Dear families,

The bushfires over the past weeks remind us of the fragility of our environment and the extremes of the Australian climate. It is a time when we keep in our prayers all those that have lost their homes over the past week. It is also a time when we find strength in faith.

*Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another.*

*Philippians 2:1*

The consequences of such extremes of nature bring us together as a community of faith so that we can help one another. The girls are such wonderful examples of compassion and hope as they all work in different ways to help communities both at home and overseas. Last week we had ‘Green and Gold’ Day with a BBQ fundraiser for those less fortunate than ourselves that are helped by Mary MacKillop Foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph. This foundation focuses on community self-help initiatives and smaller projects that may otherwise fail to attract funding or ‘fall through the cracks’. These programs assist a wide range of people who may be suffering through, for example poverty, destitution, distress and disability. The girls enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to buy a sausage sandwich and a drink.

This is one of the first events organised and facilitated by our new student leaders for 2014. The Year 12, 2014 student leadership team attended their Leadership Conference at Huntington House in the first week of term where they planned the focus they would have for their year in office. The girls met with me to share their goals and demonstrated in their planning a clear sense that they want to ‘make a difference’ to both the College and wider community over the next twelve months. This week they have met with their Year 11, 2014 counterparts and the Leaders of House to begin the detailed planning for events in the coming months. It is always inspirational to work with such dedicated and focussed young women.

Last week I emailed a letter to all families explaining our school planning. St Joseph’s is categorised as a school with ‘bush fire prone enrolment’ and so will be affected when there is a ‘catastrophic fire warning’ issued. If there is a catastrophic fire warning issued for the surrounding areas it will be too dangerous for some or all of our staff and students to travel to and/or from the College. The Rural Fire Service issue warnings at 4.30pm for the following day therefore if a catastrophic warning is issued families will be notified via email that the College will be closed for the following day.

We are also working on a SMS service so that we can also notify families via SMS. If this occurs during the Higher School Certificate examinations students must follow the Board of Studies guidelines regarding Illness/Misadventure that are posted on the BOS site at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au). If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to call me at the College.

This term is very stressful for the girls due to examinations. Year 12, 2013 are well underway with the Higher School Certificate examinations and the girls have
approached this time with maturity. The examinations continue until Wednesday 6th November and if you have any questions or need advice regarding your daughter please contact Mrs Kathy West, Leader of Learning and Teaching, at the College. Years 7-10 begin their Yearly Examination period in Week 5 so I’m sure that most households are busy with revision programs. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the girls undertaking examinations the best of luck. Year 11 have now begun their HSC programs of study and so, for them, their first assessment tasks will be in the next few weeks.

God bless,

Cheryl Merryweather
Acting Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

8 weeks ‘till Christmas and so much to do! We are well and truly into the final term of the year. The HSC is into its second week, Year 11 have begun HSC courses and become Year 12 overnight, Years 7 – 10 have been provided with booklets to help them prepare for their Semester 2 examinations beginning on Monday November 4 (Week 5) and we are organising Presentation evening.

Presentation evening
The College Presentation evening will now be held on Thursday December 12 rather than on the Wednesday evening December 11. I apologise to parents for this late notice but we have not been able to control the circumstances. I hope as many parents as possible can attend on the Thursday evening as this is an important event in our calendar. The next edition of Joeys Journal will provide more details about the evening.

Year 12 2014 Parent Information Evening
It was great to see so many 2014 HSC parents at last Wednesday’s information evening. If you were unable to attend or wish to read up on any information that was provided, go to:


The Board of Studies website also has valuable information for parents to help you understand the HSC and how to support your child through this important year. The address is:


Green & Gold Day
The new College and House leaders coordinated their first event last Friday by organising cake stalls at recess and a sausage sizzle and drinks stall at lunch to support Green and Gold Day. This is an initiative of the Mary MacKillop Foundation to raise funds to support the scores of small community-based projects assisting the less fortunate and those who need a helping hand. The girls accessorised their uniform to capture the spirit of ‘green & gold’ and played a selection of Aussie music. Their enthusiasm and the generosity of the College community helped raise more than $500 for the Foundation.

Some important reminders
I wish to highlight a couple of the items I mentioned in the final edition of Joeys Journal last term and thank parents for your positive response so far.

1. Travelling to and from school on school buses
Students were reminded at assembly again this week that they walk directly to school each morning when they get off the school bus. They are not permitted to go to the shops or play in the park before arriving to school. Their safety and security is paramount so we ask parents to work with us to ensure our students are safe and supervised as soon as possible after getting off their bus. It is for very similar reasons that students are not permitted to leave the College in the afternoon to go to the shops or the park and then return to school to catch their bus home.

2. Promptness to school
Parents are reminded that students must be at school by the time the first bell of the day rings – at 8.30am. Students are expected to be seated inPastoral or at an assembly by 8.35am every day of the term. Late buses are unavoidable but lateness due to tardiness is unacceptable. We ask that you ensure your daughter’s transport arrangements are such that she arrives to school on time.

3. Summer Uniform
Students have also been reminded about College uniform expectations. We seek your assistance to ensure that your daughter has the correct uniform and that she meets our expectations for hair, makeup and jewellery. The uniform requirements for the College are printed on the website and in the Student Planner. The main points are summarised below:

- Skirt - the hem should fall to the top of the knee when standing
- Blue Blouse (Years 7 – 10), white blouse (Years 11 – 12) - sleeves always rolled down
- College jumper or cardigan; random jumpers and hoodies are not permitted
- White plain socks; no black socks
- Black lace-up leather shoes with a distinct heel; no slip on shoes; no black canvas boots
- Shoulder length or longer hair must be securely tied back
- White, navy, teal or black hair ribbon or scrunchie; headband must be plain, narrow and black
- Nails - clear polish is permitted; fashion colours or acrylic nails are not permitted
- Light makeup is permitted
• Jewellery – two pairs of earrings (small studs or sleepers) are permitted; fine gold/silver chain with a cross or religious medal, small plain gold/silver ring can be worn
• No facial jewellery – only very small clear plastic studs may be worn in nose piercings
• No ear spacers
• College Back Pack is compulsory; handbags or alternate bags are not permitted

If you have any questions or queries regarding correct uniform please contact your daughter’s Year Leader at the College.

4. Head Lice
This continues to be an issue so please regularly check your daughter’s hair and if head lice are found follow the advice of NSW Health with regard to treatment. Information can be found on the NSW Health website:


If your daughter has head lice she must stay at home until it is treated. To reduce transmission between girls please ensure that she has her hair tied back each day.

Thank you for your support in these matters.

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Year 12, 2014
All Year 12 girls should read the Assessment Policy and Procedures section of their HSC assessment handbooks carefully to ensure they are familiar with the processes at the college. The first HSC tasks are due in the coming weeks and many assessment tasks occur in the last couple of weeks this term. For best results it is important the girls prepare and plan for each assessment task well in advance. Taking a balanced approach to life, making sure they are eating well, getting enough sleep and taking some relaxation time is also vital for success. If the girls are ill or have a misadventure on the day of an assessment task they must notify the relevant Leader of Learning, Mr Matthews or myself and complete the appropriate documentation on their return to school.

Year 10 HSC: All My Own Work

The Board of Studies requires that all students must satisfactorily complete the HSC : All My Own Work program to be eligible to receive their Higher School Certificate. This program is designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding and valuing ethical practices when locating and using information as part of their HSC studies. The program is delivered flexibly as self-paced learning modules. The program's content is divided into five modules:

• Scholarship Principles and Practices
• Acknowledging Sources
• Plagiarism
• Copyright
• Working with others

All Year 10 will be completing the HSC : All My Own Work program in the days following their yearly examinations.

Years 7-10 Yearly Examinations
The yearly examination period for Years 7 - 10 begins on Monday 4th November. The girls will receive their examination notifications and examination timetables in the next week so they can be clear on the content to be tested and start to organise their study timetables. The week prior to the exam period (28/10 - 1/11) is an interruption free week for the students. This week provides time for the students to work with their teachers on examination preparation and revision. If the girls have any questions or concerns then they should discuss them with their class teachers.

The examination requirements and procedures will be printed on each timetable and are listed below:

• Each student is expected to behave in a manner appropriate to a formal examination setting, i.e. remaining silent in exam rooms, making a serious attempt at all parts of the examination, not copying another student's work, not writing any graffiti on examination papers and not engaging in any other activity while under examination conditions
• Mobile phones are prohibited in the examination rooms
• No extra time is given if a student is late for an examination
• Any student in Years 7-10 missing an examination due to illness or misadventure must let the College (Mrs West or Year Leader) know immediately
• Any student in Year 10 missing an examination must complete an Illness/Misadventure Form providing all the required documentation. Forms may be collected from outside the Finance Office. It is important that all students are familiar with the Illness/Misadventure procedures published at the front of their Assessment Handbook.
• Students in Years 7-9 missing an examination due to illness/misadventure must provide an explanation outlining the illness/misadventure
from parents/guardians. Explanations must be given to the relevant Leader of Learning immediately the student returns to school

- Black pen is the most appropriate for examinations so please have more than one for each examination
- Students must bring all required equipment with them e.g. calculator, pens, tissues
- All equipment must be in a clear plastic container
- There is no borrowing of equipment during an examination
- Water may only be taken into examination rooms in clear plastic bottles

To assist with study and revision please remember students can build their learning skills by working through any of the units of the online study skills resource located at http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au/. Our school’s login details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are:

Username: forsjcconly
Password: 99results

Saturday School of Community Languages
Applications are now open for courses at the Saturday School of Community Languages. Any students interested in studying their background language can find information including application forms and centre locations at: www.sscl.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE LEADERS OF LEARNING

Year 8 Reflection Day
On Tuesday the 18th of September Year 8 attended a reflection day at Caroline Chisholm Centre at Somersby. The day was run by the Year 10 Youth Ministry Team who worked well to provide a program for spiritual and faith development encompassing the theme of ‘This Is Me.’

The girls were extremely cooperative and enthusiastic about the day and actively participated in all events.

The Youth Ministry Team hope the girls feel empowered, and self-aware. From the day we felt the girls learnt the importance of accepting one another’s differences as well as themselves. The Reflection Day also provided the girls with an opportunity to deepen their faith, connect with God and allow for spiritual growth.

It was an extremely enjoyable, reflective and informative day where closer connections were made and the girls left feeling more pleased about their body. A big thank you to Fiona Green and all the other teachers present for helping us throughout the day. If it was not for your support the day would not have been as successful as it was.

Kellie-Ann G

Year 10 Commerce
On Friday the 6th September the Year 10 Commerce class and Mrs Parsons travelled to NSW State Parliament. We were greeted by the Education Officer, Peter and introduced to our State Member for Gosford Mr Chris Holstein and his advisor.

We visited the Lower House where Peter explained to us the various roles of the ministers and back benches in the legislative process. We role played a question time highlighting the strategies used in Parliament by politicians.
Mr Holstein also discussed his role in Parliament and what he is trying to achieve for his electorate. He also presented our school with a history of State Parliament for the Library.

From here we visited the Upper House which is historically significant as the oldest Parliament in Australia and second oldest in the world.

Mr Holstein gave us access to the Parliamentary offices and rooftop garden. He also treated us to lunch.

It was an informative day and taught us firsthand how our parliamentary system works.

Year 11 report
Year 11 is well on their way towards the HSC. Year 12 classes have started and by now students who have dropped classes or changed levels have their new timetables and are working through the HSC curriculum.

On Wednesday evening the College held an information evening for parents and students of the 2014 HSC cohort. Curriculum matters were discussed as well as welfare issues associated with Year 12. The Year 12 Assessment Handbook was distributed and it is important that ALL girls read through the handbook and highlight the relevant assessments for their HSC courses. Try and place the assessment folder in the house where parents and students have easy access, so that both can be aware of what and when things are due. It is important that the HSC is a team effort involving teachers, students and parents. If we all work together the journey will be made all that much easier.

Also in the assessment package I placed an article 'A reminder, there is life beyond the HSC'. This has been placed in the package for both parents and students to read. It is an article written by Dr Michael Spence, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney. He refers to some interesting ideas as an academic and as a parent of a student doing the HSC. This is well worth a read.

Students need to return the note relating to study periods in periods 5 and 6 to Students Services. They are to have that note signed by a parent and show their timetable to Student services when leaving the College. Students are not permitted to leave early until they have their new timetable.

Things to work on for Term 4 and the start of the HSC:

- All girls are to be in Pastoral on time
- All girls need to complete tasks (assessment) on time
- Find a balance between work, school and social activity.
- Know when assessments are due - keep a record of what and when
- Use your peers as a resource. You are all doing the HSC, so work together to help everyone achieve their best.
- Enjoy the HSC journey, work hard, but don’t forget to have fun along the way
- Make everyone proud of your effort and achievement. Do your best and you will survive the HSC
- Don’t forget if you need help along the way ASK and we will do our best to help

Mr Matthews
Year 11 Leader

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

School Fees
Please be aware that ALL school fees should be finalised by NOVEMBER 15th 2013 unless you have prior arrangements with the College.
If you have any concerns in meeting these timeframes please contact the Finance Department now. Overdue fees will be referred to the Catholic Schools Office to commence debt collection processes.

This week you should have received an orange coloured Family Registration Form. It is essential that you complete this form and return it to the College before NOVEMBER 8th 2013 if you wish to claim a sibling discount on your 2014 school fees. On this form you must list all children in your family attending school – even those attending St Joseph’s – from eldest to youngest. Please ensure you clearly print your email address to ensure you receive your fee statements each month. It is also important that you indicate your preferred payment plan – be it as per the Standard 3 payments, or in monthly or fortnightly instalments. Your future fee statement will provide you with the due date for these payments.

If your daughter does not plan on returning in 2014 please let us know before the end of term.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager