points' below. In essence, the Term 4 trial sought to encompass evidence/research on the topic of homework and blend it with the local, historical experience of teachers and parents at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School. The trial also sought to take full advantage of two excellent online resources that are paid for through your school fees, i.e. Literacy Planet and Mathletics.

- **Year 4 to 6 Homework** – Literacy and Numeracy focus, on a **weekly set basis**. Literacy Planet to be used by teachers to set literacy tasks (includes reading and spelling). Mathletics to be used by teachers to set numeracy tasks. All set homework tasks to purely allow for practice/revision/review of concepts already covered in class, and to be adjusted for students, as per usual. Teachers to monitor individual student homework effort and success via Literacy Planet and Mathletics teacher access avenues.

- **Prep to Year 3 Homework** – As per Year 4 to 6 above, however, hard copy readers still to be sent home and these to be a substitute for Literacy Planet reading tasks. Wonder Words to be substituted for Literacy Planet spelling tasks. Spelling words can be entered onto Literacy Planet and this will be at the discretion of Prep to Year 3 teachers.

Throughout the trial, all students were strongly encouraged to complete weekly set homework tasks and were given the opportunity to use our library before school on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.00am to 8.30am at Homework Help sessions, and every day at lunch time, if they could not access Literacy Planet and Mathletics at home. Parents who were keen to refresh/gain knowledge on these online homework resources were invited to visit any Tuesday or Wednesday morning Homework Help session.

After recent staff meeting discussions, focused conversations with a number of staff, a re-read of evidence/research based findings on the topic of homework, a re-read of the Term 4 trial feedback received from parents upon request at the end of 2015, as well as some deep personal consideration, I have come to the decision that the school will now adopt the Term 4, 2015 homework trial practice, as the school's new, ongoing homework practice.

As a further qualifier, parents of students in Year 4 to 6 are asked to note that hard copy readers may also be sent home with students who will gain necessary literacy benefit from this occurring. As well, all parents are asked to note that, in addition to 'weekly set' homework, all students across the school are strongly encouraged to borrow from the school library on a weekly basis to provide further content for reading at home.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen Johnson
Principal
COMMUNITY NEWS

The St James Primary School Coorparoo Community
invites you to attend our
Centenary Mass
9am Sunday 21 February 2016
St James Catholic Church, 165 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo
Following the Mass, please join us for a celebratory morning tea to be held in the Parish Hall.
Please RSVP to pcoorparoo@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone (07) 3457 1100
by Monday 15 February 2016

3 – 5 June 2016 : Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend for married couples at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane’s bayside)
For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy, ph (07) 3342 1456, dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au
Watch our new video - YouTube: https://youtu.be/5HdI2ZDxZxc

EXCITING CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM
MARCH - JULY 2016
Queensland Running’s 2016 Cross Country season commences on Saturday 5 March at Teralia Park, Mitchelton. The season runs from March through to the end of July and is of great assistance to all students in preparing for the school, district and regional cross country competitions.
Our competition includes distances ranging from 500/800 metres (alternating each week), 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000 and 8000 metres. The 3000 and 5000 metre distances are run together as are the 4000, 6000 and 8000 metre events. In these races, runners can complete the lesser or greater of the of distances, depending on their comfort zone.
The runs are conducted at various parks in and around Brisbane, including Chermside, Toowong, Pine Rivers, Sandgate and Yeronga, to name a few.
For those unable to run, but still wishing to participate, a 500 metre non-competitive walk is programmed each week. Take your pram or dog for a wander through one of these beautiful parks. It is a popular event for families and best of all, it is free!
We have very reasonable rates to run and they include as many events as you would like to run over the afternoon, 10 years and under run for $3.00 for the afternoon, $4.00 for 11 to 17 years and adults pay $5.00. If you register for the season for the cost of $12.00, your runs cost $1 less each afternoon and you run your first day for free.
We also have family registrations or individual runners can pay up front for the season.
It is a great family afternoon where mums and dads can run with their children.
If you have any enquiries, please check out our website: www.queenslandrunning.com.au or call 0418 113 377.
Fun for all ages and fitness levels
GOLD COAST AFL OPEN DAY
FOR EVERYTHING AFL ON THE GOLD COAST

Sign on to AFLGC Juniors & Auskick  Activities for all ages
Kick-to-Kick   Get your 2016 GC SUNS Membership & Merchandise
Learn more about Female Football, AFL9s + Umpiring

SAT 13 FEB 8AM - 12.30PM
METRICON STADIUM
SEE YOUR SUNS
GOLDCOASTFC.COM.AU

Player appearances subject to change