It is always a pleasure to offer congratulations for notable achievements, and I take this opportunity to do just that to all students who were recently selected in the school choir (see names in a latter section of this newsletter); also to Cohen Toovey (Year 5), Chay Drum (Year 5) and Andrew Kennedy (Year 6) for being selected to compete at the upcoming Regional Swim Trials; and the whole of the school community for your 2013 efforts in supporting the St Patrick’s Conference of St Vincent de Paul through their Christmas Hamper Appeal (thank you letter received this week – over 100 local families assisted) and the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland through the 2013 purchasing of related merchandise (thank you letter and certificate received this week – over $1,700 raised).

Coming to St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School with ‘fresh eyes’ has placed me in a privileged position to critique the school’s ‘landscape’ and all educational offerings for students. Now that the dust has settled on me being a ‘new arrival’ at St Joseph’s, and being in a more informed position than a month ago, I can credibly relay to you that I am so very impressed with the pastoral care and myriad opportunities for holistic growth and development that is accessible to students. Staff are at the core of what greatly impresses me, not just regarding the ‘must do’ aspects of their roles, but also those important ‘extras’ that deliver a point of difference for St Joseph’s School, an example being Homework Help (and there are many, many more). These extras can easily be taken for granted in a school community, therefore, I am keen and pleased to inform you of what my fresh eyes have noticed and how fortunate I believe your children are to have such generous, giving staff to care for, grow and develop them.

The life and energy that the St Joseph’s Parents and Friends (P&F) Association delivers to the school has also impressed me during my early weeks. Most notable has been the P&F’s desire to directly support staff in adequately resourcing the students’ educational environment, and balance this with a desire to provide parents and friends of the school with opportunity to socialise and build a true sense of community (take the upcoming family camping weekend, for example). We are all privileged indeed, to be part of this most vibrant school, with such a rich history. We pray for the continued intercession of Saint Joseph and Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop in the life of St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School – our school.

Congratulations to Lina and Ene Toalima on the recent arrival of baby Bailey – a beautiful sister for Brookelyn in Year 1.

I informed staff earlier in the week that I have admitted defeat at being able to comfortably get through all of our weekly assembly content in 30 minutes. Hence, from next week, assemblies will commence 10 minutes earlier, at 2.15pm, to prevent the need to rush. I thank those of you who have affirmed the move to an afternoon assembly each Monday.

3 Assembly. 5C
4 Swim Lessons: Yrs 5,6 & 7
Tuckshop orders due by 9am.
5 Swim Lessons: Yrs 5,6 & 7
Mass. Ash Wednesday Readings:7C
6 Offices closes at 3.10pm for training
Swim Lessons: Yrs 5,6 & 7
School Fees Due Date
Tuckshop Day (Please note new date)
10 Assembly. 5F
11 P&F Forum. 2pm
P&F Meeting. 6.30pm
13 Liturgy Readings. 3F
14 Gala Day 1. Yr 6&7
Kids Go Fresh & Healthy. Yr 2.
17 St Patrick’s Feast Day
19 St Joseph’s Feast Day
20 Berrinba Wetlands Excursion. Yr 3
Zone II Swimming. Chandler
21 Book Club orders due
Family Camping Weekend
28 St Joseph’s School Disco

MARCH

WEEKLY EVENTS
Mon Training Club. 7.45am-8.15am.
Assembly 2.15pm
Tues Homework Help 8-8.30am
Uniform Shop 8.15-9.15am
Wed Band Practice. 7.30am
Training Club. 7.45am-8.15am.
Homework Help 8-8.30am
Thurs Uniform Shop 2.15-3.15pm
Fri Sr Jenny’s Cuppa 8.40am
Student Banking

OFFICE HOURS
Mon – Thurs: 8.15am – 3.45pm
Fri: 8.35am – 3.15pm

BELL TIMES
8.20am: Children begin to arrive
8.35am: Children line up
8.40am: Class begins
10.45am-11.25am: Lunch
1.45pm- 2pm: Snack
2.55pm: Class ends
Members of the Student Council engaged in further leadership development activities today with Mr McBride and Mr O’Keeffe. This important, off-campus undertaking, will greatly enhance the leadership motivation, skills and abilities of these key senior students, for the benefit of all their peers at St Joseph’s.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP MASS

Again, I offer my thanks to those families who have been prompt to meet their financial obligation to the school through the payment of Term 1 fees and levies. A reminder that the due date for this payment is next Thursday 6 March.

With us now being at the mid-point of Term 1, it is timely to inform you that Semester 1 Parent/Teacher Interviews will again be held towards the end of this term. Teaching staff will soon begin planning their items of correspondence to organise these important educational conversations.

Prep enrolment interviews for the 2015 school year will commence next month. Children born, 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive, are eligible for the 2015 Prep intake. Please note that government regulations allow zero flexibility regarding the afore mentioned eligibility dates.

Today and tomorrow, Mr Lovegrove and I are engaging in some important strategic planning, in which we set short, mid and long term goals for St Joseph’s School. In our absence, the school’s Curriculum Support Teacher, Mrs Schloman, will be deputising.

Ash Wednesday, next week, will signify the commencement of our Lenten journey in preparation for the commemoration of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider how we might become more penitential during this upcoming season, let us turn to God in prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your will through His humanity and giving His life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to You by following the example of Jesus, and make us worthy to share in His resurrection.

With Courage, Faith and Love Stephen Johnson

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PC: Emily Miller  PF: Laylah Butler  1C: Kayla Fanning  1F: Loren Zajac
2C: Emma Cook  2F: Thomas Finke  3C: Sara Zajac  3F: Joey Johnson
4C: Olivia Barnes  4F: Nathan Barnes  5C: Mathew Nieling  5F: William Wright
6C: Adam Porter  6F: Caitlin Rorke  7C: Tamika Buttigieg

Golden Gnome: Last week:- 1st– 2C, 2F. 2nd–3C, 3F. 3rd–PC, PF. This week:- 1st– 2C, 2F. 2nd–4C. 3rd–3C, 3F.

ST JOSEPH’S 2014 CHOIR

Olivia Barnes, Juliette Barreras, Brandon Bentley, Sunka Boll-Jago, Cara Bowe, Sasha Clark, Daliah Clarke, Evie Classen, Georgia Crouch, Annabel Downs, Bayli Eichmann, Tayla Eichmann, Hannah Evans, Tia Finlay, Jamie Fitzgerald, Duncan Fekete, Gloria Fekete, Gabrielle Hingst, Khanya Hughes, Kymberly James, Anastacia Jreige, Georgia Kelly, Summer Lahrs, Heidi Le Masurier, Khasydi Little, Ashling Mairhofer, Georgina Marmol, Goldie Martin, Aleira McArthur, Chanelle Kilby-MacFarlane, Isabella McMillan, Lucy McCallum, Megumi McMahon, Keji Nyarsuk, Jacqui Phelan, Lucinda Phelan, Jade Regeling, Mackenzie Robson, Paige Robson-Petch, Caitlin Rorke, Jayden Schipplock, Madison Schipplock, Elise Sulusi, Tyrone Torralba, Ella Thompson, Declan Vickery, Flynn Wickens, Maya Wilson, Emelia Zakrzewski
Ashes to Ashes
The six weeks before Easter the Church calls Lent. It is a special time for us to get ready for Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday. When we come to our liturgy on this day, we are marked with the sign of the cross in ashes. The cross shows that we are special friends of Jesus. Lent is a time for growing and changing as we prepare for Easter.

From time to time we refocus on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Lent is one of those times. Sometimes we might ‘give something up’ for Lent. But it can also be a time to ‘add something on’. Over the centuries three activities have been practiced as ways to refocus on our faith lives: prayer, giving to the poor and fasting. So during this Lenten period your family might like to add one of these traditions to your family’s routine in preparation for Easter.

Next Wednesday sees the beginning of Lent. An Ash Wednesday liturgy will take place in the hall at 9am. All parents and parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Conflict
Conflict occurs when people disagree with each other over a particular matter and this can sometimes lead to an argument or fight. It is a part of everyone’s life and can occur across a range of settings (school, work, home, socially and at sport). Unfortunately, not all conflicts are easily worked out and in some instances they can become quite complex with fairly serious consequences. It is important therefore, to equip our young people with the necessary strategies to help them manage and resolve conflict type situations. Avoiding a conflict can sometimes be good, but generally it is considered best practice to talk to the other person about how you are feeling in relation to the conflict. By avoiding conflict or running away from the problem they might lose a friend, be treated unfairly at work or school, not get something they want or need or feel as though they can never solve their problems (disempowered).

Some common feelings that are experienced when conflict arises include, anger, sadness, betrayal, frustration and disappointment. It is important for them to recognize their feelings and be able to keep them in check. It becomes blatantly obvious when a person has not been able to regulate their emotions during a conflict (behaviour may include shouting, swearing, name calling and violence).

The following five steps provide excellent management strategies for people of all ages to use when dealing with conflict:

1. Keep in Control.
   - Count down backwards from 10.
   - Close your eyes and take deep breaths.
   - Think of a peaceful or happy place you would like to be in.
   - Calm self-talk …”Take it easy”, “Calm down”, “It’s going to be OK” and so on.

2. Keep it Real (what is the real problem).
   - Do you not agree?
   - Has someone done or said something to you that made you angry or hurt your feelings?
   - Are you feeling the way you do know because of something else that has upset you in the past?
   - Is this a one off problem or does it keep appearing?

3. Deal with the Issue.
   - Find a time when you can talk in private.
   - Keep a calm voice and relaxed body …. make eye contact to show you are serious.
   - Say exactly what is bothering you using “I” messages, e.g. instead of saying “you’re so bossy” try saying “I feel upset when you don’t listen to what I have to say” or instead of saying “You never let me do anything by myself” try saying “I feel I can’t be trusted when you don’t let me try and do something by myself”.
   - Keep the conflict between you and only the others who are involved ….. don’t bring your friends in!

For more information visit: http://www.girlshealth.gov/relationships/

Peace and Blessings

BOOK CLUB - LESLEY SOLAR
Welcome to the first order for 2014.
At St Joseph’s, we place 1 book club order per term.
All orders placed, gain us free books for the school library!
On the due date, orders are collated, a total is made available for the library to access free books, and then the order is placed. **MARK THE DATE!** Book club due back Fri 21st March.
Term 1’s order will be distributed AFTER we come back from holidays, as sometimes there are items on back order.
Happy reading!
Morning Training Club
Morning Training Club has started again for 2014. The sessions will be running on a Monday and Wednesday morning from 7:45-8:15. These sessions will be general fitness and will include some cross country training. If your child would like to be involved and hasn’t received a form, they please inform their classroom teacher.

District Sport
A huge congratulations to Cohen Toovey, Chay Drum and Andrew Kennedy who have been selected in the Beenleigh District Swimming Team to compete at the South Coast Swimming Trials at Miami Aquatic Centre in the first week of March. Congratulations boys and good luck.
Matthew Hoolahan has been selected in the Beenleigh District Rugby League Team to compete at the South Coast Trials at Burleigh Bears Rugby League Club in the first week of Term 2. Congratulations Matthew.

Dear Parents...........about your Leonardo - MARY McBRIEDE
Grade 6 and 7 students have been working on their cross designs over the past few weeks. Grade 7 students produce a ceramic cross each year and we work through the process leading up to Easter. In that way the cross becomes part of the student’s Lenten journey. Grade 6 students are included this year as this is also their final year at St. Joseph’s.
The process includes looking at the significance of the cross. It's such a rich symbol - a symbol of healing, sacrifice, reconciliation, hope, love. It is a symbol of suffering and defeat but also of triumph and salvation. The cross is the universal Christian symbol - the single visual identifier of Christian faith.
There's a whole world of meaning in even the simplest cross. The student’s cross design is a very personal expression which may include cultural background, family origin, personal interests and loves. It can be simply a cross with pattern and colour that they have painstakingly executed to produce something that is just simply beautiful to look at.
The finished design becomes the template for the clay modelling which we will begin this week. The clay cross dries for a week or so and then we begin the under glazing (the colouring). The under glazing has to be finely applied and each colour has to have four coats. It takes a lot of concentration and patience. Many students spend mornings before school and lunch times applying the under glazing.
These crosses will become family treasures. We have custom made crosses for other schools. Each classroom has its own ceramic cross that was lovingly made by a student. Sr. Jenny has a boxed ceramic cross decorated with lady beetles in her room. Small palm crosses have been made in the past and given to the sick or aged in the community. Cross making has become part of our school culture.
There is joy in making crosses with children and Mrs Jan and I are always a little sad when the crosses go home.

ST JOSEPH’S FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND 2014
St Joseph’s Family Camping Weekend 2014
21st-23rd March
Watch this space for location and more details.

DONATIONS
LEGO to start up a LEGO Lunchtime Club.
WOOL for making Granny Rugs for Children by the OKA group

ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS DUE NOW