Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Last week I spent 3 days in Perth attending the annual Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools Principals conference (AJASS). It was a wonderful opportunity to share with 17 other secondary Josephite school Principals what is happening in each of our schools. There is a common bond between each one of us that is linked by the charisma of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. The theme of the conference this year was “Mary’s Girls in the West – Our Story: Challenge and Change”. At the conference we had the pleasure of meeting and hearing from a number of Sisters of St. Joseph who work in different ministries throughout Western Australia, with a particular focus on their work in the Kimberley. Of great significance to us here at St. Joseph is the wonderful work being carried out by Sr. Theresa Morellini in the Kimberley township of Warmun. Our College has had a number of groups of Year 11 girls visit Warmun over the past years as a social justice immersion and an opportunity to support the Aboriginal community in this area. It is wonderful to know that we are able to help support the work of Sr. Theresa with our efforts.

St Joseph’s Students rally to Bring Back our Girls

Below is an outline of a wonderful initiative by some of our Year 10 girls to help the plight of the 276 Nigerian schoolgirls who have been abducted and held hostage since 14th April 2014. This same article appeared in the edition of The Diocese of Broken Bay eNews this week. The web address of that article is http://www.dbb.org.au/e-news/broken-bay-enews/113-2014-05-20.html

Silent inaction is no option for students at St Joseph’s Catholic College East Gosford who have joined the global social media campaign to locate and rescue the 276 Nigerian schoolgirls who were abducted on 14th April. All 600 St Joseph’s students gathered on Monday morning to be photographed holding a large banner reading #BringBackOurGirls. The photograph will be shared across social media networks to raise awareness of the missing Nigerian schoolgirls and to call world leaders to take immediate action. Year 10 students Eloise T and Rebecca E were outraged when they heard the news of the abduction and they felt compelled to respond in some way.

“We find it hard to imagine one entire year group being taken from the safety of our school environment, not knowing if they would ever see their family again,” Rebecca said.

After spending the weekend painting the banner for the school photo, Eloise and Rebecca invited their classmates to join them in taking action. “As a school community we have the power to get the message out there and tell the world we care. We will share the photo on public media along with hashtag #BringBackOurGirls,” Rebecca said. Rebecca hopes that this initiative will stir other young people into action, “It is time to stand up for women all over the world facing injustice.”
College Athletics Carnival
The College Athletics Carnival held at Mingara Athletics Centre on Wednesday 21st May was an outstanding success, with wonderful participation from the students. The involvement of students in events at the carnival was excellent. All students are to be congratulated for their involvement, for their support of the school and for the positive contribution they made to the overall success of the day. Our students were led superbly by our Leaders of House and our senior students. Our thanks and congratulations also go to Mrs Northey, our House Leaders and the rest of the College staff for their wonderful efforts in creating such a great event for our students.

Year 7 2015 Enrolments
Parents of Year 6 students are reminded that applications for Year 7, 2015 are now overdue. If you haven't submitted an application as yet you are asked to do so as soon as possible. It is important that all parents who have made an enrolment application then ring the College to make an interview time for themselves and their child between 2nd and 4th June. Without this procedure being followed we cannot ensure a place even for siblings of students already at St Joseph's.

Year 7 – 11 Examinations
All students in Years 7 – 11 should have already received their examination timetable for their upcoming exams. Years 8, 10 and 11 will complete their exams in Week 5, with all girls in Years 7 and 9 completing their exams in Week 6. All students should now be involved in revising for these upcoming exams. We wish all of our students all the very best for their exams and hope that their efforts throughout Terms 1 and 2 are rewarded with some excellent results in these examinations.

Supporting Your Adolescent’s Learning at Home
St. Joseph’s will be hosting a Free Seminar for Parents and Students: Year 5 to Year 8 - Supporting your child’s learning at home.

Did you know that ... one of the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is the extent to which the student’s family is able to create a home environment that encourages and supports learning?

This term the Diocesan Parent Council (DPC) seminar explores the importance of parents continuing to engage in their children's learning as they move into the middle years of schooling.

“Supporting Your Adolescent’s Learning at Home” with Angie Wilcox from High Hopes Educational Services will be a practical night for both parents and their children in Year 5 to Year 8.

It will look at the important role parents still play even as their children are seeking new independence; give an understanding of learning and development during these years; and insights into learning and practical strategies for time management and organizational skills that are vital for effective learning during secondary school and beyond.

The seminar is on WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 7 – 8.30 pm at St Joseph’s Catholic College, EAST GOSFORD. All parents and their children are welcome, there is no cost and includes a booklet of strategies to take home. To assist with numbers, please visit the DPC website to RSVP www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com.

God bless and best wishes for the fortnight ahead.

Tony McCudden
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The very ‘best’ of our girls
Lots of words are written about young people in 2014. Much is said and it is not always flattering. In fact, more often than not we read and hear a lot that is wrong but not enough of what is right and good. I want to share with you something I noticed at the athletics carnival last Thursday that impressed me deeply. The event was the U14 400 meters. The runners were fairly bunched except for two girls who fell off the pack at about the 100m mark. One of the girls in particular ‘hit the wall’ and walked for a bit, then ran, then walked. Her sheer determination to complete that race was inspiring. Then, as she approached the straight with 100m to go, the faster sprinter in the school and her friend appeared from nowhere to run with the U14 runner to support her and encourage her to finish the race. It was a very moving moment and one that I will use in conversation with the girls because it illustrates our values on so many levels.

National Sorry Day
The college assembly this Monday 26th May will commemorate Sorry Day by taking a moment to reflect on the profound grief and trauma experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,
particularly members of the Stolen Generation. Sorry Day also provides us with the opportunity to celebrate their strength and resilience and to reaffirm our shared commitment to healing and reconciliation.

A note to explain lateness and absence from school
The college records student lateness to school and a full or partial day absence from school as an ‘unexplained absence’. This remains on the student’s record until a parent or carer provides an explanation within seven school days of the student’s return to school. Students arriving late to school are provided with a form letter by Student Services to notify parents their daughter was late. A similar form letter is provided to students who are absent from school. Parents are asked to sign these letters and return to school so that your daughter’s record can be altered to reflect that her absence or lateness has been explained.

The next two weeks are dominated by exams. This busy time then leads into the long weekend. If only this weather holds up!

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

FROM THE RE LEADER

Year 11 Studies of Religion Excursion to the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque
On Thursday May 8 about 100 students visited the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque in order to nurture their understanding of Islam which is being studied in class. For many students this was their first time to this multicultural suburb, and for most, it was the first time inside a mosque. The girls were separated into two groups and taken on a tour of this sacred building. Heads scarfs were worn, and shoes were taken off upon entering the building. The guides imparted their knowledge of Islam as faithful adherents of the tradition and an interesting history of the architecture and construction of the mosque enriched the students’ experience.

Following this, the cohort walked to downtown Auburn and had a wonderful Middle Eastern luncheon in the famous Turkish restaurant, Café Mado. A real treat was the exotic stretchy ice cream!

In all, the girls had a marvellous multicultural experience.

Nicole Harrison
RE Leader

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
Year 7 - 11 Half-Yearly Examinations
Half-yearly examinations for Years 7 – 11 will be held over the next fortnight. The examination period for each Year group is one week in length and so it is important to remember that there may be more than one exam per day. Year 11 are only required to be at school when they have an examination.

Week 5 examinations - Years 8, 10 & 11
Week 6 examinations - Years 7 & 9

As the students are preparing for these exams they may be feeling anxious. This is perfectly normal. Controlling levels of anxiety and worry so they do not become a problem is important. Here are some hints for success:

- making sure you know the topics that are being examined
- asking teachers for help with any areas you don’t understand
- having lots of sleep each night
- eating a healthy diet and exercising
- balancing social commitments (such as Facebook time) so there is enough time for study

The examination requirements and procedures are outlined on each student’s timetable. If any girls have questions or concerns then they should discuss them with their class teachers. It is important that all students are familiar with the Illness/Misadventure procedures published at the front of their Assessment Handbook. If your daughter is ill for an examination please contact her Year Leader, the Leader of Learning for the subject or myself.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to call your daughter’s class teacher, Year Leader, the Leader of Learning of the subject or me.
Subject Selection for Year 10 Into Year 11 2015
This process for choosing Year 11 2015 Preliminary courses will begin soon. Important information will be sent home with current Year 10 students and also made available on the college website in the coming weeks.

A subject selection information evening will be held on Tuesday 17th June at 7pm for all Year 10 students and their parents.

The Stage 6 Curriculum Handbook for 2015-2016 is available to all students and parents as of now on the college website. It can be found by going to the link below:


As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child to make educational choices and career decisions. Parents and students may find it valuable to read through the Handbook prior to the information evening. The Handbook contains information on:
• the subjects being offered at the college (note that 2 units of English is mandatory)
• the types of courses that can be chosen
• how to select the best subjects for study
• the requirements for an HSC

Copies of the booklet University Entry Requirements 2017 for Year 10 students from the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) have been placed in the library and provide valuable information to guide subject choices for Years 11 and 12.

Planning Ahead with Study Assignments
Is your daughter riding a rollercoaster at school? Rollercoaster study is when students stay up late doing last minute assignments, then take it easy for a while and do very little, then panic again when something is due and have to spend huge amounts of time at the end completing the work. When students plan ahead and are prepared, they find school less stressful and more rewarding.

Here are some tips for planning ahead for students:
• STUDY NOTES: If you know that you have a test coming up, then on the nights you do not have much homework start working on your study notes and summaries. File them in folders at home so they are ready to go when you need them.

• ASSIGNMENTS: Always start assignments as soon as they are given to you. Make sure you understand the requirements and if you don’t ask your teacher straight away.

• ASK FOR HELP EARLY: Keep a list of questions for your teacher in your Planner, or make a list in your tablet/phone.

• THINK ABOUT WHO YOU SIT NEXT TO IN CLASS: Choose wisely as this can make a difference to your results.

• CONSIDER YOUR WEEK: Plan ahead for busy times. If you know you have nights where you can’t do much work or a busy weekend, plan ahead and get things done early.

Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your school work by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au - our school's access details are:
School login:  forsjcconly
School password:  99results

Kathy West
Leader of Learning & Teaching

FROM THE LEADERS OF LEARNING
The Learning Support Department at St Joseph's now has three learning support teachers (Annie Pearce, Julia Pourbozorgi, Tracy Simpson) and three learning support assistants (Kathy Edwards, Judith Ponchard, Sue Batten). We assist students with accessing the curriculum, organising their timetable and books, and developing social competence and/or appropriate behaviour.

Students in some circumstances are eligible for Disability Provisions during exams or in class tasks so if you think your daughter might require those provisions or you would like to ask questions about the process please feel free to call either Annie Pearce or Tracy Simpson. We are about to start a typing program that will run two periods a fortnight and a Literacy program that will run six periods a fortnight. The Homework Help Centre will commence soon during lunchtime. If you would like some information about any of the programs please call Tracy Simpson, Leader of Learning Support

Tracy Simpson
Leader of Learning Support
FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Congratulations to the St Joseph’s Dance Troupe - winners of the Secondary Schools Troupe Section at the Gosford City Performing Arts Challenge on Friday May 16 2014. Our team of 17 talented dancers performed a contemporary routine and received an outstanding score of 90/100 and a first place win over 5 other entertaining school performances.

Congratulations to Amber, Summer, Olivia, Emily F, April, Jacinta, Piper, Montana, Nikki, Isabella, Emily M, Allyson, Tara, Jorgia, Brittany, Jasmine and Caitlin for your talent and teamwork, and a big thank you to our Dance Teacher, Alexa, for bringing the performance together with music, costuming and dance quality.

Auditions will be held over the coming week for new dancers to join the troupe and a new jazz style routine is planned to add to our performance schedule. More information on audition days and times will be available in the daily notices.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wyoming Parish Youth Group News (Our Lady of the Rosary)

On the first Friday of every month a Youth Group gathering is held at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Wyoming (92 Glennie Street) in the school hall.
Time: 7 to 9
What: Games, fun, supper, faith formation.

The next gathering is June 6. Bring along your friends to meet with other youth and have some fun at the end of the school week. For more information, please call Chris Field on 0419 232 157

Do you enjoy singing and would like to share your gift with others? The Wyoming parish Youth Band needs more singers to join their band. If you would like to find out more please call Rosemary on 0402 117 816
Helping your daughter prepare a bibliography

A common requirement of research tasks is a correctly formatted bibliography.

In previous years the college planner contained a page of information on how to set out a bibliography. As we now work in an online environment and the range of resources which students use has increased, it is impractical and impossible to provide a bibliography guide on one page of the planner.

As such, the college library now subscribes to an excellent online bibliography generator. As this is a paid subscription we are unable to place the link on a public page. All girls have access to the bibliography generator through Destiny the library catalogue.

To access:

1. Go to the Library website http://libguides.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/home and click on the link to Destiny:

2. Log in

3. Click on the link to the Online bibliography generator
4. Choose the correct level (middle or senior) and follow the instructions.

Karen Powers
Teacher Librarian
Our group of 8 Year 11 students and 2 teachers have recently returned from two weeks in India and it was an amazing experience. We saw many spectacular sights but more importantly we learned about the reality of life for the poor in India. We were privileged to get involved in running activities for street children and other children living in children’s homes. Here are some snippets from our journey.

1. When we first arrived in India we did a short tour of Delhi, Agra and Varanasi. We saw the Taj Mahal which was even more incredible in real life.

2. We learned a little about Hinduism and its religious practices, whilst experiencing the Ganges River on a boat.
3. This year during our Ash Wednesday liturgies Mrs Toby told us the story of a very poor woman who tries to earn a living by selling small items to tourists that visit the Ganges. She has had a horrific life and carries the burn scars that bear testimony to this. We could not believe it when we saw her by the river and excitedly we bought her wares and extended our friendship to her.

4. We spent 10 days as guests of the Fransalian Fathers in Mumbai and we experienced many of the projects of the Jan Vikas Society (the NGO run by the Father’s in Mumbai) that addresses the needs of street children and children living in poverty. Our accommodation was at Mermier Bal Ashram, a home for boys. During our stay we made friends with the boys, spending time playing cricket, playing Carrom and watching TV with them.

5. This is the School on Wheels. It is a stripped school bus that visits various slums around Navi Mumbai and runs classes and activities for those children not attending school.

6. And apart from travelling on a school bus we also travelled on a train, boat, auto-rickshaw, tricycle, horse and carriage, car and aeroplane!!!
7. We spent two days with the girls from Vaduz Balika Ashram. The girls danced and sang for us, and we ran craft activities and public speaking classes. We made some beautiful friends!

8. We ran craft activities in a Jan Vikas Day Care Centre. The day care centre is a small brick room built in a slum area. Children, who live in the slum, come to the centre to complete homework, get study help and participate in craft activities.

It is hard to express the impact of the experience upon us. We have come home very grateful for our own beautiful country but with our senses awakened by the beauty of colourful, busy, exciting India. We have witnessed great poverty and many Indian children working incredibly hard to create a better life for themselves. Our group is very fired up to continue our annual fundraising at Saint Joseph’s for the projects of the Jan Vikas Society. We are going to have a lot of fun with our fundraising next term with India market stalls on the playground (think bindies, henna tattoos and jewellery) and other exciting ideas in the pipeline.

Fiona Green
Is my child old enough?

Get the answers to the questions you’re asking about Tumblr

Tumblr is a site where people create their own blog which is a set of pages which can include text, photos, quotes, links, music, and videos. Users choose a look (theme) and customise their page to reflect their chosen image. Users follow, share and comment on other Blogs. It can be accessed through any device that has internet access.

Tumblr states that users must be at least 13 years old. If your child is over 13 you should still consider the following before agreeing to Tumblr.

What are the risks?

As with all social media that encourages interaction between users, the risks come from contact with people your children don’t know, and from your child potentially accessing inappropriate content.

There are many blogs specifically hosting adult content, and some that promote risky behaviour such as eating disorders and self harm. However, your child can choose the topics they do and don’t follow.

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 Tumblr. Talk about the risks of posting sexy pictures, meeting online friends in person, making offensive comments, and what is and isn’t acceptable.

My child wants people to know who they are and have more ‘followers’. What should I do?

It is normal for teens to want to achieve status and fame. They will probably want as many people following their blogs and reblogging their information as possible.

The key to doing this safely is convincing your teen that it is better for them to use a fake name that can be their ‘brand’. Check the brand name they come up with to make sure it isn’t overtly sexual – that will attract they wrong audience.

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

Tumblr does not provide a safety or reporting centre, but users are able to email support@tumblr.com with concerns. All primary blogs are public and cannot be made private, but users can set up a secondary blog which can be password protected to restrict who can see it. Users can “ignore” others by visiting www.tumblr.com/ignore.

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.邦 changes to schools 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.


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23 May 2014 Act Justly
PARENT & STUDENT SEMINAR

Supporting your adolescent’s learning at home

- Time to step up...or step back? what’s a parents role at this time;
- Understand students ‘Middle Years’ development - Year 5 to Year 8;
- Insights into learning and practical strategies for time management & organizational skills.

The transition from the primary school years to secondary school is a process, not an event.

Join Angie Wilcox from High Hopes Educational Services for a very practical evening with your adolescent.

For parents and students
Year 5 to Year 8
NO COST - Includes booklet of strategies to take home.

WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE
7 – 8.30pm
St Joseph’s Catholic College
6 Russell Drysdale, EAST GOSFORD
RSVP via DPC website:
www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com

Brought to you by the ...
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