Dear Parents

Welcome to the final week of term 2. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of staff, children and school events throughout the term. I wish you all a safe, happy, rejuvenating and holy Easter break. This time last year we still had two weeks to go in a 12 week term going into a one week break!!!!

Please remember David Fitzgerald and his family after the death of his father on Tuesday (grandfather to Sinead 7F and Jamie 2F). Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

THE VALUE OF GENEROSITY

When I was growing up and attending a Christian Brothers School, we were taught a prayer from St Ignatius of Loyola:

Dearest Lord,

teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

Generosity in the Christian sense is to make oneself available to God and to do what God wants us to do. We need to be open to God’s presence in our lives, allowing God to work through us. I put it this way with the staff at St Joseph’s: every encounter with another person is an opportunity for ministry, a chance to be the face and hands of Jesus in our world. It means to be generous in our almsgiving or in our giving to charity to support those who help the poor, especially during the season of Lent. It means to be generous in giving our time and energy for our families and those who need us.

WET DAY PROCEDURES

Before School

On a wet morning, children go to the bottom floor verandah areas adjacent to the parade area. This is the area framed by the Tobruk and MacKillop buildings, including the sheltered walkway between these buildings. Children are expected to walk and to stay in this area. Children are not allowed on the upper floor verandahs. There is no play. Two teachers are on duty in this area before school. When the 8.35am bell goes, the children should be ready to move into class and do so when their teacher arrives at 8.40am.

At lunch time

During lunch time on a wet day, children remain at their classroom under the supervision of classroom teachers. Children will eat on the verandah outside their classroom. Teachers share supervision duties and arrange breaks between designated wet weather buddies.

After school

Teachers take children to the hall for pick up by families on a wet afternoon.

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
Thank you to the teachers for taking the time to meet with parents over the last two weeks of term and for their preparation of these meetings. Sincere thanks also to families for making the effort to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of the children across a variety of areas of school life. We believe that these meetings are essential earlier rather than later in the year and that they encourage the partnership between teacher and home. Please keep in touch with your child’s teacher throughout the year.

ST PATRICK’S DAY PARISH RALLY
Many thanks to Angela Houghton (P & F Vice-President) and to all who assisted with the BBQ at the St Patrick’s Day parish celebrations last Saturday here at school. The weather held off for those who attended until later in the afternoon so it was a good day.

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
Thank you to Tony Barron for his organization of and preparation for the St Joseph’s Day liturgy held on Monday last week in the hall. It was a creative and meaningful celebration followed by organized games and an extended lunch. Again the weather was kind to us! Thanks to the families who attended and to all who helped Tony with the organization of the day.

HOMEWORK
I emphasised at the Parent Information Evening earlier in the school year that homework is the responsibility of the children. Parents have a role in supporting their children and encouraging a regular time and suitable place for homework do be done. Parents do listen to their children read, hear spelling and number facts, and assist where needed. However, parents are not asked to DO the homework for the child. It is also critically important that children take responsibility for their homework to the extent that if they are having any difficulties with homework they MUST see their class teacher for assistance. Should arguments occur at home between children and parents about homework, parents need to distance themselves from the situation and let the children face the consequences at school.

UNIFORM STANDARDS
At St Joseph’s we ask children to have tidy hair and hair styles that do not draw undue attention. Therefore undercut, hair shaping (engraving) and hair dyes are not permitted. This is not aimed at discouraging individuality, but rather at preventing children from competing with one another (who can have the craziest hairstyle or the most different dye combinations). There can be significant pressure placed on families when children want to out-do their mates with particular styles. Please note also that body piercing (other than the ear lobe) cannot be visible. For example, I realise that some children might have their belly-button pierced. This should not be visible at school or during school activities such as camps and swimming. Tongue rings similarly can be seen and are therefore not permitted. Tongue rings also pose a health and safety risk for active children during play time and during sports activities.

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) to: http://www.skoolbag.com.au/stjoeyevms

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. It is a ‘ubiquitous’ app, and is something that is proving to be very useful.

Please email Tony Barron with your thoughts on the trial. (tbarron@bne.catholic.edu.au)

WHOOPING COUGH INFORMATION
“Recently there has been a confirmed case of whooping cough (pertussis) in a person associated with our school. Whooping Cough is a highly infectious illness that is spread by coughing and sneezing. The illness is troublesome and distressing at any age but can be very serious in young infants. The Logan & West Moreton Public Health Unit advises that all parents should check their children’s immunisation records and ensure that their child is up to date with their routine childhood vaccinations. If your younger children have missed any of their routine childhood vaccinations they can still be vaccinated against whooping cough with the childhood vaccine up to their 8th birthday. Adolescents are provided with a free pertussis booster vaccine in Year 10 or at the age of fifteen years from their doctor or local council clinic. A free pertussis vaccine is also currently available from your general practitioner for

- birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents and grandparents of babies under 6 months of age.
- other adults in a household with a baby under 6 months of age.

The protection against whooping cough from the vaccine does decrease over time and whooping cough may still occur in older children and adults who were fully immunised in early childhood. Therefore it is important for parents to be aware of the symptoms of whooping cough and to seek medical attention should they be concerned. More information is contained in the Whooping Cough Fact Sheet which is available from the School Office or at the Queensland Health Website: http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/BacterialInfections/whoopingCoughPertussis_fs.asp

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Logan West Moreton Public Health Unit on (07) 34131200.
ST JOSEPH’S CROSS COUNTRY: WEDNESDAY  28TH MARCH 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>2 laps of oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Run around Oval anti-clockwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exit Oval via Tobruk St Gate and turn left down Trinity walkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Through Trinity gate and back up to oval via gate on Kokoda St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head straight for finish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2-3</td>
<td>Run around Oval anti-clockwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exit Oval via Tobruk St Gate and turn right along Tobruk St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turn Right at Church driveway, Right at Kokoda St, Right at Bouganville St, through Trinity Gate, turning right up Pathway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enter Tobruk St Gate to Oval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete one anti-clockwise lap of Oval before finish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 10 years</td>
<td>Run around Oval anti-clockwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Born 2000 &amp; 2001)</td>
<td>Exit Oval via Tobruk St Gate and turn right along Tobruk St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance: 2km</td>
<td>Turn Right at York St, Right at Kokoda St, Right at Bouganville St, through Trinity Gate, turning right up Pathway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enter Tobruk St Gate to Oval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete one anti-clockwise lap of Oval before finish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, 12 &amp; 13 years</td>
<td>Run around Oval anti-clockwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Born 1999, 1998 &amp; 1997)</td>
<td>Distance: 3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exit Oval via Tobruk St Gate and turn right along Tobruk St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turn Right at York St, Right at Kokoda St, Right at Bouganville St, through Trinity Gate, turning right up Pathway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circuit completed 3 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After 3rd lap of block enter Tobruk St Gate to Oval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete one anti-clockwise lap of Oval before finish.</td>
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</tbody>
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Time Frame for events
9:10 am - 12/13’s -- While they are out, run the Preps will run. If there is time we will get the Yr 1’s race completed while the 12/13’s are still on course.
9:40 am - 11’s Race - Once they are on course we will attempt to run the Year 1 (if they haven’t already competed) & 2’s
10:10 am - Yr 3’s
10:25 am - 9yrs (this includes students from Year 3 who are older, turning 9 this year)
10:40 am - 10yrs
(Please be aware that these times are only a guideline and races will be started as soon as the race prior concludes)

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 56LD. Through your child’s class teacher on Thursday 29th March, the kids of St Joseph’s will play to pay a game and try to win a prize. Games vary from 50c - $1.50each.

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.
ICE BLOCK SALES

Each week on a Wednesday our Student Council sell Ice Blocks from the School Canteen. Ice blocks cost 50c and are all natural, water ice blocks. The money raised from the sales goes towards various charities throughout the year. Next week the proceeds from the ice blocks will go towards the Butterfly Appeal for the Hear and Say Foundation. Please support this and other charities by buying an ice block.

.Library News

There are 2 changes to instrumental lessons next week due to the Cross Country on Wednesday.

Drums - No lesson on Wednesday 28th. There will be a make up lesson on Monday 26th at the same time.

Keyboard/Violin - No lesson on Wednesday 28th. There will be a make up lesson on Tuesday 27th at the same time. Please bring violins.

FEES:
Teachers rely on fees for the lessons given as their income. Please ensure that fees are paid by the due date. Unfortunately instrumental lessons will not continue next term for students who have not paid their fees.

A Musical Note

Calling all coverers! We have large numbers of books that require covering at the moment. If you would like to come in and do some in the library you are welcome at any time. Alternatively, if you haven’t time during the day, but would still like to help, you can take some books to contact at home. Lessons on covering will also be supplied if you require them, but our contact is low-tack and is much easier to use that most brands!

We would love to set up some silent reading areas for our current “National Year of Reading” activity, but we require some large cardboard boxes (e.g. fridge, stove, washing machine, etc.) to construct alcoves. If you can lay your hands on some of these items, it would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to the Elford family for the donation of ex-company computers to the school. Remember, if you know of any business or school disposing of newish computers (less than five years old), please let the school know as they may be useful to us.

Dance club has not yet started due to inclement weather and wet lunch restrictions. Children who wish to dance at Wednesday lunch time are invited to bring their own CDs, iPods and/or players which will be set up in the annex at the back of the library. A colouring in competition is currently running in the library with prizes for the best entries. The prizes will, of course, be Easter Eggs.

Remember, as next week is the last week of term, all library books are due back.

Wednesday March 28th - Easter Raffle draw

Just a quick reminder that the Easter Raffle will be drawn next Wednesday (March 28th). Each individual class will have their own draw so the more donations received means the more prizes we can offer to each class. Please ensures donation and raffle tickets are sent back ASAP so you don’t miss out.

Mother’s Day Helpers

May 12… It seems so far away! But.. with only 1 week of school left, 2 weeks of holidays and then 4 weeks when we come back, it really will fly by!

This year, along with a group of willing helpers, I will be taking on board the Mothers Day stall. Sometimes there will be a call for items through the newsletter that you may be able to donate, so please keep an eye out for these.

We will however be needing a team of volunteers for the following jobs, so if you can assist, please complete the details below and return to the office ASAP.

The Stall roster will come out closer to the event. The stall will be held on the Thursday and Friday prior to Mothers Day. Thank you in anticipation of your support for what has in the past proven to be a much loved and anticipated Mothers Day Stall.

If you have any questions, please contact myself via the ladies in the office.

Once again, thank you!

Attention: Angela Houghton Mothers Day Help

NAME: _______________________________ Contact Number: _______________________________

I can help with ………

Driving to pick up stock (eg a couple of stores are at Browns Plains, Rocklea, Underwood)

Wrapping / presenting items for sale

Making Beautiful Mothers Day gift tags

Selling items at the stall for an hour or so on the Thursday 10th or Friday 11th (please circle whichever suits) before Mothers Day.

Donating ribbon, cellophane, wrapped chocolates, shredded paper, box of soaps etc

Providing craft items ready for sale at the stall (eg) 10 crocheted face washers, or 10 crocheted coat hangers, or 5 scented candles or whatever it is you have a talent for!!

A friend of mine can……. (eg) get a hold of 20 small pots of flowers, etc

A suggestion of something else not listed _______________________________

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