A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

On Wednesday the College community gathered for Eucharist and a day of activities to celebrate the Feast Day of our patron, St Joseph. We were very fortunate to have 2 Sisters of St. Joseph attend and celebrate this Feast day with us: Sr. Lyn Raftery (Patron of Raftery House) and Sr. Geraldine Leahy.

As we gathered to celebrate Eucharist on our College Feast Day we also joined with Josephite students from across Australia and New Zealand, who were also using the 19th March, the Feast of St Joseph (himself a refugee), to argue for the needs and rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

Joseph’s life was interesting and certainly challenging. We know Joseph was a carpenter, a working man. He wasn’t rich, for when he took Jesus to the Temple he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons; this was allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb.

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. We know that Joseph was a descendant from David, the greatest King of Israel.

Joseph was a compassionate and caring man. He was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife.

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to return (Matthew 2:13–23).

Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth, out of fear for the child’s life.

Joseph respected God. He followed God’s commands faithfully. Joseph is the patron of fathers, carpenters and social justice. It is no wonder that Mary MacKillop had a special place for St Joseph, so special in fact she named her order of sisters after him.

For us as members of the St Joseph Catholic College community, the Feast of St Joseph brings together our College motto ‘To Act Justly’ with that strong MacKillop tradition of “never seeing a need without doing something about it”, as well as an appreciation of our past and recognition of the dedicated ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph who have served the East Gosford community.

A Prayer for the Feast Day of St Joseph
Saint Joseph, you are that just man, that wise and loyal servant, whom God called to lead the holy family. With a husband’s love you cherished Mary, and with fatherly care you loved and educated Jesus.
May we also experience your loving and watchful care in our lives and families and in our work.

Amen
School Improvement Plan for 2014
As part of our goal setting for 2014 we have highlighted three main areas for improvement for this year. These three main areas come under the headings of ‘Catholic Life and Mission’, ‘Learning and Teaching’ and ‘Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing’. They are referred to as our School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals. These goals are as follows;

- **Catholic Life and Mission**
  All staff and students will have a common understanding of the implications of discipleship.

- **Learning and Teaching**
  Enhance learners’ capacity to use technology and contemporary tools for learning and teaching.
  Increase the effective use of current data to inform learning and teaching.

- **Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing**
  Enhance student engagement with learning, their connections with each other and their wellbeing by:
  - Improving punctuality and attendance.
  - Increasing participation in and support for College and community initiatives.

More information will be sent home soon concerning these goals and some of the targets that we have set for the year to help us achieve these goals.

Dioecesan Staff Mass
On Thursday evening of last week, Fr Vince Casey, along with a large number of priests from our Diocese (including our former Bishop, David Walker) celebrated a special Mass with staff from all the Dioecesan schools to acknowledge the role that teachers play as educators in the Diocese of Broken Bay. At the same Mass acknowledgement was made of staff who are new to the Diocese, staff who have contributed 25 years of service to Catholic Education and teachers who have taken on senior leadership roles at their schools.

Our congratulations go to the following staff who were acknowledged at the Dioecesan Staff Mass at Waitara on Thursday evening for their respective achievements;

  **Staff new (Permanent or Temporary) to the Diocese**
  - Mrs Alex McArdel
  - Mrs Carol Witton
  - Miss Emma Fenning
  - Mr Kane Charles
  - Mrs Tracy Simpson.

  **25 Years in Catholic Education**
  - Mr Colin Back
  - Mrs Kathy West.

National Youth Science Forum
For the last 30 years students in year 11 have been invited to apply for a 2 week event which is held in January each year. As many as 2000 students across Australia apply for 400 places to attend events in either Canberra or Perth. Students have to go through a lengthy process, starting in April the previous year, in which they need to gain sponsorship from a local rotary club and be interviewed by board members of the Rotary club to secure this sponsorship. They are then referred to the National Youth Science Forum for further interviews.

If students are chosen to attend the events in January they can then apply to their International Program in which there are only 35 places. This again is a lengthy process which involves getting references from teachers and writing essay answers to questions given by the panel.

We received the very exciting news this week that one of our Year 12 students, Courteney P, has been successful to the international program for 2014. Courteney will represent Australia at the Canada Wide Science Fair which will be held in Windsor, Ontario in May. The last time a student from St. Joseph’s Catholic College was successful in gaining entry to the international program was in 2004 when Johanna Elms travelled to Russia and visited the cosmonaut training centre. Our congratulations go to Courteney on this wonderful achievement.

The Assessment Alert App
During the middle of last year the College advertised to parents the opportunity for them to purchase ‘The Assessment Alert App’ for their mobile devices to alert them to upcoming assessment tasks for their daughters. A decision has been made by the College to no longer make use of this app. Instead we will very soon be rolling out to parents a ‘Parent Portal’ of our Edumate program that is used extensively in the College to record attendance, record academic achievement, give outlines of upcoming tasks, indicate awards and disciplines that students receive and highlight major College events on our calendar.

Edumate is a web-based program and will be available to all parents to access information on their daughter (s) with the use of a username and password. More information on the Parent Portal will be sent home to parents in the coming weeks. If you are asked to renew your subscription to ‘The Assessment Alert App’ then please do not do so.

God bless and best wishes for the fortnight ahead.

Tony McCudden
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Celebrating St Joseph’s Day
Wednesday was a very special day for our community as we celebrated the Feast of St Joseph. It began with the celebration of Eucharist and acknowledgement that this day was all about acting justly and doing...
something for others. Our College leaders spoke to the girls about standing up for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and encouraged us all to ‘take a stand’ against the mandatory detention of the children of asylum seekers. Melanie L V shared the challenges her family faced as they settled into Australia after arriving as migrants from Ecuador.

Students competed in a trivia competition before ‘shopping’ at a variety of food and tattoo stalls in Carroll Court. We enjoyed a pizza lunch and were entertained by a variety of acts in our annual Joeys Got Talent. The highlight of the talent quest was the six Year 12 pastoral classes presenting an arrangement of a verse of the College song in a particular musical genre. Raftery’s country style verse and Carroll’s pop verse, both appropriately choreographed were especially memorable. The generosity of our students was evident again throughout the day and by the time the last stall closed, we had an additional $3000 for our Project Compassion appeal.

The afternoon bus drivers have requested that parents do not park in this zone to collect students from school in the afternoon in particular. Buses are large vehicles with an equally large turning circle. Cars standing in this zone impede the bus in its attempt to round the bend. If you collect your daughter, please park beyond the bus zone further up Russell Drysdale Street.

**Year 7 Vaccinations on Friday**

Year 7 students receive their first vaccination this Friday so please ensure your daughter has returned her form. You may have elected to go to your family doctor for the vaccination program. Please advise us if this is the case so that NSW Health maintain accurate records. The girls are managed throughout the day to minimise any anxiety they may be feeling.

**Mufti Day on Friday**

We are having our first mufti day this Friday as a fund raiser to support a family in our community. The girls donate a $2 coin on Wednesday or Thursday to be eligible to wear mufti on Friday and must satisfy the following dress code:

- Feet are to be fully enclosed to satisfy health and safety regulations – thongs are NOT permitted
- Tops must be at least waist length – midriff/crop tops or low cut tops are NOT permitted
- Torn/ripped shorts are NOT permitted

Parents and students are reminded that it is a school day. Therefore, students are to dress appropriately. A committee of Year 11 students is taking charge of the day. They have organised a cake stall at recess and a sausage sizzle at lunch. Year 11 music students will treat us to a concert during lunch.

**Year 7, 8 and 9 Camps**

These are in the final two weeks of term so the girls will be getting excited about cabin groups and the chance to spend time with friends in a camp setting. Parents are reminded please to return all forms including the permission note and medical to your daughter’s pastoral teacher as soon as possible so that Year Leaders can finalise arrangements.

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**FROM THE RE LEADER**

Ms Wedmore’s Year 11 Dewey pastoral class have come up with a quirky way to raise money for Project Compassion.

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**Student bus passes**

Red Bus and Busways have notified the College they are checking each student’s bus pass as they board both morning and afternoon buses so we ask that parents remind daughters to carry their bus pass every day. Students must show their pass on demand and may be refused entry onto the bus if they do not have it. Some afternoon buses in particular are crowded so students are reminded that they must catch the bus for which they have the pass. Students may not catch a bus of their choosing and drivers can refuse them entry if they attempt to board the wrong bus.

**The No Standing zone near the roundabout**
Nicole Harrison
RE Leader

FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER
Our Youth Ministry Team Run St Brigid’s Year 7 Reflection Day
At St Joseph’s Catholic College we have a Year 11 Youth Ministry Team who are endeavouring to provide other students with opportunities to encounter God. The Team has worked together on a massive project where they ran the Reflection Day for Year 7 at our newest Catholic High School, St Brigid’s Catholic College at Lake Munmorah. This project was an important part of their journey in faith together. The event required creativity, teamwork, organisation, resource gathering, planning and prayer. It was wonderful to witness the faith, confidence, maturity and dedication of the team members who moved out of their comfort zones to have such an impact on their peers.

The Year 7 students really appreciated getting to know these older students and were very open to the message we shared on the day. The theme “Me to We” encouraged the Year 7 students to be less selfish and to show kindness and love to others as Jesus taught us. We are most grateful to St Brigid’s Principal, Mrs Julie Terry, and her staff for their hospitality. The Youth Ministry Team looks forward to running a Twilight Retreat for our Year 7 students on the 20th of May.

Broken Bay Youth Ministry Experience
On Friday March 7, a group of about 25 Year 10 students, travelled to the Broken Bay Youth Ministry Conference in Pennant Hills. None of us knew quite what to expect and were pleasantly surprised to be surrounded by 140 students from Catholic schools in the diocese who were just as passionate about their faith.

They knew the best way to put teenagers in a good mood for the rest of the day - a delicious morning tea on arrival! We then sat for the official welcome and obligatory explanation of where the bathrooms were. After the necessities were out of the way, a musical interlude broke the ice. To say Simon Hyland’s voice was heavenly would be an understatement.

The main speaker for the day, Father Dave Callaghan came all the way from Canberra to speak to us. I have never heard such an inspirational and down to earth priest talk about how he experiences God in his life and why he became a priest. It is no small feat to engage such a large group for over an hour, but Father spoke without caution, encouraging us to question our faith, a concept scarcely approached by anyone, let alone a priest. His casual manner and unique perspective intrigued everyone in the room.
After morning tea, everyone split into groups to go to their first workshop. Ours was Social Justice, looking at Vinnies and the work they do for youth in our community. We learnt the shocking facts about homelessness for youth in Australia and reviewed how we would react if in a situation where we had to stand up for a homeless person being treated unjustly.

The volunteer caterers provided an amazing lunch that led us to our next workshop. Music and worship incorporated everyone participating by singing and playing the drums, the piano and the guitar. It was awesome to see how we could manipulate music to suit any situation. It is such a unique way of praying and showing faith that really suited the atmosphere of a group of young students.

Mr Tobin from St Peter’s Catholic College led ministry through games, teaching us how to lead a group while we participated in hilarious activities. We wrapped up the day by heading to the praise and worship night. In my family, whenever we organise a BBQ it pours rain. Last Friday night was no different. The storm clouds rolled in as we ate our sausage sizzle sandwiches and headed into the hall. It was a great night of singing praise and praying that the Holy Spirit would bless each and every one of our lives. The musicians once again took to the stage with astonishing talent. It was great to meet people from all over the diocese. The night drew to a close and we proceeded back to the bus for the drive home.

Overall it truly was an enlightening day and I cannot wait for the opportunity to participate in youth ministry in the coming years.

Rebecca Year 10

Fiona Green
Youth Ministry Leader

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Excellent HSC Resources
An excellent resource to help all Year 12 students prepare for their assessment tasks and exams is the NSW HSC Online website. The site provides information and resources on most HSC courses such as past examination questions, summaries, demonstration videos etc. Go to: http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au/

This website also has links to information about life beyond the HSC and tips for parents and carers of HSC students. All information is supported by the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards and Charles Sturt University.

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations
Year 12 received their half-yearly examination timetables last week. Students should become familiar with the following instructions printed on each timetable.
• You must arrive at the college at least 20 minutes prior to the commencement of exams.
• Meet in Founders Court prior to exams. AM – 8.50 am, PM – 12.50 pm.
• If you are late for exams no extra time is given.
• If you are ill or suffer a misadventure on the day of an exam you must notify the College (Mrs West, Ms Love or Mr Matthews) and follow the appropriate procedure as outlined in your Assessment Handbooks.
• You must ensure that you have a medical certificate in cases of illness. On your return to school you must see Mrs West or Mr Matthews to fill in an illness/misadventure form.
• You may not leave examinations early.
• You must use your BOSTES student number as your identification on each exam paper.
• Mobile phones must not be taken into exam rooms so you should leave them at home.
• You are expected to bring all required equipment (pens, stapler, tissues, water, calculators etc.) in a clear plastic container

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

Maddy Day
This coming Friday we are having Maddy day. Maddy Ganley from Year 11 is currently having treatment for cancer in Western Australia. We are hoping to raise some money to help support Maddy’s family to pay for her treatment.

We hope as many girls as possible get behind this initiative to support Maddy and her family. We also ask for prayers for Maddy at this time.

Project Compassion
During lent we are also running project compassion. This is an initiative run by Caritas Australia which raises money to support projects in developing countries. We have focused on the poverty of woman and the role we have to play in helping to alleviate this on a global scale.

Could you please encourage your daughters for example to do some jobs around the home to raise money for this cause. Last year we raised over $6500 and hope to do even better this year.

Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing

FROM THE LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING

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Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 9

Year 9 Shine
Year 9 have demonstrated that they ‘Shine’ on a number of levels, even at this early stage of 2014. They have been outstanding in their conscientious approach to every aspect of College life from their studies to getting involved in social justice initiatives.

Mrs Toby asked them to assist with a food drive for the Woy Woy Parish, and the mini supermarket that has developed in her office is evidence of their thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you to the parents who have donated food for this very worthy cause, and to the girls who made the effort to bring in the items.

Congratulations girls!
L-R Erin W, Sloane N, Keeley B, Mimosa H

On Friday 21st the Year 9 girls have the opportunity to “Shine” by contributing to the local community when they clean up the local area around the school. During their lunch time the girls will clean up Russell Drysdale Street, Friendship Walk and some of the areas around Brisbane Water. The girls will have a picnic at Elizabeth Ross Park when the rubbish collection is completed and return to school period 5. They are to wear their sports uniform on the day.
Girls from the year group have also been very successful in various sports. Mimosa H and Keely B have achieved awards at the State Surf Life Saving Championships. Mimosa won a Silver Medal in the Iron Person and a Gold Medal in the Board, while Keely won a bronze medal in the Iron Person and Gold in the Swim. Other outstanding achievements have been the selection of Sloane N to represent Australia in the World Taekwon Do Championships in Brazil, and Erin W to train with the NSW Archery team.

Our camp is coming up in Week 11, and we are praying that we have some sunshine this year! I am sure that the girls will make the most of the great opportunities that camp offers for challenging themselves in the activities and socialising with their friends. I would just like to reinforce the importance of the girls bringing appropriate clothing. The camp has requested that there are no short shorts or singlet tops as they are unsuitable for activities that require a harness. It is also compulsory for girls to wear a hat and to bring a water bottle.

Cheryl Maguire
Year 9 Leader

FROM THE LEADER OF TAS

TAS Department
As always this is a busy and productive year in the TAS department. The year 7 Technology Mandatory girls are steadily completing their designs for an acrylic photo frame in the plastics unit “changing rooms” or creating a healthy snack food for teens in the “sensational snacks” unit.

In year 8 Technology Mandatory, half of the girls are working on their Bauhaus inspired letter racks and next term will commence designs for their mosaic clocks. The rest of the group are learning how to use a sewing machine and textile technology effectively to produce a unique tote bag in the “that’s my bag” unit.

Year 9 Food Technology is completing their introductory unit on kitchen safety in “food selection and Health”. We have prepared and indulged in chicken caesar salad, lamb kebabs with cumara mash and a taste test investigation of savoury snack foods. The girls were amazed to find out what constitutes a “serving size” as well as the fats, sodium and kilojoules present in their favourite snacks. There should be some wiser food choices ahead!

“preservation revision” and “food equity” are the first units studied by year 10 Food Technology. These girls have experimented with preserving and dehydrating foods and also with overseas staples to prepare “potato puffs” as well as “stuffed polenta with meat sauce” – yum!!!

In Year 10 Industrial Technology Timber the students are busy creating an inlaid top jewellery box from solid tassmanian oak timber. They have also just completed their assessment task on timber classification and are now experts on all types of hard and soft woods!

Year 11 Industrial Technology Timber girls are working hard on their bent laminated magazine rack using solid meranti timber and layers of 3 ply. Many of these students are gaining their first experience with the wood turning lathe during this challenging project.

Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood has been studying pregnancy with prenatal and antenatal care. This class will be combining with year 12 to attend an excursion to a local childcare centre, the community library and studying child friendly facilities in the community. They will be taking the “real care babies” home next term over the weekend to practice caring for a newborn. The experience is very enriching and usually unexpected for the students. Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood has just finished units on “children and literacy” and “children and media”. We are now studying the “history of childhood”.

Year 11 Food Technology students are studying a unit on “food availability and selection”. They have been working hard on their research into traditional foods of another culture as well as Australian “bush” foods. Next week, the girls will sample a range of “bush Tucker” such as kangaroo, wattle seed, lemon myrtle and lilly pilly. They have already prepared a vegetarian curry (to coincide with their research into the influence of beliefs on our food choices) and a passionfruit sponge cake as part of their investigation into British influences on our food selection.

We were lucky enough to have Mr David Ella as a guest speaker for the Year 12 Community and Family studies students. Mr Ella gave an informative and inspirational talk on being Aboriginal in our contemporary society. The girls are now able to apply this knowledge to their unit on “groups in context”.

Year 12 Industrial Technology Timber is in the process of completing their major practical works and folio. They need to keep up a cracking pace to ensure the excellent results for which St Joseph’s girls are renowned.

Year 12 Textiles and Design are well on their way with experimentation of textiles techniques and folio presentation for their major work. The girls will need to spend many hours in practical construction to produce a quality major textiles project.

Year 12 Food Technology students are ready to submit their first assessment task for the year on food preservation. They have some interesting practical experiences already. The girls staged a children’s party and investigated party foods from the point of view of a child with food intolerances – realising the importance of food labelling. Through the use of the
Students in elective languages classes in Year 9 and 10 will soon have the opportunity to participate in the ‘Language Perfect’ online language learning program. Language Perfect enables students to study customised vocabulary lists both in class and on any device with an internet connection. Girls are able to learn at their own pace, gain points for every word they learn and engage in fun and friendly vocabulary learning competitions. We will also have the opportunity to participate in the ‘Language Perfect World Championships’ in May, competing against students from around the world. Permission notes were sent home with the girls in Week 7, so please ensure that your daughter returns this note as soon as possible.

In August this year, all elective language students will participate in the Assessment of Language Competence Certificates (ALC) run by the Australian Council for Educational Research. The ALC is a program designed to celebrate and enhance the learning of languages in the Asia-Pacific region. The skills testing program includes listening and reading comprehension tasks in a multiple-choice format. All students will receive a certificate congratulating them on their achievements.

We thank you for your support of languages at St Joseph’s Catholic College and look forward to updating you on our progress later in the year.

Alison Walsh
Leader of Languages

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

School Fees
Thank you to all families who are following the fee payment schedule ensuring their accounts are up to date and on time. If you wish to vary your payment schedule to a more manageable payment plan this can quickly be done and a new statement provided to you. Please try not to pay a differing amount to your billing – especially if it will put your account in arrears. At this stage every family should have made a payment towards fees. Families who have not done so are advised to contact the College and let us know when payment is expected. The College will be contacting families who have overdue accounts as a reminder of your commitments. For those families facing serious financial stress please make contact with the College. Although it is often a difficult conversation to start it is important that we are aware of your situation and provide support for 2014 as able. Any discussions regarding financial hardship are confidential between the Principal, Business Manager and yourself.

Payments to the Finance Office
Just a reminder to send all payments and permission slips required to the Finance Office in a clearly marked envelope identifying your daughter’s name, her year group and class, and details of what the payment is for. Loose money and permission slips have the potential to be confused when dealing with several payments at the same time.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS

Uniform Shop
College Blazers required for Term 2 are now available through the Uniform Shop which is open Monday and Friday mornings from 8am – 10am.
What is Ask.fm? Is it safe for my child?

Ask.fm is a social networking platform where users create profiles with photos and information about themselves. Users ask each other questions but you don’t have to be a member to ask a question or browse profiles. Users can block their identity and ask questions anonymously. Users can limit who they accept questions from or can leave themselves open to questions from anyone, including anonymous users.

What do people ask on Ask.fm?

Ask.fm allows users to check through open profiles without creating their own account. There are many overly sexual questions asked. Some users deflect them well, while others are not as skilled or are happy to engage in the sexual banter. Many conversations are between school friends and cover daily school happenings.

What is Ask.FM doing to protect children?

Ask.FM’s Terms of Use state that users must be 13 years or older. It advises people not to share personal information and to block and report users who break the Terms of Service. It advises that if the person keeps bothering you, report abuse to us by pressing the Report button and to law enforcement...we can supply identifying information (of anonymous users) if necessary.

In August 2013 Ask.fm announced changes to its policies due to public scrutiny. It indicated it will improve its reporting, moderation and information on sources of help and advice. If your child has an Ask.fm account, you may like to go online with them to help select the appropriate settings.

Will banning my child from Ask.fm protect them? Are there other platforms like this?

Banning use of sites or apps may not be the best option as children will find ways to engage with platforms like Ask.fm. You can’t protect children from all of the risks posed by these platforms and applications but you can discuss your concerns and establish boundaries. The platform is itself not the issue - the behaviour is.

How do I talk to my child about my concerns?

Be honest with them. Talk about the media stories, express your love and concern about what is happening online. Ask if they have experienced bullying or sexual advances online and talk it through with them. Banning seldom works and children will find other ways to get online. They will stop talking to you about issues if they aren’t meant to be online anyway. Keep the communication open, or recruit a trusted family friend or family member to help.

When should I be worried about my child?

If your child’s behaviour changes at home or school you should talk to them; particularly if they seem disinterested in things they used to like, seem very unhappy and/or their sleep and eating is impacted. Seek professional advice if necessary including through the Cybersmart Online Helpline counselling service, the 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.