



# JOEY'S JOURNAL

Russell Drysdale Street, PO Box 4041, East Gosford, NSW, 2250  
Phone: (02) 4324 4022; Fax: (02) 4323 3512; Email: [sjcc@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjcc@dbb.catholic.edu.au)  
Website: [www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au)

## Calendar Dates

### March

- 10 Yr 8 Twilight Retreat
- 11 College Photo Day  
Yr 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews  
Tuning into Teens
- 13 Year 10 Exc to Jewish Holocaust  
Yr 12 Physics Exc
- 16 Yr 7 Mary Mackillop Reflection  
Yr 7 2016 Open Afternoon  
Living with Teens
- 17 Yr 7 Mary Mackillop Reflection  
BBSSA U13 Touch
- 18 Tuning into Teens  
Yr 11 Geo Exc  
Yr 7 P/T Interviews
- 19 St Joseph's Day Mass  
Disco
- 23 Yrs 7 & 8 camps  
BBSSA Swimming  
Living with Teens
- 24 Yrs 7 & 8 camps
- 25 Yrs 7 & 8 camp
- 27 WYD launch (Year 10)
- 30 Living with Teens
- 31 Yr 10 HSIE Incursion

### April

- 1 Tuning into Teens
- 2 Easter liturgy ERC  
Term finishes
- 3 Good Friday
- 20 Pupil free day

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## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Dear Parents, Students and Staff

#### Project Compassion

During the liturgical season of Lent we have the opportunity to consider those less fortunate than ourselves and to share what we have with others. Project Compassion began over fifty years ago, growing out of an idea of several groups of parishioners wanting to help the poor. It was believed that one way of expressing love, compassion and solidarity with the poor was to raise funds to provide relief for them.

Project Compassion 2015 carries the theme "Food for Life". It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life.

Each pastoral class at St Joseph's has a Project Compassion box for our students to make donations. I would encourage all of our students to be generous and to consider the needs of others, to work for peace and justice, by donating to Project Compassion over the next four weeks.

#### College swimming carnival

The college swimming carnival, held at Peninsular Leisure Centre, Woy Woy on Tuesday of this week was an outstanding success, with wonderful participation from the students. The encouragement the students showed towards one another and the school spirit they displayed was exceptional. 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 student House Leaders and our Year 12 students. Our thanks and congratulations also go to Mrs Northey, the College Representative Sports Coordinator, our Leaders of House and the rest of the college staff for their wonderful efforts in creating such a great event for our students. Congratulations to **Rafferty House (White)** for taking out the Spirit Cup on the day. The announcement of the winning house for the carnival will be announced on Monday morning's assembly, following the collation of all the house points accumulated on the day.

One of the highlights of the day was the number of school records broken and, in some instances, smashed. Congratulations go to Kaylah H (Year 7) who broke four records in U13 events, including one record that had stood at the college for 20 years. Congratulations also to Keeley B (Year 10) who also broke four records, including taking over 23 seconds off the previous record in the U15/16s individual medley event. The achievements of both girls are outstanding.

One concern from the carnival was the number of students who were absent on the day, particularly in Years 10 and 11. I remind parents and students that all school days are compulsory and that our carnivals are designed to cater for all ability levels. We run a number of novelty events that allow participation and involvement even for girls who might view themselves as 'non-swimmers'. Any absences from the carnival need to be explained by a note to the college. The girls who were absent from the carnival have unfortunately missed out on a wonderful community celebration of what it means to be a 'Joey's girl'.

### **Discipline issues at the college**

From time to time we are faced with situations that require the college to take disciplinary action against some of our students. It is a human condition that we do not always behave and respond in the most appropriate ways to situations in which we find ourselves. In a school of 874 students it is inevitable that some situations will arise that require us to discipline students and to take action to ensure that poor decisions are not repeated in the future. When these situations occur we always try to learn as much as possible about the background to the events before beginning our process of following Diocesan procedures in dealing with such events. In some instances this may include involving the NSW Police, the Catholic Schools Office and always the parents/guardians of the students involved.

If your daughter comes home with information concerning incidents that may have occurred at school I would urge you to openly discuss with her the idea of making positive decisions and considering the consequences of her actions if she was ever to be put in a difficult or challenging situation that required a tough decision to be made. It is an important life lesson that we all teach our students/daughters right from wrong and that we give them the skills to be able to say 'no' to situations that require 'no' as a response.

### **Year 7 2016 Information Afternoon/Evening**

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding our Year 7 2016 Information Afternoon/Evening for all prospective students and their parents. Parents and students will have two time options of attending a tour of the college followed by a short information session. The two time options are a 3:45pm start with a 5:30pm finish, or a 5:45pm start with a 7:30pm finish. The tour of the college and inspection of the facilities at St Joseph's will be led by some of our students. Details of the afternoon can be found in the enrolments section of the college website.

### **Year 12 examinations**

All students in Year 12 received a copy of their examination timetable earlier in the week for the upcoming examination block. The examinations begin for Year 12 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and conclude on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, the last day of Term 1. Please note that Year 12 students are only required to attend school when they have an examination to complete. All students should now be involving themselves in regular revision of their work in preparation for their examinations. We hope and pray that all our students prepare themselves well for their examinations and that they receive results they deserve and of which they can be proud.

### **School disco**

We hope that the school disco, which will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March in the ERC from 7pm to 10pm, is

an enjoyable social event for all the girls who decide to attend. To help ensure the safety of all students who attend the disco we will have a breathalyser machine on hand on the night. It is a condition of entry that students (of all year groups) are willing to be breathalysed on arrival at the disco. If any student is not willing to be breathalysed or if they return a reading that indicates that they have been drinking they will not be permitted to enter the disco and their parents will be called to collect them from the venue. To further ensure the safety of all students, any student who displays any form of inappropriate behaviour during the evening will have their parents contacted to collect them from the disco.

God bless and best wishes for the fortnight ahead.

**Tony McCudden**  
**Principal**

## **FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

### **Looking back on weeks 5 and 6**

Schools are very busy places. This is a sample of what our students fit into their schedule around the normal business of learning:

- Students in Years 8 and 9 learned about the work of Caritas through a presentation by Ma and Eric from Fiji
- A group of Year 10 students were trained as special catechist assistants to support young students in scripture classes at East Gosford Public School
- Year 7s received their first vaccination
- The Open basketballers won in style
- Year 10 Peer Mentors presented a creative and engaging lesson on our college history to Year 7
- A twilight retreat for Year 7 students facilitated by our very committed Youth Ministry team
- A swimming carnival characterised by colour, noise and excitement and of course lots of swimming in which several records were broken
- Initiatives organised by a group of Year 11 social justice girls to recognise International Women's Day.

### **College photo day**

Individual and class photographs will be taken on Wednesday next week. Students must be in full summer uniform. Girls may have their hair out for their individual photo but it must be tied back for their class photo. There will be an opportunity for sisters to have a sibling photo.

### **St Joseph's Day Mass**

We celebrate this very significant day in our calendar on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March with Mass at 9.00am in the ERC. Year 7 and students new to the college in 2015 are presented with their college badge and a Mary

MacKillop medal at this Mass. It is a formal occasion so all girls are to wear their summer uniform with their skirt at regulation length, hair tied back and clean shoes. We continue to celebrate our day after Mass in a variety of activities organised by the Leaders of House and the student leaders. This is an important community day and like any other school day, attendance in compulsory.

### **Disco**

The first disco for the year is on Thursday 19th March in the ERC from 7pm – the same day as St Joseph's Day. The college has clear standards regarding appropriate dress so students will not be permitted entry to the disco if they wear any of the following:

- Midriff, backless or strapless tops
- Shorts that are too short - shorts will be judged 'too short' if they do not have a distinct leg length when measured from the crutch. Girls should wear tights underneath any shorts, skirts or dresses that may be considered too short by the teachers assessing the appropriateness of dress
- High heels (stilettos) as they damage the floor in the ERC

It is each parent's responsibility to ensure that their daughter is dressed appropriately for a school disco whether they dress at home or at a friend's house please. If girls arrive dressed inappropriately or change during the night parents may be called to collect them.

Our attendance rules are designed to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable evening:

- Students pay \$10 to attend the disco. This covers the \$7 entry fee into the ERC and a \$3 donation to the charities supported by Year 12 and the college community. All students are provided with a raffle ticket in a draw for Erina Fair shopping centre vouchers drawn at college assembly the following Monday.
- St Joseph's staff take responsibility for the girls from the college front gate in Russell Drysdale Street so we ask parents to drop off and collect daughters from the gate – no later than 10.15pm please.
- Girls are to enter St Joseph's for sign-in, pay for entry and for a dress check prior to entering the ERC at 7.00pm.
- Current students of the college may attend the disco. Ex-students or visiting relatives and friends are not permitted to attend.
- Glow sticks and chewing gum are **not** permitted.
- Students may not leave the disco unless accompanied by a parent.
- Students may be breath tested as a condition of the entry and at any time during the evening.

Students with an outstanding afternoon detention and students who have lost their privilege for disciplinary reasons are not permitted to attend the disco. If you have any questions or queries about dress or attendance at the disco please call me at the College. Also, may I remind parents that the disco cannot run without your assistance so if you can give a little time on the evening please leave your name, available times and phone number with College reception (43244022). We ask that you call the College in person or send a written note with your daughter as we cannot take verbal information from students without parent confirmation.

### **Regulations governing bus passes**

Students are provided with a bus pass that entitles them to free travel between their home address and the school at which they are enrolled. This bus pass is not an entitlement for free travel on the bus of their choice to whatever destination they choose. Red Bus in particular have contacted the college to remind all bus pass holders they are not permitted to use their pass to travel to Erina for shopping or to get to an after school job or to go to a friend's house. Please take this seriously especially in light of the disco when friends often go to each other's houses to prepare their 'look' for the evening.

### **Permission for students to leave early**

Students are often required to leave school before the end of the day to attend an appointment. Parents are required to provide daughters with a written permission note that allows them to sign-out. A parent signature on a note is essential please.

### **Collecting a sick daughter from school**

I reminded parents of our procedure for managing students who are sick during the day in the last edition of Joey's Journal. Sick students are signed into sick bay by Student Services who assess her condition. More often than not she is able to return to class after a short rest in sick bay. In other cases, Student Services will call parents to collect daughters to take her home to rest. It is not appropriate for students to contact parents direct because the school has no idea the student is sick. Parents are asked to support our procedure by insisting daughter report to sick bay and then waiting for Student Services to call should she need to go home.

### **When students are late**

It is an expectation of the college that students arrive to begin each day on time at 8.30am. We understand there are occasions when lateness is unavoidable, for example the unpredictable delays in public transport. We request that you provide a note for your daughter to present to Student Services when she signs in on such occasions. Notwithstanding these events, students are expected to arrive at school on time every morning. We ask for parent cooperation in this regard

please, particularly if you are driving your daughters to school.

Thank you to all parents for your support of and contribution to life at the college.

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

## FROM THE RE LEADER

### Food for life

On Monday February 23 we were invited to listen to two guest speakers from the Caritas 'Food for Life' campaign. Eric and Ma came from their Fijian island home to speak to Years 7 and 8 and a Year 12 class. They spoke about their own experiences when they started at the TuTu Training Centre. The TuTu Training Centre, sponsored by Caritas runs courses to help Fijian farmers build stronger and more successful farms. They also run programs to build strong relationships and maintain a healthy family. Eric and Ma went to the married couples' course at the training centre to change their lives. It also gave them personal and agricultural skills they needed to raise a healthy and happy family from their farming produce. "The program at Tutu has truly enriched us and opened a new pathway for us where we have been able to prosper safely in life," says Eric. Over 25 years, Eric and Ma have worked hard to establish a farm that provides sustainable food for their family and a consistent income that has allowed them to raise and educate their six children who are now raising families of their own. Over the course of the talk we learnt that 30% of islanders in Fiji are in poverty and do not have a sustainable food source. This encouraged Years 7, 8 and 12 to help promote the cause around the school and to raise more money to give to Caritas to help more people that are in less fortunate situations than our own.

**Zoe R**  
**Year 12**



**Nicole Harrison**  
**RE Leader**

## FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

### Year 12 half-yearly examinations

The Year 12 half-yearly examinations begin Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Examination timetables were distributed this week and your daughter should be looking at this closely to best allocate her study time between now and her first exam. It is normal for students to experience some level of anxiety before assessment periods. Some stress and anxiety can be a motivating factor in helping students to focus, but anxiety can also become a problem if it interferes with the ability to perform. It is important to raise any questions or to discuss any concerns regarding the upcoming assessment tasks with class teachers to help control levels of anxiety and worry.

Good habits such as keeping a balance in your life, relaxing, socialising and eating well can support learning. In contrast, the symptoms of anxiety can lead students to feel overwhelmed, unable to concentrate and fearful of failure. If anxiety is a real concern, we recommend students see the school counsellor, Mrs Hain or their Year Leader for further support.

Any students requesting disability provisions for the half-yearly examinations should see Mrs Pearce as soon as possible.

### HSC Glossary of Key Words

The BOSTES glossary of key words is a list of important terms used in examination questions across the different HSC subjects. Year 12 students should familiarise themselves with each of these words so they can answer questions appropriately and gain maximum marks in examinations. The list of key words can be found at:

[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus\\_hsc/glossary\\_keywords.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/glossary_keywords.html)

Examples of key words include:

**Compare:** Show how things are similar or different

**Evaluate:** Make a judgement based on criteria; determine the value of

### Research tasks and assignments

It is that time of term again when many classes are completing research tasks and assignments. Starting early and not leaving things until the last minute will help students produce work that is to their personal best. Researching takes time. A good way to start is to log in to Destiny, the library catalogue, to search for books and library resources at

<http://destiny.dbb.org.au>. Another place to go to is the college library website LibGuides,

<http://libguides.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/home> where online databases and subject specific material is located as an aid to assessment tasks. Class teachers and the college

Teacher Librarian Mrs Powers are valuable resources too!

### Homework Help and Mathematics Help

Homework help is available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime in room 66. Just bring your work and come along where assistance will be given. Specialist Mathematics help is offered to all students on Wednesday afternoons after school in room 31. Everyone is welcome.

A positive way to help your daughter with homework is to teach her the value of being organised. Encourage your child to use her college planner to record important events and assignments, and then look through this with her regularly.

Parent-teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 8.30pm	
Year 12	Wednesday March 11 <sup>th</sup>
Year 7	Wednesday March 18 <sup>th</sup>

Booking details with logins were sent home with your daughter last week.

**Kathy West**  
Leader of Learning and Teaching

### FROM THE LEADER OF SCIENCE

2015 has started with a bang for our girls with them already preparing for their assessment tasks and delving into new knowledge.

Year 7 have been developing their Science practical skills in their welcome to Science unit of work, learning how to plan an investigation and how to use scientific equipment, while Year 8 have been learning about multicellular organisms.

Year 9 students have been researching diseases affecting the nervous, immune and endocrine systems as part of their task for this term looking at how the body communicates. Year 10 students also have a research project on the future of genetic technologies and how they may benefit or concern society.

Year 11 students are embarking on their senior studies in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science and seem to be settling in well. The Biology students have already been on their first excursion to the mangroves at St Edwards to prepare a report on their local ecosystem. A fun but very muddy day was had by all especially when the heavens opened in the afternoon.

I would like to wish all our students best of luck with your upcoming tasks, but especially our Year 12 students who are preparing for their half yearly examinations in weeks 9 and 10. Our thoughts and prayers are with our students.

**Mrs Amanda Eades**  
Leader of Science

### FROM THE LEADER OF YEAR 10

2015 has already been very busy for many of the Year 10 students. Congratulations to the Peer Mentors who returned from the holidays a day early to help the new Year 7s settle into St Joseph's. The girls have been given glowing reports from the staff and students they have mentored. They have continued their hard work by encouraging and helping the Year 7s at the combined barbeque and games afternoon with the Year 7s from St Edward's. Last week they prepared and presented a lesson to Year 7 on the history of St Joseph's – these girls are not only warm and welcoming, but extremely talented.

Congratulations to three talented Year 10 students Kalarni O, Laura B and Leigh S, who represented St Joseph's at the RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) in February. The aim of the camp was to develop student leadership potential through a mixture of lecture style sessions and adventure-based learning. They were sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Gosford. Mr Peter Jenkins from the Rotary Club reported that these girls embraced the activities with enthusiasm and demonstrated great leadership qualities. They proved this at the dinner conducted by the North Gosford Rotary Club when they presented a slide show and spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their experience. Congratulations to the girls.

The students have been fortunate to have guest speakers from Elevate Education in their pastoral lesson this week. The presenters have focused on the theme of 'study smarter, not harder'. They were given strategies to help them as they work towards ROSA (Record of School Achievement) in Year 10 and 11 and the HSC in Year 12. It is important for them to develop efficient study habits so that they can achieve their goals now and in the future. As Year 10 begin the part of their schooling that is on public record, it is important for them to check the policy and procedure page in their assessment handbooks. There are a number of tasks in the next couple of weeks and students should remember that absences on the day before or on the day of a task require a medical certificate.

Mrs Green, our Youth Ministry Coordinator has been thrilled with the contribution that Year 10 has been making to the Social Justice program and various events that are running in the school. They have been extremely enthusiastic and generous with their

involvement and many have indicated they will support other upcoming events.

**Ms Cheryl Maguire**  
**Year 10 Leader**

## FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

### School fees

All families should now have made payment towards school fees. If you have not made payment please do so this week as your account is now overdue.

If you are facing serious financial stress and will struggle to clear fees throughout the year, please speak with us now. In the case of genuine financial hardship we are happy to work with you to make fees manageable. All discussion regarding financial concerns are private and confidential.

If you have not received your account please contact us immediately so that we can correct the email address to which your account is being directed. Each month you will be emailed a statement providing a detail of your fee status and all payments received in that month.

If you have any questions regarding your fees please contact the finance team directly.

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

## FROM THE LIBRARY

### Help with homework

It is assessment task time and there are many resources available to help your daughter with her research tasks.

The library website *LibGuides* is an excellent starting point. It offers information on how to research, which search engines to use and tips on effective Google searching. There are also subject guides with specific information for many subjects, and links to the wikispaces created by teachers. Access is via the college website or this direct link: <http://libguides.sjcc.nsw.edu.au/home>

*LibGuides* also provides access to a range of subscription services offered by the college library:

#### World Book Online Encyclopedia

The World Book web site offers an encyclopedia, dictionary, atlas, homework help, study aids, and curriculum guides. World Book is a reliable and trustworthy source of information for students.

Username: sjcc  
Password: mackillop

#### Subscription databases

The college library subscribes to a number of online databases from EBSCO and GALE information providers. These databases offer full-text access to newspaper and magazine articles, journal and

periodical articles, encyclopedias, reference books, image libraries and more. They are especially useful for senior students.

Username: stjosephs  
Password: mackillop

### Destiny

Destiny is the library catalogue and provides access to all of the above mentioned resources. Destiny is a searchable catalogue allowing students to search for books or carefully chosen websites which support their learning. In addition, Destiny provides access to the *Online Bibliography Generator* which assists students in providing a correctly formatted bibliography. Look for the link on the Destiny home page. For full access to Destiny students must log in, using their username and the word "password".

Further information on preparing a bibliography is available on page 13 of the college planner and help and assistance is always available in the library.

Karen Powers  
**Teacher Librarian**

## FROM THE LEADER OF MISSION AND YOUTH MINISTRY



### School pilgrimage to WYD Krakow 2016

World Youth Day has become the most recognised faith experience that the Catholic Church offers young people on a global level. Since 1985, these international pilgrimages have called young people from every corner of the world to gather with the Pope in an atmosphere where faith is contagious and lives have been changed.

World Youth Day 2016 Krakow is a major undertaking for the Broken Bay diocese over the next 18 months. Bishop Peter Comensoli has asked that we aim to send 500 young people to WYD next year. At St Joseph's we invite Year 10 students (next year's Year 11 class) to consider coming on pilgrimage as a part of the Broken Bay School's pilgrimage to WYD.

At St Joseph's we will have students and supervising teachers join together with other schools from the Broken Bay Diocese to attend WYD. Three pilgrimages will be on offer. They depart Sydney on 13<sup>th</sup> July and return on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Indicative prices are yet to be advised. Each pilgrimage starts in a different country before arriving in Krakow for World Youth Day. The pilgrimage options are:

A journey through Italy/ WYD Poland

Saint Paul's journey/ WYD Poland

A journey to the Holy Land/ WYD Poland

### **Come to the WYD launch!**

We invite interested students and parents to attend the WYD launch event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 5.30 – 9pm, at the Light of Christ Centre Waitara. This will give you a small taste of the WYD experience as well as the Polish culture we will be encountering on the journey. This event is open to everyone in the diocese, not just those that WYD targets. We will be organising a bus to take interested students to the launch. Students should collect a permission note from Mrs Green – Youth Ministry Coordinator to attend this event with our school group.

For more information about the launch or WYD please contact Mrs Fiona Green by email [fiona.green@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:fiona.green@dbb.catholic.edu.au) or by phone at St Joseph's 43244022 or 0438927924.

**Fiona Green**  
**Leader of Mission & Youth Ministry**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Pope Francis urges churches to stay open to celebrate 24 hours for the lord:**

St Patrick's Church, 76 York Street East Gosford will be staying open for Adoration and Reconciliation on Friday March 13 from 6pm to 10pm and Saturday March 14 from the completion of the 9am Mass until midday, and from 4pm until the commencement of the 6pm Vigil Mass.

Please join us as we support the global Lenten 'festival of forgiveness' when we promote and highlight the sacrament of confession and the importance of its availability for the Christian life.

All enquiries to 4325 1042.