This morning’s Opening School Mass in St Patrick’s Church marked the official start to the new school year. I especially acknowledge the Year 6 and 7 student leaders who were commissioned at the Mass. Special thanks to Father Joseph for presiding; parents, other relatives and friends of the school for offering support through attendance; Mr Lovegrove, Mrs Hatzis, Mr O’Keeffe, Mr McBride and Sister Jenny for their organisation.

A number of very successful events occurred at St Joseph’s last week, with the first of our new P&F Forums, the first P&F Meeting for the year, the annual Parent Information Night, our first Tuckshop Day for the year, and an Indigenous focused incursion for students in Year 3 and 4. My thanks to all organisers and participants for delivering this success.

Last Saturday, a small party of generous volunteers completed a garden mulching task as a follow up to the recent Working Bee. The excellent result can be viewed between the Tobruk and Mackillop classroom blocks. My thanks to those involved, especially the children.

I also offer my thanks to the school’s P&F for the financial generosity they have recently extended to allow the purchase of a new literacy learning centre, new musical instruments and a healthy lunch for Year 6, 7 students and staff at their recent Leadership Day. All very worthy expenses that align directly with staff requests and greatly enrich student activities.

This year, St Joseph’s staff are already in full swing with important, targeted professional development involvement. Curriculum, pedagogy, literacy, student learning support, student well-being, first aid, and strategic planning are but some of the focus areas. I congratulate the staff on their commitment to professional improvement and the notion of ‘life-long learning’.
Please note that block swimming lessons for Year 2, 3 and 4 students concluded today. These children have soldiered on, so admirably, over the last two weeks, given their high level of physical and mental activity, and the hot, humid weather. Year 5, 6 and 7 commence their two week swimming lesson block next Monday 24 February.

Morning Training Club for students in Year 3 to 7 commenced yesterday, under the supervision of Mr Armstrong and Mr Buckley. This club training runs from 7.45am to 8.15am each Monday and Wednesday morning. Younger students may later be invited to join this club.

My thanks to those families who have been prompt to meet their Term 1 financial obligation to the school through the payment of recently invoiced fees and levies. A reminder that the due date for this payment is 6 March.

A reminder that staff supervision commences at the school at 8.20am and that students who arrive prior to this time are expected to attend SPAC. I encourage parents who fear prohibitive SPAC costs, to avail themselves of information regarding the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Rebate (CCR) through the following link: http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

For reasons that are widely publicised, I implore parents to closely monitor their children's Internet activities. Social networking sites can, of course, present the greatest threat to their personal safety, well-being and relationships.

There aren’t many people who don’t love animals, however, populated schools are not environments for them. I request that all members of our school community resist any temptation to bring animals into the St Joseph’s School grounds.

Congratulations to Jessica Grant and Lee Barton on the recent arrival of baby Nate – a beautiful brother for Mia in Prep.

As we move closer to the Lenten season, let us begin considering how we might deepen our prayer life, become more charitable, make small personal sacrifices and overall, become more penitential, in preparation for the commemoration of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus.

With Courage, Faith and Love

Stephen Johnson

Let’s Celebrate!

It was great to celebrate with our Year 6 and 7 students this morning as they were inducted and initiated officially as school leaders for 2014. It was also a chance for us to launch our liturgical year with a Mass celebrating the new school year.

I would like to take the opportunity to explain briefly what we do in terms of celebration, ritual and prayer as part of the Religious Life of the School here at St Joseph’s.

- **Daily Prayer:** Students are involved in morning Sacred Time where they gather and share in group, individual, meditative or contemplative prayer. In many classes the students are involved in setting up a sacred space and leading this important time each day. Classes also pray a grace before meals and a prayer at home time.

- **Assembly Prayer:** Classes will present a reflection or prayer liturgy at assembly each Monday according to a roster. Parents of the students leading this are encouraged to come along to support their child and to be a part of this special time.

- **Masses and Liturgies:** Each Thursday at 9am a class is rostered on to lead a gathered group of students and community members in a Mass or Liturgy of the Word. Masses and Liturgies occur on alternate weeks because of our Parish Priest, Fr Joseph’s availability. He celebrates a Mass with us on one week and leads a celebration at Mother Theresa the next. So when he is away we have a liturgy here without him.

- **Masses are hosted by Years 4-7** because they have generally received the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Liturgies are celebrated with the Prep-Yr 3 classes. If you would like to know when your child is celebrating you can ask your class teacher. It is also published in the newsletter for a few weeks in advance.

- **Special Feasts:** We also celebrate special feasts of the Church such as Ash Wednesday, Easter, St Mary of the Cross and St Joseph’s Feast Days, Graduation and Catholic Education week with a Mass or Liturgy.

We appreciate that you are busy and have to often plan well ahead to be available to attend our religious celebrations but we would love parents to come along and join with their child as they are involved in a very important part of their education in a Catholic school. **Some might say THE most important part!**

**Have a wonderful week!**

Peace and blessings

Peter Lovegrove

APRE-PETER LOVEGROVE

St Joseph’s Beenleigh Newsletter 20 February 2014
Dear Parents………about your Leonardo - MARY MCBRIDE

We started the year drawing across most of the grades. I believe that drawing is the foundation of art. Matisse said that, “drawing is putting a line around an idea”. Klee said that drawing is taking a line for a walk. We have certainly walked that line in a big way over the past few weeks, looking at observational drawing, gestural drawing and, generally, just making a lot of marks.

Some of the younger grades have been looking at one line drawings and we have had a lot of fun trying to draw dog one liners. I have encouraged the students to challenge mum, dad and siblings at home to do the same.

The simplicity, energy and life captured in Picasso’s line drawings perhaps explain the continued popularity of these images. At first glance we all think we could easily copy these images but to use so few lines to express so much is a lot harder than it looks and is testament to Picasso’s artistic talent.

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The activities involved in drawing and painting provide a way to exercise many of the cognitive abilities. If you want to maintain your ability to perform higher level tasks then art can provide the necessary ‘exercises’ while also being a highly pleasurable activity in its own right. It could be said that it is an anti-ageing medicine for the brain!

LITERACY PLANET AND MATHLETICS—FROM THE SUPPORT TEAM

We extend an invitation to all parents to join us in the Library for a showcase of the 2 e-learning programs we use at St Joseph’s- Literacy Planet and Mathletics. If you would like to see these programs in action and have the opportunity to have any of your questions answered, this will be for you. Just drop into the Library between 8.30 am and 9.30 am on Monday 24 Feb. We look forward to sharing these effective programs with you.

LEGO LUNCHTIME CLUB

We want your unwanted LEGO to start up a LEGO Lunchtime Club. Please clean out those toy boxes, wash up those Lego pieces and drop them into the front office. There will be a whole lot of happy LEGO enthusiasts here at St Joseph’s.
On Friday, Year 3 and 4 attended an Indigenous presentation as a part of our History unit. Students had a lot of fun face painting using ochre, weaving emu feathers, throwing boomerangs and learning about the Indigenous culture. Thank you to our fabulous presenter Rick for such an informative and enjoyable experience!

ST JOSEPH’S FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND 2014

Watch this space for location and more details.

TRINITY ENROLMENTS

Year 7 in 2016 and 2017.
We are accepting enrolment applications for students entering Year 7 in 2016. Students entering secondary schooling in 2016 are currently in Year 5.

Also, we are now open and accepting applications for students entering Year 7 in 2017. Students entering secondary schooling in 2017 are currently in Year 4.

Year 7 and 8 2015.
Next year is a very unique year, in that, both Year 7 and 8 will be moving across to secondary education in QLD. Due to the great task of enrolling up to nearly 400 students for 2015, the enrolment interview process was started earlier than in previous years. Round 1 interviews were conducted last year, with those students now being secured and confirmed as attending the College in 2015.

Round 2 enrolment interviews are fast approaching with Year 8 interviews being held on Saturday 22 February and Year 7 interviews on Saturday 8 March. Letters inviting students to attend these days have already been sent out and it is anticipated that we would finalise our intake for 2015 at this time. However, enrolment applications are still being taken for children entering the College in either Year 7 or 8 in 2015. If you have not yet submitted an application for your child and do not want to miss out, I strongly encourage you to submit an enrolment application as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Come and Try BMX at Beenleigh BMX Club  Saturday 22nd February 9 – 12 noon
Doug Larsen Park, Cnr Boundary and Logan Streets Beenleigh
BMX is a fast paced exciting sport for children, adults and families alike. Come and learn from coaches and experienced riders why this sport is fun for all. Remember to wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, socks and closed in shoes and don’t forget your water bottle! Bikes, helmets and gloves will be available to borrow on the day. Any queries, please contact us on 0407 020 607. Look forward to seeing you there!