Dear Parents

How quickly a term rushes by! We are at the end of Week 2 and moving into the third week of school already! I always start the newsletter looking to the week ahead. We were able to return home on the weekend as power was re-stored to the mountain late on Friday. It was great to return to relative normality, although we had some significant work to do removing fallen limbs and cutting up trees that had split in half or been blown over. We are now able to travel the usual routes to work with the roads off the mountain reopened. No doubt there are many families from our school community who had to endure similar inconveniences. I hope that you too have now returned to regular routines.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
Tonight our Parent Information Evening will be held in the hall. Year 1 parents meet with Katia and Amber in the Year 1 classrooms from 5.15pm. There is a general meeting in the hall with the Principal from 6.00pm. After the meeting, parents visit their class teacher at a station set up in the hall for each year level. Please note that Prep teachers will not be present at the information evening because they have already conducted two orientation sessions and will soon be meeting families about their Prep children. I thank you in advance for taking the time to attend this important information session. I also thank the staff for their efforts in producing information booklets relevant to their year level and for their enthusiastic participation. Tea and coffee will be available upon arrival, and beer, wine and cheese after the principal’s presentation.

In the first term newsletters, I explain our core values and link them to the charisms of our founders.

‘God wants us to do everything within our power to lead others to life.’ (St Mary of the Cross Mackillop) This saying of Mary Mackillop reflects one of her core beliefs – respect for the dignity of the human person. Leading others to life can require us to restore respect to those whose dignity has been stripped away through years of abuse, financial hardship, loneliness, unemployment, sickness or intellectual impairment. It demands of us an attitude of ministering to others, of taking every opportunity we get to be the face and hands of God to others.
CORE VALUE - DIGNITY
Our dignity as human beings is grounded in our relationship with a life-giving, compassionate and generous God. We are created in the image and likeness of God. We believe in the sacredness of created life. We reverence the sacred in one another and in our environment.

The foundation of Catholic Social Teaching is the belief that each human being has an inherent dignity because we have all been created in the image of God, are loved by God and have been redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Each person is precious and unique and our value is rooted in the dignity of each and every one of us as a human person. As such, we are all worthy of respect, and we must consider as our brothers and sisters all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, nationality, physical ability, religion or economic status. (Source: Office for Social Justice, Archdiocese of St Paul & Minneapolis).

I have highlighted Respect here to draw your attention to our respect rules which, when followed, enhance the dignity of the children, staff and families in our community.

Other connotations of the word Dignity point towards self-respect or self-esteem.

The Gospels are filled with encounters between Jesus and people whose dignity had been robbed from them – tax collectors, prostitutes, the sick, the poor, the lame, lepers, Samaritans, women & children. These were the ‘outcasts’. By associating with them, Jesus effectively made himself an outcast as well. Jesus met them as they were and loved them into life! With their dignity as people respected, healing was possible.

PRAYER
Forgiving, accepting, comforting Jesus, you welcomed those who were the least in the world according to established social customs and traditions. You broke the barriers and became one with them.

Challenge us to examine our own hearts and the prejudices that might be there against those who are different. Teach us to respect the dignity of all people, especially those in our school community.

In the places where we work and in our families, help us to be welcoming and forgiving, inspired by your example of love. Amen.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR LITURGY– From the Assistant Principal
Our first school mass will take place on Thursday 14 February in the school hall from 9.00am. Fr Tony will be the celebrant on this special occasion. This is an opportunity for our community to get together to pray for God’s blessing on our school year. It is a time to pray for those in our community who are ill or recovering from illness. It is a time to pray that we will be able to live out our core values and to keep the spirit of our founders alive in our community. During this liturgy our school leaders will be commissioned. School leaders and their families are invited to a morning tea in the school hall immediately after the celebration at approximately 10.15am.

SHROVE TUESDAY- From the Assistant Principal
Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday) takes place next Tuesday 12 February. Why do we have ‘Pancake Tuesday’ before the beginning of the Church season of Lent? It’s lovely to indulge occasionally, and if you like pancakes, maple syrup and ice cream like I do, pancake Tuesday is a real treat! Pancake or Shrove Tuesday however, is not just a feast up before taking on the tradition of fasting during the season of Lent. In the time of Jesus the harvested wheat of this rural community was ground into flour and stored in earthen jars in a pantry. Before the new harvest, the old flour was used up or ‘shriven’ (thrown out) so that it would not contaminate the new flour. Sometimes the old flour was infested with moths and their larvae, leaving that cobweb like substance through the flour. If the old flour was good, the people would use it up to bake breads and treats, to make way for the new flour. In our Christian tradition, the significance of Shrove Tuesday should not be lost in the feast of pancakes. On Shrove Tuesday we symbolically get rid of the old flour and make way for the new, that is, we prepare to empty ourselves of bad habits or life-destroying attitudes and values to make way for life-giving ones. Enjoy the fun of pancake Tuesday by all means, but remember the Christian significance of the day as well.

ASH WEDNESDAY- From the Assistant Principal
Next Wednesday, 13 February, is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church season of Lent. The school will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a short liturgy in the hall. Ashes will be distributed through the class teacher at an appropriate time during the day. Should parents wish to receive the ashes, they will be available at the liturgy.

During the six weeks after Ash Wednesday, Christians try to become more like the Jesus of the Gospels. We do this through prayer, through listening to God’s word in the scriptures, through acts of justice and generosity, and through strengthening our self-discipline.

On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with the sign of the cross. The Cross reminds us of the great love of Jesus who suffered an agonizing and humiliating death when he stood up for what he believed in. The Cross on our foreheads reminds us that to follow the example of Jesus in our lives demands courage and commitment. Doing the right and just thing can be challenging and very difficult sometimes.

Let us pray today that we can become more like Jesus in our lives. Let us proudly wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a symbol of our mission to bring about God’s reign in the world.

The Church moves into the season of Lent from Ash Wednesday and the liturgical colour changes from green (ordinary time) to purple.
SWIMMING LESSONS
Students in years 2-7 will be involved in the Swimming program in Term 1 2013 at the AquaLogan (Robert Nay Memorial Pool), Beenleigh (children in Yr 1 will have swimming Term 4). All children will receive eight 30-minute lessons in a swimming block. **All children must wear a swimming cap during lessons.**

Total cost of the swimming program is $48. This covers swimming lessons ($5.50 X 8 = $44) and the cost of the Carnival ($4). Parents do not pay an entry fee on the carnival day. Please note that the **cost of the carnival is non-refundable** even if your child does not attend for any reason. The cost is worked out on the assumption that every child attends. No refunds are given for lessons either, unless a medical certificate is sent directly to the office outlining the reasons for non-attendance. **These payments have been included in the February school fees.** Please DO NOT send money with your child to school and DO NOT pay the pool management directly.

Children will need:
- Togs and swim shirt / rashie
- swimming cap / goggles
- sun cream / hat
- swimming bag / towel
- footwear for the walk to and from the pool i.e. thongs/sandals

Lesson dates for Years 5, 6 & 7 (Weeks 3 & 4)

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Lesson dates for Years 2-4 (Weeks 5 & 6)

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DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
St Joseph’s will be sending a team to the Beenleigh District Swimming Carnival which will be held at the Springwood Aquatic Centre next Tuesday 12 February commencing at 9.30am. We wish the team all the very best. A short note will have gone home with these students today regarding transport and event nominations.

YEAR 2-7 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.

P & F MEETING
Our first P & F Meeting for 2013 will be on Tuesday 12 February. We look forward to welcoming parents who are new to Joey’s as well as welcoming back those who have had a longer association with the school. Meetings are held in the staff room from 7.00pm.

P & F Executive 20123
President: Dominic Barnes
Vice Presidents: Michelle Jeffery David Fitzgerald
Treasurer: Belinda Thompson
Secretary: Angela Houghton

NUT & WHOLE EGG AWARE
Thank you to all of our families who make every effort to make the school safe for children with severe allergies. The school is a whole egg and nut aware school. In 2013, families must remain aware of and concerned for children with severe allergies, but are permitted to send their children to school with whole egg and nut food items. **At the class level, there may be the need for more stringent measures depending on the particular needs of individual children.**
CAMPS 2013
There are some changes to our school camp venues and dates for 2013.
Yr 7 Lake Ainsworth Mon 04 March – Wed 06 March
Yr 6 Emu Gully Wed 11 September – Friday 13 September
Yr 5 Edmund Park Mon 26 August – Wed 28 August

STUDENT ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
If your child is absent from school, parents should email their child’s class teacher directly on the day of absence. Alternatively, please contact the school office and let us know by phone. The school secretaries will pass the information on to class teachers.

LATE PASS
Teachers mark the class roll at 8.45am and again when the children enter the classroom after SNACK. If your child is late getting to class in the morning, s/he will need a late pass obtainable at the front office. Parents are asked to sign their children in when they are late so that we know the child has not been ‘out and about’ without their parent.

BEFORE SCHOOL CONCERNS
Some families are dropping children to school far too early. In newsletters last year I stressed that teachers do not go on duty until 8.20am and that it is dangerous to leave children unsupervised even if they are in the school grounds. It is also not fair to the families who do the right thing by the school and their children and who enrol their children into before school care. I can appreciate that the cost of living is going up and families need to find ways of cutting back budgets but the safety of children is paramount and an area not worth compromising.

SCHOOL GATE FROM CARPARK
In the afternoon pick-up time, parents may enter via the large gate. This is a parents only gate. There can be some congestion when everyone is entering and exiting via the small gate. Everyone must exit with the children via the small gate to reduce the possibility of children running through the car-park area.

HOMEWORK
The school adopted the Education Queensland homework policy in 2009. The following quote gives families an idea of the time allotted to homework activities.

“In the Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3) many activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.
Homework tasks may include:
- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- conversations about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework.

In Years 1, 2 and 3, set homework could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

In the Middle Phase (Year 4 to Year 9) some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:
- include daily independent reading
- be coordinated across different subject areas
- include extension of class work, projects and research.

Homework in Year 4 and Year 5 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.
Homework in Year 6 and Year 7 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.”

At St Joseph’s, we work on a homework grid format for the setting of homework. This grid combines daily routines such as reading, spelling and number facts with a daily or weekly activity. The activities set are often based in our school’s mission statement THEMES. Students in Yr 7 will expect homework tasks designed to prepare them for the transition to secondary school.

Homework is for children. Parents are asked to provide suitable conditions for homework time and are encouraged to support the children where necessary. Parents could be asked to sign that homework tasks are completed. You may be asked to listen to reading or even read to your child. You might be asked to hear spelling and tables or check number facts. However, the responsibility for doing homework rests with the children. If they are uncertain about what to do, they must ask their teacher. If they are having difficulty with something, they must let their teacher know. The children have to face the consequences when they have not completed homework tasks.
REPORTING
Below is a brief outline of our Reporting Program at St Joseph’s.

**Term 1:** (second week of term)
Meet and Greet / Parent Information Evening (Held Thursday 07 February)

**Term 1:** (last two weeks end of term)
Parent / Teacher Interviews (Academic, Social, Attitude to Learning, General Behaviour - Positives and Concerns) - Compulsory interviews designed to touch base.

**Term 2:**
End of Semester Report (parents/teachers request an interview at end of semester or beginning of term 3)

**Term 3:** (from Week 5)
Parent Teacher Interviews: compulsory for parents of children where there are teacher concerns (teacher initiated); invitation for parents to request and interview

**Term 4:**
End of Semester Report
Issued on Friday of the week prior to the end of school. Teacher or Parent may request an interview.

HAND SANITISERS
Recently a child was sprayed in the face accidentally with a hand sanitiser being used by another child. The sanitiser was provided by the family. Please do not send sanitisers or other chemicals to school. They become a health and safety issue. The school has strict guidelines as to what may be used within the premises.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
The adventure playground is *out of bounds to St Joseph's children before and after school*, indeed any time without the direct supervision of a teacher. If parents allow their little ones (not school age) to play in the equipment, they do so at their own risk. Parents should be providing active supervision of their children. St Joseph’s children will be directed away from the equipment. They do not provide supervision for younger siblings.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
The Sacramental Program for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is beginning with a Launch at St Patrick’s Catholic Church on Thursday 14th February, 2013 at 7.30pm. Parents and their children who wish to participate are required to attend the Launch. For further information please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office on 3287 2282.

SHOES
Please ensure that the shoes children are wearing are all black joggers (or all black formal school shoes). I noticed some children were wearing white soled sandals - one even had white laces! I have asked that this be rectified this week. If the shoes have a white rim, it needs to be painted black. I also believe that children need to be wearing shoes that are comfortable and supporting since they have to wear them every day. Slip on canvas shoes or black party shoes are not really supporting growing feet.

HAIR
If hair is below the shoulders it needs to be tied back. If hair is getting in the eyes of the child, it must be clipped back. For the formal uniform, hair ties must be black or bottle green. For the sports uniform, hair ties must be black or navy blue.

A MUSICAL NOTE – RENUKA HARAN

**INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS** will commence next week. Timetables will be given to the teachers at the end of this week.

**GUITAR** – Michael Smith — Tuesday and Friday. Bring own Guitar.

**DRUMS** – Brian Foulds – Thursday and Friday. Bring own Drumsticks.

**VIOLIN** – Anasuya Dalton – Tuesday and Friday. Bring own Drumsticks.

**KEYBOARD** – Colleen South – Wednesday and Thursday.

**WOODWIND/BRASS** – Kylie Chivers — Wednesday. Bring own instruments.

**CHOIR**
Auditions were held on Wednesday. Students were expected to sing in tune (pitch) in a loud and clear voice. Students who were successful will be notified. A commitment for the whole year is expected from all choir members.

GOLDEN GNOME AWARD (for tiidiest area) – JACKY MCBAIN
Golden Gnome: 1st:2F. 2nd: 6C. 3rd: 7F

PARISH NEWS

SAINT PATRICK’S GROTTO RAFFLE (Available school office)
**COST**: $1.00 Per Ticket  **DRAWN**: Easter 2013 (Date to be Advised)
**6 PRIZES:**
3 Handcrafted Table Cloths / 1 Basket Of Easter Goodies / 2 Mystery Prizes (Winner's Choice In Order Of Draw)
COMMUNITY NEWS

TRINITY ENROLMENTS – YEAR 5, 6, 7

For students entering into Year 6 and 7, many of you may not have considered plans for your child's secondary education, which is soon approaching.

In 2011 the Government announced that in 2015, Year 7 will move to secondary education. For most secondary schools this will make the enrolment process for the 2015 intake a large task, as we will need to enrol both Year 7 and 8 students that year.

If you wish to enrol your child at Trinity College for Year 7 and 8 in 2015, you will need to submit an enrolment application form, which is available at our College office or on our website www.trinitycollege.qld.edu.au.

In order to process the enrolment interviews for both Year 7 and 8, we are conducting our enrolment interviews earlier than in previous years. Below is a list of enrolment dates for you to view. I highly encourage parents who wish to enrol their children at Trinity College in Year 8, 2014 and 2015 to submit an application as soon as possible.

Year 8, 2014 Enrolment Interview Dates
Saturday, 2 March 2013                            Saturday, 16 March 2013

Year 8, 2015 Enrolment Interview Dates
Saturday, 31 August 2013                             Saturday, 12 October 2013

Year 7, 2015 Enrolment Interview Dates
March 2014 – (Date TBC)

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Weekend date: 24 - 26 May 2013 Venue: Santa Teresa, Ormiston Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559, stijmen@aapt.net.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au

PARK RIDGE PANTHERS FOOTBALL CLUB

is looking for keen, enthusiastic soccer players from Squirts (3-5) through to U18s and seniors!

Sign on is Saturday 2nd and 9th Feb 9am – 4 pm, Thursday 7th Feb 6pm – 9pm, 176 Hubner Road, Park Ridge.

For more info see www.parkridgesoccer.net or come down and see us.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501