Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 9 at St Joseph’s Tobruk! This is the penultimate week of Term 1. Today is National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. It is also Gala Day for our Year 6 & 7 students through which they participate in a variety of interschool sports. Teachers will focus on strategies for children to defuse potential bullying situations today but we will postpone a whole school day of action against violence and bullying to a day when this can be our sole focus.

The season of Lent is over half way through, and it is pertinent to ask ourselves if/how we have become better people and improved our relationship with our God during Lent 2012 through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We look forward to our Lenten Fair on Thursday 29 March not just for the fun of the fair but because it is a further opportunity to support people through Caritas Australia who do not even have the basic necessities in life.

COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

One of our core values is Courage and Resilience. It takes courage to be honest and to accept consequences for actions. It takes courage to stand up for yourself when someone is trying to put you down. It takes courage to stand up for someone else who is being bullied. It takes courage to have a go at something when you think you might fail. It takes courage to do the right thing when others are doing the wrong thing. The Rats of Tobruk showed great courage when they had to face up to the power of Rommel’s highly successful and intimidating tank division. Mary MacKillop was courageous when she confronted the male church leaders of her day and during her excommunication from the church she loved and served. There would have been enormous pressure to succeed. For her order to not only survive but thrive is a tribute to her courage and resilience. Jesus showed great courage when he was crucified for challenging people to build the reign of God in his community. The disciples of Jesus were emboldened by the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to go out and continue Jesus’ vision and mission. They were courageous in the face of resistance and persecution from Jewish and Roman authorities. Let us pray then for the Spirit’s gift of courage.

Some sayings of Mary MacKillop about courage and resilience

"Our courage should rise with difficulties and obstacles.” 14.12.1890
"God loves courageous souls.” 14.12.1890
"To lack courage shows want of confidence in God and weak faith.” 14.12.1890
"Out of all our heart’s troubles God will bring glory.” 14.12.1890
"Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering whom you are trying to follow.” 12.1.1909
"Take fresh courage. Lean more on God and less on ourselves.” 21.5.1877
"The cross appears lighter when carried with Jesus.” 3.5.1874
"Work on with courage and constancy.” 4.7.1876
"Bear your little trials – they are intended as your stepping stones to Heaven.” 4.7.1876
"God is comforted when we prove we are no cowards in God’s service.” 19.11.1873
"Pray that prosperity may not elate nor adversity ever shake your courage and generosity in the service of God.” 4.3.1891

"No matter how many or how great be your shortcomings, you shall certainly succeed in the end.” 16.2.1874
"Have courage, no matter what your crosses are.” 7.5.1890
"We must often feel weary and tired yet God brings us through all these things.” 5.6.1874
"Have courage and patience and God will help you in all things.” 15.8.1899

"Have courage, trust in God, St Joseph and our Blessed Mother, and you need have no fear.” 4.4.1905

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). 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.

SCHOOL DISCO
The disco took place yesterday in the school hall. Many thanks to the P & F for their organization of the disco. There were many helping hands cooking sausages, serving food to the children, setting up and cleaning up. Thanks also to the staff who attended and who watched over the children and participated in the dancing. It was also wonderful to see so many parents joining in, particularly at the P-3 disco. Well done everyone! Thanks also to the Student Council for their help.

AIRCON TO MUSIC ROOM
This will be installed next Monday when the room is unoccupied. Sincere thanks to the P & F for the air-conditioning. It will much appreciated by Renuka and the children!

ST PATRICK’S DAY PARISH RALLY
Best wishes to the parish for St Patrick’s Day! Our P & F team will be hosting the BBQ lunch tomorrow at the Parish St Patrick’s Day car rally and celebration so help out if you can. See Angela Houghton if you can offer assistance on the day.

GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND – GRANT APPLICATION
The P & F have applied for a grant to install three storage sheds around the school. These will alleviate our storage issues and make space for P & F materials as well. We will find out next term if our application has been successful.

CHEST FREEZER
Sincere thanks to the P & F for the chest freezer which is now installed in the canteen. This will be used for events like the disco, sausage sizzles, tuck-shop days, fetes etc. It certainly came in handy at the disco last night!

BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESAN P & F COUNCIL AGM
The Brisbane Archdiocesan P & F Council are holding their AGM on Wednesday 28 March from 5.30pm at the O’Shea Centre, Wilston. Their Guest speaker for the evening is Professor Matt Sanders – Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme). Parents are encouraged to attend.

ST JOSEPH’S DAY
Our St Joseph’s Day school liturgy takes place in the morning Monday 19 March at 9.00am in the hall. The liturgy will be followed by a games rotation and extended lunch break. Unfortunately I am at a live-in Professional Development event for principals (Leading Learning) from Sunday through to Tuesday afternoon and cannot be there for the celebration. Parents are most welcome to attend as always.

CONGRATULATIONS! ANOTHER LITTLE JOEY IS BORN
Congratulations to Paul and Susanne on the birth of Matilda Rose who is baby sister to Mikayla Heagney 1C. Best wishes!
**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

PC: Laird Mairhofer, Trent Horsnell, Tim Powell, Declan Vickery  
PF: Taliah D’Arcy, Oliver Malcolm, Archie Dougherty  
1C: Alyssa Russell, Hayden Clark, Abbey Shaw  
1F: Jacyntha McCormack, Jennifer Witham  
2C: Jai Charlton, Taylah Vickery  
2F: Corey Hawkins, Lucy McCullum  
3C: Kaleb Van De Langenburg  
3F: Gloria Fekete  
4C: Grace Fairbank, Bianca Buttigieg  
4F: Vincent Villanes  
56D: Liam Hoban, Jacquie Falani  
56L: Tayn Wilson  
6F: Amelia Buttigieg, Alex Elford  
7C: Bianca Chua  
7F: Shannon Guilford

**LENTEN FAIR– KIDS IN 56L**

We are holding a school Lenten Fair to help “Caritas Australia”. We would like to raise enough money to support Caritas Australia in their important work with poor families around the world. We need lots of prizes to make our day fun. You can help by donating party prizes, chocolates, lolly pops, small toys etc. Please send your donations to Year 56L&D. Through your child’s class teacher on Thursday 28th March, the kids of St Joseph’s will pay to play a game and try to win a prize. Games vary from 50c- $1.50 each.

We are asking you to help us with this Lenten Fair, to help all of those people in Cambodia. You can help by donating as many prizes as you can and having fun on the day. PS: Please help us.

**SUPPORT TEACHER INCLUSIVE EDUCATION-SUZANNE HALL**

It will be OPEN DOOR in the GREEN ROOM on

*Thursday 23 March from 2.15 to 3pm  
*Friday 24 March from 9 am to 10 pm  
*Friday 24 March from 2.15 to 3pm

Drop in any time during these times and see how the e-learning programs Intrepica and Mathletics work and how they effectively help your child’s learning. You will also see students working on another program, Reading Doctor as they consolidate their literacy skills. See iPads in action as we work on an Ipad trial in the Green Room. If your child is working on the MiniLit program, you will have an opportunity to talk with us about it.

Take this opportunity to drop into the Green Room and find out what goes on in this learning space.

**SMARTPHONE APP TRIAL– TONY BARRON**

We are trialling the idea of using an app for smartphones called ‘Skoolbag’. Skoolbag is a school to parent communication tool. It provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications. No more lost paper in school bags!

School newsletters, Schools notices, and School alerts, School permission notes and other documents are communicated directly to parents smartphones via the Skoolbag Web App.

You can [install it on your Smartphone by pointing the Smartphone Web Browser (eg iPhone Safari, android web browser)](http://www.skoolbag.com.au/stjoeyssms)

You can then add it as a shortcut to your Home Screen by following the "add to homescreen" prompt on your iPhone, or by creating a shortcut to your desktop/home screen, if using an Android powered phone.

There is no cost to parents or children, but it does use a small amount of internet download on your phones.

**SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT OPENING MORNING**

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.

**P&F NEWS– DOMINIC BARNES**

*Last Night's Disco...* Thanks to everyone for coming along it was a fun night and we raised a nice profit for our kid's school. Thank you to Lesley Solar and Angela Houghton for organizing the event and the helpers on the night. Thanks to the teacher's for putting in a few extra hours to help out too. We'll let you know what profit we made next week.

P&F Dates coming up…

**Saturday March 17** - The P&F will be running a BBQ at the St Patrick's Day event run by the Parish at the school. Thank you to the Houghton family for helping out.

**Wednesday March 25** - Easter Raffle drawn.

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*St Joseph’s Beenleigh*

*Newsletter 16 March 2012*
When my family support a P&F fundraiser where does our money go?
Firstly can I say, that you are a part of the P&F. You don’t need to show up to meetings each month or be on a committee to play a part on the P&F. By simply supporting fundraisers and other events you are improving your child’s school. The part you play is very important.

So where do the funds go? Every dollar goes directly back to your school and therefore your children. Where the money goes is decided at our monthly P&F meetings, with parents and staff deciding what would benefit the school the most. Last year P&F funds went to putting a new interactive white board or data projector in every classroom and buying a class set of iPods. So you can see that something as simply as buying a sausage on bread at a fundraiser really adds up to buying some major computer hardware for our kids to learn with.

What kind of fundraising will the P&F be doing this year?
The aim of our fundraising in 2012 is to give “Value for money and time” for you, your children and for the school. For example we will offer two School Discos this year. We will also offer two or three Tuckshop Days per term starting term 2. In term 3 we will be running a Cadbury chocolate drive. This is a great fundraiser for the school as 2 years ago it raised over $6000.

Will I be getting a P&F fundraiser note home every week?
The simple answer is no. It’s important for us to fundraise for our kid’s school, but the P&F are aware that you can get tired of fundraisers if notes come home every week! We are parents too. We are currently planning out the fundraisers for the year so at most we will run a fundraiser once per month. You will receive a copy of the fundraising calendar for 2012 the first week of term 2.

What has the P&F (that’s you and me!) done for the school this year...
Thanks to your support and the hard work of the P&F committee in 2011 we have bought Air Conditioning (over $6000) for the music room this week which will benefit everyone’s children during music lessons. This was badly needed with up to 60 children in a very hot room. We have also purchased a new chest freezer ($660) for the Canteen which will be used for years to come for Discos, sausage sizzles, Artworx, etc. We also last Tuesday handed over $3000 to the library to spend on new resources such as home readers.

Please watch this space over the coming weeks as we announce more ways that we together have made a difference to our kid’s school.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE TEAM is holding its next weekend from Friday evening 27th to Sunday afternoon 29th April 2012 at QCCC Brookfield. The weekend offers widowed, separated and divorced people who have moved through the initial shock phase of grief to work through their pain and move into the future with renewed hope. It is a live-in weekend with meals and accommodation provided. web. www.brisbanebe.org.au

SURFSIDE BUSES
From 26th March 2012, some Qld School Buses numbers will be changing. The attached document lists current bus numbers and the corresponding new number for AM and PM Services. If the students bus number is not listed, then there is no change. These are bus number changes only. Bus Routes and Times will remain the same.


Lost Property
The telephone number for Lost Property enquiries is Surfside’s Reception No.: on 55 716 555 8am – 4:30 Monday-Friday (Monday mornings are our busiest, we appreciate your patience if you are calling at this time).

BUS FARE ASSISTANCE & STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Semester 1, 2012
Online applications for the Bus Fare Assistance Program and the Students with Disabilities Scheme are being accepted now until 31st May 2012

To lodge an online application to receive a rebate for either program, go to: www.schooltransport.com.au
Further enquiries to: 3336 9192 or schooltransport@qcec.catholic.edu.au

Applications received after 31st May 2012 cannot be processed.