Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to school for 2013. A special welcome to new parents and children – including preps who begin their schooling with us.

The pupil free days at the beginning of the school year are when school staff participates in professional development. This year, one of the highlights was Wilson McCaskill’s presentation regarding the program Play Is The Way. Play Is The Way is a teaching methodology for social and emotional learning, and will support the teaching of expected student behaviour at St Joseph’s.

My sincere thanks to our wonderful teachers for their work in preparing classrooms and organising lesson planning to ensure students had a successful start to the school year. Most of this work happened during the holiday period.

One of our important School Motto areas is Individual Growth. Over the first 3 weeks of term 1 all students will sit literacy and numeracy tests. The results of these tests will provide teachers with valuable learning data regarding what your child can know and do in literacy and numeracy. This knowledge will assist teachers to target content areas and will provide a benchmark for each child’s continued Individual Growth. “We do not come to school to be better than others; we come to school to better ourselves by getting along with others” (Wilson McCaskill).

Over the Christmas holidays our community was deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Graham Whittingham (Twila’s husband). Our dear colleague and friend Twila remains in our constant prayers. Graham’s funeral was held on the 8th January in the family’s backyard, a very picturesque and spiritual location. I know Twila is looking forward to resuming her work as our school vocalist when possible and practical.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton

Thank you to:

- Our school uniform shop volunteers Erica Russo and Deanne Krieger for their continued work.
- Our school tuckshop volunteer convenors Helen Woodman and Lynda Ricca for their work in re-establishing the tuckshop for 2013.
- Our school maintenance volunteers John Gibson and Ray Turton for their continued work.
- Troy Blinco and Kerry and Ben Fitz-Gibbon for adjusting school desks (an important beginning of year task).
From the APRE
Creator and preserver of our world.
We ask you to hear our humble prayers for all those affected by the devastating floodwaters throughout our communities.
Heal those broken in body and spirit. Give courage and hope in the midst of despair. Through the generosity of governments and individuals across our nation, provide a future for those whose present circumstances are marked by loss and desperation.
Protect all those who are most vulnerable in the areas of devastation. And by your gracious hand, rebuild communities where men, women and children are nurtured with care and love. And turn the hearts of all to you, the God of all comfort. In Jesus’ name we pray. AMEN.

The recent floods have devastated many local communities. The St. Joseph’s community would like to help in whatever way we can. We have tried to identify what the current needs of the people in these communities are. As the water levels have dropped and the clean-up begins, cleaning products are needed.

How can the community of St. Joseph’s help?
Any items that would be useful in the clean-up would be greatly appreciated; brooms, gloves, disinfectant, buckets, mops, shovels etc. Any non-perishable food items can also be sent along to school.

Children can come in free dress on Tuesday with a donation of any of the above. Please make sure any disinfectants etc. are in a sealed container. These items will be collected from children as they arrive to their classroom. Please ensure your child wears sun safe clothing and wears covered in shoes.
If your family was affected during the floods, please let us know if we can assist in any way.

“Never see a need without doing something about it.”
Mary Mackillop (1871).

Have a great week
Helen Freshwater

Newsletters
The newsletter will be sent home on Monday of each week. Please be aware of this and ask your child for your copy as it contains important information about the school. We are always happy and pleased to record in the newsletter the involvement and achievement of children in activities outside the school. However, we rely on parents and guardians to inform us of these details, and request that it be put in writing to ensure accuracy. We need articles/information for inclusion in the newsletter by the previous Friday afternoon.
(It may not always be possible to include articles received on Monday morning, and these may have to be delayed until the following week). The Newsletter is also placed on the school website each week.
www.stjosephschilders.qld.edu.au

Information Update Forms
Please take some time in completing the information update forms which were distributed last week. These forms are of critical importance.

Uniform Policy
All parents and students must be aware of the uniform policy contained in the parent handbook. This handbook is available on the school website, alternatively a copy of the policy can be collected from the school office.
2012 Special Awards
During the Graduation Dinner of 2012 it was my pleasure to announce a new Special Awards for graduating students. The Special Award categories align with our School Motto - Christian Values, Catholic Family and Individual Growth. The key differences with these Special Awards, as opposed to the End of Term awards, are they require consistent achievement across years of school as opposed to one term, and they are voted on by all staff as opposed to one classroom teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christian Values</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Burns</td>
<td>Caleb Frreman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Family</td>
<td>Caleb Freeman</td>
<td>Isabella Bonanno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Growth</td>
<td>Alex Russo</td>
<td>Emily Burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The recipient of each Special Award had their name inscribed on the perpetual shield (that now lives in the School Office) and received a framed certificate to keep.

Parent & Friends Committee
The Parent & Friends committee meet on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding February 2013). The next P&F meeting will begin with the AGM at 7pm on Tuesday, the 5th March, 2012. I would encourage any interested parent to become involved in the P&F.

The Parents & Friends Association is an integral part of St Joseph’s School and provides a formal structure for parents and others interested in the welfare of the students to plan and organise activities for the benefit of the School, and the ongoing development of students.

2013 School Fees and Levies
Catholic school receive, on average, approx. 20% less government funding than students in government schools. Therefore, fees and levies are critical in providing an equitable education. A copy of the 2013 School Fees and Levies is inserted.

Health and Physical Education
As a part of the APRE role in 2013, Mrs Freshwater will also be teaching HPE. This will occur for all classes on a Thursday. Students are to come dressed in the HPE uniform on this day.

Term 1 Swimming
Students from year 1-7 will participate in swimming lessons conducted by staff from the Isis Swimming Pool. Lessons dates are: Week 3 - Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Thursday 14th, Friday 15th Week 4 - Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd.

Times will be: 11.30 – 12.00pm Year 6/7, 12.00 – 12.30pm Year 4/5, 12.30 – 1.00pm Year 3/4, 1.00 – 1.30pm Year 1/2.

St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, the 1st March from 11am.

Extra-Curricular Activities
Instrumental Music lesson with Beeke Smith and Peter Pagett begins this Thursday. Tennis lesson with Kevin Banner also begin this Thursday. Please contact the school office if you wish your child/children to participate in these ‘user pay’ programs (places are limited).
**Principal Awards**
In order to provide students with timely feedback, the Principal Awards will no longer be distributed during assembly on Wednesdays. Instead they will be distributed each Friday afternoon at 2.35pm. Student who receive an award will be recognised in the following newsletter.

**Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Evening**
On Tuesday, the 12th February, parents are invited to a welcome BBQ (sausage sizzle), followed by parent information sessions conducted in classrooms. The welcome BBQ is a social opportunity to meet and welcome new families.

The purpose of the information session is for you to meet your child’s teacher, see the classroom and hear about some of the expectations we have. One of the greatest influences in your child’s achievement is you. The more interest you show in what is happening at school, the more you can support what is happening, the more influence you have with your child’s achievement.

Invitation is from 5.00pm with the BBQ served at 5.30pm. There will be a short welcome address just before 6pm. Parents and carers are then invited to attend the information session. Each class will run two sessions: Session 1 is from 6pm; Session 2 is from 6.30pm. Each session is the same. This gives parents and carers who have children in more than one class the opportunity to visit each class.

**Payment Options School Fees**
School fees can be made throughout the year by direct debit on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. If you are interested in this payment option, please see the staff at the front office this week for more information.

**Tuckshop**
Tuckshop resumes this Wednesday. Please find a copy of the tuckshop menu inserted.
The school offers private tennis lessons with Mr Kevin Banner, an accredited coach who travels to Childers from Bundaberg. Lessons are held on the school tennis court during school hours, every Thursday from 12 noon onwards. All students are placed in groups of similar ability for a half hour lesson.

The cost of the lessons is $6 each week and lessons are billed separate to the school fees each term. Students from Prep - Year 7 are welcome to enroll.

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**TENNIS LESSONS 2013 - TERM 1**

Please return to the school office by this Wednesday 6th Feb.

I __________________________ give permission for my child\children listed below to attend tennis lessons with Mr Kevin Banner on Thursdays. I acknowledge that the lesson cost $6 each week and will be billed per term on a separate invoice.

NAME: ____________________________ Yr: _____
NAME: ____________________________ Yr: _____

SIGNED: .................................................. DATE: ..................

Please do not send payment with this form. An account will be sent home to you for payment.