



# JOEY'S JOURNAL

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## Calendar Dates

2015

February

- 6 Allwell catch-up tests
- 10 Scholars assembly ERC
- 13 Census
- 14 JJAMM Student Leaders conference begins
- 16 BBSSA Open & U15 Touch  
Yr 12 Work Placement (Hos) – all wee  
Yr7 BBQ & games with Eddies – 12.30pm – 3pm
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 19 Elevate Ed Parent Information Evening @ 7pm
- 23 Yr 12 Work Placement (Retail Services) all week  
Living with Teens – Library 6.45pm for tea/coffee – start 7pm – 9pm
- 25 Tuning into Teens – in Shekinah – 9am cuppa & start 9.15 – 11.30am
- 26 BBSSA Open Basketball
- 27 Year 7 Swimming Trials

March

- 2 Yr 7 Twilight Retreat  
Living with Teens
- 3 Swimming Carnival
- 4 Tuning into Teens
- 9 Living with Teens
- 10 Yr 8 Twilight Retreat
- 11 College Photo Day  
Yr 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews  
Tuning into Teens

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College Principal

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all our students and parents to St Joseph's for 2015. I especially welcome to the college all of our new students and their parents. I hope all of our students have had a relaxing and enjoyable break, and feel fresh and ready to embark on the new school year.

The first week of school for the year was very settled. I have been particularly impressed with the very positive start that all of our students have made to the year. Our 161 Year 7 students have embarked on their secondary school education with great determination and have settled into high school like veterans.

While it is often daunting starting secondary school life it is perhaps even more so for those students who have joined us in other years as they don't have the same security in numbers. Be assured that we will do everything to make all of our newcomers feel welcome.

### New staff

We welcome to St Joseph's the following staff for 2015;

- Mrs Samantha Anderson – teaching Japanese
- Mrs Natalie O'Dell – teaching Mathematics
- Mrs Beverly Mylchreest – job share position teaching Science
- Mrs Alison Rennie – job share position teaching Science
- Miss Joanna Baxter – teaching PDHPE

We hope that all of our new staff have an abundance of enjoyable and rewarding experiences teaching and working at St Joseph's. We feel very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and talented group of staff members join our staff.

### Improvements to the college

A number of improvements were made to the college over the Christmas holiday break. A major improvement was the refurbishment of two student toilet blocks that were designed and planned by our Student Representative Council. Other improvements included the refurbishment of four classrooms throughout the schools with new coloured furniture and pin boards, some improvements to our garden areas and the replacement of our shade cloth in Carroll Court. We are planning to keep the shade cloth on during our summer terms and then to remove it to allow more light and heat in during winter. The refurbishment of classrooms will continue to be a focus for us over the coming year.

### HSC results

Congratulations go to our Year 12 cohort of 2014 for the wonderful HSC and ATAR results they achieved last year. They performed very well individually and as a group, with many students achieving Band 5 and 6 results in their subjects.

The top ATAR rank was achieved by Niamh K with a ranking of 95.80. We will celebrate the achievements of our highest scoring students at our Scholars Assembly on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## Goal setting / plans for 2015

Setting goals is an important part of knowing what you want to achieve and working out ways in which you can achieve those aspirations. As the new year begins we will be asking all of our students to consider some of the goals that they may wish to achieve this year. These goals may be short term e.g. getting settled into a study routine within the first two weeks of Term 1, or may be long term e.g. working towards an ATAR target of 90 for our HSC students. Regardless of the year level of your daughter it is important that all students set goals and make them known to others. I would recommend to parents that they talk to their daughter about their goals for the year and help them to formulate plans that will assist them to achieve those goals. The college planner has some excellent information on setting goals.

One of the most important things that we would like to stress is the continued use of the planner as an organisational tool and learning aid. Please spend a little time with your daughter examining the wealth of interesting information and helpful hints in the planner. If the students use the planners every day as intended they cannot help but be more successful.

God bless and best wishes for a very successful 2015.

**Tony McCudden**  
Principal

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Week 3 about to begin and already into the second week of February! Like us, you are probably asking 'holiday, what holiday'? Welcome to the new school year to all our parents and especially to parents of all our new students. The business of the term has begun in earnest with students having met all their teachers, Year 7 students have received their laptop computers and conversations about assessment tasks and calendars, camps, Year 12 half-yearly examinations at the end of this term, and the disco on March 19<sup>th</sup> are taking place.

It is timely in the first edition of the Journal for the year to outline some important policies and procedures for parents and students.

### Attendance

This is a summary of the legal requirements regarding attendance:

**Whole day and partial absences (including arriving late to school and leaving early, usually due to illness or appointments)**

- Notify the college – phone reception or email
- Provide a written explanation within **seven calendar days NOT school days** of your daughter's first day of absence or the absence remains as an **unexplained or unjustified** absence on the student's record

- Partial absences are added to determine total whole day absences

### Applications for leave for family holidays

- Parents should notify the Principal in writing about all planned leave exceeding three days please. Legislation in NSW mandates that parents must write to the Principal for an *Application for Leave* for planned holidays or family travel **when the period exceeds 10 days**. These applications must be submitted to the Principal in writing well in advance of the intended leave date. Please note that the legislation also stipulates that 'leave will be granted without notice or retrospectively only in exceptional circumstances'.

### Applications for non-attendance for other reasons

- Parents are to write to the Principal for an *Application for Exemption from Attendance at School* well in advance of the period of non-attendance. An exemption from school attendance is sought when students wish to participate in employment in the entertainment industry or participate in elite arts or sports events.

### Punctuality to school and to lessons

The school day begins at 8.30am with a bell to move to college assembly on Monday morning or Pastoral every other weekday morning. Students are expected to be here and to respond promptly to this bell and indeed all bells throughout the day so that they arrive to every lesson on time. We often remind students that punctuality is a sign of respect and an important value to develop. Students who arrive late to school without a written explanation will be given an automatic lunch detention the next day. Their name will be removed from the list if a written explanation is provided to Mrs Toby the next morning on arrival to school. The **only exemption** that applies is the student's **regulation** bus arriving late to school. Please note that lateness is recorded as an 'unexplained absence' so requires a written explanation within seven days.

### School buses

I received several phone calls this past week from parents concerned about overcrowded buses, especially Busways buses. Please be assured that I am following your concerns and have had several phone calls with the company and spoken with the drivers of the most congested buses. Schools have very little influence with the bus companies because the school bus program exists to support families, not schools. Therefore, I strongly encourage all concerned parents to make direct contact with the company and if necessary, call again the next day. Be persistent. Put your concerns in writing in a letter or email and consider approaching your local NSW member of parliament.

### **Picking up and dropping off**

Please be aware that formal supervision begins each day at 8.15am. We ask that you take this into account if you plan to drop your daughter to school before 8.15am. If you are collecting your daughter from school in the afternoon, please arrange to meet her at Elizabeth Ross Park as Russell Drysdale Street is very congested with bus traffic between 2.50pm and 3.40pm in the afternoon. We also ask parents to comply with the 'no parking' notice at the college end of Russell Drysdale Street so that the turning circle for the quick succession of buses is not impeded by parked cars.

### **Keeping schools safe**

Just a reminder to all families that it is against the law in NSW for students to bring knives of any type to school including butter knives and plastic knives to cut fruit, sandwiches, and birthday cakes. Please ensure that all food is pre-cut before arriving to school.

### **Management plans for asthma, anaphylaxis and allergies**

Parents of students who suffer from these conditions are reminded to supply the college with a formal health care plan to assist staff manage your daughter should she experience an attack or reaction at school. This is absolutely vital please.

### **Mobile phone policy**

The mobile phone policy is summarised in the student planner. Students and their parents sign a mobile phone use agreement when they enrol at the college thereby agreeing to the strict conditions of having a mobile phone at school and accepting the clear consequences for breaching these conditions. In summary, a signed agreement means students agree to:

- use phones before school, at recess and lunch and after school
- refrain from looking at or using phones for any purpose during lessons
- not photograph or record any student at school

The Leader of Student Wellbeing will approve a student's access to her phone if an exceptional circumstance requires it and a written request is provided by a parent/carer.

### **Contacting students**

With the mobile phone policy in mind, we ask that parents/carers limit calls and messages to daughters to recess (generally between 10.35 – 10.55am) and lunch (generally between 12.35 – 1.15pm). There are times when it is necessary for parents to contact their daughter during the school day to let them know important and often sensitive information. Phone calls or messages like this can be very distressing for your daughter. If this is the case please call your daughter's

Year Leader, Leader of Student Wellbeing or me so that we can assist both you and your daughter.

### **Parent signatures required please – refer to the student planner**

Parents are required to sign three different pages in the student planner at the beginning of the year:-

- Page 18 - agreement to comply with school procedures
- Page 18 - your permission for the college to publish your daughter's work or her photograph in college publications such as the annual Year Book and on the college website or Internet
- Page 19 - your permission for your daughter to use the Internet at school under the conditions of its provision for educational purposes

Pastoral teachers will check that parent signatures (please note that it must be a signature) appear on each of the pages. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

### **Uniform**

We take great pride in our school and in the students who attend. We want them to always look their best. That means being in the correct college uniform. This is clearly outlined at the front of the student planner (pages 16 - 17) and is also on the college website <http://www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=132> (paste into the address bar of your search engine). We ask parents to assist by checking that the girls leave home wearing the correct uniform with skirts at the appropriate length, school shoes with a distinct heel and arch support, hair tied back, minimal jewellery and with sleeves rolled down. On cold days, students must wear the College jumper – non-regulation jumpers and 'hoodies' will be confiscated, even if it is a cold day.

Enjoy the school year ahead. It will be very busy. If you have any concerns about your daughter, please contact her Year Leader. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Toby or me if you need to. We all hope you and your daughter have a happy and settled year.

**Helen Love**  
**Assistant Principal**

## **FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Welcome to a new year of learning. The students are settling well into new study routines and work habits. The college has celebrated the HSC results achieved by the Year 12 class of 2014. St Joseph's offered a total of 34 HSC courses in 2014 with more than half being significantly above state average. 193 Bands 5 and 6 (equivalent to a HSC mark of 80 or above) were achieved by 102 students which is highly commendable.

These results placed St Joseph's amongst the strongest performing schools on the central coast. As well, there were many impressive individual student performances including:

Georgia U: selection into ARTEXPRESS

Niamh K: first place Geography, Diocese of Broken Bay

Tiana S: first place English Standard, Diocese of Broken Bay

Congratulations Year 12 2014.

Each student in Years 7 – 11 will be issued with assessment handbooks in the coming weeks. Please encourage your daughter to read through her handbook carefully to best prepare for upcoming assessment tasks. The front pages of each assessment handbook contain important information about assessment policy and procedures. All handbooks can be located on the college website.

2015 promises to be another exciting year for learning and teaching at the college. Best wishes to all students and families for an enjoyable year ahead.

**Kathy West**  
**Leader of Learning and Teaching**

## FROM THE LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING

Welcome to our new parents whose daughters have started at the college this year. We are very pleased to have them and look forward to meeting you at the various functions throughout the year.

The college has a system of pastoral care that gives your daughters support and guidance throughout their time here. If you have any issues that may be impacting on your daughter's wellbeing please make contact with the college.

Each student has a Pastoral Teacher who they see each day. It is their job to keep an eye on the girls on a day to day basis. They get to know the girls very well. Our system tries to maintain continuity with the pastoral teacher over the years by maintaining the same teacher from Year 7 to 12 where possible.

The next person in the chain is the Year Leader. Each year group has a Year Leader whose job is to oversee their progress through the school and to deal with more significant issues. Year Leaders are very much at the forefront of the care of your daughters and are the person to contact if there is an issue with your daughter.

We also have a College Counsellor, Mrs Christine Hain available four days a week. She is contactable through reception.

The Leader of Student Wellbeing oversees the wellbeing of all the girls in the school. The Leader of Student Wellbeing is involved in the overall management and the care of your daughters and coordinates many of the pastoral initiatives that exist in the college. I would encourage you to contact me at any time if you have any concerns about your daughter's wellbeing. The Year Leaders and I work as a team to create a positive, safe and happy school environment for your daughters.

**Cathy Toby**  
**Acting Leader of Student Wellbeing**

## FROM THE YEAR LEADERS

### Year 12 Report

Last week the Year 12 cohort returned to the college to begin the final year of their secondary education. HSC courses began in Term 4 2014 and in just a few weeks half yearly examinations will begin. (March 23 – April 2, Term 1 weeks 9 and 10). I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all girls back to the college to begin a very exciting and important year which will pass very quickly.

All students must take responsibility for their education and learning. Self-motivation is one of the major ingredients needed for success. Students must give themselves every opportunity to be successful by helping themselves. It is important to have excellent attendance, punctuality and application to achieve at full potential. Students are encouraged to take every opportunity to work hard in class and in particular study lessons must be utilised productively. Using this time effectively will help students to complete research for their tasks and this may free up some time and help to alleviate the stress of completing work at home. Also, it is essential that every Day 8, which is timetabled as a day to work at home, is used constructively. This may involve working on major tasks, practising past HSC examinations or simply ensuring all work is completed to a high standard and on time.

Parents have a very important role to play in the HSC year. Firstly they should be alert to the wellbeing of their child. It is important to communicate often with your child about how they are coping with their studies but also how they are coping with life in general. Try to affirm positive attitudes and actions and be on the look out for any mood swings or signs of stress or fatigue. Try to be involved in your child's study schedules and planning and it is essential that all students have a balanced lifestyle that includes adequate relaxation time, leisure activities and sleep.

Most of all parents must ensure that they do not have unrealistic expectations for their children. Obviously it's only natural to want your child to achieve academic success but remember success is about achieving personal excellence. Not every student is capable of achieving Band 6 results and as long as students have done the best they can do no one can ask for any more. The best approach is encouraging students to aim to get something they will be proud of and that will be different for every student in the cohort.

**Terry Grubba**  
Year 12 Leader

## FROM THE LIBRARY

### Library News and Information

The library staff would like to extend a warm welcome to all new students and parents who have joined the college community this year. The following information provides a brief overview of library services. More information can be found on the library website LibGuides (see below for details).

### Library staff

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Powers

Library Assistants: Mrs Henshaw and Mrs Vidgen

**Destiny** <http://destiny.dbb.org.au>

The library catalogue is called Destiny. As well as allowing students to search for books and other resources, Destiny provides access to subscription databases, over 70,000 teacher-selected websites and other information gateways through the Destiny homepage.

Students should log in to Destiny to access all the library resources including the **online bibliography generator**. Once logged in, students can renew books and also put books on hold. If girls need assistance with their log in they should see the library staff.

**Libguides** <http://libguides.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/home>

Libguides is the library website. This is an information portal providing access to all of our digital library resources, including World Book encyclopedia online and various subscription databases. There are subject guides which are very useful in assisting with assessment tasks; information on how to research effectively; and the latest news on books and reading. There is also a technology page which provides handy hints and troubleshooting for girls in Years 8 & 9 with Lenovo tablets.

### Printing and photocopying at the college

At St Joseph's some faculties may set tasks for students that require colour printing. In cases where printing is an essential element of the subject being taught, an amount of money is included in school fees to cover printing costs associated with specific tasks. Students in these courses follow directions from their

teachers and these tasks are printed at no extra cost to students.

Students do need to pay for the majority of their printing and photocopying. All new students to the college are given a beginning credit of \$5.00. When their credit is running low, girls need to bring in money to the library in order to top up their printing/photocopying account.

### Printing and photocopying charges

<b>Black and white</b>	<b>A4</b>	<b>.15</b>
	<b>A3</b>	<b>.30</b>
<b>Colour</b>	<b>A4</b>	<b>.50</b>
	<b>A3</b>	<b>1.00</b>

### Borrowing Senior Fiction

The library holds a wide variety of fiction that the girls may borrow for recreational reading or as part of the wide reading programs offered by the English faculty. These books are purchased to cater for a wide range of ages, reading ability and interest. Some of the books in our collection may deal with contentious issues, or be explicit in content or language. Where possible these books are designated with an SF (Senior Fiction) call number. If you would prefer your daughter not to borrow from the SF collection, we would appreciate written notification from you.

If you require further information about any of these matters, please feel free to contact the library.

Karen Powers  
**Teacher Librarian**

## FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

### School Fees

**All families should have received 2015 Fee Statement this week.** Accounts were emailed unless otherwise specified. If you did not receive your statement please contact the college so we can ensure the statement is directed to most convenient email account.

Sibling discounts were applied as per your orange Family Registration Form. If you did not return this form you will not have had the discount applied.

If you have queries about any item listed please contact the college to ensure your fees are true and correct.

We ask that you note the payment schedule for payment due dates and schedule bpay payments to ensure your fees are paid on time. It is important that you make payment as per your schedule to ensure the smooth financial operations of the college.

If you are concerned about fees or unable to commit to regular payments please contact the college Business Manager as soon as possible. Fee support can be provided for genuine financial hardship cases. Please

communicate with us now so that payments can be spread over a more manageable payment period. If you have applied for fee support in the past you are required to re submit an application if you require help again this year. Though this may be an uncomfortable conversation to start, all financial discussions are treated with the utmost privacy and support can be applied to reduce your stress over fee payments

**Nicole Murphy**  
**Business Manager**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Tuning into Teens

There are still limited vacancies. Tuning into Teens helps you learn how to help your teen develop emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ.

**Where:** St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford  
Commencing Wednesday 26th February 2015 for 6 weeks

**Time:** 9am cuppa & 9.15am start, finish 11.30am

**Cost:** Full course fee - \$40.00 per person (including all resources)

Course facilitators from Catholic Care and College Counsellor.

For more information and to book please ring Christine Hain (College Counsellor) phone 43244022 .

**SPORTS NOTICES – TERM 1, 2015**  
**SCHOOL TEAM SELECTION INFORMATION**

Please note – if registering online you must still let Mrs Northey know of your intention to attend so I can approve your application and also mark you absent on the day of the trial/event.

<b>TRIATHLON</b> (NSW All Schools)	26/27 Feb	OPEN	Entries online & close 17 Feb individuals or team
<b>TOUCH</b>	16 Feb	U/15 & OPENS	Signup sheet on noticeboard and trials currently being held
<b>SURFING</b>	20 March	OPENS	See Mrs Northey to enter
<b>TOUCH</b>	17 Mar	U/13	Signup sheet will be up soon
<b>SWIMMING TRIALS</b>	27 Feb	Yr 7 only	Information note to come
<b>SWIMMING CARNIVAL</b>	ALL	3 March	Entries on the day
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	OPENS	26 Feb	Signups and trials soon
<b>SOCCER</b>	Trials will be held towards the end of Term 1		
<b>CROSS COUNTRY</b>	Trials will be held towards the end of Term 1		
<b>FUTSAL</b>	Trials will be held towards the end of Term 1		

**NSWCCC (Individual) Selection Trials & Events - Term 1**

For individual selection into these teams it is strongly recommended players should have representative experience. Please see Mrs Northey for online entry details.

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Entries Close</b>
SOFTBALL	OPEN	17 FEB	10 FEB
TENNIS	OPEN	2MAR	23 FEB
CRICKET	OPEN	3 MAR	27 FEB
WATER POLO	OPEN	2 MAR	Team already selected
GOLF	OPEN	9 MAR	2 MAR
HOCKEY	OPEN & U/16	23 MAR	12 MAR