Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 7 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! On Monday I attend a Principals’ Forum at Eagle Farm at which all of the principals in the Brisbane Archdiocese will be present. This is an important occasion when we meet with the Executive Director Mr David Hutton and are informed about current issues affecting Catholic Education and our schools. On Thursday last week (01 March), a number of parents gathered with Tony and me to act as a sounding board for new ideas and to review how the school has performed in particular areas which are under review in 2012. Sincere thanks to the parents who participated and offered constructive ideas about current issues and future directions at Joeys. This will be added to staff input to complete the process. Further parent forum opportunities will take place in each term through the school year.

LENTEN REFLECTION/PRAYER

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, grounded in our baptism. In our busy lives, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our life patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. Let us pray for ourselves and our community that, open to the Spirit, we may learn the art of discerning God’s word, leading and guiding us in our daily lives. We pray for the courage to embrace wholeheartedly our Lenten journey. We pray for the openness to recognise the Spirit’s guiding presence in the desert experiences of our lives. We pray for the wisdom to acknowledge our failure to love and the courage to begin again. We pray for the humility to recognise our need for God.

PERSONAL SPACE

This week at assembly we stressed the importance of respecting one another’s personal space. This refers to our right to feel safe and to prevent unwanted or inappropriate physical contact from others. A recent issue has been the uninvited playing with/touching of the hair of other children. The children have been asked not to brush, comb, plait or play with another child’s hair. Class teachers have followed up on this issue in the classrooms. I ask parents to reiterate this message at home.

WAITING FOR CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

It can be very distracting for both teachers and children to have parents waiting outside classrooms and looking into the rooms from 2.30pm. One can draw the comparison of having twenty people watching you in your work space! Could I please ask parents to wait either at the Mango Tree area or near the hall BUT please do not block the walkway between the administration block and the hall as this is the access way for the children getting to the pick-up area. Teachers will bring children from the classroom to the mango tree area after school. Parents of Prep children prefer to wait in the corridor between Tobruk and O’Shea buildings (Blocks B and C). Thank you for your support and co-operation with this.
YEAR 5 MINISTRY – NURSING HOME VISITS
Congratulations to our year 5 children. Year 5’s visit the nursing home next door once a week. Their teachers report that their behaviour has been exceptional and that they have been exemplary ambassadors for St Joseph’s. They have been caring, understanding and interested conversationalists with their aged partners and they participate fully in all arranged activities. Great work Year 5!

PREP 2013 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS
I will begin the enrolment interview process for Prep 2013 in coming weeks. 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. The numbers are fairly tight for next year’s intake with 65 applications in already, for 56 places. So if you haven’t put in an application, please do so immediately. Applications are available at the office.

STUDENT DETAILS UPDATE
A form was sent home on Thursday with the personal details of students. Please check the information is correct, sign and return it to the office by Monday 5 March. We have less than two weeks to have the forms returned and data updated in the computer. The department of education, employment and workplace relations will be collecting student addresses (not names) and their level of education. More information is attached to the form sent home.

CAR-PARK AFTER SCHOOL
Parents are asked to enter the school grounds via Kokoda Street after school and to exit via Tobruk Street. When exiting onto Tobruk Street, please turn left as you will most likely be held up trying to turn right across the pedestrian crossing. With congestion in the car-park near St Vincent de Paul House, and with cars entering via Kokoda Street, it is better that families do not try to exit the grounds through the nursing home drive. DO NOT ENTER THE GROUNDS VIA TOBRUK STREET AFTER SCHOOL! Please be patient with one another while this change in procedure is implemented over the final weeks of the term.

We ask that once parents have collected their child/ren, that they move quickly to their car and vacate the parking area. This means that we can have a quick turnover, others get to use the parks, and our children remain safe.

The car park will not be opened until 2:40 pm each afternoon, as this is sometimes used for training and PE lessons.

PARENT / TEACHER TERM 1 INTERVIEW
Interviews will take place over the last two weeks of term 1 (Weeks 9 & 10). Your child’s class teacher will work out an appointment time with you in the weeks preceding. The Term 1 Interview allows both parents and teachers to communicate early in the year about any issues or concerns and to affirm good student work. The purpose of this ‘interview/report’ is to summarise trends in student academic achievement, effort and application, social skills and behaviour during the first term from both the teacher’s and parent’s perspectives. Teachers and parents meet together to discuss what is going well and where there might be room for improvement. It is not meant to be a comprehensive or detailed report. Rather, the occasion of the interview is an opportunity for purposeful discussion and to develop the partnership between home and school by providing an early, formal point of contact. Students also complete a self-reflection which contributes further to the discussion.

STATE ELECTION
The State Election campaign has now officially commenced with the State heading to the polls on Saturday 24 March.

The QCEC (Queensland Catholic Education Commission) has prepared resource materials for the election and our school communities are encouraged to use this time in the lead up to the election to become familiar with the issues that affect our schools. It is important also that our political representatives are made aware of the key issues for Catholic schools. These resources can be accessed via the QCEC website at www.qcec.catholic.edu.au through the link "State Election 2012".

One of the resources available on the QCEC website is a QCEC discussion paper titled "Meeting the schooling needs of Queensland’s growing population". This paper calls for additional capital funding to meet the need for the future provision of Catholic schools given the forecast population growth for Queensland over the next 10 years and beyond.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PC: Lola Whitby, Jack Byron, Jake Ferrari
PF: Juliette Barreras, Montana Ruhland, Saxon Harris
1C: India Seeto, Josie-Lea Jeffrey 1F: Jess Miller, Ella Thompson
2C: Lachlan Moody, Ruben Mazza 2F: Jamie Fitzgerald, Ronan Dougherty
3C: Connor Ahpene 3F: Jayden Schipplock
4C: Connor O’Toole, Sasha Clark 4F: Maddison Payne
56D: Elliot Fekete, Nicholas Roselt 56L: Decklan Solar-Young
6C: Liam Jeffrey 6F: Kaleb Eaton
7C: Jacob Evans 7F: Adam Little
Golden Gnome: 1st: 56D, 4F, 4C. 2nd: 2C, 56L. 3rd: Green Room

BOOK CLUB

Our first book club has been sent home and is due back with payment by Friday 16 March. You can order using the forms on the back of each “club” and payment can be cash, cheque, credit card or online direct to Scholastic.

P&F NEWS

WOOLWORTHS BBQ UPDATE
The P&F put on a sausage sizzle at the new Woolworths at Holmview last Saturday. We made a profit of $240 for our school. This was a little below our expectations, maybe due to the heavy rain that persisted all day. Thanks to Woolworths manager Rob for the opportunity and also a great thank you to these people for taking time out of your weekend to help; Donna Babbin, Angela Houghton, Narelle Fairbanks, David Fitzgerald, Ros Mendo and Sue Hall, Michelle Jeffrey for organising, and Rory McBride for buy a snag! Special thanks to Josie, Tayla, Tanisha, Cooper and Harrison.

GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GRANT SUBMISSION
Over the past two weeks we have been busy getting quotes to submit a grant proposal for some new sheds for additional storage around the school. The grant was submitted on Wednesday and we will hear back in May if we have been successful. Thank you to Karen Cole for submitting the grant proposal. Fingers crossed!

JOEY’S DISCO - THURSDAY 15 MARCH
We are getting into the swing of things early this year with a “Green” theme disco that coincides (almost) with St Patrick’s Day. Please feel free to wear green to the disco and win a prize for the best dressed “green”. The disco will be held in the school hall with P-3 from 3:30 -4:30, a changeover of half an hour for sausage sizzle at 4:30-5:00 and then the 4-7 disco from 5:00-6:30. The canteen will be open throughout the disco to sell chips, lollies, slices etc and tea and coffee for any parents who would like to hang around. Children will remain inside the hall for their disco. Entry is still $5 which includes a sausage on bread and icy pole. Keep an eye out in school bags for the Disco Note and return slip. This will be due back by Wednesday 15 March.
Your child will be issued a named coloured voucher to redeem their goodies roughly between 4:30 and 5:00pm. Children can come earlier or return later for their icy pole if they like. We hope this will be an easier process. Please bring water bottles to stay hydrated!! Thank you to Lesley Solar-Young and Angela Houghton for putting this favourite together again.

EASTER RAFFLE
It’s that time of year.. our special Easter celebration. As well as reflecting on the meaning of Easter, most people enjoy the splurge for chocolate. Each year we hold a CLASS Easter raffle where there are prizes to be one for EVERY class. Could we please ask families to send in a donation to the Easter raffle prizes.. these could be eggs, chocolates, poppas, books, toys, stationery items, stickers, activity books etc anything that we could use in our prize packs. Raffle books will be sent out shortly, one book of 5 tickets per child, as each class has its own draw. PLEASE put your child’s NAME & CLASS on the tickets and if you sold it at work, the name and contact number of who bought the ticket. Tickets are due back and the draws will take place on Wednesday 28 March (last Wednesday of the term).
PAULS CAPS

Pauls are donating 20c for every specially marked Good to GO cap collected before 29th April. Hurry, please send them to the office so we don't miss out on this bonus offer!

INFORMATION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ASTHMA FOUNDATION

What is Asthma?
Asthma is a condition of the airways. People with asthma have sensitive airways which react to triggers that set off their asthma. Their airways swell and get thick with mucus and the muscles around the airway squeeze tight. This makes it hard to breathe.

Statistics
Asthma is a serious public health problem in Australia, with over 2 million people currently living with the condition. Approximately 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 9 school-aged children live with asthma. In 2009, 411 deaths were attributable to asthma in Australia.

Signs and Symptoms
People with asthma can experience a range of symptoms which vary depending on exposure to triggers (see below). Asthma signs and symptoms vary from person to person and include: — Breathlessness — Wheezing

Triggers
A trigger is something that causes your airways to narrow, leading to asthma symptoms. Not every person with asthma has the same triggers. Common asthma triggers include: — Perfume and deodorants
— Exercise — Colds/virus — Hay fever — Tobacco smoke — Weather changes
— Tight Chest — Persistent Cough — Dust mites — Animal dander — Pollen

Common Questions about Asthma
1. What is the difference between reliever and preventer medication?
Reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin), also known as blue reliever medication, helps reduce muscle tightening around the airways and is taken when needed. This medication is also used in asthma first aid. Preventer medication (e.g. Flixotide) works to reduce redness, swelling, sensitivity and mucus production in the airways. This medication is taken daily even when well.

2. What is good asthma control?
Good asthma control means that:
— Reliever medication is used less than 3 times per week (except before exercise)
— Symptoms are rarely experienced at night or upon waking
— Exacerbations are rarely experienced during exercise
— An individual has normal lung function

3. Will I grow out of my asthma?
Asthma may improve with age, whereby symptoms present less frequently and attacks become less severe. However, the condition may return later in life.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Project Officer Care & Concern / Walking with Love Programs Part Time Position
For an application package, email cfc@centacarebrisbane.net.au with “Project Officer” in the subject line:
Or Phone: 07 3252 4371 Only applications that address the Key Selection Criteria will be considered for the role. Closing date for application COB Monday 5 March 2012

The Logan Job Connect Project has been designed to assist Logan residents and those in the surrounding areas who are looking to re-enter the workforce. This project also offers job search assistance and, for those wanting to work in the hospitality sector, accredited training.

- Monday-Friday, 5 day commitment
- 10 weeks (excluding school holidays)
- Unpaid work experience included
- Hours: 8:45am - 3:00pm

Throughout this FREE 10-week program, participants enter a work experience arrangement with a Worklinks-approved employer for two days per week and attend training for the remaining three days per week. Training consists of accredited units from the Tourism, Hospitality and Events training package as well as job search activities.

Training is delivered at the: Worklinks Community Cafe - LOGAN 1/15 Station Road Logan Central

Contact us TODAY for further information.

**Eligibility criteria apply
Matt Armstrong on 3299 4798 or E:mmattarmstrong@worklinks.com.au**