Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Year 12 HSC Practical Tasks
The past few weeks have been a particularly busy time for many of our Year 12 students involved in HSC major works with the completion of major projects in Society & Culture, Industrial Technology – Timber, Visual Arts and Textiles. Over the next week couple of weeks we will also have our Drama and Music students involved in their HSC Practical examinations. Our congratulations go out to all these students on the way they have worked diligently towards achieving their best in these subjects.

Year 11 ‘End of Preliminary Year’ Examinations
All students in Year 11 will receive, in the coming week, a copy of the timetable for their upcoming examinations. These examinations start on Monday 8th September (week 9). Year 11 students are only required to attend school when they have a scheduled examination. All students involved in these examinations should now be working hard, revising their work, in preparation for this examination period.

Broken Bay Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to all of our Athletics squad on their performances at this week’s Broken Bay Athletics Championships at Homebush. The girls performed exceptionally well with a number of outstanding individual and team performances on the day. We now have a number of students from St Joseph’s who will represent Broken Bay at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Carnival in the coming weeks.

Disco Helpers
A very big thank you to all those parents who helped supervise the combined St Joseph’s and St Edward’s disco last Thursday evening. The disco was enjoyed by a large number of students from both schools with our Year 12 girls particularly relishing the opportunity to attend their very last disco as a Joey’s girl. As is always the case, these discos could not run without the support and assistance of staff and parents. It is often a very big sacrifice to give up hours of time to help ensure that these events run so smoothly and while the girls might not always express their gratitude in words, I know that they do appreciate your support.

God bless and best wishes for the fortnight ahead.

Tony McCudden
Principal

Memories of our wonderful Year 12, our annual Teachers v Year 12 Soccer Match
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Term 3 has been advancing quickly. Year 12 students have resumed classes following the completion of their HSC trial examination. Many have been putting the finishing touches to the practical component (major work, body of work, performance pieces) of several subjects in time for ‘marking season’ which begins next week at the College. It is a stressful time for these Year 12 students in particular so we compliment them on the quality of their products and wish them every success in the marking process. Students in Year 11 are gearing up for their preliminary examinations commencing in week 9 and students in Years 7 – 10 are working on a range of assessment tasks to be submitted over the next few weeks.

Disco
Thank you to all the parents who assisted us with supervision at last week’s combined disco. Students in Year 12 are particularly grateful because the Term 3 disco is their last ever college disco and they cannot go ahead unless we have support from parents. Students from all years did enjoy themselves.

Winter uniform
It is the winter season and this week has been particularly cold. However, we do not relax our uniform standards as the weather changes. The college uniform is a symbol of our school community – our vision and mission, our values. Uniform standards are printed in the student Planner and on the college website. Parents and students agree to these standards on enrolment. Our students are reminded repeatedly about our expectations so I ask parents to check that your daughter wears her uniform correctly every day. This includes:

- blazers to and from school; jumper or cardigan under the blazer; warm undergarments if particularly cold
- lace up leather shoes with a heel and white socks or black stockings/tights on cold days
- skirts that come just above the knee (5 cm above the centre of the knee)

Students are not permitted to wear tracksuit pants under their skirt or hoodies and fleeces instead of their college jumper/cardigan. We seek your cooperation please so that all girls arrive at school in full uniform.

Leaders’ induction assembly
This important college assembly will take place on Thursday 4th September in the ERC commencing at 9.00am. Our College leaders for 2015, House leaders from Year 11 and 12, SRC representatives from each pastoral class, Peer Mentors from Year 10 and Peer Mediators and Peer Tutors from Year 11 will be inducted and receive badges to symbolise their commission for the 2015 school year. We congratulate the students selected by their peers and teachers to be inducted as leaders and are confident the girls will serve with grace and respect. Thank you to parents for your support. Please contact us at the college if you wish to discuss any matter related to your daughter’s application, achievement or wellbeing.

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

Year 12
Year 12 have successfully completed their trial HSC examinations. From now until the start of the HSC written examinations in October good organisation and planning are essential for maximising results and fine tuning performance. Other tips for Year 12 students for the coming weeks include:

- reviewing their trial examination papers to see where improvements can be made
- coming to school each day and actively participating in every lesson
- discussing with teachers their areas of strength and weakness
- completing past HSC questions – these can be obtained commercially or available free on the BOSTES website: HSC multiple choice quizzes; past papers with marking guidelines and sample student responses
- reviewing class notes and theory notes
- being familiar with the syllabus content (dot points)

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who have completed their HSC practical examinations in Society and Culture, English Extension 2, Industrial Technology Timber, Textiles and Design and Languages. Best wishes to our HSC Drama, Music and Visual Arts students who will be finalising works and adding polishing touches to performances in their practical HSC examinations over the next few weeks.

Year 11
The Year 11 Preliminary course examinations commence on Monday 8th September, Week 9. Students will receive their examination notifications and timetables in the next fortnight. At this stage, the girls should be making study notes and summaries to best prepare for these examinations. It is also recommended that students clarify examination expectations with their teachers.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching
FROM THE LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Detention system
Most parents are aware that we use a detention system at the college to help address inappropriate behaviour choices. I would like to draw your attention to some important changes to the detention system introduced this term.

Students will now receive an afternoon detention if they do not serve their lunch detention within three days of the detention being issued unless they are absent from school. Many parents may have been notified of an afternoon detention for their daughter for this reason.

We have also reintroduced the system in which students receive an afternoon detention when they have been issued with three lunch detentions in a term. Again, some parents have received notification of afternoon detentions for this reason.

Students are required to complete their afternoon detention on the day specified in the letter to parents. If this is a significant problem the detention can be moved to another afternoon in the week. Afternoon detentions are for 45 minutes and parents are asked to sign and return the permission slip on the bottom of the letter to acknowledge their daughter is attending the detention.

While this is a very negative topic it is an area in which we require your support. A detention system has consequences for inappropriate behaviour and is designed to encourage students to think about and modify their behaviour choices.

Cathy Toby
Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing

FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 7

Year 7 News
Year 7 girls have well and truly slipped into the groove of high school and they are still receiving endless positive comments about what a lovely and supportive year group they are.

Year 7 have been busy this term experiencing Maths ‘hands-on’ style during the World of Maths incursion which was a fun, interactive Mathematics program. Many also attended the school disco making Term 3 a busy one already.

A few areas to consider for Year 7 parents are:

- Term 3 is assignment term. Please check the assessment handbook for dates (this is on the school website http://sjcc.nsw.edu.au/learning-and-teaching/dsp-collection.cfm?loadref=158)

Many girls have grown. Please check the skirt hems. I am happy and proud to say Year 7 are wearing their uniforms beautifully.

I am available to clarify all of your concerns regarding your daughter’s wellbeing. If I cannot help you I will point you in the direction of someone who can. No question is ever not worth asking.

Lisa Parsons
Leader Year 7

Have a great week.
FROM THE LEADER OF SCIENCE

Welcome to Science Week
This year’s theme for National Science Week is Food for our Future so Year 8 students are busy building hanging pallet gardens to display in the Science area.

Other year groups are busy too with a visit from Ranger Mick from The Reptile Park on Wednesday. He will be bringing a range of reptiles and amphibians to help the girls with their studies of classification and their endangered animal assessment task.

Year 9 have the CSIRO visiting on Thursday with their energy and forces show which supports our study of electricity.

Year 12 Biology and Senior Science students have a special guest speaker on Friday morning. One of our parents, Mr Rankin will be talking to the girls on the history and development of the Cochlear implant and its impact on society.

National Youth Science Forum
This year has been one of great achievements for us in terms of the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF). Courteney P made the local news with her visit to the Canada Wide Science Fair. She attended NYSF in January after making it through the rounds of interviews and gaining sponsorship from her local Rotary club. She then applied to attend the International Program and was accepted for one of only 6 places to attend the Canada program. Well done Courteney.

This year we have 3 girls who have been accepted to the program Jessica W, Amy L and Caitlin M. We hope the girls have a fabulous time starting on this amazing adventure.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at various stages in our lives. We at St Joseph’s Catholic College recognise that changes occur in families as they are grieving. Students may benefit from learning how to adjust to these changes. Seasons for Growth is an 8 week program. Mrs Hain, our college School Counsellor will be conducting a Seasons for Growth group for students in Years 8 to 10 commencing on Monday 1st September 2014.

“Seasons for Growth”, is an educational-based program supporting children through loss and change in their lives. The imagery of seasons is used as it reminds us that change is constant in our lives, for example … no matter how cold winter may be – we know summer will always come again.

Grief challenges our predictability of our own world – our world narrows, we are more vulnerable. As adults we may recognize that how we are feeling is linked to the loss/change in our life and that we won’t always feel this way …

Teenagers do not have our life experience and therefore the knowledge that what they may be feeling are normal reactions to the grief and loss in their lives and that how they are feeling now won’t last forever. It also helps for teenagers to know that others may have had similar experiences.

Closing date for application is Thursday 28th August 2014.

Please call Mrs Hain on 43 24 4022 if you have any questions. Application forms are available from Student services, Mrs Hain or Mrs Toby.

Christine Hain
School Counsellor
Join young people from across the Diocese coming together to celebrate our faith through music & prayer.

Friday, September 5
St. Cecilia’s Catholic Church
Wanganella Street, Balgowlah

7-9pm
BBQ from 6pm
Free event for all
YOUNG people (Yr 7+)

youthministry@dbb.org.au
SPARK
Yr 7-9 Camp

Southern Cross
Outdoor Education Centre

1pm Sunday 21st September 2014
to
1pm Tuesday 23rd September 2014

$90
early bird
before 16 August

$120
between 16-31 August
unless sold out

Spark your light as you...
climb, fly, jump, sing, dance, laugh
and much more, while meeting new friends and sharing your faith.

For more information:
Simon Hyland - 02 9847 0478
Email: youthministry@dbb.org.au

Register now
http://www.trybooking.com/FMBB

an initiative of the
PARISH SUPPORT UNIT
Parenting Gifted / High Ability Children

Gifted / High Ability students are found across all cultures and socio-economic backgrounds and are considered unique with their own abilities, needs and personal context.

**Intensity Sensitivity Over-excitability**
How do these characteristics impact on learning at home and school, and on wellbeing?

The seminar will offer information and creative strategies to develop a deeper understanding of the social and emotional needs of gifted / high ability children and fostering life-long learning.

**Fiona Smith**
Psychologist & Director of Gifted Minds
Masters Degree in Gifted Education

**Dr Helen van Vliet PhD**
Former Senior Lecturer Australian Catholic University

Plus introduction of Diocesan Gifted / High Ability Parent Information.
Kerrie Besgrove CSO Education Officer: Gifted / High Ability Education

**Thursday 11 September**
7.30 – 9pm
MacKillop Catholic College
91 Sparks Road, WARNERVALE
RSVP via DPC website:
www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com

*Giftedness is about who I am, not just about what I can do.*