Principal's Message

One of the central mysteries of our Christian faith – the Incarnation – God becoming human in the person of Jesus – meant that God embraced all the limitations of our human condition (except sin). Jesus experienced hunger, loneliness, homelessness, fear and rejection, and ultimately death. In the first week of his life Jesus became a refugee, together with Mary and Joseph, when they fled to Egypt to escape his certain death at the hands of Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 2:13 – 18). We believe that God’s compassion for all who suffer is boundless because God, in Jesus, experienced that same suffering.

Today there are over 43.7 million uprooted people around the world who lack the essentials of life due to conflict, persecution or natural disasters. It is easy to get caught up in the political debate about who is and who is not a refugee, and about border protection issues. While these are valid and important arguments, we must not let them cloud the real issue of real people with real needs, and our Christian duty to respond positively to this issue.

On Friday the 25th of October, year 4/5 and 6/7 will be completing a 10km walk that aims to build awareness of and support for refugee children living in detention centres. This walk has been organised by students and staff at St Joseph’s School, with invitation to participate being sent to other Catholic schools in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay. Students are looking for local people and local businesses to provide sponsorship. Some amazing sponsorship contributions have already been promised and I thank these people for their generosity.

Obviously there will be some members of the community with hesitation and perhaps even negativity relating to the walk, however we remember God’s desire for us to love one another, we remember St Mary Mackillop’s phrase ‘Never see a need without doing something about it’ and we remember our school vision statement of A Connected Community. With these memories in mind, we stand up for what is right, not what is popular. We will do the right thing because it is the best thing to do.

An invitation extends to you, as parents of St Joseph’s School students, to also participate in this walk. Please register your interest at the school office.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton
From the APRE

October the Month of the Rosary
Catholic tradition dedicates the Month of October to praying the Rosary, with October 7th being the feast of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is a meditation on the life of Jesus and Mary and was developed as a breathing prayer.

The name comes from the Latin word rosarium which means ‘rose garden’. In the Middle Ages, Mary was often called ‘Rose’ and the name eventually became rosary. In olden times, people who couldn’t read or write couldn’t say the official prayer of the Church which consists of the 150 psalms of the Bible. So they replaced the psalms with 150 and then 50 Ave Marias / Hail Mary’s and they used bags of pebbles to count them. They then used beads on a sting or knots tied in a cord. In between praying the decades the priests used to preach to the people about the happenings in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you. 
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. 
Holy Mary, Mother of God, 
Pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death. 
Amen

Have a great week
Helen Freshwater

Alter Serving Roster (Saturday, 12th October, 6pm)
Josh Maroney and Damon Carige

Children’s Liturgy 1st Weekend of Each Month
The next Children’s Liturgy will be on Saturday, the 2nd November at 6pm. All children are welcome to come along and join in this wonderful experience.

Teacher Professional Development Day
Monday, the 21st October, is a teacher professional development day. This is an annual day where teachers moderate work samples with teachers from other Brisbane Catholic Education schools. Please be aware this is a student free day.

2014 Classes
In 2014 we are planning on having five classes (same as this year). The composition of these classes will be announced in coming weeks. In order to assist in this planning, please contact the office as soon as possible if your child/children will not be attending St Joseph’s School in 2014.

School Uniform Survey Feedback
There were 38 respondents to the uniform survey. 63% of respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the current uniform. Some of common suggestions for improvements will be included in a future newsletter.

Parents should continue to provide uniforms for their children with the knowledge that any possible alterations will be phased in over time.

School Piano Give-a-Way
Once again, we thank our supportive community for the upgrade of the school piano. The art work to recognise family contributions is progressing well. We are now looking for a home for our old piano. If interested, please see the school office by the end of the week.
2013 NAPLAN
Reports will be delivered to schools early in Term 4 and passed onto parents once checked by the school/college for accuracy and completeness. This delay has been due to a printing error recently identified by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority. Electronic results have been available to the school and briefly analysed.

Please remember these tests and their associated results are just one form of data collection we use at St Joseph’s School.

2013 School NAPLAN Results
Our school-wide NAPLAN data indicated Year 3 and 5 classes achieved well on NAPLAN. Both year groups achieved above the state average in spelling. Year 3 also achieved above the state average in grammar and punctuation, while year 5 did so in writing.

Year 7 was once again our highest performing year level (performing above the state average in all areas; grammar & punctuation, reading, spelling, writing and numeracy). This is once again evidence of value added learning (Individual Growth) – the longer students stay at St Joseph’s School the higher they perform.

2014 Shalom Captains Announced
Dan McMahon (Principal of Shalom College) has personally passed on his congratulations to St Joseph’s School on the announcement of Elijah Freeman as School Captain, and Joshua Prichard as House Captain. We are tremendously proud of Elijah and Joshua and know they will serve their secondary school with distinction throughout 2014.

2014 School Fees
Our School Fees and Voluntary Building Fund Levy are set at the Brisbane Catholic Education recommended lowest level. For 2014, Brisbane Catholic Education is recommending a 2.1% increase. Accordingly the fees and levies for St Joseph’s have been adjusted to recognise this increase for 2014. A copy of the 2014 fees and levies are inserted into this newsletter.

Aside from the 2.1% increase in fees and the building fund, you will notice:
1. The P&F levy has reduced by $1.
2. The swimming levy has reduced by $5.
3. The excursion levy has reduced by $5.
4. The ICT levy has increased by $10.
5. There is no camp levy. Camp will most likely be limited to the year 6/7 class in 2014. Costs will be charged (not as part of the levy) at the beginning of the year. It will not exceed the normal $280.

2014 School Fee Trial
In order to assist families, as well as to promote St Joseph’s as an affordable educational option in our community, will be beginning a direct debit trial that spreads payments across an entire year (as opposed to term time only). I believe this will be beneficial, especially for families on a year round salary. For instance, a family with one child attending St Joseph’s and paying direct debit weekly will see their payments reduce from $50 per week in 2013 to $35 per week in 2014 (this includes all fees & levies, including the voluntary building fund contribution, it does not include camp or optional instrumental music & tennis lessons). My family will be a part of this trial and I would invite you to consider it also. If interested, please make contact with Jodie Campanini before the end of the school year to ensure direct debit payments can be organised in time.
END OF TERM 3 AWARDS

CHRISTIAN VALUES | CATHOLIC FAMILY | INDIVIDUAL GROWTH
---|---|---
**Prep/1** | Ellehra Wilkin | Hailei Breznikar | Jaisyn Schneider
**Yr 1/2** | Kyle Blake | Tia Raffaut | Ryan Blinco
**Yr 3/4** | Brock Davis | Nicholas Corsetti | Grace Whelan
**Yr 4/5** | Curtis Fredriksen | Kate Fitz-Gibbon | Damon Carige
**Yr 6/7** | Charlie Fuller | Sophie Fredriksen | Caitlin Cook

Date | Week | Subway/Tuckshop | Helpers
---|---|---|---
09.10.2013 | 1 | Subway |