There is nothing like a Working Bee to draw members of a community together in a positive spirit and this event for our school last Saturday did just that. An excellent result was gained regarding the aesthetics of the school grounds and good will and team work was enjoyed by all. My sincere thanks to all who came along to assist. Please claim the morning of Saturday 19 July for our next school grounds onslaught.

The P&F meeting for the month of May was held on Tuesday night and at the meeting it was announced that two members of the P&F Executive, Dominic Barnes (Secretary) and Belinda Thompson (Treasurer), have decided to step aside from their roles. On behalf of the whole St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School community, I offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to both Dominic and Belinda for their years of unwavering commitment to our P&F. The school community, as a whole, has greatly benefited from your efforts, most notably, the students, who we are all here for.

Earlier on Tuesday night, staff and parents also gathered to share information about farewelling Year 6 and 7 students at year’s end. My thanks to those parents who attended and provided input. Year 6 and 7 teachers will soon form a related student committee to attend to specific planning details.

NAPLAN has now been completed by the relevant students and I thank parents for their efforts in presenting children punctually, well rested and well nourished to assist them in achieving their best. Assessment results should be available to the school and for families towards the end of Term 3.

Families are requested to strive to protect ‘term time’ for their children in order to minimise disruption to learning and teaching that is planned by staff, and educational progress. Commonly, such disruption is caused by family holidays during a school term. Whilst I am in no way against families holidaying together, of course, 12 to 13 weeks of school holiday time is there to choose from on an annual basis. Please note that government takes such disruption seriously and that it is a requirement for the parents of students who plan for their children to miss more than 10 consecutive school days to complete a departmental Application for Exemption form. This form is available from our school office.

Next Wednesday 21 May, we look forward to welcoming Bruce and Denise Morcombe when they visit St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School. Their child safety message will be delivered to students in Year 2 to 7 in the hall from 9.00am. A reminder that parents, relatives and friends across the school are also most welcome to attend and invited to wear something in Daniel’s remembrance colour of red. Students will be in their school uniform as usual.

A flyer should have been received in the homes of students in Year 6 and 7 regarding the upcoming Year 7 to Secondary Parent Forum. This gathering has been organised by the Brisbane Catholic Education Parents & Friends Association and is scheduled for 22 May at the Parish Hall, St James Parish, Coorparoo, 165 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo, commencing at 5.30pm with light refreshments. Please note that RSVPs are requested by tomorrow, 16 May (info@pandf.org.au). There is no charge for this event which will have representatives from various Brisbane Catholic Education Secondary Schools and Brisbane Catholic Education on hand to answer questions.

Traditionally, the Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, the mother of Jesus. We prayerfully ask for her intercession in lives of all in our school community and all who are known to members of our school community:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

With Courage, Faith and Love
Stephen Johnson
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE LAZY!

Last week I outlined the positives associated with playing video games. This week I will focus on the negative effects of video games. This shouldn’t be difficult as a parent because we certainly observe the amount of time the children are either locked away in a room or sitting around creating a groove in the sofa. We know that some are very violent and contain awful language. We are aware that for every minute they spend playing something on a screen they are not playing socially, having conversations (except with the screen), participating in sport, reading or helping around the house (cue the groans now). The whole idea of children sitting in the same room; or even the same lounge, and communicating via wi-fi is disturbing to say the least.

Negative Effects of Video Games

- Most of the bad effects of video games are blamed on the violence they contain. Children who play more violent video games are more likely to have increased aggressive thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, and decreased pro-social helping, according to a scientific study (Anderson & Bushman, 2001). The effect of video game violence in children is worsened by the games’ interactive nature. In many games, children are rewarded for being more violent. The act of violence is done repeatedly. The child is in control of the violence and experiences the violence in his own eyes (killings, kicking, stabbing and shooting). This active participation, repetition and reward are effective tools for learning behaviour. Indeed, many studies seem to indicate that violent video games may be related to aggressive behavior.
- Too much video game playing makes your child socially isolated. Also, the child may spend less time in other activities such as doing homework, reading, sports, and interacting with the family and friends.
- Some video games teach children the wrong values. Violent behaviour, vengeance and aggression are rewarded. Negotiating and other non-violent solutions are often not options. Women are often portrayed as weaker characters that are helpless or sexually provocative.
- Games can confuse reality and fantasy.
- Academic achievement may be negatively related to over-all time spent playing video games. Studies have shown that the more time a child spends playing video games, the poorer is their performance in school.
- Although some studies suggest that playing video games enhances a child’s concentration, other studies, such as a 2012 paper published in Psychology of Popular Media Culture, have found that games can hurt and help children's attention issues — improving the ability to concentrate in short bursts but damaging long-term concentration.
- Video games may also have bad effects on some children’s health, including obesity, video-induced seizures, and postural, muscular and skeletal disorders, such as tendonitis, nerve compression, carpal tunnel syndrome.
- When playing online, your child can pick up bad language and behaviour from other people, and may make your child vulnerable to online dangers.
- A study by the Minneapolis-based National Institute for Media and the Family suggests that video games can be addictive for children, and that the children’s addiction to video games increases their depression and anxiety levels. Addicted children also exhibit social phobias. Not surprisingly, children addicted to video games see their school performance suffer.
- Children spending too much time playing video games may exhibit impulsive behaviour and have attention problems. This is according to a study published in the February 2012 issue of the Journal of Psychology and Popular Media Culture. For the study, attention problems were defined as difficulty engaging in or sustaining behaviour to reach a goal.

To read more: http://www.raisesmartkid.com/3-to-6-years-old/4-articles/34-the-good-and-bad-effects-of-video-games
PC: Noah Mataia  
PF: Jarrod Connor  
1C: Billy McBryde  
1F: Stephen Stewart McInnes  
2C: Cara Bowe  
2F: Blaze Ayre  
3F: Jade Regeling  
3C: Samantha Thompson-Bacorro  
4C: Megan Plucknett  
4F: Jade Schubert  
5C: Isabel Seaward  
5F: Noah Coombes  
6F: Chanelle MacFarlane  
7C: Charlee Feast  
Golden Gnome: 1st– 3C, 3F & Mr Johnson. 2nd–1C & 1F. 3rd–PC & PF.

Children just love to paint. Talking to students in the art room I am sad sometimes to find that some children are not allowed to paint at home. Parents are busy and don’t want to deal with the mess.

Picasso once said: “I used to draw like Raphael. But it has taken me a life time to draw like a child.”

Although Picasso was a competent artist when he drew like Raphael, he became a great artist only when he allowed the child within him to emerge and started to draw freely without a pre-determined technique.

When we allow our children to paint and draw their own way and they see us also having fun and being free with colour, shapes without technique they will learn to trust themselves and their instincts. They will create a visual world on paper about things as they appear, taste and smell.

If you are worried and don’t like to deal with mess, try to create a space to paint – in the garden, an old table on the veranda covered in an old vinyl tablecloth. You can buy disposable plastic table cloths very cheaply.

Let your child tell you what the picture is about – rather than ask “What is that?” – ask them “Tell me about your picture”. You may be surprised!

Grade one students have had a lot of fun this week looking at the work of the artist, Hundertwasser, and painting in his style creating lolly flowers with lots of colour. We have talked about how to use and look after a brush including cleaning the brush properly. We have looked at painting with the body using the arm and shoulder and not the wrist and how to keep our colours clean. It is very satisfying to see children so proud of their work and some surprised at what they have accomplished – ‘I didn’t know I was a painter.’

Remind yourself of how pleasurable it was to paint when you were a child and don’t worry too much about mess.

BOOKCLUB  
Orders close - 9am 23 May  
Distributed - Fri 13 June

TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA  
Finals - Wednesday 25 June

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT  
Thursday 26 June
Dear Parents,

We will be photographing your school on **Tuesday 10th June 2014**

You will receive a flyer/envelope on the **20 May** for each of your students explaining the products available. Please ensure that each student returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

**Students are to bring envelopes on or preferably before Photo Day.** (Late orders are not accepted at the school)

We have an auto-mated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which **MUST** be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school, please collect a “family order envelope” from your school & return it to the school office.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Your Team from Advanced Life Photography Ph: (07) 3216 8280                                      Fax: (07) 3216 8850

*Please Note: Please have correct money in the envelopes. Change is not available at the school office.*

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**STUDENT TRAVEL REBATES—SEMESTER 1, 2014**

**Bus Fare Assistance**

Does your child attend a school outside the Brisbane City Council boundary? Does your family spend more than $25/week* on fares to and from school (* $20/week if you hold a concession card)? Does your child travel on a publicly available bus not owned or associated with the school?

**Students with Disabilities**

Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school? Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at [www.schooltransport.com.au](http://www.schooltransport.com.au) by 31 May 2014. **Late applications cannot be accepted.**

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**PREP MOTHERS’ DAY CELEBRATION**

Thank you beautiful mums for having fun with us at our Mothers’ Day Celebration.