Dear Parents

Last week we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Church season of Lent. In the classroom and in the Church, the liturgical colour changes from green (ordinary time) to purple for the duration of the season of Lent. Traditionally, Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving (giving to the poor). Through fasting we become more disciplined in ourselves and our eating habits, and empathise— even if it is only for a short period of time—with those who are poor or hungry. Through prayer we deepen our relationship with our God. Almsgiving is a practical way in which we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Families are encouraged to support Caritas Australia, a Catholic charity that assists people across the world and in Australia, through Project Compassion. A Project Compassion collection box is located in each classroom.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS – CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

 Thankfully we are all different! Each of us has been created in the image and likeness of God. We must not only accept that there are many differences in the way people look, and in their ways of thinking and of doing things, we need to rejoice in these differences. These are the differences that make our school, our church and our nation so special.

Our God has created all people to be different from one another and blessed us with many and varied gifts and abilities. We are both called and challenged to be a welcoming community at St Joseph’s, in which everyone is truly loved and cared for. In such an inclusive and supportive community, each person can grow and have the confidence to share with the community his or her special gifts. Our community is thereby enriched.

All of our beautiful children are different. Not all children are great at Maths or Spelling, yet some are experts. Some children are fantastic at sports whilst others are uncoordinated. Some are intuitive and skilful artists or musicians yet many of them lack this wondrous ability to create. Some children are beautifully behaved, all the time! Some find it hard to concentrate at school for many different reasons— family break-up; sickness or death in the family; medical conditions; family upbringing. Some children can be exasperating whereas others will make you laugh—even at yourself! Some find it difficult to leave home in the morning and others can’t wait to get to school.

Our role as teacher or parent in a Catholic school community is to meet the children (and one another) where they are and to walk with them on their journey— guiding and listening, challenging and encouraging. I believe it would be contrary to the gospel for us to judge a child and to exclude him or her because s/he was challenging. Similarly it would be contrary to the gospel for us to condemn a family because it didn’t measure up to our expectations or to what we consider to be the norm.

Compassionate God, help us to be like Jesus and Saint Mary Mackillop who saw the face of God in everyone they met, especially the poor, the sick, the sinner, the prisoner and all who were pushed aside or condemned in their community. Amen.

YEAR 7 LEADERSHIP DAY

The Year 7 leadership Day at St Vincent’s Clear Island Waters was cancelled yesterday due to the persistent inclement weather. Lunch time would have been a disaster as it is held outside in the surroundings of the church.
PREP 2014 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS
I will begin the enrolment interview process for Prep 2014 during March this year. Families must submit an enrolment application for their prep-aged children for 2014 even if they have siblings at St Joseph's already. A number of families were ‘caught out’ during previous years as they had not submitted an enrolment application. If you haven’t put in an application, please do so immediately. Applications are available at the office or online through the school website (www.stjosephsbeenleigh.qld.edu.au). Please note that children must turn 5 before 30 June in the year of enrolment to be eligible for Prep.

SWIMMING
Please ensure that children come to school prepared for their swimming lessons. This coming week, children from years 2-4 will be participating in their swimming lesson block. Children will need a swimming cap, sunscreen, swim shirt, goggles and togs. They walk to the pool in thongs. A swimming permission form MUST also have been completed by parents and returned to the school.

SWIMMING LEVY
Please note that the swimming levy will NOT be refunded for children who do not have the correct swimming gear (togs, cap, rashie, thongs) and are therefore not allowed to swim. A medical certificate for an illness or injury is required for a refund.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The School’s annual swimming carnival will be held on Friday Monday 08 March at AquaLogan (Robert Nay Pool in City Road), Beenleigh. The carnival is for children in Years 2–7. Prep and Year 1 children do not swim in the carnival nor do they attend for the duration of the event. Teachers of Prep and Year 1 classes may bring their class to the pool to give the children a taste of what the carnival is like if they believe their class is ready and able to walk responsibly to and from the carnival.

REGIONAL SWIMMING TRIALS
Congratulations to Isabella McMillan, Andrew Kennedy and Morghana Leonards who made it through to the Regional trials in swimming after the recent District Trials. We wish you the very best.

NAIL POLISH
Children are not permitted to wear nail polish to school. Sometimes children forget and come to school with it on. When this happens they will be issued with a ‘uniform infringement notice’. Should a history of non-compliance occur, parents will be contacted and asked to remove the nail polish before the child is allowed into the classroom.

TINNED FOOD
I like tuna and salmon for lunch at school and sometimes I like to eat baked beans for a change. These foods often come in tins with a ring-pull lid. For kids, these foods are nutritional and a change from vegemite sandwiches. However, please empty the contents from the tin into a plastic container for school. When I taught Year 3 (a while ago now!) a child came to me with his finger caught between the ring-pull lid and the tin. The lid was already embedded into his little finger. I always shudder when I think of it! For safety reasons, please do not send tins to school. Empty the contents into plastic containers please.

DON’T BE LATE TO LINE
Currently we are asking children to be on line on time after break times. This week we are enforcing! Children who are late to line will miss their play time as a consequence.

EMAILING TEACHERS
Please respect the privacy of teachers. Emails should be used for quick messages. Please do not expect that teachers will have the time to respond at length to detailed emails via return email. Rather, teachers will acknowledge receipt of an email and make contact with families usually by phone to follow up on issues raised in an email.

FROM THE APRE - PETER LOVEGROVE
Sacrifice in Lent
During the Church season of Lent we are asked to turn back to God- to repent as it is popularly known. One of the other things is to follow on from Shrove Tuesday and to make sacrifices. This used to mean fasting. This often was in the form of “giving something up for Lent” such as lollies or chocolate. Eating fish and not meat on Fridays is a Christian Lenten tradition, also. A teacher friend of mine “gives up” chocolate cake in Lent. It is his favourite treat. Of course, everyone brings chocolate cake to share in the staff room each day. I’m pleased to say that he lives up to his Lenten sacrifice and manages to not eat the cake.

There is another aspect to sacrifice which is often overlooked. That is to actually do more than you normally would and therefore sacrifice your time, your money or your skills. At his time of the year Catholic parishes often promote a program of Time, Treasure, Talent which asks the members of the community to be less selfish and more selfless. They are asked to give more in any way they can and to put others before themselves. I mentioned this to the students at assembly on Monday as we launched another Lenten tradition: Project Compassion. This charity initiative is run by Caritas Australia which is a Catholic charity looking to improve the lives of poor children here in Australia and around the world. Each class has a “money box” in which the kids can place any change or pocket money to support things like education, farming education, clean water and health care.

If you and your child can support this charity through you “sacrifice” for the next forty days or so it would be gratefully appreciated.

Visit http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion for more information, videos and images. God be with you
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PC: Whole Class
1C: Blake Burgess
2C: Jordan McArthur, Jade Regeling, Jennifer Witham
3C: Dylan Schipplock
4C: Carla Buttigieg, Kyla Mairhofer
5F: Kent McMahon, Maya Wilson
7C: Samantha Heaton
Golden Gnome: 1st: 3C. 2nd: 2F, 4C. 3rd: 4F.

PF: Whole Class
1F: Elise Sulusi, Ella Marshall
2F: Jacob Miller, Alicia Connor
3F: Amala Saju, Sunka Boll-Jago
4F: Keegan Rorke, Montana Ruhland
6C: Maddison Scowercroft
7L: Jessica Le Billon, Rhys Towerton

HOMEWORK HELP IS HERE AGAIN!

Any child who needs help with their homework will have time to talk about their homework concerns and be given support in the Green Room from 8am to 8.30am each Tuesday and Wednesday. We thank Mrs Holman, Mrs Carroll and Mrs Hall for this service.

How does The ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM work at St Joseph’s?

The Additional Assistance Program operating through the Green Room is only one component of the Response to Intervention pyramid framework of instruction. This model based on sound research by the International Reading Association 2009, comprises learning and teaching at 3 increasing levels of intensity. This universal design model aims to support all students through exemplary teaching instruction using evidence based best practice at each level within the pyramid:

- **Level 1**: whole class expert instruction by the class teacher
- **Level 2**: more intensive, targeted small group work within the classroom, utilising teaching assistant.
- **Level 3**: additional intensive and specifically targeted instruction tailored to the specific needs of the individual student on an Individual or very small group basis.

As you can see, a child experiencing a learning difficulty does not necessarily need to physically come to the Green Room for additional assistance. In some cases, it is more appropriate for the support to happen within the classroom with the class teacher directing the support in collaboration with the Green Room team and in-class Teaching Assistant. Erin Holman, Sue Hall, Pauline Carroll & Melissa Burgess -The Green Room Team

UNIFORM SALE-SR JENNY

A second hand uniform sale will be held on Thursday 28 February, inside the back of the hall from 1.30pm until close of school.

The sale will be CASH ONLY - no eftpos available.
The items are a surplus of unclaimed, unnamed lost property (sorted and washed by Sr Jenny at the end of each term) and some donated uniforms.

FROM THE GREEN ROOM-ERIN HOLMAN AND SUZANNE HALL

In the English language, we have 26 letters to make approximately ¾ million words. That’s a lot of words for our children to learn! If your child knows the first 100 Wonder Words they will know half of all the words they will ever read, spell or write. That is why Wonder Words are so important. These 100 Wonder Words are a critical part of learning to read, spell and write successfully.

Parents often ask, “How can I help my child learn those Wonder Words so that they stick?”

Take this opportunity to find out how you can make a real difference to your child’s reading success. Come along to a relaxed, fun and insightful hour of Wonder Word-ing.

**So choose a session:**  Monday 25 Feb at 2 pm to 3 pm or Tuesday Feb 26 at 9am to 10 am

then complete the form below and return it to school or email Sue Hall on sehall@bne.catholic.edu.au

ATTENTION: Mrs Holman

I will be attending a Wonder Word Workshop on:
Monday 25 February at 2pm to 3pm

Child’s Name…………………………………Child’s Class…………………………

Your name…………………………………Your email………………………………
The Seasons for Growth 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 in Years 2-7.

Sr Jenny will offer this program starting the week beginning 11th March. Which year levels it will be offered to will be determined by parent response to the permission form below.

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

Sr Jenny can be contacted at the school should you wish to know about this program.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE: Attention SR JENNY

PERMISSION FORM FOR THE SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

Child’s Name ______________________________________ Year Level _____________ Class _____________

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

___________________________________________________________________________________________

I give permission for my child to attend this program. Parent Signature _____________________________________

I speak word wizard – Talking Moveable Alphabet & Spelling Tests for Kids ($2.99)

This is a great app that could be used at home for spelling practice.

Description: Word Wizard is a unique app that lets kids hear the sounds of letters and words using a talking movable alphabet. Featuring advanced text to speech capabilities, the app can pronounce and spell check an unlimited number of original words and sentences built using the movable alphabet.

Word Wizard also provides spelling practice with a list of more than 1,400 questions and answers, and the best is that you can add your own words to create any spelling quiz.

Suitable for: Any child who is learning how to read, or just wants to supplement their learning with spelling lessons and tests. Compatible with: iPhone and iPad. Look at www.applepieces.com for more educational apps.

A commonwealth bank officer will come to St Joseph’s on the 1st March from 8.00am to 9.00am for children wanting to open a bank account. Parents will require identification.

JOIN THE ‘G.I. JOEYS’ for TOUGH MUDDER – DOMINIC BARNES

You can watch some Tough Mudder videos on the website. To join our team use these details on the Tough Mudder website, toughmudder.com. Be quick as the price increases each month! Logon Details: Team Name: “G.I. Joeys” Team Password “Joeys” When: Sunday August 18, starting at 9:00am Where: TBA

PARISH NEWS

St Patrick’s Day – Come celebrate with us! On Sunday, March 17th come down to the Shelter Shed from 10am till 2pm for a day of family fun hosted by St Patrick’s Youth. The main event happens at 11am, when Paddy’s Saints are taking part in the World’s Greatest Shave to support the Leukaemia Foundation. There will also be a barbecue, games, stalls, raffles, trivia quiz and a good old Irish Sing-along. All the proceeds of the day are going to charity. If you would like to ‘shave or colour for a cure’, please contact Cathy Korzeniewski on 0400 494 943.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TRIVIA NIGHT Raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. 18year + event

WHEN: Friday 22 Feb. 6.30pm Registration 7pm Start
TICKETS: $15 each or $100 for a team of 8
BAR AVAILABLE
WHERE: St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School
BOOKINGS: tarmsio@gmail.com
BYO: Nibbles platters.