Dear Parents

Welcome to Term 3, Week 4 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! It is amazing how quickly the term is passing by! Last Wednesday evening the Year 5 staff, along with many parents and community helpers, held an Astronomy evening at the school. It was a fantastic experience for children and adults and we are most grateful to all involved. Congratulations Marg Hatzis and Josh O’Keeffe and to the many expert and amateur astronomers who made it such an enjoyable and engaging learning experience. Congratulations also to the school choir who finished a creditable third in the Beenleigh Quota Eisteddfod. They performed beautifully and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Thanks to Renuka Haran for her dedicated work with the choir and to Lyn Giebels for accompanying them on guitar on this occasion.

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRISBANE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

At the beginning of this year we were informed that the current Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, David Hutton, would be stepping down at the end of this year. The position was widely advertised and a new Executive Director recently appointed by the Archbishop. Pam Betts is our new Executive Director. We welcome Pam to the position and wish her all the very best in this dynamic role.

SCHOOL FEES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

We recently received an email from Brisbane Catholic Education regarding the distribution of school fees accounts, financial statements and other financial information to families. All schools have been requested to review their processes to ensure that fee statements, collection letters and any financial information provided to parents, are only delivered by mail or email. Unfortunately, the option of delivering fee statements via a student does not guarantee the fee statement etc will be delivered to the person it is addressed to and consequently may contravene privacy legislation according to legal advice given to Brisbane Catholic Education. This will mean a major cost increase to the school in postage. We estimate that to mail all accounts and reminder letters to our families would cost approximately an extra $3000 a year! For us to cover that cost we would need to increase school fees or levies. We are reluctant to do that and hope that families would assist us in providing up to date email addresses so that accounts can be emailed. This means that families are urged to let the school know when such contact details change so that our records can be accurate. Please forward to the school (pbeenleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au) your current email address so that we can check this against our records and make amendments where necessary. We will try in the first instance to email accounts, trusting that this will be successful!
FAMILY PORTRAITS
Sincere thanks to the families who took the opportunity to have family portraits done in the school hall over the last weekend. It was a very successful day with all time allocations fully booked. Many thanks to Angela Houghton (Vice President P & F) for her organisation of the occasion and her dynamic presence on the day.

CHOCOLATE DRIVE
Money continues to come in from families who have sold chocolates in our school chocolate drive. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Sincere thanks to Lesley Solar, Tina Hall and Belinda Thompson for counting Choc Drive money! We really appreciate it.

NEW WEBSITE
Our new website is up and running. We are still having some trouble diverting people away from the previous site to the new one. Direct access is straightforward however. Please spread the news! Our new website address is www.stjosephsbeenleigh.qld.edu.au.

SKOOLBAG APP
Skoolbag is a school to parent communication tool. It provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications. No more lost paper in school bags!

School newsletters, Schools notices, and School alerts, School permission notes and other documents are communicated directly to parents’ smartphones via the Skoolbag Web App.

You can install it on your Smartphone by pointing the Smartphone Web Browser (eg iPhone Safari, android web browser) to:  http://www.skoolbag.com.au/stjoeysms

You can then add it as a shortcut to your Home Screen by following the "add to homescreen" prompt on your iPhone, or by creating a shortcut to your desktop/home screen, if using an Android powered phone.

There is no cost to parents or children, but it does use a small amount of internet download on your phones. It is a ‘ubiquitous’ (anytime, anywhere) app, and is something that is proving to be very useful.

We are hopeful that in August an update will take place where push notifications will alert you to updates. Peter Lovegrove has been busily updating the information on the Skoolbag app for St Joseph’s.

REPORTING BULLYING
What is bullying? Is there a difference between an incidence of violence and bullying general conflict and bullying? Put simply bullying is a deliberate, repeated misuse of power causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to another.

BULLYING HAPPENS:
when a person repeatedly

- is hit, punched, jostled or pushed around
- is called hurtful, abusive or offensive names
- is a target of abusive or obscene language
- has rumours spread about him/her
- has offensive gestures made at him/her
- is ridiculed about appearance, gender, abilities or disabilities

is threatened
is singled out for unfair treatment or excluded
is teased in a sarcastic or nasty manner
has his/her property interfered with
has offensive comments written about him/her

It can occur in the following situations; when:

- a child bullies another child
- an adult bullies another adult
- a child bullies an adult

The key words when distinguishing between bullying and a violent incident or conflict are the words ‘repeatedly’ and ‘misuse of power’. For it to be bullying, the violent or other behaviours listed above behaviour would have to keep happening from the same person/s. Otherwise it must be considered to be an isolated violent or teasing incident. As well, there must be a power imbalance such as would be evident if a Year 7 child repeatedly called a Prep child names or pushed them out of the line near the drinking bubblers. Another example of a power imbalance would be when a number of children repeatedly gang up on one person.

When two children call each other names or push each other or make offensive comments about their parents and so on, though the behaviours are not acceptable, the situation may not be bullying but continuing conflict.

Whether the incident is bullying or a violent episode or general conflict, such incidents must be reported, that is, we must know about it to do something about it. We do spend a significant amount of time following through on incidents reported to us. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as it might seem in arriving at the truth of the matter! Children are given the chance to say what happened and what they did or didn’t do. Quite often the stories coincide and the incident is resolved quickly. Sometimes however, the stories do not match up and like the court room, we don’t necessarily arrive at the absolute truth of the matter! Our record keeping however allows us to pick up patterns of behaviour and this often guides us in our future investigations.

Thank you to the parents who let us know if something has happened. Please also encourage your children to tell a teacher about it as soon as bullying or conflict happens at school.
ACCESS COVERS INSTALLED IN CANTEEN
Recently two access covers were installed in the school canteen to allow access to the roller door motors and other electrical/plumbing installations. Plaster board dust is difficult to remove! Thanks to Marg Hatzis and Annette Lahrs for your determined efforts in cleaning up the mess!

WINTER UNIFORM
At assembly last Monday I reminded the children about wearing the correct uniform at all times. During the colder months there appears to be an increase in the habit of mixing and matching the winter jackets with the formal and sports uniforms. In other words, several children are wearing the green fleecy jacket with the sports uniform or the sports jacket with the formal uniform. I have asked the children to make sure that they do not do this. Please help us with this at home. As well, we do get a serious increase in the number of items coming to lost property in winter particularly when children remove their jackets as the day warms up and they forget to collect them afterwards. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled so that lost items can be retrieved.

EKKA HOLIDAY 2102
Late last year the Queensland Government made changes to existing holidays in Queensland. As you know, we were able to have a two week break at Easter time as part of this new arrangement. However, also because of the new system, there have been changes to other holidays.
All schools are now entitled to only one show holiday which is based on the show in their particular region. For example, for us in Logan City, we have one show holiday which is on Monday 13 August. There is no traditional public holiday on Wednesday 15 August. In other words, the staff and children have a holiday on Monday 13 August and are at school on Wednesday 15 August.
For schools in the Gold Coast region, there are no Brisbane show holidays at all. Their show holiday is associated with the Gold Coast Show held in late August (31 August).
There will be no OSHC on Monday 13 August because this day is a public holiday for people in Logan City. Families with work commitments will need to make other arrangements.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RELIGION-PETER LOVEGROVE
Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.
St Francis de Sales
This quote reminds us that it is important to build our inner strength, sense of self or our spirit; and to have a confidence which allows us to stay calm when it seems the world around us has gone mad. During the course of this week I have met up with a number of students who had “lost their cool” in the playground and lashed out at another student. In some cases they used physical aggression to “solve” their problem. Here at St Joseph’s our school rules are linked to respect. In these instances students forgot the ideal of respect for others; as well as respect for self. I would encourage all families to talk about this and come up with some ideas and strategies to cope with times of stress.
The school celebrated Catholic Education Week this week with an assembly hosted by 6C on Monday which focussed on our community heroes and then yesterday a Mass to honour the past, present and future of Catholic Education in Australia. I offer many thanks to the students who enthusiastically participated in the design competition and the other events held this week. Thanks to Mrs Schloman for her efforts with creating a display of photos to decorate the office.
A special thanks to Jack Byron (Prep), India Seeto (Yr1), Goldie Martin (Yr2), Cohen Toovey (Yr3), Jessica LeBillon (Yr5/6), Madison Shaw, Charlotte Hasen kam (Yr6), Elise Periera and Meg Radburn (Yr7) for helping me put their designs up on the windows in the foyer.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
PC: Stephen McInnes, Hayden Van De Langenberg, Shanay Crang, Laird Mairhofer
PF: Blaze Ayre, Ryan Wey
1C: India Seeto, Matt Eley
2C: Lachlan Moody, Amala Saju
3C: Brittany Honey
4C: Kasey Leadbetter, Jake Rowett
56D: Nathan Burns, Elliot Fekete
56L:  Cindy Porras, Heidi Le Masurier
6F: Kaleb Eaton, Chloe Buttigieg, Morghana Leonards
Golden Gnome: 1st: 4F, 4C .2nd: 2F, 7F, 2C .3rd: Prep F & C

WAKAKIRRI
Prep Staff and students have been busy rehearsing and preparing for this years entry in the interschool competition. They will perform the dress rehearsal of their dance ‘Trouble in the Wild Wild West’ to the school and community on 31 July. Students will attend a 1pm concert and parents and community members are invited to attend at 2.15pm. A gold coin donation is requested at both performances to support the students in fundraising.

EARN AND LEARN

Our weekly total is now 27 250 pts.
ART– MRS MCBRIDE

ARTWORX2012

This is St. Joseph’s very own biennial art exhibition, showcasing the many talents of our students, together with innovative works of many local artists.

It is fast approaching so save the dates:

OPENING NIGHT: Friday, 19 October 2012 starting 6pm, including an auction of many art pieces.

CHILDREN’S EXHIBITION: Saturday, 20 October, starting 10am – 3pm.
The Exhibition will continue the following week during school hours, concluding Friday, 26 October.

Keep watching this space for highlights and more details.

Looking forward to another great show, hope you can make it!

FROM THE GREEN ROOM-SUZANNE HALL

Did you know meditation, including yoga practices can makes us and our children smarter in just 15 minutes a day?
We can understand when an adult complains about the busy-ness of life but when we hear children making similar comments, it is a bit of a worry. With all the commitments that parents and children have in their lives nowadays, we often find ourselves in overload. While adults may cope with this overload, our children often do not. They may come to school stressed and anxious and certainly not in a good frame of mind for their learning day. It seems that children nowadays have very little time “just to be.” Practices such as mediation and yoga give our children time to stop, to breathe and to know what it feels like ‘just to be.’

Neuroscientist, Richard Davidson in his book, The Emotional Life of Your Brain explains that our brains, being ‘elastic’ are shaped by experience and behaviour. His research cites positive changes noted in children with anxieties, attention difficulties, poor resilience and learning difficulties who have been taught very simple breathing exercises. He suggests trying this activity to improve a child’s ability to pay attention and improve learning ability. Turn the TV off, as well as the computer, iPad, phone or any other device of distraction, place a stone /beanbag on your child’s belly and have them focus on the object as it goes up and down as they breath in and out. Watch what happens- a calmer mind. Do it yourself and notice that you cannot help but ‘just be.’

For further information:
http://children.meditation.org.au/ An Australian site with free downloadable meditation activities for our children

A MUSICAL NOTE– RENUKA HARAN

Congratulations to our St Joseph’s School Choir on a wonderful performance at the Beenleigh Quota Eisteddfod. We were once again the largest choir with 58 students compared to others that had 30 or less

Thank you to all parents, friends and grandparents who came and supported us. It was great to see you there.

Our next performance is at the Catholic Schools’ Music Festival at Villanova College on Thursday 16 August. We will leave school at 3.30pm for a performance at 5.00pm. We would love to see you there again.

CLASS MUSIC

All students who learn an instrument both at and outside school have the opportunity to perform to their class. Music is to be shared and enjoyed by all. All students look forward to performing this term.
On Tuesday night the Year Fives participated in an Astronomy Night. This was a fantastic event where students, parents and teachers were all immersed in the wonders of our very special universe. The night included activities involving telescopes, focused on both near space objects; such as the Moon, Mars and Saturn, as well as deep space objects; such as Nebulas, star clusters and binary stars. Students also used different digital technologies including interactive computer programs and Ipad and Ipod applications (listed below) to identify constellations and research interesting facts about the planets in our solar system. Ooh’s and aah’s filled the oval as many students, and parents, got their first close up view of the moon and other planets and stars.

A huge thank you to Dominic Barnes (P&F President) for organising all our special visitors who brought their telescopes, thanks for all your organisation and help Dominic! Special thanks also to all those who brought telescopes along; Trevor, Andy and Teale (from Astro Pete’s, Mt Gravatt), Grady Rogers (past Joey’s student), Father Tony Girvan, Shaun Powell (Joey’s Father), Shannon and Dominic Barnes and Frank Holland. The night wouldn’t have been such a success without your kind contribution of time and resources.

To Mr McBride, Mr Boulton, Mrs Hall, Mrs Giebels and to all of our parent helpers that volunteered their time and assistants, we are very grateful. You did a fantastic job, taking groups around to their different activity stations, ensuring students remained on task and lending a helping hand wherever necessary. Your assistants ensured the night ran smoothly.

If there had to be a disappointment of the night, it would have to be that we didn’t see any aliens! Is there a telescope big enough? Until next Astronomy Night, keep appreciating the wonders of our world and remember to look up every now and again.

These were the apps used at Tuesday night’s Year 5 Astronomy Night. And Wow! What a night that was! Our curiosity has now been sparked about our universe and our place in it…………

**Stellarium** - Excellent “Planetarium on your PC or laptop” software. Free; for Windows or Mac; Download here: [http://www.stellarium.org/](http://www.stellarium.org/)

**Solar Walk** - 3D solar system model. Kids will love it. iPad, iPod and iPhone. Cost $2.99 in iTunes.

**Star Walk** - Virtual Astronomy Guide. Excellent for star gazing at night for finding planets and stars. Cost $2.99 in iTunes

**BOOK CLUB** Orders back by Friday 10 Aug

**DISCO**

We will be hosting another school disco on Thursday 02 August in the hall. The arrangements for this event will be similar to our previous disco.

- 3.30pm: P-3
- 4.30pm: Changeover / Sausage Sizzle
- 5.00pm: 4-7
- 6.30pm: Finish

Payment and permission forms back by Tuesday 31 July please. Entry Tickets will be issued on Thursday 2 August, (the day of the disco) so no tickets are lost.

**CHOCOLATE DRIVE** Money is due back Fri 3rd August

**MAVERICK NIGHT** ‘What will you be wearing?’

Door Tickets were sent out on Monday. These can be paid for by cash or by card through Ros Mendo at the office, or sent in a CLEARLY marked envelope. Money Tree Raffle tickets are cash only in an envelope to the office please.

If parents, family or friends in the school community know of any businesses that would like to sponsor a prize at the Maverick night please phone or email Belinda Thompson 0412 478870 or bjt66@bigpond.com.au

Hope to see at the Maverick night 24/8/12.
Next Wednesday 1st August, from 2pm till close of school, a second hand uniform sale will be held in the hall. It will be cash only - no eftpos available. Prices range from 50c to $10. The items are a surplus of unclaimed, unnamed lost property (sorted and washed by Sr Jenny at the end of each term).

LIBRARIAN– LYN GIEBELS

All of the classes have started exploring the shortlisted books and many are working on ideas for our Book Week displays. Quite a few children have also had some excellent ideas for costumes for our Book Week Character parade. If you are looking for inspiration for the parade, feel free to come into the library any time and look through our books for ideas. Also, the theme for this year’s book week is “Champions Read”, so you can always dress as a champion from a particular discipline and come as that.

Don’t forget that our Scholastic Book Fair will be running at the same time, with lots of exciting reading matter to be had. We would appreciate any helpers that may be available before and after school to assist with the running of the book fair as business can get a bit brisk. This is our library’s largest fundraiser for the year and we are hoping to use the money raised to do some refurbishment in our library. If you would like to help, please come and see us in the library anytime.

We are still concerned that some children are not borrowing as many books as they are entitled to. Remember that if children forget to return their books on their library day, they can also borrow before and after school as well as during lunch times on library days. Many thanks to Sam Doherty, Jy Supple and their trusty band of helpers for organising the tournament for the Yu-gi-oh Club in the library. The boys not only organised the tournament, did the advertising but also arranged the prizes. A special thanks to their families for donating the prizes!

WHO IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT ST JOSEPH’S THIS WEEK?

It is Tracey Goode, Tony Martin and Helen Roselt [Helen and her family are now in Peru], who on a weekly basis take time out from their busy day to manage the bank accounts of our student school banking program. This program offered by the Commonwealth Bank encourages children to save in their own bank account and learn the important life skill of becoming responsible money managers.

As well as the benefits to our families and children, the program is a great fundraiser for our school. St Joseph’s receives $5 for each account activated for the first time and also a commission for each subsequent individual deposit made. So thankyou to the Commonwealth Bank Foundation, Mrs Goode, Mrs Roselt and Mr Martin for making a difference at St Joseph’s. Take a look at this link where you will find further information about Kids and Money and fun ways to learn about money. http://www.commbank.com.au/personal/youth-students/kids-banking/default.aspx

--and while you are thinking about your child and money, take a look at this great article: http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/pdfs/tip-sheets/tip-sheet-children-pocket-money.pdf

LITERACY PLANET–MELLISSA BURGESS

Just a REMINDER this week about the LITERACY PLANET APP that is available on IPADS and Android tablets. This app. focusses mainly on spelling tasks. The points and coins made on this app. transfer over to the main program eg if a child has a spelling task they need to complete in their assigned tasks, and they do it on the Ipad, all their points and information can be seen by the class teacher in the class tasks.

I have also heard that there will be new Mini Games coming to Literacy Planet in the next few weeks. I’m sure all the children will be looking forward to new games to play after doing their assigned tasks.

10- 20 minutes a day is all that is needed.

CLASS LEADERS from 23rd—29thJuly

PC – Duncan Fekete  PF – Ella Marshall  1C – Naomi Joelle Mataia  1F – Maddison Schippllock
2C – Flynn Wickens  2F – AJ Sulusi  2C – Hannah Marsh  3F – Keegan Bradley
4C – Grace Fairbank  4F – Georgina Marmol  56D – Jacqueline Falani  56L – Tamika Buttigieg
6C – Hollie Brehmer  6F – Samantha Heaton  7C – Olivia Vickery  7F – Nathan Huth

AS OF 24th July OUR SCHOOL IS IN 9TH POSITION IN AUSTRALIA

What a great achievement by the whole school. Well Done!

PUBLIC PETITION AGAINST PROPOSED BIOMASS PLANT IN YATALA

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has signed the petition objecting to the location of the proposed Biomass Power Plant in Sandy Creek Road, Yatala. I have been heartened by the words of encouragement and support from so many of the parents and staff here at St Joseph’s. Many thanks also to David Boulton & Dominic Barnes for their support, allowing me to collect signatures on the school premises.

The petition will remain in the office during the coming week to enable anyone who has not yet been able to sign it (and would like to) to do so. I will keep you all updated on the total number of signatures acquired, as well as the progress of the situation. Many parents have expressed their amazement that such a proposal is even being considered by the Gold Coast City Council, as the significant threats to our health will extend to many surrounding areas, including Beenleigh.

To the many people who have taken petition sheets in order to accumulate signatures at their workplace or in their residential area, I would like to say a HUGE thank you. It is only through mass public support and a very loud combined voice that we have any hope of stopping this significant health risk from going ahead. On Monday at 10:30am, tune in to 101FM to hear an interview with a Yatala resident about this issue.

Please visit the website at www.yatala.info for more information or to download the information letter and petition sheet. Thank you to you all for your ongoing support. Sharon Kennedy