It has been a week of significant celebration with St Patrick’s Feast Day on Monday and St Joseph’s Feast Day yesterday. It was very special to have Father Joseph dedicate yesterday’s Feast Day Mass to Sister Jenny, in honour of her 40 years of service as a Religious Sister of St Joseph. Again, we congratulate Sister Jenny on this wonderful ministry milestone.

From time to time, our students can make poor behaviour choices and these can sometimes be witnessed by parents. I request that misbehaving children are not disciplined by anyone other than their own parents. Referral to a member of staff is the appropriate course of action in such instances.

Tomorrow is Harmony Day and National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. We acknowledge the harmony that exists amongst the mix of cultures that we are privileged to have at St Joseph’s, as well as our Core Values and Respect Rules that encourage right relationships.

The much anticipated St Joseph’s Family Camping Weekend at Lake Moogerah Caravan and Camping Ground is almost upon us and I trust that all involved enjoy a safe and adventurous time together. Further details are contained in a latter section of this newsletter.

Prep enrolment interviews for the 2015 school year are now underway. A reminder that current, relevant St Joseph’s families are scheduled for interview soon after the upcoming Easter break.

A reminder also, that Semester 1 Parent/teacher interviews commence next Monday 24 March, for most classes. Please ensure that you have organised a time for these compulsory gatherings.

Please claim the date of Friday 28 March for the Term 1 St Joseph’s Disco which will be held in the school hall from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. I am certainly looking forward to my first disco experience at St Joseph’s. Further information will be provided in next week’s newsletter.

Easter raffle donations are beginning to flow into the school office and I thank those families who have already contributed. Donations directly assist the P&F in their support of students and staff. The Easter Raffle will be drawn on April 2.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is on the horizon and student preparedness (Year 3, 5 and 7) continues both directly and indirectly. Please note that this year’s assessment dates are 13 to 15 May, inclusive. Further information can be gained from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) National Assessment Program (NAP) website at www.naplan.edu.au.

As well as NAPLAN, Term 2 will also host the 2014 St Joseph’s Talent Extravaganza. Mrs Haran is already fielding queries regarding this popular annual school event and a number of students are well into their rehearsals. It promises to be a boom event on our calendar.

**SPORT UNIFORM DAYS**

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After discussions at recent P&F and staff meetings, and in consultation with the school’s music teacher, Mrs Haran, it has been decided to move, in 2014, from a single end of year Christmas themed concert to a Term 4 Musical Showcase event and a separate combined school/parish Christmas/Nativity event. Mrs Haran recently told me what she has planned for the Musical Showcase and you can all look forward to an exciting surprise! Further information will be provided over the coming months.

Another point of discussion at recent P&F and staff meetings has been the structure and timing of the school’s swimming program. After these discussions, and in consultation with the school’s swimming coordinator, Mr O’Keeffe, it has been decided to move swimming lessons and the school’s annual swimming carnival to Term 4 each year. There are multiple benefits for students, families and staff regarding this move. One very pleasing benefit is that swimming lessons will occur one day per week (for Year 1 to 7), as opposed to the previous two week block which has had a most tiring effect on students and has been an interruption for teachers striving to establish classroom routines and procedures at the commencement of the school year. Another benefit is that our annual swimming carnival (booked for Friday 21 November, 2014) will occur after these weekly Term 4 lessons when students will be fitter, stronger and more confident in the water. Representative swimmers will also know of their selection much earlier and the summer holidays can be used for their personal swim training. A related financial shift for families is that swimming costs will transfer from Term 1, 2015 to Term 4, 2014. With this Term 1 notification of swimming program alteration, it is hoped that families are able to budget for this earlier expected cost.

As we continue our Lenten journey and our preparation for the commemorations of the sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus, let us acknowledge the challenges that we encounter in facing our humanity and in being transformed. May the presence of Jesus in our lives, empower us to be renewed in mind and heart.

With Courage, Faith and Love

Stephen Johnson

APRE - PETER LOVEGROVE

St Joseph and Sr Jenny – Our humble patron and our humble friend

This week we celebrate the feasts of St Patrick and St Joseph. We also honoured our pastoral worker, Sr Jenny, by dedicating the St Joseph’s Day Mass to her on her 40th anniversary of service to God and to Catholic schools. Below is the text read out as a reflection at our Mass. It highlights the “quiet humility” Sr Jenny possesses as she assists families in our school.

We are so lucky to have Sr. Jenny here at our school. Sr Jenny is a Josephite, a member of the Sisters of St Joseph, and so today is a special feast day for her. We dedicate this prayer to you Sr Jenny because we see these qualities in you and because of your faithful service over the last 40 years.

Loving God,
We remember St Joseph as a caring father and the protector of Mary.
St Joseph inspires us to look after our families and friends.
St Joseph inspires us to use our gifts to help and protect the needy
St Joseph inspires us to teach others and be a good role model
St Joseph inspires us to have the courage to take risks and work towards our goals
St Joseph inspires us to make choices that lead us to a better life for all.
Amen.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

10 March
PC: Zachary Moody PF: Simran Shah 1C: Lauren Conley 1F: Jake Moody
2C: Jake Shaw 2F: Blake Burgess 3C: Stanley Brown 3F: Maddison Schipplock
4C: Flynn Wickens 4F: Dan Boyd 5C: Clayton Ruhland 5F: Alyssa Armstrong
6C: Katarina Shala 6F: Vincent Villanes 7C: Decklan Solar-Young
Golden Gnome: 1st–4F. 2nd–3C, 3F, 1F, 3rd–6F, 7C.

17 March
PC: Hape Hero Akipe PF: Sarah Jreige 1C: Finn Mc Govern 1F: Sienna Classen
2C: Kahllel Keo 2F: Rhylee Jackson 3C: Fraser Leadbetter 3F: Ryan Kennedy
4C: Caprice Byrne 4F: Nathan Andrews 5C: Luca McVicker 6C: Jake Rowett
6F: Jasper Phelan 7C: Georgia Crouch
Golden Gnome: 1st–4C, 4F. 2nd–5C. 3rd–2C, 2F.
We have started to underglaze our clay lady beetles this week much to the excitement of the lower grades. The children get very excited at the prospect of taking their lady beetles home and so are eager to complete the process. We had to wait for the clay to dry before painting/under glazing the colour.

If there are any parents able to glaze lady beetles for us we would be very grateful. It is a simple process of brushing on a few coats of glaze to give the shiny effect the children love before we fire.

Mrs Jan is still not fully recovered. She will be in again for a few hours on Thursday to help with the cross under glazing but probably won’t be back properly until next term. It was lovely watching the children coming to visit her last week when they got wind of her being in the art room.

Logan City Art Gallery have a great schedule of children’s workshops and activities coming up over the holidays. These events are free to attend but in most cases you need to book to avoid disappointment. You can go online to see what is going on. The gallery has a terrific education program and children would certainly benefit from what is on offer. The gallery is situated on the corner of Jacaranda Avenue and Wembly Road Woodridge and there is plenty of parking in the vicinity.

Facts about reading: Kids who read often and widely get better at it. This is pretty much just common sense. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything we humans do and reading is no different. This is why it is important that children read a broad variety of books, not just what is on the shelf at home.

While many families have generously given us books, special thanks to Donna Babin for her very large donation of new books. Donations are gladly excepted, but please be aware that anything we are given that we already have or is not appropriate, we pass on to a charity in PNG.

Also a special thankyou needs to go to our trusty band of helpers who help out each week in the library. This includes our library monitors from year 4 up and a group of mothers who shelve, clean and tidy our library and cover our books. Don’t forget that even if it is just 5 minutes that you have to help, you are always welcome in the library.

Happy reading!

ST JOSEPH’S FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

Everyone is welcome at the St Joseph’s Family Camping weekend. We are trying a new location this year, so bring the canoe, raft, fishing rod or boat and kick the feet up at what is sure to be a great weekend.

When? 21st-23rd March (Friday – Sunday)
Where? Lake Moogerah Caravan and Camping Ground.
W: http://moogerah.com/
Address: 1 Muller Park Road, Moogerah QLD 4309
Phone:(07) 5463 0141
Cost? $24 per night (2 People). $7 per extra person on site per night. Payments made on arrival.
Bookings: Bookings through Josh O’Keeffe – jokeffe@bne.catholic.edu.au or return the below form to the office. Communal gathering area and fire place will be available.
Book club due back tomorrow, Fri 21st March.

Term 1’s order will be distributed AFTER we come back from holidays, as sometimes there are items on back order.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM - SR JENNY (School Pastoral Worker)

The Seasons for Growth Program is an Australian based program for children who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. These losses can include the loss of a parent or significant other (e.g. grandparents, siblings, etc.) through death, separation or divorce. This program aims to educate children who are experiencing grief to assist them to understand that the reactions associated with their losses are normal. It also helps children to develop skills for coping, problem solving and decision-making and for building peer support networks thus aiding the restoration of self-confidence and self-esteem. The Seasons for Growth Program is a whole school Program catering for children who are experiencing grief in Years 2 to 7.

As Sr. Jenny will be on leave during Term 2, this program will not be starting until Term 3. Which year levels it will be offered to will be determined by parent response to the form at the bottom of this program outline.

I will contact parents/caregivers to let them know which year level/s will be involved. Please place the signed permission form in an envelope marked for Sr. Jenny’s attention and return to the school office by the end of Term 1.

I can be contacted every day at St Joseph’s if you wish to know more about this program.

Thank you

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PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE:  Attention: Sr. Jenny

PERMISSION FORM FOR THE SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

Childs Name……………………………………………………………………… Year Level……………………
Grief Situation (e.g. Divorce, death)

I give permission for my child to attend this program

Parent Signature …………………………………………………………………

CONGRATULATIONS

Tom Haseler recently travelled to Melbourne to compete in the Australian titles for Karate. He received 3 medals, 2 silver and 1 bronze. Congratulations Tom on your achievements.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNION OUTFITS
"For those families preparing their children for Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation and looking for a lovely outfit to wear on this very special day, you may be interested in contacting Kathleen Gerrard on 0432 565 909 for a choice of veils and dresses."

EASTER PASSION PLAY  The Iona Passion Play: 3 performances at 2 locations
Sunday April 6th at 7pm – St Eugene College Hall BURPENGARY
Good Friday Apr 18th & Sat Apr 19th at 7:30pm – Iona College BRISBANE (outdoors)
Tickets:  Early Bird: $12-$15  At the Door: $15-$18  Children (under 15) $5  Children (5 & under) Free at Iona only  Group discounts available. Bookings: 3333 1993 or online at www.passionplay.org.au

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY’S CREATIVE HOLIDAY PROGRAM  is an affordable education based, fun and interactive day for children aged between 12 and 17 years of age. This community course is presented by highly experienced professionals in wildlife care at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and it is designed for those with a keen interest in seeking knowledge and understanding of wildlife. This Course is a real zoo experience and gives students exposure to working in the zoo environment. Ph: 55340846. Email: education@cws.org.au