Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

The start to the year has been very busy and also very productive. Already this term we have had students involved in Peer Mentoring, a Year 7 Welcome BBQ, a Mary Macs visit, training for Year 7 IT devices, House Group activities, Valentine’s Day stalls and a JJAMM leaders conference. Credit goes to all the students who have participated in these activities and to the staff who have assisted with the preparation and the organisation of these events. Within the next fortnight we will participate in our first sporting carnival for the year, with our Swimming Carnival being held on Tuesday 4th March.

Lent
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, our 40 days of preparation for Easter. We celebrate Ash Wednesday on 5th March with a number of Year Group liturgies and the distribution of Ashes. Lent is a penitential time in which we carefully consider how we are living as Christ’s presence in this world. It is a season of renewal where we make a commitment to reform our life: to become a better witness to God’s love for humanity.

Last Friday students from Year 12 began their preparation for Lent by organising a fundraiser for Caritas’ project compassion. The girls used Valentine’s Day as a fundraiser venture and after all costs were covered raised just over $1000.00. This was an outstanding effort by the students. It is evidence that the students are committed to ‘good works’ for others throughout this period of Lent.

School Fees
All families should have now received via email their school fee account for 2014. Prompt payment of fees is very much appreciated. As you are aware the funding cuts made by the State Government are impacting on us and the Catholic Schools Office is reviewing the amount of money schools receive in the areas of teacher professional development. It is very important that all in the community are able to contribute their share to running the school and Catholic Education in the Diocese. I take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of our wonderful College and in particular for the sacrifices you make financially to send your daughter to St Joseph’s.

If at any time you have any concerns about your fee accounts please contact the College. In particular if you are finding it difficult to meet your financial obligations please as a matter of urgency contact Ms Nicole Murphy – College Business Manager who can assist you with payment plans and payment options or arrange a meeting for you to discuss your individual circumstances.

Attendance at School
As you would be aware some changes to the ‘Law about School Attendance for Students of Compulsory School Age’ that were made for the beginning of the 2012 school year. Part of the amendments concern rules around applying for leave from school for reasons other than illness, as well as the recording of lateness to school as partial absence and the tallying of these partial absences to the equivalent full day totals.
Any requests for leave from school should be submitted to the Principal well in advance of the leave dates. In situations where leave is approved, it is the responsibility of the child to ensure that they complete any work that would be missed during their absence from school. Absences during examination periods are to be avoided wherever possible.

Unapproved absences from school, along with lateness to school, can be very detrimental to the academic and social progress of students. When students miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed school work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Australian students miss on average between 12 and 15 days of school per year (often for non-approved reasons). That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

Lateness to school is also a concern for some students. Being on time for school teaches students the importance of punctuality and also enables them to be organised for the day ahead. Using ‘traffic’ as an excuse for lateness will not be accepted under normal circumstances. Traffic always seems to build up around 8:30am of a morning. The only way to overcome this is to leave home earlier.

As parents and educators we need to make a commitment that our children/students make the most of their time at school. That means sending them to school every day (except when sick), on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

God bless,

Tony McCudden
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Highlights this fortnight

We’ve had several but the one most of us are still talking about was the Valentine’s Day activities organised by our Year 12 students to raise funds to donate to Caritas when project compassion is launched on Ash Wednesday. Single red roses, posies, cards, cup-cakes, lolly bags, candy necklaces were sold before school and the fun continued at lunch with ‘love-song dedications’ and more stalls. Our community raised $1083 on the day; a very successful initiative.

Year 10 Peer Mentors had a training session on Monday to prepare them for the lesson they facilitate with Year 7 on ‘the story of Joeys’. We were able to show the girls a collection of wonderful photographs from our archives. Two of these photographs are printed below. Year 7 students will learn about our history and see the same photographs when the Peer Mentors work with them next Friday.

Mr McCudden, Mrs Toby and I had the privilege of spending Wednesday afternoon with the student leaders of the Josephite schools throughout Australia and New Zealand. The student leaders meet every year under the direction of Sister Jan Barnett to develop their leadership skills by studying the examples of Julian Tenison Woods, St Joseph and Mary MacKillop. We listened as the leaders developed and pitched their ideas for the social justice initiatives they planned to take back to their schools and present to their principals. These young people were very impressive – articulate, informed and filled with ideas about how they could make a difference in their communities. We were very proud of Danielle B and Annie L in the way they represented St Joseph’s at JJAMM.

School uniform skirt hemline

I encouraged parents in the last Journal to assist us with encouraging the girls to always look their best and stressed that our uniform standards were clearly outlined in student Planners and on the College website. Our focus this week is on the hemline of the skirt. Many girls received a letter to take home to parents to inform them that their daughter’s skirt is too short. The hem is to be lowered to ‘fall to the top of the knee when standing’, or the skirt must be replaced if it is not possible to lower the hem. We ask for parent cooperation in this regard and to check when the girls are leaving home that their skirt is at the correct length and not rolled at the waist, that school shoes have a
distinct heel with an arch support, hair is tied back, and that only regulation jewellery is being worn. As the weather changes girls are reminded to wear the College jumper or cardigan only; non-regulation jumpers and ‘hoodies’ will be confiscated.

**Digital Citizenship**

ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority) has released 6 Parent Information Sheets dealing with the following:

- ASK FM
- INSTAGRAM
- TWITTER
- FACEBOOK
- KIK
- TUMBLR

Parents are encouraged to access the information sheets via this link: https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B1xmKJKYLNzOckctYll3YzZg&usp=sharing

The Instagram information sheet appears at the end of this edition of Joeys Journal.

**Year 7 Swim Trials**

These take place at Gosford pool on Friday February 28. Notes have already been sent home with your daughter. We ask that you return these please if you have not done so already.

**Swimming Carnival**

The College Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday March 4th (Week 6). The girls will receive their permission notes and carnival information in the coming week. Just a reminder that the Swimming Carnival is a compulsory school event and each student is expected to attend for the entire day. If you know that your daughter will not be attending the carnival or will need to leave early for any reason please discuss this with her Year Leader as soon as possible. Please note that your daughter will not be permitted to leave the venue with a friend’s parent unless we have written permission from you in advance.

**Disco**

The first College disco of the year is on the calendar for Thursday 14th March (Week 7). The disco cannot run without the assistance of parent supervisors so if you can assist on the evening please leave your name, available times and phone number with College reception (43244022). We ask that you call the College in person or send a written note with your daughter as we cannot accept her verbal offer of your assistance.

I hope the school year continues to be enjoyable for all.

**Helen Love**

Acting Assistant Principal

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**FROM THE RE LEADER**

How your support has helped - Typhoon Haiyan 3 months on:

"We are very grateful. We really thank from the bottom of our hearts. No words can express how thankful we are." - Celestino Martinez Jr, Mayor of Bogo City

Supporter,

Thank you for helping thousands of families rebuild their lives and livelihoods. I have just returned from the Philippines where it is a little over three months since Super Typhoon Haiyan struck, causing widespread devastation.

Amidst the tragedy, the visit left me inspired by our Filipino partners and those affected by the storm. Not only did they express great appreciation for the generosity of donors like you, but their faith, hope and resilience in the face of such challenging circumstances was something to behold.

Though I have visited the Philippines many times before, the experience this week was a special one. It reinforced how much we are engaged with our partners in a mutual journey of faith and how much of a difference we can make when we work together. You can read more about my visit to the Philippines on our website.

Since November, we have been working tirelessly to provide essential relief to over 500,000 people including food, water and shelter. Now, as the initial response stage comes to an end, we will continue to work on longer term rehabilitation programs to rebuild the homes, communities and livelihoods lost in the Typhoon. Without your support, Caritas Australia would not be able to carry out this essential work. Thank you again for your overwhelming generosity.

Paul O’Callaghan
CEO Caritas Australia

PS: You can find the latest updates on the situation in the Philippines on our web site.

Nicole Harrison
RE Leader
FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews
The Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday March 6th from 3.30 pm – 8.30 pm. Letters with information relating to the interviews including booking details with logins and PINs were sent home with Year 12 students earlier this week. The evening provides an opportunity for you to meet with your daughter’s teachers and discuss her progress in the HSC course. Strengthening the relationship between the student, teacher and family at times like this will assist in maximising each student’s academic performance. It is expected that all students with at least one parent/carer will attend the interviews.

Assessment Handbooks
All students in Years 7 – 11 received their 2014 Assessment Handbooks last week. These Handbooks contain important information regarding College assessment policy and procedures. Specific details of individual tasks including percentage weightings are listed separately per subject per page of the handbook. A yearly assessment task planning grid is provided on the back page of all handbooks to help each student with their organisation and study routines. Please encourage your daughter to read through her Assessment Handbook and to become familiar with its contents. All Assessment Handbooks can be found on the college website http://www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au in the Learning and Teaching section.

Absence in an assessment task due to illness/misadventure
When your daughter is absent on the day of an assessment task it is important that the college be notified. The front pages of each Assessment Handbook contain specific details in relation to the correct procedures to follow. It is recommended that you are aware of these and if in any doubt, contact the college. Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 must also complete the college Illness/Misadventure form obtained from Student Services (or use the sample form at the back of the Assessment Handbook) and see the Leader of Learning of the relevant subject promptly on return to school.

Help with study skills
Notifications of assessment tasks will be coming home over the next few weeks for all Year groups. The college is fortunate in having access to an impressive study skills online resource containing great study ideas for all Years and many subject specific tips. You can access the site at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and use the following details as you login:

School login name: forsjcconly
School login password: 99results

From 2014 BOSTES (Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards) replaces the previously known Board of Studies. This is a newly created authority in NSW for standards in curriculum, student assessment and teacher quality.

BOSTES will deliver all services previously provided by the Board of Studies NSW and the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING

I refer you to the thankyou letter from the CEO of Caritas Australia on the previous page to thank the College for their donation following the typhoon in the Philippines.

I think it is important that the girls realise that the contributions they make really do make a difference. With this in mind we are about to head into Project Compassion and again I would like to encourage the girls to give generously.

Last year we raised just over $6,500. This year we would like to challenge the girls to do even better.

Uniform
In the last edition of Joey’s Journal I mentioned the length of the student’s skirts. Again I feel the need to bring this to your attention. Could all parents please look at the length of your daughter’s skirt and let them down to an area just above the knee. We will be sending letters to parents of girls whose skirts are too short. This letter will ask you to adjust the hem or to purchase a new skirt if appropriate.

As you would understand we want the girls to represent the College well and we see the uniform as the best way of demonstrating their respect for the College and its rules.

Thank you again for your support.

Regards

Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 12
Welcome back to all Year 12 for a very busy first term in 2014. Already the girls are back into the routine of classes and now have to set those study patterns for
the year ahead. The transition has been very good. Keep it up.

All our students were impressed with the Scholars’ Assembly in Week 2 which celebrated the achievements of the 2013 Cohort. Many of the girls pictured themselves there in twelve months’ time, on that stage gaining acknowledgement for their results in the HSC. They seem motivated to strive for the Bands 5 & 6 to gain such a success.

I mentioned to the girls this week the limited space available for parking cars in the morning. The limited space has been increased due to the new building site at St Edwards. Girls need to be mindful of others when they park.

- Don’t take up two or more spaces
- Don’t park in front of driveways
- Watch out for parking signs and make sure you read the time restrictions
- Leave plenty of time to get to school for pastoral in the morning
- Don’t leave your lights on
- Park close to the curb (part of your wheel needs to be on the flat of the concrete gutter)

Reminder
Please check your HSC ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK for upcoming assessments and the due dates for each task. It is very important that all students are aware of these dates.

If you need to hand in appeals for any missed task please complete the form and submit to the Leader of Learning for that subject. It will then be forwarded to Mrs West for processing. Eg - Biology Task –

1. See Mrs Eades with the completed appeal (include any paperwork, ie Doctor’s Certificate)
2. Discuss with Mrs Eades what will happen with the task you are missing (Eg – due on a different date)
3. Mrs Eades will forward the appeal to Mrs West where the appeal will be processed.

Congratulations on the Fundraising Appeal on Valentine’s Day. Year 12 raised over $700.00 for Project Compassion.

Keep up the great start to the year!

Dave Matthews
Leader of Year 12

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 11

The journey through senior school began with great excitement with the return of the Year 11 cohort in Week 1. Looking most impressive in their new senior uniforms, the girls began their Preliminary Courses and began working towards their HSC exams which they will sit for at the end of 2015.

The theme chosen this year is “Partners in Progress” which is a reminder to the girls that as they travel their journey through senior school they need to be surrounded by positive influences. Success in education and life will largely depend on assembling a support team around you to encourage and assist you with life and learning.

This partnership will involve friends, family, classmates, teachers, the Year 11 cohort and the wider school community. Students are also encouraged to ensure that Jesus and their faith become part of this partnership. Over the next 2 years there will be many trials and tribulations. Having a strong faith will be very important for helping students to cope with the pressures of senior study and general life as a teenager in today’s society. The cohort will celebrate a mass together in Pastoral lesson Week 4 to ask for God’s blessing during their senior study.

At our recent Year Assembly students were also reminded that their journey has already begun and they should be using their class and study time wisely. Time at the beginning of a course is just as important as time at the end. Students who can get things done now will avoid ‘cramming’ or running out of time at the end, so some good advice is to get started early.

In his book, “The Happiest Refugee” Ahn Do often uses the line that there are two times in life “Today and Never”. Now that students have received Assessment Task booklets they really should be planning and working towards achieving their goals.

In conclusion, I wish all students the best of luck with their studies and I hope that you all receive just rewards for your efforts. I encourage parents to be actively involved in the learning partnership as the students will need your love and support as they travel the journey through HSC. Remember we are all “Partners in Progress”.

Terry Grubba
Leader of Year 11

FROM THE LEADER OF PDHPE

PDHPE, PSS and Sport & Recreation
Staff scheduled for classes in these subjects are: Mrs Bartholomew, Mrs Preston, Ms Lamont, Mrs Kelleher, Mrs Ogle, Mr Gahan, Mr Toby, Ms Pacholek, Ms Beatson, Ms Simpson, Mrs Grassi.

Students who have sport, PSS, or rep sport training throughout the day are able to wear their full Sports uniform for the whole day. The uniform is designed to meet the physical requirements for the school.
program. The majority of the program is located in indoor facilities but where outdoor activities are conducted it is recommended that the school hat be worn.

Travel Policy
Students participating in school time for scheduled lessons that have off campus venues for activities must travel as arranged by the teacher, from school and return with the teachers.

If students wish to leave from a venue to travel home after the activity from the venue and not return to school, the parent or guardian must send a note prior to the scheduled time and arrange to meet the teacher to take the student with them. Students will not be permitted to stay at a venue if the parent or guardian does not collect the student before the class group is returning to school. Students will be taken back to the school campus in this situation.

Students who are leaving with parents other than their own must have written permission from their own parent or guardian giving details as to who will be collecting them. On return students must wait in the main yard on the basketball court or in the canteen area – students are not permitted to go to classrooms, other school areas or lockers until the bell rings.

Sports Uniform: Purchased from School Uniform Shop
- White plain socks (should be visible above ankle).
- Sturdy lace up joggers with arch support for vigorous physical activity. Canvas and Black coloured shoes are not acceptable.
- Top: Cerise school sports shirt; College Jersey or school jumper in winter.
- Bottom: School sports shorts.
- Hat: School hat for outdoors.
- PE Bag: Strongly advised for water activities.
- Tracksuit: Optional – school track suit pants may be purchased if desired. No other tracksuit is allowed to be worn to or from school.
- Ribbon: Pink or royal blue.
- This uniform is also to be worn for all practical Physical Education and Sport and Recreation classes.

Sports Permission Notes should now have been signed and returned to the class PDHPE TEACHER. If your daughter has lost this form please ask her to collect a note from Student Services. A schedule of activities and venues has been given to your daughter so that you are informed of the sports that she is undertaking each week.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Fee Statements
All Fee Statements for 2014 were sent out several weeks ago. If you have still not received your account please contact the College immediately as instalment plans are now due. If you wish to vary your payments outside of what appears at the bottom of your statement please contact the Finance department to discuss this so that we are aware of the changes.

Extracurricular Activities Payments
Parents please be aware that your BPay biller code is set up for your school fee payments only meaning that unless the expense appears on your fee statement you cannot pay for this particular item via BPay. This is the case with Warnum and India trips and other external sporting events attended. We ask that you pay for these either by cash, cheque, eftpos or credit card so that the payment can be directly attributed to this event. You will be provided with a receipt for all payments received for your records.

The Finance office does not hold change so we ask that when sending in cash payments please send correct money. Can you also ensure that money comes in a clearly marked envelope detailing your daughter’s name, what the payment is for and how much is enclosed.

Uniform Donations
The College is always on the lookout for good quality uniforms that are no longer used that could be redirected to families in serious financial situations. If you have uniforms at home in the cupboard that your daughter has either grown out of or no longer requires we would love you to send them to school. Any donations would be very appreciated.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

ClickView Online
At St Joseph’s we have used the ClickView digital video service for a number of years in order to deliver digital educational content to students over the school network.

ClickView Online is a new feature from ClickView. It is a cloud based platform which allows us to deliver educational videos to students at home over the internet via computer or mobile device. Students will require a password to log in to our ClickView Online collection. Students in Year 12 will be the first to receive their log in details and we will gradually enable access for other year levels as appropriate.

ClickView Online is an educational tool that will assist students with their learning from home. Students will be required to download video from the ClickView
Online website and watch it over the internet which will mean using some of the data download allocation from your internet service provider. Videos will generally be small clips of a few minutes which will not have much impact on your home data download allocation. However, in some instances students may be required to watch videos of 20 to 30 minutes or longer. ClickView advises us that a 30 minute video will use approximately 250MB of your data download. **If you have data limits in your home, please speak to your daughter about restricting her use of ClickView Online to only those tasks set by the classroom teacher.**

Karen Powers
Teacher Librarian

COMMUNITY NEWS

Aboriginal Education Worker
Hello, my name is Donna Sutton and I am the Aboriginal Education Worker for St Joseph’s Catholic College, two days per week, Monday and Tuesday.

In my position I will work collaboratively with teachers to support learning outcomes across Year groups. I will strive to celebrate the richness and diversity of Aboriginal cultures and spiritualities, sharing with our students through the curriculum, liturgy and other opportunities, the value and importance of Aboriginal cultures, experience and history.

I look forward to creating whole school opportunities to inspire and celebrate Aboriginal culture with the whole school community at St Joseph’s.

Contact details: donna.sutton@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Green Point Community Centre and Northern Settlement Services are holding a photo exhibition that promotes cultural diversity, valuing cultures and countries from around the world.

All Primary and High School pupils are invited to enter the competition. If you have a photo that illustrates valuing your own culture or country, or another country, or cultural diversity, enter it in the competition.

The photos will be judged in age groups, and there is one for both Primary and Secondary School Pupils.

Entry forms may be obtained from Green Point Community Centre (PH: 4367591 or email info@greenpointcommunitycentre.com.au). Entries close 28 February 2014.

The photographs will be on exhibition to the public from 14 to 21 March 2014.

A Harmony Day Launch of the photographs in Erina Library Foyer is on the 14 March from 5.30pm. The winners of each category will be announced and prizes awarded.
Instagram is a photo and video sharing App popular with young people. Users communicate by posting comments to each other under photos and videos. They sometimes share user names from other sites or apps such as Kik or Facebook to continue chats privately. 13 is the minimum user age required by Instagram.

If your child is over 13 you should still consider the following before agreeing to unsupervised Instagram access:

Is your child able to withstand taunts from others?

If you think your child will become very upset (more than other kids) if they have a negative experience online, your child may need you to guide them through the use of Instagram. Look through their profiles and public feeds together, talk about how some people behave differently online and teach them how to block and report people.

Does your child understand what is safe to put online?

If they might put their name, address, school, sports club or information that allows people to identify and locate them (even after you have talked through the dangers) they may need your help with using Instagram. Talk about the risks of ‘checking in’, posting sexy pictures, meeting online friends in person, making offensive comments, and what is and isn’t acceptable.

Does your child know how to report abuse and offensive or pornographic content?

If not you need to visit Instagram’s Privacy and Safety Centre with them to ensure they know how to block and report people.

Are you worried your child will be left out if they aren’t on Instagram but also worried they aren’t ready?

As a compromise you may choose to let them have an Instagram account if they follow strict rules – including only using Instagram when you supervise them or you control their login. In return, and to keep them engaged with you, you can promise not to embarrass them by commenting publicly on their profile or posts. Teens tell us this is humiliating and it is their private world.

Are you going to supervise or ‘follow’ your child on Instagram?

If this is the case, be prepared to learn more than you might like about their friends. Try to withhold comment unless you are worried about safety. It is better to talk to your child in person if you have concerns than post comments publicly. If you publicly embarrass them, you will break your child’s trust and they may simply communicate with friends on a different program – or open a separate profile without your knowledge.

How do I talk to my child about my concerns?

Be honest with them. Express your love and concern about what might happen online. Ask if they have experienced bullying or sexual advances. Banning seldom works and children will find other ways to get online and may stop talking to you about issues to avoid getting in trouble. Keep the communication open. If they won’t talk to you about things, recruit a trusted family friend or family member to keep the communication going.

When should I be worried about my child?

If your child’s behaviour changes at home and/or school you should talk to them. Examples of changed behaviour could include disinterest in things they used to like, seeming very unhappy and/or their sleep and eating is being impacted. Seek professional advice if necessary from a school counsellor, your GP or a psychologist. If your child has particular vulnerabilities, be vigilant about their contacts offline and online. Help them join groups out of school where they can find friends and support. Talk to the school and make sure they are supported.

1000+ health professionals at your fingertips
Need to find a GP or a late-night chemist near you? Or a specialist located close to home?

Visit the new online Central Coast Health Directory for a comprehensive list of health professionals near you. This free, easy to use directory contains a list of local:

- Doctor’s surgeries
- Chemists
- Specialist allied health professionals (e.g. physiotherapists, psychologists, chiropractors)
- Medical specialists (e.g. paediatricians, dermatologists, cardiologists, neurologists)
- Hospitals and emergency departments
- Dentists
- Aged care facilities
- Aboriginal health services.

You can:

- Search by suburb to find out what local services are currently open, their contact details (including a map), and opening hours.
- Find out if a local doctor’s surgery is open after hours, if they bulk bill, and if they are accepting new patients.
- Search for health professionals based on their gender and/or ability to speak languages other than English.