A warm welcome to the 2014 school year, especially those families who have just arrived at St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School. I trust that your time with us is everything that you hope for and richly rewarding.

It is terrific to be among you as the new principal. I acknowledge the significant contribution that my predecessor, Mr David Boulton, has made to this school community over many years and I look forward to working at building on the educational excellence that I know truly exists at St Joseph’s. I also look forward to meeting you all.

Many of you would know that I come to you from St Brendan’s Catholic Primary School, Moorooka, where I have been principal for the past 4 years. I reside inCurrumbin Valley at the south end of the Gold Coast with my wife, Jennifer, and our 3 teenage daughters, Kaiya, Shari and Jamie. Jennifer is a dress maker by trade and also works part-time at Marymount College as a teacher aide in the Art Department. Kaiya is off to Griffith University this year to study business and journalism, whilst Shari and Jamie will be in Year 11 and Year 9 respectively at Marymount.

A belated, but heart felt congratulations to the school community on the 60th anniversary that was celebrated last year. I enjoyed reading about the events that were organised and I trust that they were a worthy tribute for a most notable milestone. There are still a number of commemorative bottles of port wine remaining and there will soon be another opportunity for you to make a purchase.

Congratulations and thank you to parents for presenting your children so beautifully in their school uniforms this morning. This was certainly eye catching at this morning’s welcome assembly and I encourage all families to maintain high uniform standards throughout the year.

Sister Jenny was kind enough to host a welcome ‘cuppa’ this morning after the students went off to class before assembly and it was terrific to see a generous number of parents, relatives and friends of the school in attendance. Sister Jenny will continue her highly valued ‘cuppa’ tradition each Friday morning this year.

Please note that this Saturday, 1 February, a Working Bee will be held at the school from 8.00am to 11.00am to assist Scott Edwards in his grounds/maintenance role and to further enhance the school’s aesthetics as we commence a new year. Tasks will be mainly garden related, so if you are able to come along and contribute, please bring some related tools and equipment. Healthy camaraderie is guaranteed and refreshments and sandwiches will be provided. Further information can be found on the parent’s facebook page. My thanks to P&F President, Angela Houghton, for leading the organisation of this event. My thanks also to Angela for the excellent job she has done as the replacement cleaner for Jacky McBain in the lead up to the new school year. Classrooms, offices and toilets are spick and span.

30 January, 2014
Scott Edwards has also been working tirelessly to ready the school for staff and students, and I thank him for his excellent work over the holidays. In particular, Scott has done a wonderful job at restructuring and returfing the Prep play area. My thanks to the P&F for financing the purchase of this new turf for Prep.

It is important that parents understand that it is not permissible for students to self-administer medication except asthma relievers whilst at school. Please find related forms accompanying this newsletter that are requested for return to the school office when your child/children require/s medication. I encourage you to read the forms carefully.

Parents of students with a serious medical condition are invited to a Medical Alert Staff Meeting next Wednesday 5 February from 3.15pm in the staffroom. This meeting will provide parents with an opportunity to speak directly to staff about preventative/treatment measures to assist with the well-being of their children. Those parents planning to attend this meeting are asked to contact the office by office closing hours on Tuesday 4 February.

I invite you to claim the date of Thursday 6 February, for our school’s annual Year 2 to 7 swimming carnival to be held at the Aqua Logan Beenleigh Pool complex. The carnival will commence at 9am and conclude at approximately 3pm. My thanks to Year 6 teacher, Josh O’Keeffe, for his organisation of this event. Also, I invite you to claim the date of Saturday 8 February, when our new parish priest, Father Joseph, will be formally installed in his role by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Proceedings commence at 6.00pm in St Patrick’s Church, Beenleigh. Finally, a date claim request for the first P&F Meeting of the year on Tuesday 11 February from 6.30pm in the staffroom.

The annual Parent Information Night will be held on Wednesday 12 February. The evening will commence at 6.30pm in the hall with an address by myself and, hopefully, Fr Joseph (to be confirmed). Following this, parents will be invited to move to classrooms for further input from classroom teachers, who will run three 20 minute repeat information sessions from 6.45pm. A bell will sound at the end of each 20 minutes and 5 minutes will be allowed for parents with more than one child at the school to move to the next classroom and teacher presentation. Parent attendance is strongly encouraged.

Please note that some organisational changes have occurred for Mondays. The school office will now be open earlier, at 8.15am, and whole school assembly has been moved from 9.00am to 2.25pm so that optimal learning and teaching time in the morning can be maximised by students and staff. Each Monday will now conclude with whole school assembly and parents, relatives and friends of St Joseph’s are most welcome to attend.

Another early organisational change is that families will be invoiced for school fees and levies on a school term basis rather than a monthly basis. This change will assist in partially easing the workload of the school’s finance secretary, Ros Mendo.

Term dates are provided below for your information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Wednesday 29 January - Friday 4 April</td>
<td>Wednesday 28 January - Thursday 2 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 22 April - Friday 27 June</td>
<td>Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September</td>
<td>Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 7 October - Friday 5 December</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 October - Friday 4 December</td>
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</tbody>
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Finally, as our school community steps into a new year, we pray for the intervention of the school’s patron saint, Joseph, and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, in all that we individually and collectively strive to achieve in 2014.

With Courage, Faith and Love
Stephen Johnson

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**Working Bee**

**Saturday 1 February**

This Saturday we will be holding our first working bee from 8-11am.
Bring along gardening tools and help tidy up our St Joey’s gardens.
Handyman work is also on offer. Babysitting will be available in the hall.
Come along and help us start 2014 with a sense of community and fun.
Welcome to all of our new students in prep and all the others peppered throughout the school. Welcome back to everyone else who has been part of the Joey’s community. I hope that you all had a great time with your kids over the break and have enjoyed their company. I hope that the time spent together was filled with joy and laughter and good cheer. I hope that you were able to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by attending Mass and that you were able to share the excitement of the religious and spiritual significance of the Advent season and the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

It was interesting for me to walk into the supermarket after new year and see Hot Cross Buns in the bakery section of my local supermarket alongside the discounted fruit mince pies. It seems the commercial tie in to our Christian seasons couldn’t even wait til after the back to school sales and Australia Day specials. Christmas promotions started in mid-September last year. My family tradition is to share Hot Cross Buns as a reminder of Jesus’ sacrifice on Good Friday. This year Good Friday is 18 April. That means that the bakeries started baking them sixteen weeks before they are traditionally shared by Catholics.

We are still to negotiate the rest of Ordinary Time and Lent before Easter this year. I hope, as the primary educators of your children in their faith, you can still emphasise the importance of these celebrations beyond the presents at Christmas and the chocolate at Easter. It is important to remember the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter are most significant for our Church.

For your information I have outlined the significant dates for the seasons past, present and future as a Catholic faith community for term one:

- The Season of Advent began four Sundays before Christmas (December 1, 2013) and ended after the mid-afternoon prayer on Christmas Eve (December 24, 2013).
- The Christmas Season began with Evening Prayer on Christmas Eve (December 24, 2013) and ended with Evening Prayer on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12, 2014).
- Ordinary Time began after Evening Prayer on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12, 2014) until Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014).
- The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014) and ends with the Celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday (April 17, 2014).
- The Paschal Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper (April 17, 2014) and ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday (April 20, 2014).
- The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday (April 20, 2014) and ends with Evening Prayer on the Solemnity of Pentecost (June 8, 2014).
- Ordinary Time begins after Evening Prayer on the Solemnity of Pentecost (June 8, 2014) and continues until Evening Prayer of the First Sunday of Advent (November 30, 2014).

Peace and blessings to you

Peter Lovegrove

A MUSICAL NOTE– RENUKA HARAN

WELCOME TO MUSIC IN 2014

All children will be playing the recorder as part of the music program. Please ensure that named recorders are sent to school.

CHOIR: We are very proud of our awarding school choir that has won awards. Auditions for the choir will be held next Wednesday. Students will be expected to sing in pitch and in a loud and clear tone. Students are committed to be in the choir for the whole year.

PRIVATE INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS: All students who indicated they wish to learn an instrument were offered a form that will need to be completed and submitted as soon as possible. More forms are available in the office. These private music teachers are only able to give us limited days. Please ensure that the forms are in by Monday 3 February. Lessons will commence in week 3.

INSTRUMENTS: We have a trumpet, flute, trombone and saxophone that were kindly donated by the P&F. The music department is happy to loan these instruments free of charge to students who are committed to learning for the whole year. Parents will have to pay for lessons. If you have any queries regarding this please contact me. rhan@bne.catholic.edu.au

DATE CLAIMER: Anasuya Dalto (Violin) and Kylie Chambers (woodwind and brass) will be demonstrating on their instruments next Wednesday 5 Feb at 9am. Parents are welcome to see these teachers regarding any queries.

St Joseph’s Beenleigh

Newsletter 30 January 2014
The St Joseph’s School Swimming Carnival, Years 2-7, will be held on **Thursday 6th of February, 2014 (9am to 3pm)**. As in previous years the carnival will be held at the Aqua Logan Beenleigh Pool complex. This is a normal school day and **ALL** students are expected to be in attendance and competing for their house. It is necessary to hold the swimming carnival quite early this year to fit in with Beenleigh District selection events.

**Nominations:** This year students are being asked to nominate for the events that they wish to compete in, the nomination form was sent home with students on Wednesday and MUST be returned no later than **FRIDAY 31st JANUARY**. To be considered for Age Champion and the District and Catholic Schools swimming team children will need to complete a full length of each stroke at the schools carnival (Year 3-7). All students who compete on the day, both competitively and non-competitively will receive points for their house.

Students are reminded that participation is the main aim on the day and this is the key to their house being successful. Students should come prepared with the following items for the carnival:

- Hat and Sunscreen
- House coloured shirt or sports shirt
- Swim shirt
- Water bottle
- Togs, Towel, Goggles and Swimming cap (It is a BCE requirement that all students wear swimming caps when participating in lessons and carnivals.)
- **ALL PERSONAL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY NAMED** and packed in a school backpack.
- An enthusiastic attitude

As in previous years students will be seated in their house areas on the grassy side of the pool. Parent and spectator seating will be available on the entry side of the pool and parents are to remain behind the roped off area at all times. The canteen will be open for parents wishing to purchase refreshments, however these should not be taken over to, or collected by, any students. We appreciate your support in this matter.

We look forward to seeing you on the day!

**YOUR NEWSLETTER IS YOUR LINK TO WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOL**

The school newsletter is an important source of information about what’s happening in the school, the classes and to do with the educational, social and religious life of the students. It is expected that parents and carers of our students keep up to date with the happenings in and around the school.

It is available as a printed version only in the first and last week of the school year. After that it is available on the school website ([www.stjosephsbeenleigh.qld.edu.au](http://www.stjosephsbeenleigh.qld.edu.au)) and the school app (St Joseph’s Skoolbag app – available for Apple from the App Store and Android devices from Google Play Store). Later in the year the web version will be transferred to the new St Joseph’s Parent Portal. If you require a printed version for any reason you will need to contact the office to arrange one. We discourage this if possible to save on paper and printing costs associated with its production. Please help us to reduce, reuse and recycle!