Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2, Week 6 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! I just thought that I would let you know that people notice when your children are beautifully behaved, especially at our liturgies and special celebrations. Recently, we held an ANZAC Day memorial service in our hall. The children’s attentiveness and respect for the sacred space and the occasion were certainly noticed and appreciated by visitors to St Joseph’s. They were amazed that the children could be so quiet, attentive and respectful for the whole time. Congratulations children! Thank you parents and teachers for doing such a great job teaching the children about respect and appropriate behaviour.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Having been totally dissatisfied with our previous phone system, we now have a new system in place. When you contact the school by phone, you will be asked to select the most appropriate line for your call/inquiry.

Absentees – when your child is away; leave a message and we will pass it on
Finance – when you need to speak to Ros Mendo, our Finance Secretary about school fees and accounts
Reception – when you need to speak to Bron Moorton, our School Secretary, to arrange appointments or to speak with school administration
Uniform – when you need to speak with Kerry Fenner, our Uniform Convenor, regarding school uniform orders/prices
Library – when you need to speak with Lyn Giebels, our Librarian

Please note that you do not need to speak with Bron directly to pass on information about a child who is absent from school. Dial 1 and leave a message.

ABSENTEES

If your child is away from school, please contact the school on the morning of the day of absence. Dial 1 when prompted and leave a message. Remember, if you don’t let us know, we can only assume that he/she is away sick. We won’t know that she might have walked to school and did not make it – a possible scenario. AND you would not know that she did not get to school until someone came to pick her up that afternoon. Please let us know as soon as possible on the day of absence.

LATE ARRIVALS

It is concerning that we can have on any given day up to 30 children arriving late to school. The time varies but some can regularly be late by 20 minutes. Over a term, a semester or a year, that’s quite a lot of school time missed! Please endeavour to have children at school on time. Thank you to the families who consistently do this!
APPOINTMENTS
If you have to pick up your child for an appointment outside of school, please ensure that your child and the class teacher know when you will be picking them up. Children can be sent to the office to be waiting ready for when you arrive. It is difficult to find children around the school especially during lunch break. It is also time consuming and disruptive for office staff to ring around classrooms searching for children who could be at specialist lessons or instrumental music lessons or doing outside classroom activities.

PARISH FUNERALS – PARKING ARRANGEMENTS
Quite regularly there are funerals held in the parish church. Some funerals are very private, whilst others can be supported by hundreds. When a funeral is taking place, the parish notifies the school well beforehand. Our maintenance staff put out markers to secure parking spaces for those who need parking at the funeral. When you see the markers outside the church, it will remind you not to park in the church car-park because there is funeral on that day. For large funerals, we open up the school netball court/car-park for visitors.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
Children are only allowed to use the adventure playground in the Mango Tree area (P-2 Playground) under the direct supervision of staff. St Joseph’s children are not permitted to ‘supervise’ younger siblings before or after school. Teachers on duty after school are not supervising the adventure playground – they are there to look after the Joey’s children waiting to be picked up after school. It is a concern that young children (presumably younger siblings) are playing unsupervised by their parents on the playground equipment. Teachers will not order children who should be supervised by parents away from the equipment. They will intervene when Joey’s children are there. Parents, please supervise your children if they are on the equipment.

PREP 2013
Prep 2013 interviews are now complete and first round offers now sent to families. I interviewed 63 families for 56 positions in Prep. 36 places have been offered to current families. Usually we have a few families from outside the school who decline the offer of a place at Joey’s so those who will miss out in the first round of offers may still have a chance later in the term.

YEAR OF GRACE
The Catholic Bishops of Australia have invited the whole Church on a spiritual journey known as the Year of Grace. It will begin at Pentecost, 2012 (May 27) and continue until Pentecost 2013. This Year of Grace, marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II and following on from Sydney WYD08 and the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, seeks to build on the energy and spirit within the Australian Church. It seeks to be open to a new and deep grace to forge the future of our Church and nation. St Joseph’s will participate in this journey. More details will be published when we receive more information from BCE in coming weeks.

NO PARKING IN FRONT OF FR TONY’S GARAGE!!
Fr Tony’s garage is located next on the church side of St Vincent de Paul House. The door to the garage is always down/closed for security reasons. There is a sign painted on the door - NO PARKING ANYTIME. Please do not park there at any time! Fr Tony is regularly inconvenienced by parents who park right in front of the garage. Fr Tony has a very busy schedule and is required to keep appointments. He cannot be wasting time waiting for those who prevent him from getting out of the garage to move their car. Thank you to the vast majority of families who always do the right thing. I realise that for situations like this I am addressing a small minority!

SCHOOL FEES REMINDER
School fees accounts are sent out at the beginning of each month (Feb to Nov). Accounts are due to be paid by the 21st of the month. Ros Mendo sends out reminder notices to families who have not paid their account after 3-4 days. If you are having difficulty with paying your school fees, please do not just ignore reminder notices or phone calls from the school. Get in contact with our finance secretary, Ros Mendo, and work out a payment plan. Regular payments, no matter how small, are always welcomed. It is better to regularly pay small amounts than to do nothing and let the amount grow to unmanageable proportions.

SEMESTER REPORTS
At the end of this term, parents will receive a report for your child’s progress during the first semester. It has been developed to include the new Australian Curriculum subjects and the five point scale is from A-E. When the reports are distributed, there is no compulsory interview. During term 3, teachers/parents may request an interview from Week 5.

COLDS AND FLU
As the weather gets colder we enter the season during which colds and flu seem to be commonplace. Please encourage children at home to practice sensible hygiene routines especially during the cold and flu season. When sneezing or coughing, use a tissue. Throw the tissue in the bin and wash your hands. Wash your hands regularly throughout the day even if you don’t have a cold. Avoid putting fingers in the mouth or eyes or nose.

WINTER UNIFORM
For Prep children (every day), and for other children in Years 1-7 (PE Day and Friday) the uniform is the school sports uniform. This consists of the school polo shirt, shorts/skort, school socks and black joggers. The school
blue hat is to be worn. During winter, the children wear the school tracksuit with their sports uniform. Should children still be cold, they are allowed to wear appropriate clothing under their uniform such as spencers or thermals or leggings. Please ensure that leggings are the 'school' blue colour and that clothing worn underneath the polo is white, black or school blue. Please don’t send children to school in pink or other 'non-school' colours! For children in Years 1-7 the formal winter uniform includes the green fleece jacket. Children are allowed to wear our school long trousers or bottle green leggings.

**Please do not mix and match uniforms.** The tracksuit is for the sports uniform (and Prep uniform). The green fleece jacket is for the formal uniform.

**EARLY YEARS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - FRIDAY 15TH JUNE 9AM-12PM**

This year the Early Years are having their own Athletics Carnival at the St Joseph's School Oval, on Friday 15th of June from 9am-12pm. Students in Prep, Year One and Year Two will participate in modified athletics events including running races, high jump, long jump, shot put, ball games and some novelty events. Parents, grandparents, family and friends are welcome to attend to encourage and support the children's participation on the day. More details will be included in newsletters closer to the carnival date.

**NAPLAN TESTING 2012**

NAPLAN tests for years 3, 5 & 7 took place last week. The children were well prepared and of course they did their very best. As with every NAPLAN test, the results do not come out until November. Incidentally, we do not take NAPLAN test results into consideration when assessing applications for enrolment.

**SKOOLBAG APP**

We are trialling the idea of using an app for smartphones called 'Skoolbag'. 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' app, and is something that is proving to be very useful.

Please email Tony Barron with your thoughts on the trial. (tbarron@bne.catholic.edu.au)

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

PC: Kira Finlay, Juliana Prieto, Tim Powell, Stephen McInnes
PF: Ella Marshall, Riley McVicker
1C: Ryan Kennedy, Megan Johnston  1F: Lilly James, Maitland Devlin
2C: Liam Fulwood, Ehlia Little      2F: Ellen Topan, A.J. Sulusi
3C: Kye Perandis                   3F: Salia Shore
4C: Ethan Nash, Taylah Russell     4F: Adam Porter, Matthew Hoolahan
56D: Shaun Love, Lachlan Lahrs    56L: Carter Beam, Cindy Porras
6C: Ryan Marsh, Jacinta Honey      6F: Madison Clark, Iggy Mateje, Molly Edgerton, Rhani McInnes
Golden Gnome: 1st:4F 2nd: 4C, 2F  3rd: 3C

**LIBRARY NEWS - LYN GIEBELS**

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”  Richard Steele

Remember that next Wednesday 23rd May we will be participating in the National Simultaneous Story Time during lunch time. On Friday 1st June we are lucky enough to have the author Mark Greenwood and the illustrator Frané Lessac visiting us. They have collaborated on several books including "Simpson and His Donkey" and "Ned Kelly and the Green Sash." The P-3 will see and hear Frané and Mark will speak to the 4-7 cohort. With increased emphasis on Australian History in the new Australian Curriculum, this should be a very valuable and entertaining event! More about these authors can be found at:

http://www.franelessac.com/

Last week I ran a report to see how many books each student in our school has borrowed this year. While most students borrow, some are not regular borrowers and in fact, some students have borrowed less than 10 books for the year. Considering that most students can borrow between 5 and 10 books per week, these statistics are a little alarming! If we are serious about our children being life-long learners and fully functioning members of society, it is important that they have well developed literacy skills. Not only do good literacy skills lead to better paying jobs, but they enable us to discover new things, have better imaginations and a greater feeling of self-worth. Literacy skills are gained through reading quality literature, something we are fortunate enough to have in abundance. Please remind your child to return their books each week so they can borrow more. Reading is also part of most student’s weekly homework and can be used as an enjoyable “together time” for parent and child each night.

St Joseph’s Beenleigh
TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA
Auditions will be held next week on Tuesday 22 May and Thursday 24 May. All participants must have their music, instruments and necessary props for the auditions.

DATE CLAIMER:
Wednesday 20 June—Talent Extravaganza in the School Hall at 11.30am.
Thursday 21 June—Instrumental concert in the School Hall at 2.10pm.
Instrumental teachers will notify students who will be preforming. We look forward to seeing you at both performances.

MOTHERS’ DAY STALL
Thankyou... thankyou... thankyou.
Firstly to our Happy Shoppers – Thank you for your smiles and extremely good manners. It was an absolute pleasure doing business with each and every one of you. Many thanks to our Dads who generously filled our Happy Shoppers’ pockets. They all had such fun buying their beautiful gifts for their Mothers and Grandmothers.

We hope everyone had a beautiful Mother’s Day. A huge THANK YOU to three mums in particular who very generously gave their all to ensure our stall this year was a great success. To Narelle Fairbank, Coral McCormack and Leanne Russell, thank you. You are all truly beautiful. Thank you to those Mums and Dad who generously gave of their time on Thursday and Friday to help man the stall, Your help was greatly appreciated and your company thoroughly enjoyed.

Last but certainly not least, to all those Mums and very special Grandmas - yes you! Thank you for your enormous generosity. Please know your contributions are greatly appreciated by us all at St Josephs. Thank you to everyone from Angela Houghton

A HUGE thank you to Bev Brehmer for her massive donations each year to the Mother’s Day stall. She is always so supportive and generous with her time and gifts.

LITERACY PLANET NEWS—MELISSA BURGESS
What a great job everyone must be doing. Our school has now reached 4th place in Australia out of all the schools using Literacy Planet.
FANTASTIC LEARNING. !!!
Keep doing your tasks and free learning.
20 minutes a night is all that is needed.

CLASS LEADERS AS OF 17th May
PC – Blake Burgess, PF – Zac Utratny, 1C–Tahlia Caruana,
1F – Jade Regeling, 2C – Flynn Wickens, 2F – Goldie Martin,
3C – Carla Buttigieg, 3F – Maurice Rosales, 4C – Alex Allison,
4F – Katarina Shala, 56D – Maria LeBillon, 56L – Saige Kennedy
6C – Tayla Moody, 6F – Morghana Leonards, 7C – Ryan Perandis,
7F – Adam Little

WHO IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT ST JOSEPH’S?
This week, it is Mr Edwards. Thanks Mr Edwards for taking time to help us with our brain - body connection program. Mr Edwards has been even busier than usual, painting hopscotch templates for number and spelling games, grids for numbers and alphabet recognition, multi -use circles and shapes as well as giant chess boards. There is much research to support the claim that movement and exercise prepares the brain for learning. Exercise also is a key proponent in the way we think and feel. It appears that blood flow, along with our body’s chemical reactions spark the essential mechanisms required for optimal learning. So when you see your children playing chess, jumping along a hopscotch, tossing a bean bag onto a number line or categorizing objects in a giant grid, you will know that at St Joseph’s, your child is using their brain –body connection to optimise their learning and have some fun as well