Principal's Message

Our recent Brisbane Catholic Education census indicated we have 113 enrolled students at St Joseph's School.

We are a Catholic School and will endeavour to provide a Catholic Education for families who chose a Catholic Education for their child. New students and families will seek enrolment at St Joseph’s over the course of this year and beyond. When this happens we must remember that we are a Catholic School and this means we welcome others openly. However, being conscious that our early years classes are approaching, or at, capacity our school growth will be somewhat limited in 2013.

Welcome BBQ and Class Information Sessions
On Tuesday, February 12th, parents and carers are invited to a welcome BBQ (hosted by the P&F) followed by parent information sessions conducted in classrooms. The welcome BBQ is a social opportunity to meet and welcome new families and students. A sausage sizzle and a can of soft drink will be available. 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 influence you have with your child's achievement.

Invitation is from 5.00pm. Parents and carers are then invited to attend the information session. Each class will run two sessions: Session 1 is from 6.00pm; 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.

Warmest regards,

John Hinton

Thank you to:
- Our tuckshop volunteers Tanya Gilbert, Amy Bretherton and Louise Graham-Jones.
- Our parent swimming helpers.
Opening Mass.
This Friday we will be holding our opening Mass where our year 7 leaders will be inducted. The Yr 6/7 class have been involved in preparing this Mass. We would love you to come along and be part of this special celebration and join us for morning tea after Mass.

Lent
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection and fasting in preparation for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

On Wednesday we will attend an Ash Wednesday Mass where the children will receive a cross signed with ashes on their forehead. Ashes are a symbol of penance and they remind us to simplify our lives and find Christ in all that we do. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year.

On Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday), we eat pancakes to symbolise our last feasting before our fasting begins. We fast from meat on the Fridays in Lent and on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.

Why fast? Fasting enables us to simplify our lives so that our vision becomes clear. We start to get rid of all that is unnecessary in our lives, cutting back on our lifestyles so much so that we see more clearly what really matters to us. It’s a bit like an ‘inner’ spring-clean!

Have a great week
Helen Freshwater

From the APRE
"Never see a need without doing something about it" (Mary Mackillop)

These are powerful words that encompass what Mary Mackillop was about.

Last week during our Flood Appeal, the St Joseph’s community took this phrase and put these words into action. The response was overwhelming. We joined as one to help those in need. The goods collected were sent to a collection point and were then sent along to Bundaberg where they were distributed to outlying communities in need.

If you are wanting to donate any goods, they can be dropped off at the collection point which is situated behind "Chiabella Hair Salon” in Churchill St. The need at the moment is school supplies e.g. exercise books, pencils, school bags etc.
Parent & Friends Committee
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.

School Board
The first School Board meeting of 2013 will be held this Wednesday at 4.30pm. School Board Members include Father Sunny, Julie Bonanno, Craig Frederickson, Stacey Harney, Jody Blake, Mark Burns, Denise Rapkins (Parish representative), Sandra Freeman (Teacher representative), Helen Freshwater and John Hinton. The School Board acts as an advisory body for the Principal and assists with the attainment of School Goals.

Executive Director Letter to Parents
A warm welcome to our new Brisbane Catholic Education Executive Director, Pam Betts. Pam has authored a letter to letters:

“I am very pleased as the year begins to extend a warm welcome to parents new to Catholic education and to those of you who are continuing. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your children. I hope that 2013 will be a very fulfilling one for you and your children and that it has begun in a spirit of confident enthusiasm.”

The entire letter can be accessed via the BCE public website.

Term 1 Swimming
As mentioned in the previous newsletter, 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.

St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, the 1st March from 10.30am.

Swimming Nominations
Wide Bay swimming nominations are currently being called. If your child is a member of a swimming club, please contact the office or Helen Freshwater for a nomination form.

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.
Happy Birthday

David Bodnar  12/02
Riley Broderick  14/02
Ky Sweeney  15/02

School Banking – Change of Day

School banking is on **TUESDAY** each week. Please ensure that your child’s banking is handed in to the office on their arrival to school. Packs are available for any new students who wish to join School Banking. Please enquire at the office.

Bus Committee AGM

Berries Rd Isis Hway Bus - Route P.1809
Date & Time:  Tuesday 19 February - 5.30pm
Venue:  Beer garden, Royal Hotel, Childers
All parents/caretakers are asked for their support by attending
Meeting advice has been sent home with students
Contact:  Kylie Newsome – 0417 831435

Bus Committee AGM

Biggenden Bus - Route S.473
Date & Time:  Thursday 21 February - 6.00pm
Venue:  Dallarnil State School
All parents/caretakers are asked for their support by attending
Meeting advice has been sent home with students
Contact:  Jodie Springer - 0411 873480

Isis Redbacks Soccer Club Inc

The Isis Redbacks Soccer Club is commencing training at **4.00pm** on Wednesdays at the Childers Showgrounds starting from Wednesday, the 6th February.