Dear Parents

This is the ultimate or last week of the school year. Thank you for your support throughout the year. I wish you all a safe, happy and refreshing Christmas holiday.

This weekend (01-02 December) heralds the first week of the Church season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation of our hearts, minds and spirits for the coming of Jesus at Christmas time. Though often our focus can be on purchasing gifts for Christmas Day and preparing for family feasts and visitors during the holiday season, we are called as Christians to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season - to coin a well-known phrase. Jesus, Emmanuel, is God-with-us. When we allow God to be active in our lives, the Christian community comes alive. The core values that we teach and espouse become a lived reality and this changes people’s lives.

The last week of school is very busy and upcoming events are listed on the following pages. For our Year 7’s, the door to their primary school days at St Joseph’s will close this Friday. No doubt there will be many tears during the week and the sharing of fond memories. Yet for these young people, another door opens to the new and exciting experiences awaiting them at high school.

On behalf of the community of St Joseph’s, I thank the Year 7 children for what they have given to the school during their time here and wish them all the very best as they journey into the next phase of their schooling.

We wish the families who are leaving St Joseph’s a happy transition to new schools and workplaces, and thank you for your support. We ask our God to bless those who are leaving, and to walk with them always wherever they may be.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, we are constantly aware of your presence in our lives. We thank you for blessing us with many gifts and abilities with which we further your reign of love in our world. As this school year draws to a close, we ask you to walk beside those who will leave St Joseph’s for secondary schooling or to other places of work. May they carry with them treasured memories, strong character, and faith in you who live and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. AMEN

2012 School Year concludes on Friday 7 Nov at 12 pm. Please make arrangements for children to be collected at this time.

Monday 3 December
Assembly. Student Leaders announced
Yr 7: Trinity Orientation

Tuesday 4 December
Yr 7: Wet n Wild

Wednesday 5 December
School reports sent home with students
6pm: Yr 7 Graduation
Yr 5/6D and L: Paradise Point

Thursday 6 December
P-7: Fun day

Friday 7 December
No banking
No cuppa
12pm: 2012 Students Final dismissal

Monday 21 January
School Office reopens

Tuesday 22 January
Class lists displayed on admin doors: no information given over the phone.
9am-3pm: Uniform shop open

Wednesday 30 January
8.35am: 2013 School year begins

Thursday 31 January
Uniform shop open

Friday 1 January
8.40am: Sr Jenny Cuppa. Back of hall

2013

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Wed 30 Jan- Thurs 28 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Mon 15 Apr - Fri 21 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Mon 8 Jul - Fri 20 Sept</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tues 8 Oct - Fri 6 Dec</td>
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FAREWELL AND THANK YOU
At the end of the year Carmel Baillie will be finishing her time with us at St Joseph’s Tobruk. Carmel has worked in several Brisbane Catholic Education Schools over a long and distinguished career. While she is not retiring formally at the end of the year, she is preparing for this special time in her life. Carmel is enjoying the role of grandparent and just loving the time spent with her family.

At St Joseph’s Carmel fulfilled the role of an Acting APRE and provided much appreciated support for the school administration and the staff. Carmel has participated in strategic renewal planning and review processes. She has been called upon on numerous occasions to be the acting principal when the admin team was away at conferences. Carmel organised grandparents’ day on several occasions along with other major liturgical celebrations. This year she has prepared masses and prayer rituals or supported teachers in their organisation of liturgies. She has been a wonderful support to the admin team when compassionately dealing with playground or classroom behaviour incidents.

Thank you also for generously and thoughtfully donating a banner to be hung on our new lectern which will be located in the hall.

As a friend and colleague for many years, I wish Carmel all the very best in this new and exciting phase of her life. Thank you, Carmel, for your contribution to the life and culture of St Joseph’s.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Congratulations to Renuka Haran, our music teacher and the genius behind our annual Christmas concert, for another spectacular Christmas concert. The children performed admirably, with skill, enthusiasm and joy. Their costumes were sensational – a big thank you to Katrina Giebels and the staff and parents who assisted in the sewing and co-ordination of costumes. Our new lights worked well and we thank Noel and the crew from LPS (Lighting Performance and Sound) for their generous efforts in rigging up a temporary solution. The children were well prepared thanks to the staff who ensured that song lyrics were learned and children knew where to be and how to move on and off the stage. Congratulations to our instrumental teachers and their many students. The children performed very capably under the pressure of the occasion. Thank you to Josh O’Keeffe (sound) and Peter Lovegrove (lighting) for their time, energy, expertise and good humour. Many thanks to everyone who had a part in putting the concert together. It was another fabulous celebration of music, drama, dance and movement at St Joseph’s Tobruk.

PREP 2014
At St Joseph’s, the process for enrolments and conducting interviews for 2014 Prep children will be taking place in Term 1 next year. If you have a child who will be turning five (5) before 30 June 2014, you need to get your application in. So far we already have 32 applications for Prep 2014. This year 36 out of 56 places were filled by siblings, that is, brothers or sisters of children who are already enrolled at St Joseph’s. Please don’t leave it to the last moment! Please get your applications in BEFORE the end of this year.

WHAT IS OUR FUN DAY?
The School Fun Day takes place every year on the Thursday before the last day of school. This year, the Fun Day will occur on Thursday 06 December. Children come to school in free dress. This means a shirt (no tank tops, singlets, string straps etc), sunscreen (to be re-applied during the day), hat, closed-in shoes (joggers not thongs or sandals) and a water bottle. Classes are rostered to play on hired rides/equipment such as the super slide, circus fun house (jumping castle), chair plane, animal farm, ball crawl and mini golf. The P & F provide the children with a treat for the children. Last year this consisted of a sausage on bread and a popper. Families should bring home anything that might not be eaten. It is important to still provide lunch and morning tea. Class teachers will take children out of the classroom for games when the children are not on the rides. There will be a variety of indoor activities as well such as DVD’s and board games that the children may take part in as part of their fun day.

FUN DAY – FOOD
The P & F will provide children with a sausage and a popper during the day on Thursday. This is meant to be a treat, not the provision of lunch and morning tea. It is important to still provide other food for the children to eat throughout the day. I would advise parents to pack lunch and morning tea as normal asking children to bring home anything that might not be eaten.

VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU MORNING TEA
Once again, sincere thanks to all of the parents and friends of St Joseph’s who volunteer their help at school. You make a significant contribution to the life and morale of the school and your efforts are truly appreciated. Many thanks to the staff and friends who provided yummy food for the special morning tea held this morning. The staff wanted to say ‘thank you’ for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you Sr Jenny for co-ordinating the cuppa!
YEAR 7 FUN FAIR
The Year 7 Fun Fair was a great success! The activities were absorbing and very popular with the children from across all year levels. Congratulations to the Year 7 teachers Rory McBride and Rebecca Fletcher and to the Year 7 students for their hard work. Funds raised through the Fun Fair will be donated to charities selected by the children.

SCHOOL LEADERS 2013
We announce the school leaders to the community at assembly in the last week of school (Monday 03 December). We do not tell families before announcing our leaders so it will be a surprise to all of the children. The 2013 leaders are commissioned at our school mass at the beginning of next year.

SCHOOL REPORTS
These will be distributed through the children on Wednesday 05 December (the last week of term). Thank you to the staff for their efforts in writing reports. It is always a stressful time because the reports take significant time to prepare and teachers are still in charge of classes and involved in so many end of year activities.

SIGNING SHIRTS
It is okay for children leaving St Joseph’s to bring a shirt to be signed by others provided that they have enough shirts to wear throughout the week. Signed shirts are not to be worn at school or to and from school. It is expected that all children will wear the correct school uniform.

LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL
Monday * 9.00am Assembly: School Leaders 2013 announced * Yr 7’s at Trinity Orientation
Tuesday * 4C Golden Gnome Award Pizza Party * Yr 7’s at Wet ’n Wild
Wednesday *Moving Day (for classes that need too) *Yr 5/6 classes at Paradise Point
Thursday *Fun Day
Friday 8.40am: * Children go to classrooms for celebrations, farewells, pack up & clean up
* P & F Presentation to Yr 7’s
10.00am: * Lunch
10.30am: * Emu Parade
10.45am: * Mass, Presentation of Awards, Thank you to P & F Executive
12.00 noon: * Dismissal (Please ensure that you have made arrangements to pick children up at this time)

FIRST WEEK BACK 2013
Mon 21 Jan * School Office re-opens.
Tues 22 Jan * Class lists displayed on the door to the uniform shop entrance and the School Office Door.
* PLEASE NOTE: Class list information will not be given out over the phone.
Mon 28 Jan * Australia Day Public Holiday
Tues 29 Jan * Pupil Free Day (Staff Professional Development)
Wed 30 Jan * 1st Day Children attending

SCHOOL FEES 2013
(Prep-Year 7)
One child – primary from $1200 to $1250.00
Two children – primary from $1620 to $1680.00
Three children – primary from $1830 to $1900.00
For larger families, please consult the principal.

Additional Charges – ALL FAMILIES:
*P&F Levy-$80.00 per family (no increase – no rebate) *Art Levy-$45.00 per child (up $5)
*Technology Levy-$100.00 per child (no increase) *Capital Levy-$400.00 per family (no increase)

Cost of excursions and camps is extra and must be paid before the camp or excursion occurs.
Cost of the following programmes is extra. *Swimming – Term 1 (Year 1 - Term 4) *Ausdance – Term 2 or 3
Outside specialist teachers conduct the programmes in the school. These programmes are compulsory.
Cost of excursions and camps is extra and must be paid before the camp or excursion occurs.

CONSUMABLES LEVY 2013
Prep 2013: $125 (2012 was $110) Year 1 2013: $100 (2012 was $100)
Year 2 2013: $85 (2012 was $85) Year 3 2013: $80 (2012 was $75)
Year 4 2013: $70 (2012 was $65) Year 5 2013: $70 (2012 was $65)
Year 6 2013: $70 (2012 was $65) Year 7 2013: $70 (2012 was $65)

FROM THE APRE– PETER LOVEGROVE

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the students and families who have welcomed me to St Joseph’s and supported me in the role of APRE in the last semester of 2012. I have really enjoyed working with the kids, staff and parents in the many events that make up the life of the school. Best wishes to you and your families during Advent, in the lead up to Christmas, and over the Christmas season. God bless you
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PC: Jake Ferarri
1F: Max Shore, Harmony Te Hau
1C: India Seeto, Anastacia Jriege, Rhys Sula-Sioasi, Alyssa Russell, Alicia Connor
2F: Nathan Andrews, Jacqui Phelan, Kyle Harrison, Sunka Boll-Jago
3C: Mathew Nieling
3F: Salia Shore, Clayton Ruhland
4C: Whole Class
4F: Cooper Barnes
56D: Whole Class, Jessica Platell
56L: Carter Beam, Cindy Porras
6C: Leah Russell

Congratulations to 4C. They are the winners of the 2012 Golden Gnome award. I would like to thank teachers and children for your ongoing support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Enjoy!

LIBRARIAN– LYN GIEBELS

The library staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped out this year with shelving, Scholastic Book Fair, covering and Book Week. While you are all too numerous to mention, special thanks must go to Jo Hoban, who comes in nearly every day and does shelving for us. Donna Babin must also be mentioned as she now does the bulk of our covering. Many thanks as well to Lesley Solar who organises Scholastic Book Club for us which, through your purchasing, earns dozens of free books and resources for our school each year.

Without the contribution of our volunteers, our library would not run as smoothly as it does, so your contributions of time and effort directly contribute to our children’s education.

Don’t forget that all library books are now due back. Overdue notices will be sent out next week and all lost books are expected to be paid for. If you think you have sent any items on the overdue notice back, please do not hesitate to contact the library to discuss it. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

LITERACY PLANET-MELLISSA BURGESS

AS OF this week OUR SCHOOL IS IN 20th POSITION IN AUSTRALIA. Wow - Amazing effort 10-20 minutes a day is all that is needed.

CLASS LEADERS from 19th – 25th November
PC – Timothy Powell
PF – Ella Marshall
1C – Tonisha Houghton
1F – Locky Buchbach
2C – Taylah Vickery
2F – Ronan Dougherty
3C – Kynan Charlton
3F – Maurice Rosales
4C – Sasha Clark
4F – Maddison Payne
56L – Tamika Buttigieg
56D – Cameron Whalan
6C – Rhain Norton
6F – Joel Clack
7C – Jacob Evans
7F – Adam Little

SCHOOL LEADERS for this week: 1st – Lochy Buchbach, 2nd – Maurice Rosales, 3rd – Clayton Ruhland

A MUSICAL NOTE– RENUKA HARAN

Instrumental lessons have finished for the year. All children will be given a form when they return to school in 2013 regarding learning an instrument. Every child who wishes to continue learning a musical instrument or wishes to start learning one, must fill in the form and return it back in the 1st week.

2013 UNIFORMS– KERRY FENNER

To minimise waiting times and ensure stock availability at the uniform shop, parents should now be pre ordering school uniform requirements for 2013. If you are having difficulty attending in uniform shop opening times, order forms can be collected and handed in through the office.

SECOND HAND SALES– Please contact the shop to collect money from sold items.

2013 OPENING TIMES- *9am -3pm Tuesday 22nd January *2.15-3.15pm Thursday 31 January (1st week back)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER & WISH TREE APPEAL

Over the next couple weeks, until 9am Wednesday 5 December, Sr. Jenny with the help of year 6, is organising a St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper and Wish Tree Appeal.

We are hoping that all students in the school will donate canned or packaged food which can be added to Christmas hampers for the less fortunate. (We are unable to accept fresh or frozen food.)

All classes have been divided into three groups with each group being responsible for certain items.

Prep-Gr2: tins of ham, beetroot, shortbread, juice, tinned corn
Gr3-4/5: pretzels, crackers, cordial, salad dressing, plum pudding
Gr6/7: jelly, bonbons, serviettes, chips, tinned fruit, fruit cake, soft drink

There will be a marked container in the office to place the food items in.

The wish tree will be displayed in the office. Similar to the tree the parish displays in the Church, we are asking families to come in, take a tag from the tree and buy a gift for those in need this Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to Morghana Leonards for qualifying for the Qld State Swimming Championships in the 100m breaststroke. She will be competing on 21st December. Good luck and well done.
PARISH NEWS

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
The Sacramental Program for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is beginning with a Launch at St Patrick’s Catholic Church on Wednesday 13th February, 2013 at 7.30pm. Parents and their children who wish to participate are required to attend the Launch. For further information please contact the St Patrick’s Parish Office on 3287 2282.

ST PATRICK’S TRASH AND TREASURE
A stall to assist orphans and lepers of India will be held after masses on Saturday 8 December and Sunday 9 December. Loads of Goodies to sell. Please come along.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GREAT NEWS ON THE PROPOSED YATALA BIOMASS PLANT…
On Wednesday November 28th, a meeting of the Gold Coast City Council Planning Committee voted unanimously AGAINST the proposed Biomass Plant at 126 Sandy Creek Road, Yatala. After the DEHP recently approved the application, members of the Yatala Residences Alliance and the Ormeau Progress Association bombarded the Council Members with letters voicing their objection to the proposal. This, along with the petition (which reached over 6000 signatures) was enough to convince the Planning Committee Council Members to say NO. We are all breathing a huge sigh of relief. The only way the Biomass could proceed now is if Phoenix decide to take the GCCC to court and appeal. Let’s all hope they decide not to bother! A HUGE MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL…HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY! Thanks for all of your support during this ordeal…from Sharon Kennedy.

QRL SUMMER COACHING CAMPS
Mod (u/10-12) and Junior (u/13-u/15) Rugby League Camps run by QRL at Runaway Bay Sports Centre.
Mod camp Wed 19-Fri 21 Dec and Junior camp: Tues18-Fri 21. Flyers can be collected from the school office.

PARADISE DIVING CLUB
Where: Southport Olympic Pool, Marine Parade, Southport
When: Monday 7th - Friday 11th January 2013 Time: 8:30am – 12 Noon on all days.
Cost: $30 per child each day or $75 for 3 days or $95 for 4 days or $115 for 5 days. Insurance component for 1-5 days coverage is $20. Contact: Kevin Hall, Head Coach. 0415 787 207 kevvyhall1@gmail.com Bookings are preferred and confirmed via email only.

MAD CAMP
The Arts Centre Gold Coast, in association with Artslink Queensland, is delivering a six day, multi-arts intensive day camp program for students aged 10-15 years. SUN 6 - FRI 11 JANUARY 2013
www.theartscentregc.com.au For enquiries contact Vicki Buenen P: 5581 6536 E: buenen@theartscentregc.com.au

Lifeline: For support and advice in a personal crisis. Age: For all ages. · Phone counselling 24/7
Online web chat, check site for more details www.lifeline.org.au 13 11 14 or Online text chat
Kids Helpline: To talk to someone about anything that’s going on in your life. Age: 5-25. Phone counselling 24/7
Online web chat and email, check site for more details www.kidshelp.com.au 1800 55 1800 or Online text chat
Suicide Callback Service 1300 65 94 67 Support if you, or someone you know, is feeling suicidal. Age: For all ages
Phone counselling 24/7  www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au 1300 65 94 67
Mental Health Information Line - 1300 729 686 for the cost of a local call. Queensland’s most comprehensive mental health service - provides information and referrals on mental health related services in Queensland; service types include support groups, men’s services, respite, child and youth services and many more.
Parentline -1300 30 1300, 7 days a week, between 8am and 10pm. provides help through counselling, information and referral that is tailored to meet each callers' needs
dvconnect womensline - FREECALL 1800 811 811 State-wide 24 hour, 7 day a week service to women and their children experiencing domestic and/or family violence. This service is staffed by a team of dedicated professional counsellors who provide crisis intervention, support, information, advocacy, telephone counselling, referrals and importantly, the statewide coordination of emergency refuge and shelter placements across Queensland.
dvconnect mensline Queensland - FREECALL 1800 600 636 Free, confidential telephone counselling referral and support service for men. 9am - 12midnight, 7 days a week.
ReachOut.com is Australia’s leading online youth mental health service. One in four young people will have a mental disorder, and suicide is the leading cause of death for young people aged 15-24 in Australia.
Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. We help young people who are going through a tough time. 12-25yrs. General health, Mental health and counseling, Education, employment, Alcohol and drug services.
headspace Gold Coast 26 Railway Street, Southport QLD 4215 phone(07) 5509 5900 facebookwww.facebook.com.au/headspacebrisbanesouth
Sr Jenny was the mystery reader for the prep students on Thursday.