A warm welcome to the 2016 school year, especially to those families who are new to St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School. I trust that your time with us is everything you hope for and richly rewarding. Please note that tomorrow, a complimentary 2016 Welcome BBQ is being hosted by our school’s parents and friends body, i.e. Joey’s Engagement Teams (JETS), from 5.00pm until 7.00pm. Please bring the family along to kick the new year off in relaxed, social style.

DATE CLAIMER: First JETS General Meeting for 2016 - Tuesday 9 February - 6.30pm - Staffroom All welcome.

Congratulations and thank you to parents for presenting children so beautifully in their school uniforms to commence the year. This was certainly eye catching at yesterday’s welcome assembly and I strongly encourage all families to continue to maintain high uniform standards. Also, a request that parents prioritise punctuality each school day, for the many benefits that it delivers, one being student involvement in morning prayer/reflection time, during which teachers request that they not be disturbed.

Thank you to Sr Jenny for providing a ‘welcome cuppa’ yesterday morning. It was wonderful to see so many parents, relatives and friends of the school accept this offer of hospitality. Please note that Sr Jenny offers a ‘cuppa’ each Friday morning after drop-off, in her hospitality area, and all in our community are most welcome. Also regarding Sr Jenny, she will be gaining a little more balance in her life this year, with a move from full-time pastoral work among us, to a 4 day working week from Tuesday to Friday.

On the topic of welcome, it was my pleasure on assembly yesterday morning to welcome new staff members, Miss Kate Condon (4F teacher), Miss Priscilla Bustamante (6F teacher) and Mrs Jo Connor (PF aide). At this assembly, we also welcomed back Mrs Buckley from her 12 months of Maternity Leave. As well, Mrs Kibble, Mrs Dillon and Mrs Schiloman return from periods of leave late last year, and we congratulate Mr Buckley on joining the ranks of teaching staff with ‘continuing’ status.

The recent holidays provided the usual opportunity to have maintenance tasks completed in and around the school, and thank you to Mr Edwards and Ms Borg (replacing Mrs McBain whilst on leave) for leading this work. Anticipated earthworks outside the Year 1F classroom has, unfortunately, had to be put on hold due to Brisbane Catholic Education funding restraints.

I trust that parents found book/resource collection to be convenient over the holidays. Our supplier, through Lucky Charm Newsagency, Holmview, again worked hard to deliver convenience.

Our parish has just begun the first phase of a building program and the immediate implication for our school community is the loss of 3 parking spots opposite the Uniform Shop. Fr Joseph has asked that these spots be reserved for parish office staff.

Parents of students with a serious medical condition are invited to the annual Medical Alert Staffing Meeting, next Wednesday 3 February from 3.15pm in the staffroom. This meeting provides parents with the opportunity to speak directly to staff about preventative/treatment measures for the well-being of their children. Parents who plan to attend this meeting are asked to contact the office by Tuesday 2 February.

At the start of every school year, it is important for parents to understand that it is not permissible for students to self-administer medication whilst at school. Please note that office staff are the first contact for parents with students who require medication during any school day.

This year, the Prep Parent Information Night will be separated from the information night for the remainder of the school, to allow more time for Prep Information sharing, questions and answers. It will be held on Tuesday 2 February (Prep rooms), with the Year 1 to 6 night on Wednesday 10 February (commencing in the hall). Both nights begin at 6.30pm and homework expectations will be one of the many important topics discussed.

As our community embarks on a new school year, may the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop infiltrate our hearts and transform us. May the courage and camaraderie of the Rats of Tobruk embolden us to face the challenges that lie ahead and give character and depth to our friendships. May the generosity and simplicity of St Joseph keep us humble in our service.

With Courage, Faith and Love

Stephen Johnson
Welcome and Welcome Back

It was great to see so many smiling faces from the students as they poured through the gates before school this morning. Their smiles were only surpassed by the smiles on some of the parent’s faces! I was able to spend a bit of time with our new prep students and am pleased to say that in most cases the parents were a lot sadder than the boys and girls.

To enhance the joy of returning to school, JETs (Joey’s Engagement Teams) are hosting a Welcome BBQ this Friday evening and we hope you can all come from 5pm until 7pm. There will be a free sausage sizzle and drinks for sale.

Next Thursday, 4 February, is the date for our beginning of year Mass and the official induction and blessing for our school leaders in 2016. We invite everyone to be there to begin our year with the celebration of liturgy at 9am in the hall.

Sports Uniform Days

Students from Year 1 to Year 6 wear their sports uniforms on the official HPE lesson day and also on Friday across the school.

The following are the days students have an HPE lesson:

Monday: Year 1, Year 2 and Prep C (Waterdragons)
Tuesday: Year 3, Year 4 and Prep F (Possums)
Wednesday: Year 5 and Year 6.

Year 6 Leaders

As well as the presentation of the elected leaders at our beginning of year Mass they will be involved in a number of events in the near future. There is a Gold Coast Catholic Primary School Leaders Day to be held at Jubilee Primary School on February 24 and also a learning day for the students on 18 March at the GRIP Leadership Conference. We are pleased to get the year under way and to see what great things the Student Council and all of Year 6 can achieve in 2016.

The Religious Life of the School

In our school we look for opportunities to celebrate the religious life of our Catholic school. This term is a short one being nine weeks long and only one week before we enter the Church season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 10. There will be a liturgy and presentation of ashes in the hall. You are welcome to attend. At the end of the term we will commemorate Holy Week as well. We look forward to your presence at these important aspects of our school’s religious life.

Orange Sky Laundry

Our school offers a hearty congratulations to Nic and Lucas from the charity, Orange Sky Laundry. These tremendous young men received the honour of being made Young Australians of the Year this week and they are very deserving. Let’s hope this honour helps them to do even more to help bring dignity and help to the 105,000 homeless people across Australia.
Welcome to Music at St Joseph’s in 2016

Instrumental Music - Private Lessons

Students are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument from an instrumental teacher at the school. The following teachers are offering lessons at the school.

Mrs. Kylie Chivers  Wednesday  flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone and trombone.
Mr. Michael Smith  Tuesday and Friday  guitar (students need own instrument)
Mr. Brian Foulds  Thursday and Friday  drums (students need their own drum sticks)
Miss. Anasuya Datto  Tuesday  violin
Mrs. Sooliya Hillman  Monday  keyboard

We welcome Mrs Hillman to our music program. She has been teaching keyboard/piano at Trinity College for 8 years. She is looking forward to teaching her students to read and play the keyboard and is happy to prepare them for AMEB music exams.

Demonstration

Mrs. Chivers, Miss Datto and Mrs. Hillman will give a demonstration to students on Wednesday 3 February at 9.00am in the hall. Interested parents are welcome to attend.

All forms to learn an instrument must be in by Tuesday 2 February. Students have been given the forms today and more are available from the office.

Choir

Auditions to be a member of the St Joseph’s school choir will be held next Wednesday 3 February. Mrs. Lyn Giebels will also be assisting with the adjudication. Students are expected to project their voices and be heard and are also expected to sing in pitch.

Thank you for your support in our music program. Please email me (rharan@bne.catholic.edu.au) or make time to see me if you have any queries.

FROM THE COUNSELLOR - DAVID HIGGINS

As we begin a new school year, I thought I would let parents know about my role in the schools. I generally work Mondays, Wednesdays and every second Thursday (odd week) at Jubilee, Pacific Pines and Tuesdays, Fridays and every other Thursday (even week) at St Joseph’s Beenleigh. The most effective way is to contact me is via e-mail on djhiggins@bne.catholic.edu.au

The purpose of the Guidance Counsellor role is to work collaboratively with members of the school community to promote and foster the social and emotional health of all the students. I work closely with the school leadership and staff and am available to assist parents, particularly in some of the following areas:

• Social and emotional issues
• Anxiety
• Bullying concerns
• Behaviour management
• How to manage difficult situations
• Self - esteem

Parents who have concerns about their child’s social and/or emotional development can make contact with me through the class teacher, via the above mentioned e-mail or through the school office.

Enjoy the 2016 year, don’t take it all too seriously and don’t be afraid to seek help when you need it.
Have a great week.

Dave (dhiggins@bne.catholic.edu.au)
ST PATRICK’S PARISH - NEWS

Sacramental Program for Confirmation

The Sacramental Program for Confirmation is beginning with a general information session for parents about sacramental preparation, presented by Carole Danby from Evangelisation Brisbane, on 1 March, 6.30pm at St Patrick’s Catholic Church Beenleigh.

Parents who intend to enrol their children for sacramental preparation for 2016 and 2017 are encouraged to attend this session, which will explain the important changes to the Archdiocese Sacramental Program. Please be aware that only baptised children 8 years and older are able to commence the Sacramental Program this year.
For further information please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office on 3287 2282

ST PATRICK’S PARISH - YOUTH NEWS

United Youth

Our next meeting is on Friday 12 Feb; 5.30pm at the St Joseph’s School Hall.

Youth Masses:
6pm Sunday 7 February, with practice at 4pm; 9am Sunday 21 February, with practice at 8am.
We would love to have more young people available to read at our Youth Masses. If you would like to be a part of ministry at our Youth Masses, please let me know.

Band practice:
Just till the new office is built: Every first Tuesday night of the month, we’ll have a band meeting downstairs in the Vinnies house (the temporary parish office). On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays, practice will be in the Church from 7 - 8pm.
No practice on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Cathy 0400 494 943 youth.beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

Come & Try BMX

Doug Larsen Park
41 Logan Street Beenleigh
Date to Come & Try
Sunday 7th Feb
10am - 1pm

Contact
BeenleighBMX@hotmail.com

St Joseph’s Beenleigh
Newsletter 28 January 2016