Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 6 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! Last Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Church season of Lent. In the classroom and in the Church, the prayer space background colour changes from green (ordinary time) to purple for the duration of the season of Lent. Traditionally, Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving (giving to the poor). Through fasting we become more disciplined in ourselves and our eating habits, and empathise— even if it is only for a short period of time— with those who are poor or hungry. Through prayer we deepen our relationship with our God. Almsgiving is a practical way in which we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Families are encouraged to support Caritas Australia, a Catholic charity that assists people across the world and in Australia, through Project Compassion. A Project Compassion collection box is located in each classroom.

Tony Barron and I attended a 2 day admin conference yesterday and today. The two days focussed on the new Learning Management System (LMS) which will be introduced into BCE schools over the next 18 months, and goal setting/strategic renewal for 2012 and beyond.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS – CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

Thankfully we are all different! Each of us has been created in the image and likeness of God. We must not only accept that there are many differences in the way people look, and in their ways of thinking and of doing things, we need to rejoice in these differences. These are the differences that make our school, our church and our nation so special.

Our God has created all people to be different from one another and blessed us with many and varied gifts and abilities. We are both called and challenged to be a welcoming community at St Joseph’s, in which everyone is truly loved and cared for. In such an inclusive and supportive community, each person can grow and have the confidence to share with the community his/her special gifts. Our community is thereby enriched.

All of our beautiful children are different. Not all children are great at Maths or Spelling, yet some are experts. Some children are fantastic at sports whilst others are uncoordinated. Some are intuitive and skilful artists or musicians yet many of them lack this wondrous ability to create. Some children are beautifully behaved, all the time! Some find it hard to concentrate at school for many different reasons – family break-up; sickness or death in the family; medical conditions; family upbringing. Some children can be exasperating whereas others will make you laugh – even at yourself!

Our role as teacher or parent in a Catholic school community is to meet the children (and one another) where they are and to walk with them on their journey – guiding and listening, challenging and encouraging. I believe it would be contrary to the gospel for us to judge a child and to exclude him or her because s/he was challenging. Similarly it would be contrary to the gospel for us to condemn a family because it didn’t measure up to our expectations or to what we consider to be the norm.

Compassionate God, help us to be like Jesus and Saint Mary MacKillop who saw the face of God in everyone they met, especially the poor, the sick, the sinner, the prisoner and all who were pushed aside or condemned in their community. Amen.
PARENT SOUNDING BOARD
Schools in the archdiocese take part in a review process over a five year period. Each year schools review particular dimensions of their school to evaluate how they are going, applaud achievement, discern where there is room for improvement and engage in renewal processes.

I would like to invite parents to act as a ‘sounding board’ offering your thoughts on the areas we are currently reviewing and to contribute to our goals for 2012.

Our first ‘sounding board’ for 2012 will take place in the hall on Thursday 01 March from 8.45am to 10.45am. All parents are most welcome to attend. For catering purposes and for us to know how many tables and chairs we need to put out for this occasion, please notify Bron in the office of your intention to participate. Should you be unavailable on this occasion, please join us when other ‘sounding board’ forums are convened throughout the year.

SWIMMING
Please ensure that children come to school prepared for their swimming lessons. This coming week, children from Years 2, 3 & 4 will be having their swimming lessons. Children will need sunscreen, hat, swim shirt and togs. They walk to the pool in thongs. The office does not ring home should children forget their swimming gear.

APPROPRIATE SIBLING BEHAVIOUR
Parents of prep children know well the value of the 1 kiss, 1 hug, 1 wave rule when leaving children at school. Children and parents quickly learn how to cope with the separation from one another. Children make new friends and focus on the available fun activities to settle into the day. Unfortunately, older siblings can often be like a parent to younger siblings in an emotional sense during the school day and unless they follow the same rules, they can unintentionally cause separation anxiety issues. Please have a conversation around this issue at home and encourage older siblings to follow the same 1 kiss, 1 hug, 1 wave rule when they meet siblings during the day. It is not their responsibility to play with younger siblings nor to make them feel better when they seem to be upset.

CARPARK ETIQUETTE!
For the afternoon pick up time, cars enter the grounds from Kokoda Street. It is best for all cars to exit the grounds through the Tobruk Street exit, rather than trying to push through to the nursing home exit on Kokoda Street. It is likely that the nursing home will be redeveloped in the near future and that cars will not be able to exit through the nursing home exit during or after the redevelopment. DO NOT ENTER THE GROUNDS FROM TOBRUK STREET AFTER SCHOOL. When leaving the grounds via Tobruk Street, do not turn right to where the pedestrian crossing is. In the afternoon, the children cross there frequently. You would hold up traffic if you turned right and were stopped at the crossing.

DANGER! CROSS ROADS AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
If you are leaving the school grounds on foot, please use the pedestrian crossings. Both Kokoda and Tobruk Streets are very busy. Torbuk Street also has the added pressure of workers going to and from the Trinity College construction site. The entrance to the site after completion will still be opposite OSHC from Tobruk Street. This will mean that walking around the cul-de-sac will not be the safest route. It may take longer to use the pedestrian crossing but for the safety of families it is the best choice!

PREP 2013 INTERVIEWS
The enrolment interview process for Prep 2013 will begin soon. Families must submit an enrolment application for their prep-aged children even if they have siblings at St Joseph’s already. A number of families were ‘caught out’ during last year’s process as they had not submitted an enrolment application. As always, the numbers are fairly tight for next year’s intake with 47 applications coming from both existing families and new Catholic families. So if you haven’t put in an application, please do so immediately. Applications are available at the office.

ST JOSEPH’S WOOLWORTHS BBQ– DOMINIC BARNES
Saturday Feb 25 - 10am to 3pm
Tomorrow (Saturday February 25th) the P&F is running a Sausage Sizzle at the new Woolworths Holmview. The BBQ will run from 10am to 3pm, but we only need helpers for an hour or two. We still need 3 more people to help out on the day and will greatly appreciate if you can give 1 hour of your time. You can call Dominic Barnes on 0447 710 730 and nominate what time you would to help. We are the first community group to hold the BBQ up there and are hoping to raise $1000 on the day selling sausage sizzles and drinks. These funds will go directly to helping out our school.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PC: Cara Bowe, Declan Vickery, Joshua Witham
PF: Blaze Ayre, Emma Cook, Keyana Drum, Tonisha Houghton
1C: Shannon Robinson
1F: Cruz Toeva, Ashlin McMillan
2C: Natalie Fenwick, Olivia Barnes
2F: Goldie Marin, Sunka Boll-Jago
3C: April Smith
3F: Keegan Bradley
4C: Hannah Evans, Andrew Kennedy
4F: Katarina Shala
56D: Kiwa King
56L: Heidi Le Masurier
6C: Charlotte Hasenkam, Samuel Doherty
6F: Harley Coglan, Caitlin Barlow
7C: Cassidy Dillon
7F: Madeline Whitford, Emerson Black
Golden Gnome: 1st: 2C, 4C. 2nd: 5L, 5F, 2F. 3rd: 3F, 7F.

2C PANCAKE COMPETITION– ISABELLE VARGAS-MALBY

This week, 2C held a pancake topping competition, where students had to create and list the “world’s best pancake topping”!
The competition was won by Paige Robson–Petch, and below is the list of her delicious ingredients, which you may want to try on your next pancake. Yum!

Jam  Honey  Ice cream  Cherries
Chocolate  Strawberries  Mangoes  Yoghurt

LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES– SARAH TAYLOR

This year St Joseph’s will be running lunch time activities each week. Activities include giant chess, stacking, gardening clubs, music ministry, team sport and structured games. The year 4 Peer Activity Leaders (PALs) will begin the initiative this week by running physical games for the students in the early years. Some games they will play include bin ball, elastics, skipping and ball games. There are many benefits to structured lunch time activities, they promote physical activity, enhance school connectedness, develop social competencies, provide leadership opportunities, and enhance relationships across school. All St Joey's students are welcome to participate in the activities and we hope they enjoy the experience.

CROSS COUNTRY– MATTHEW ARMSTRONG

It’s cross country time again!
This year we would like to offer the YEARS 3-7 children the opportunity to train for the cross country events before school. Training will be between 8-8.20am on Wednesday 29 February, 7, 14 and 21 March. Permission notes have been sent to each class for students to take home. P-2 training is taking place in their P.E. lessons.
If your child is interested in training they must return the permission form, prior to the first training session.

School Cross Country will be held on MONDAY MARCH 26

PARISH NEWS

PARISH CHOIR resumes practice in the Church on Monday Feb 27 6:30-8:00pm. New members are always welcome, and transport can be arranged. A large number of singers are needed, as not everybody is able to sing at all the ceremonies. Practice sessions can be adjusted accordingly. Anne (3287 2781) or Aileen (3287 1588).

Mamre International Trash & Treasure Stall on the weekend of 17 & 18 March. All donations (except clothes) are welcome. Betty would also appreciate your help/assistance while she is holding the stall. Betty on 0439 791133.

MEN’S BREAKFAST—The first Men’s Breakfast for 2012 will be on Sat 25 Feb 2012 at 8am in the Truelson Room at the back of the Church. All are welcome. $5; RSVP: Peter 3807 5358 or ip.witham@bigpond.com.

YOUTH NEWS

Our Youth Lenten Program starts this Friday 24th Feb at my place at 6.30pm. If you can’t make it in time for dinner, the meeting will begin at 7.30. Teenagers and young adults welcome.
The next Youth Mass will be Sun, 4th March. Practice at 4, Mass at 6, pizza after Mass, finish around 8. Please let me know if you would like to get involved. There’s a few different ministries for people to take part in.
Frog will kick off next term. More info in a few weeks.

St Joseph’s Beenleigh

Newsletter 24 February 2012
Family Conference/Expo. Saturday 7th July at St Edward the Confessor School and Church, Daisy Hill
John Paul II Centre for Family and Life in collaboration with the Logan Deanery will be hosting a one day “Family Conference/Expo”. The idea of the day is to celebrate “Family” in whatever form it takes in our lives – married couples, couples with children, blended, multicultural or single families, singles, separated or divorced, children and youth – we are planning to have something for everyone. Watch this space for more information. If you have any questions please contact Jean Tamblyn Logan Deanery Coordinator or Gail Godfrey JPll Centre. Ph: 3366 2188

ARIA ANGELS: Fun-filled sessions aim to nurture spirituality in families through the joy of singing games, rhymes, art, dance, stories and prayer. Held at St. Matthew’s Parish, Loganholme 180 Bryants Rd, Loganholme, 9.00–10.30 am, each week for seven weeks, commencing on Thursdays, Feb 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Cost is $5 per family and it includes morning tea and handouts. Contact: Jean Tamblyn, Logan Deanery 0400 488221 or email pa.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au

The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. This year’s items include a handball, book reading light and USB, as well as colourful Dollarmite character moneyboxes.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

Taking part in School Banking is easy.

ACCOUNT OPENING SESSION AT ST JOSEPH’S TOBRUK MEMORIAL SCHOOL
Ann Pinnock, School Banking Specialist will be available to open accounts for your children from 8am ON FRIDAY 23RD MARCH. She will be located at the Mango Tree Area. All you need to bring with you is photographic ID for you. The school will ID your child.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Dentists just need to bring their deposit in to class every Thursday using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. Each classroom has a large grey school banking wallet where the children place their yellow wallets. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or contact the School Banking Co-ordinator.

If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch. Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online.