A warm welcome to the 2017 school year, especially to those families who are new to the St Joseph’s Tobruk Memorial School Community. We trust that your time with us is everything that you hope for and richly rewarding. On a personal note, it is great to be back among you, after my absence towards the end of last year.

Congratulations and thank you to parents for presenting your children so beautifully in their uniforms to commence the year. Individually and collectively, they looked terrific today. I strongly encourage all families to continue to maintain high uniform standards through the year. 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 politely request that they and the class, not be disturbed.

Thank you to Sister Jenny for providing a ‘Welcome Cuppa’ this morning. It was wonderful to see so many parents, relatives and friends of the school accept this offer of hospitality. Please note that Sister Jenny offers a ‘cuppa’ each Friday morning from 8.30am, in her hospitality area.

It was my pleasure on assembly this morning to welcome new staff member, Mr Patrick Grehan, who will teach the 6C class this year. Mr Grehan comes to us from St Brigid’s Catholic Primary School, Nerang. We also welcome Miss Jacinda Lloyd, who will aid Miss Fletcher in the 2F each Thursday and Friday, Mrs Katrina Heath, who will aid Mrs Vargas-Malby and Mrs Birks in Year 4 from Tuesday to Thursday each week, and Mr Patrick Stevens, as our new drums teacher.

Hearty congratulations are extended to teachers, Mrs Sarah Baker (Prep Water Dragons) and Mrs Amber Dair (3F), who have recently announced pregnancies. Both ladies are expecting in June.

The recent holidays provided the usual opportunity to have cleaning and grounds/maintenance tasks completed in and around the school, and I thank Mrs McBain and Mr Edwards for undertaking this work. Also on the holidays, an asbestos removal team has focused on the original double story brick building, which is now clear of asbestos and re-sheeted and painted in removal areas.

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.

Parents of students with a serious medical condition are invited to attend the annual Medical Alert Staff Meeting, next Wednesday 1 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 31 January.

At the commencement of each 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.

Keeping an eye on the ‘What’s happening this week?’ column, adjacent to this text, is a great way to stay up-to-date with coming events at the school. Please note and claim events, dates, times, etc., as the weeks unfold this year.

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. They looked great in their new and newish uniforms. I might beat some of them to the office for a band-aid for our new school shoes.

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 our Parents and Friends team are hosting a Welcome BBQ on 3 February and we hope you can all come from 5pm until 7pm. There will be a free sausage sizzle and drinks for sale.

Next Thursday, 2 February, is the date for our beginning of year Mass and the official induction and blessing for our school leaders in 2017. 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:

**Tuesday:** 1C, 1F, 2C, 2F, 3C, 5C  
**Wednesday:** PREP F, 6C, 6F  
**Thursday:** PREP C, 3F, 4C, 4F, 5F

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 camp coming up soon at Emu Gully and some leadership focussed activities at school and outside of school. I’m looking forward to seeing the great things the Student Council and all of Year 6 can achieve in 2017.

The Religious Life of the School

In our school we look for opportunities to celebrate the religious life of our Catholic school. We enter the Church season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 1 March. 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.

Our school’s core values of dignity, justice, compassion, mateship, courage, resilience, forgiveness and trust & faith in God were the focus of a morning held here at school for staff as part of their professional learning. We were glad to welcome back our dear friend of the school, Gordon Wallace. As a Rat of Tobruk he told us what his view on our core values were. He shared some of the experiences of his life which helped to shape him and his views. His wonderful contribution will go a long way towards helping our teachers connect their students to the Rats of Tobruk and the sacrifices made in body, mind and spirit. There is a video of Gordon’s presentation which will go on the school’s YouTube channel once edited.
Welcome to Music in 2017. St Joseph's has a history of having an excellent program that gives all students the opportunity to perform and participate in all aspects of music.

CHOIR

Auditions for the choir will be held next Wednesday 1st Feb after snack. Students will have to demonstrate that they can project their voices and sing with volume, clearly and in pitch (in tune) a familiar nursery rhyme.

All students from yrs 2 - 6 are invited to audition.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Forms to learn an instrument have been given today. They are also available at the school office. All applications have to be in by Thursday 2nd February. Spaces are limited due to teachers' availability, therefore it will be on a "first come first in" basis.

We welcome Patrick Stevens who will be teaching drums. Patrick worked here a few years ago and presently teaches at Music Cavern and performs with other musicians.

The Instrumental teachers are-

Woodwind/Brass - Mrs Kylie Chivers
Guitar - Mr Michael Smith
Strings - Miss Anasuya Datta
Keyboard - Mrs Soosila Hillman
Drums - Patrick Stevens.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding instrumental lessons.

MATHLETICS NEWS - SUE LOGAN

28/11/2016—22/01/2017

SILVER
Laylah Higgins; Renee Maslak; Sean Ranieses

BRONZE
Scarlett Gamble; Jace Higgins; Charlotte James; Don Le; Jonah Madsen; Savannah Paniagua;
Sean Ranieses; Tristan Torralba; Jack Umstad

Congratulations to these students who continued to investigate Mathletics during the holidays. Keep up the good work! At the beginning of this new year, please take the time to check out areas of Mathletics that you may not have visited yet.
FIRST DAY 2017 AT ST JOSEPH’S

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM TRANSLINK

Is your child prepared for their journey back to school on public transport? Some school services, including train timetables, are changing from Monday 23 January. Be sure to plan your child’s journey before they travel. Follow these useful tips from TransLink to make sure they’re ready [https://translink.com.au/service-updates/112906](https://translink.com.au/service-updates/112906)

COMMUNITY NEWS

BEENLEIGH SWIMMING CLUB INC.

Robert Nay Memorial Pool
City Road, Beenleigh

President - Ryan Clarke: 0419 477 717
Secretary - Angela Southam: 0410 190 831

REGISTRATION FEES

$70.00 for the first child and $50.00 for every child after that per family.
Half season fees available.
Cash ONLY - payments can be arranged.
Fees include a Beenleigh Swim cap to be worn each swim night.
Club T-shirts are available for sale on swim nights.
Proof of Age may be required at Sign On.
ONE WEEK FREE TRIAL!!!

Self-Discipline  Self-Confidence  Self Defence

AGES 4+

St Josephs Primary School
53 Kokoda St, Beenleigh
Mon & Wed 3:15pm to 4:15pm

Bethania - Community Centre
118 Station Rd, Bethania
Thursday 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Logan Reserve State School
369-379 School Rd, Logan Reserve
Fri 3:15pm to 4:15pm

Ormeau
Norfolk Village State School
83 Halfway Drive, Ormeau
Sat 9:00am to 10:00am

www.defensivetactics.com.au
joe@defensivetactics.com.au

For Non Members only, can’t be used in conjunction with any other offers.