Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 8 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! The school year is in full swing and the days are becoming more and more hectic. As we reach the business end of the term teachers have begun preparations for Parent-Teacher interviews. We are also preparing for Gala Days, School Disco, Cross Country and Joeys Day. There is never a dull day to be had in school!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST JOEYS

Congratulations to Amber and Adam Ayre (Blaze in Prep) on the arrival of their newest family member Axle.

Congratulations also to Peter and Vonesanith Souvannasing who were due to give birth to a new son today. This will be a brother for Natasha (Yr 2) and Alisha (Yr 3)

CAR-PARK AFTER SCHOOL

Parents are asked to enter the school grounds via Kokoda Street after school and to exit via Tobruk Street. 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. In the coming week, you will notice new line markings. Please follow these new directions! Do not park or stop on yellow lines or areas that say “No Parking”.

CAR-PARK COURTESY

The Main car-park is now being opened at 2:40pm, so that children have a chance to utilise the courts for games and sport practise. We realise that parents are keen to come early and get a park, but this is where some problems begin. Times for the car park being open are: Morning 8-9am. Afternoon 2.40-4pm. Please realise that if you come early before the gates are open, you will need to park somewhere in a designated park. At present people are lining up in the driveway and even on the road and blocking access. Please have some driver courtesy.

Also it is important that once you have collected your child/ren that you exit the car-park in a timely manner. This allows other parents to drive in and access a park. Have a look at the photo from last week....the car-park is empty at 3:10pm
MOBILE PHONES
This message has two parts. Firstly it has been noted and reported to the office that a number of parents are talking on mobile phones while driving out of the car-park. This is an offence as we all know which can result in fines and loss of demerit points. It is also a concern knowing that we are placing our children’s lives at risk. Please show some common sense in this area.

Secondly, the policy for children and mobile phones at school is fairly simple. Phones need to be handed in to the office each day through the pouch system. At the end of the day they are returned to classrooms. We ask children that they do not turn on or use phones until they are out of the school grounds. However we realise there are times when a parent may use the phone to get messages to their children. If children need to check their phone or message mum or dad, they simply need to speak to the teacher on duty, and remain there while they use the phone.

So after reading the last few paragraphs, the message is simple..............

PLEASE STOP PLACING THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AT RISK!!!!

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).

Should it be raining at 2:55, teachers will bring children to the hall. Parents can collect their children by moving to the walkway closest to the Mango tree area and wait outside. The teachers on duty will then direct children out to their parents. Thank you for your support and co-operation with this.

SPORT NEWS
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Unfortunately for this year, it has been decided that we will not be participating in the Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival. This decision has been reached due to a number of reasons. Firstly, as many would know, the Catholic Carnival is not a selection Carnival and students do not progress any further. It is primarily a chance for schools in the area to get together and have some fun. Secondly, this day clashes with the first of 5 Gala days. St Joseph’s is committed to the Gala days in 5 different sports. Some of our teachers are also Convenors for the sports across the District. Obviously trying to compete in these and swimming would severely drain our student numbers, and put an impossible strain on staff presence also.

It was not a decision we came to lightly, but one that had to be made.

CROSS COUNTRY
Again due to various factors, the School cross country date has changed from earlier in the year. Our Cross Country will be run on Wednesday 28 March from 9am – 12. Children have had a chance to train with Mr Armstrong before school each week. He has also used PE lessons for training and course familiarisation.

GALA DAYS
As stated earlier, our Year 6 and 7 students will be competing in Gala Days with other schools in the Beenleigh District. This is the new sport format that took the place of weekly Inter school sport. The first Gala Day will be held next Friday 16 March.

MONEY
When sending money in to school for activities etc, please be sure to place the money in an envelope and write clearly on the front, the child’s name, class and what it is for. This makes life easier in the office, and means we won’t be chasing you to pay again!

SCHOOL DISCO
Next Thursday 15 March we will be holding our first School Disco. It is a green themed night, for St Patrick’s Day. The P&F sent out notes last week. Cost is $5 which includes entry, sausage sizzle and icy pole. Other food items will be available for sale as will some Glow sticks.

Prep – 3 from 3:30 – 4:30pm, and Yrs 4-7 from 5pm – 6:30. Food will be handed out between the two discos. Students who are attending OSHC will be escorted to and from the Centre by a St Joseph’s staff member. Please be aware that the OSHC do require permission to release the children from the centre for the afternoon. Please contact Kirsty Cameron with regards to this.

ST JOSEPH’S DAY
March 19 is St Joseph’s Day; a day of celebration for our school and namesake. At 9am we will be holding a Liturgy in the hall. Following this the children will be participating in some activities and games with their buddy classes, before celebrating with some treats at lunch time. Parents are welcome to attend the Liturgy.
**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.

**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](http://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.

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**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

PC: Stephen McInnes, Stephany Fix, Lucinda Phelan
PF: Coen Snelling, Khanya Hughes, Bayli Eichmann, Riley McVicker
1C: Ryan Kennedy 1F: Hayley Fanning, Jackson Rookwood
2C: Phoebe Tyrrell Raddatz, Jackson Shaw 2F: Tia Finlay, Kyle Harrison
3C: Hannah Marsh 3F: Whole class
4C: Andrew Kennedy, Mitchell Smith 4F: Cooper Barnes
56D: Cameron Whalan, Saige Kennedy 56L: Lillian Bevan, Jessica Le Billon
6C: Tom Cohen, Asha Saju 6F: Aiden Phelan, Caitlin Barlow
7C: Phranis Siaosi 7F: Alec Digal
Golden Gnome: 1st: 7F, 7C, 2F. 2nd: 4C, 56L. 3rd: 56D

**LIBRARY-LYN GIEBELS**

Our Valentine’s Day launch for the National Year of Reading was a great success, with most of our year 3 to 7 students taking a book on a blind date. Some enjoyed their books, while others learned something about which authors and series they will avoid in the future. All good learning experiences.

Next term we will start having silent reading in the library during Tuesday lunchtime. Children can come in, select a book and read for as much of lunchtime as they like. During lunch break on Thursdays will be storytime for the P-3 age group, so they can be part of the National year of Reading activities.

Our next activity for the National Year of Reading will be Reading Time in the Library. Each Thursday the library will be open at lunch for quiet reading. The library is looking for large cardboard boxes (fridge, washing machine, etc.) to create reading spaces. If anyone knows where we can get some it would be greatly appreciated.
BANK ACCOUNT OPENING SESSION
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.

BUS PASS
In conjunction with Qld Transport the 2012 Surfside Buslines School Bus Pass distribution will be completed by Friday 9th March. Students are allowed to continue using 2011 passes until this time.
Reminder: New applications can take up to 2 weeks to complete, during this time if students advise the Driver that an application has been submitted, they are allowed to travel for free until their pass is received.
Any further inquiries after 9th March can be directed to our Surfside Buslines Schools section via email: schools@tagroup.net.au or telephone 55716555 ext 204.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!
Weekend date : 27-29 April,2012
Venue : Santa Teresa, Ormiston QLD
For bookings/details contact : Terry and Rhonda Boyle tel. 07 3352 3328 or boyletj@powerup.com.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au

Easter Passion Play in Brisbane
The Iona Passion Play is coming to Iona College, Wynnum West, on Saturday March 31st & Good Friday April 6th at 7pm.
Tickets: Pre-booked: $12 At the Gate: Adults $18 Seniors/Students $15
Children (12 & under) FREE Group discounts available.
Bookings: 3333 1993 or online at www.passionplay.org.au

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 - 1/15 Station Road Logan Central QLD 4114
Contact us TODAY for further information.
**Eligibility criteria apply
Contact Matt Armstrong on 3299 4798 or E:mattarmstrong@worklinks.com.au

Beenleigh PCYC is holding a blue light disco on Friday 16th March at 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Admission $7. Years 1-7 are welcome. Children must be dropped off and picked up personally at the end of the disco.