Dear Parents, Students and Staff

On Thursday of this week the college community gathered for Eucharist and an afternoon of activities to celebrate the feast day of our patron St Joseph. We were very fortunate to have two Sisters of St Joseph attend and celebrate this feast day with us: Sr Lyn Raftery (patron of Raftery House) and Sr Maria Casey.

As we gathered to celebrate Eucharist on our college feast day we also joined with Josephite students from across Australia and New Zealand, who were also using the 19th March, the feast of St Joseph to argue for the needs and rights of women around the world.

Joseph’s life was interesting and certainly challenging. We know Joseph was a compassionate and caring man. He was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to return (Matthew 2:13-23).

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

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

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

School Improvement Plan for 2015 - 2017

As part of our goal setting for 2015 - 2017 we have highlighted three main areas for improvement for the next three years. These three main areas come under the headings of ‘Catholic Life and Mission’, ‘Learning and Teaching’ and ‘Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing’. They are referred to as our School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals. These goals are as follows;

- Catholic Life and Mission
  To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. To draw young people into responsible participation in the life and mission of the Catholic faith community. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in today’s world.
• Learning and Teaching
  To develop confident, literate and numerate, independent learners equipped with 21st century skills and motivated to achieve their potential.

• Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing
  To improve student wellbeing, motivation, engagement and connection.

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

Diocesan Staff Mass
On Thursday evening of Week 6, Bishop Peter Comensoli, along with a large number of priests from our diocese celebrated a special Mass with staff from all the diocesan schools to acknowledge the role that teachers play as educators in the Diocese of Broken Bay. At the same Mass, acknowledgement was made of staff new to the diocese, staff who have contributed 25 years of service to Catholic education and teachers who have taken on senior leadership roles at their schools.

Our congratulations go to the following staff who were acknowledged at the Diocesan Staff Mass for their respective achievements;

  Staff new (permanent or temporary) to the diocese
  Miss Joanna Baxter
  Mrs Samantha Andersen
  Mrs Natalie O’Dell
  Mr Kane Charles
  Mrs Cathy Donnet

  Assistant Principal Leadership Role
  Ms Helen Love

College winter uniform
A reminder that all students begin Term 2 in full winter uniform. We would ask that all requirements for winter uniform are checked, cleaned or purchased prior to the beginning of next term. One change to our college uniform requirements for 2015 will be the compulsory wearing of black 70 denier stockings in winter. This change was communicated to parents at the end of 2014 and has been mentioned a number of times to the girls over the past weeks. These stockings can be purchased from our college uniform shop or from appropriate retailers at local shopping centres.

Year 7 and 8 Camps
We wish all students in Years 7 and 8 the very best for their upcoming camps in week 9. Year 7 attend Southern Cross Outdoor Adventure Camp for 3 days while Year 8 travels to Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Centre. The camps are very often the highlight of the year for our girls and are a time when they learn a great deal about themselves and their classmates. We hope that the camps are both challenging and enjoyable for students and staff alike.

Year 12 examinations
Our best wishes go to Year 12 for their half-yearly examinations which begin on Monday 23rd March and conclude on Thursday 2nd April (last day of Term 1). Please note that Year 12 students are only required at school when they have an examination to complete.

We hope and pray that all our students prepare themselves well for their exams and that they receive results that they can be proud of.

God bless and best wishes for the fortnight ahead.

Tony McCudden
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Celebrating St Joseph’s Day
Wednesday was a very special day for our community as we celebrated the Feast of St Joseph. It began with the celebration of Eucharist and acknowledgement that this day was all about acting justly and doing something for others. We welcomed all new students to the Josephite community of St Joseph’s Catholic College at East Gosford and our college leaders reminded us that our focus is women’s rights and the plight of women around the world.

This photo captures our focus and the spirit of St Joseph’s Day.

Following a pizza lunch we enjoyed ‘shopping’ at a variety of food and tattoo stalls in Carroll Court where we were also entertained from an ‘open mic’. The generosity of our students was evident again throughout the day and by the time the last stall closed, we had an additional $2000 for our Caritas appeal. The day concluded with the first disco of the year. The theme of the evening was Australia so we saw a variety of footie jumpers, beach inspectors, tradies and rural folk. Once again, many parents supported us as volunteer supervisors. We and the students from both colleges thank you sincerely for giving up your evening in the interests of our students.

Positive awards at St Joseph’s
Our students receive Merits and Community Service awards for the many positive things they do during the day inside and outside the classroom. These are
recorded on the student’s ‘page’ on our Edumate data base so all students can track the awards throughout the term. As I checked progress last Wednesday, a typical day in the school week, I noted that on this day alone 247 entries were recorded indicating that almost 30% of our students are being acknowledged for making positive choices and contributing to our community. We are very proud of our students indeed.

Label clothing, cake tins and lunch boxes
Parents are reminded that our daughters will occasionally leave a jumper or blazer in a classroom, forget to collect the cake tin after bringing in cakes for the cake stall at recess or, in their excitement at lunch, get up from the group leaving the lunch box behind. Please make a concerted effort to label all clothing and property so that we can match found items with their owner. Blazers in particular are expensive items so label them please.

Student bus passes – Red Bus
Red Bus in particular again advises students and parents that the school bus pass provides free bus travel between students’ homes and their school morning and afternoon. This does not entitle a student to travel on their bus pass to the gym or basketball training or work or to the shops at Erina Fair. Students are reminded they must pay a fare to travel on a bus for these purposes. Drivers will permit them to catch a school bus and pay the fare only if there are spare seats. The spokesperson from Red Bus stressed that transport inspectors often travel on their buses to maintain the integrity of the school bus pass system.

The No Standing zone near the roundabout
This is a regular item in Joey’s Journal. Parents are reminded that parking in this zone to collect students from school in the afternoon becomes a safety issue when bus drivers are exiting from the roundabout to begin their journey home. Buses are large vehicles with an equally large turning circle. Cars standing in this zone impede the bus in its attempt to round the bend. If you collect your daughter, please park beyond the bus zone further up Russell Drysdale Street. Request that she meets you at Elizabeth Ross Park so you avoid the area and the traffic congestion.

End of Term 1
The final two weeks of term will be busy – Year 7 and 8 are out on camp and Year 12 complete half-yearly examinations. We wish each year group well as they meet different challenges. Term 1 concludes on Thursday 2nd April. St Joseph’s joins St Edward’s College for an Easter liturgy which is always a special way of ending the term. The girls are expected to attend for the whole day as it is a normal school day. Any absences must be explained with a note. The girls return to school on Tuesday 21st April to begin Term 2.

Helen Love
Assistant Principal

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING


Students Online is an important source of information for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. It is full of useful advice, resources and links. Students who haven’t done so should activate their account to access their:

• Year 12 personal HSC exam timetable (in April)
• Year 11 Preliminary grades (eRecord of grades to save/print/email)
• Year 10 grades (eRecord of grades to save/print/email)

2015 HSC Key Dates, including the HSC Practical and Performance Exam Timetable, are also available.

For Year 12 students there are many useful Study tips and materials for advice, past papers, marking guidelines, quizzes and resources. There are HSC exam workbooks with samples of top-scoring student responses and markers’ comments and guidelines for marking. ebooks are available from iTunes and print books can be ordered online.

Year 12 half-yearly exam procedures
Best wishes to all Year 12 for their half-yearly exams. The students were issued with exam timetables noting the following instructions:

• You must arrive at the college at least 20 minutes prior to the commencement of exams.
• Check the starting time of each exam carefully.
• Meet in Founders Court outside the library before each exam.
• If you are late for exams no extra time is given.
• If you are ill or suffer a misadventure on the day of an exam you must notify the college (Mrs West or Mr Grubba) and follow the appropriate procedure as outlined in your HSC assessment handbooks.
• You must ensure that you have a medical certificate in cases of illness. On your return to school you must see Mrs West or Mr Grubba to fill in an illness/misadventure form.
• You may not leave examinations early.
• You must use your BOSTES student number as your identification on each exam paper.
• Mobile phones must not be taken into exam rooms so you should leave them at home.
• You are expected to bring all required equipment (pens, stapler; tissues, water, calculators etc) in a clear plastic container.

Interim reports for Year 7 – 11
Term 1 interim reports for Years 7 – 11 will be sent home in the next fortnight. These reports give information
about your daughter’s commitment to learning this term.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

FROM THE LEADER OF LANGUAGES

Languages
Welcome to 2015 and a very warm welcome to Mrs Andersen, our new Japanese teacher for 2015. Mrs Andersen brings a wealth of experience, expertise and enthusiasm in the study of Japanese at the college.

Japanese news - Mrs Andersen
As the new Teacher of Japanese at SJCC I have enjoyed a wonderful first 7 weeks of the year meeting with students studying Japanese and sharing my love of Japanese language and culture.

The Year 8 classes have just finished their first task, a mini-project on Prefectures in Japan. An impressive 100% mark was gained by students Hannah B, Jasmin A, Michelle A, Celina B, Rose P, Kiara T, Hannah M, Alana M, Brielle C, Kyla T and Breanna G. Congratulations to these girls and all the students as your work was of a very high standard.

Also in Year 8 the girls have been studying about the celebration in Japan on March 3rd each year called ‘Girl’s Day’. The girls have learnt that a traditional display of dolls in the home, representing the ancient court of Japan, is believed to bring good luck and health to girl members of each family. Following this tradition the girls made their own wonderful ‘Girls Day’ display for our classroom.

French news - Ms O’Dea
It has been a very busy Term 1 so far for the LOTE department and we can’t believe week eight is here already.

Year 8 French classes have enjoyed time exploring the French language, pronunciation and French-speaking cultures around the world. The French students have been very busy, frantically researching French speaking countries of the world and preparing and performing their French speeches in class.

The students’ first task, a Mini-Project on French speaking countries of the world, was fascinating and proved a very interesting read. It was fun to learn that there is only one stop sign in the whole of Paris and that the world heritage city of Bruges in Belgium is often called the “Venice of the north”.

The second part of their first assessment was a French speaking task. The girls performed their French speeches in class in Week 7 and 8 and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Although a daunting task, to stand up and speak in French front of your peers, the girls performed exceptionally well and their French accents were ‘Formidable’!

This term has also allowed the girls to participate in regular French one to one dialogues, complete some online French exercises and games and sing along to some French songs.

The French classes are in for a treat next term as Ms. O’Dea is busy organising a surprise French excursion to the city! Watch this space!

Stage 6 Language news
Year 12 are working hard to improve their language skills and knowledge. They have been preparing thoroughly for current and upcoming tasks and should achieve to their best. We wish them well. All students have been advised of their 2015 HSC oral examination dates. Year 11 Open High School students are settling in to new routines with their languages classes and are busily completing units of work.

In recent years there have been a record low number of students sitting for HSC languages exams. In response this situation the NSW State government has formed a Languages Advisory Panel to work with BOSTES in overseeing the development of dynamic and inclusive ways to encourage more students to see the value in learning another language. This is good news given our
position as the largest economy in Australia with close ties to the Asia-Pacific region.

Kathy West
Leader of Languages

BUSINESS MANAGER

All payments made via the Finance Office
Can you please ensure all payments sent to the Finance office are sent in an envelope clearly marked with your daughter’s name, class, the event the payment is for and the amount enclosed. Please DO NOT send money in a zip lock bag. Payments required to be paid through the Finance office are for extracurricular activities, sport competitions and occasionally for extra excursions that were not planned prior to the billing of school fees. Please do not pay these accounts by Bpay as this will cash off against fees – not against the activity. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. It is expected that these payments are cleared BEFORE the scheduled event.

If you have any questions in regards to extra activities and payments please contact the finance team directly.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

FROM CAREERS CORNER

All Year 10, 11 & 12 students are invited to attend this talk from Macquarie University in Shekinah at the beginning of lunch. It will be very informative for any student considering attending a university. For further information please contact Christine Wilkinson.

Christine Wilkinson
Career’s Advisor

FROM THE LEADER OF MISSION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Praise And Worship Night
Thanks to all who came to a fantastic Praise and Worship Night at Pennant Hills on Friday 6th March.

Year 7 Twilight Retreat
“Strong, beautiful, brave”
We had a wonderful evening with Year 7 students on the 2nd March. We played games, ate pizza, got creative, met five inspirational girls and discovered we were born “for a time such as this”. A huge thank you to our Year 11 team, Mrs Mercer and Mrs Batten for helping run the retreat and to Ashleigh Green for her presentation.
St Joseph’s Catholic College celebrates International Women’s Day

St Joseph’s Catholic College is a community that believes we are privileged members of a beautiful country, it is important to give back to those who haven’t been so lucky in the lottery that is life. We feel very strongly that it is essential we educate ourselves, advocate for and take action against the injustices that women and girls face all over the world every day. In order to do this we ran several initiatives from the 2nd to the 6th of March, in the lead up to International Women’s Day on the 8th of March 2015. This included a cake stall, barbecue, craft stall, collecting and donating care supplies (eg. underwear and toiletries) to local women’s and girl’s refuges and finally a whole-school artwork. The artwork is featured in the photo here. We have encouraged students and teachers to share this image on social media to spread our message.

Through our efforts over the week leading up to International Women’s Day we wanted to demonstrate that as a group of 850 teenage girls, one doesn’t need to be anything other than ordinary to make a difference in this world, and when we all work together, the results are extraordinary.

Hannah Year 11

Care packs for local women’s refuges

Families and girls, thank you so much for your donations for women’s refuges on the central coast. My office was full of top quality items for women and children that have now been collected by Coast Shelter. The ladies were overwhelmed by the generosity of our college. Our social justice girls also felt good that they could help local women, particularly those suffering domestic violence.

Two of our students Saskia F & Antonia F helped organise and run a stall at the OLR Wyoming Market Day and all proceeds from the sale of goods and raffle tickets went to Project Compassion through their class Caritas boxes.

Fiona Green
Leader of Mission and Youth Ministry
COMMUNITY NEWS

Easter at Holy Cross Parish, Kincumber
Fr Jim invites students, staff and families to celebrate Easter at Holy Cross Parish 55 Kincumber St, Kincumber. Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be a 40 minute procession up Kincumber St and a great way to experience the traditional way of the cross on foot rather than sitting in a church. On Easter Sunday there is an outdoor Mass at 10am (BYO chair or rug), and a 5pm Sunday night Mass with fire and candles as symbols of Jesus’ risen life. For more information see www.kincumber.dbb.org.au

St Patrick’s Parish, East Gosford - [76 York Street]
Services Of The Easter Triduum & at St Francis of Assisi Chapel, 30 Lutana Road, Somersby.
Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.30pm.
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross [organised by the youth] at 10am & Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 3pm [Somersby as well]
Easter Vigil: 7pm [Somersby as well]
Easter Sunday: 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am family Mass & 6pm.