



# Joey's Journal

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February 5, 2016 Issue No 1

## From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all students and parents to St Joseph's for 2016. I especially welcome to the college all of our new students and their parents. I hope all students 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 has been very settled. I have been particularly impressed with the very positive start students have made to the year. Our 168 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 daunting for those students joining us in Years 8 - 11 because they don't have the same security in numbers. Be assured we will do everything to make all newcomers feel welcome.



### Sesquicentenary of the Sisters of St Joseph

This year marks the 150 year anniversary of the formation of the Sisters of St Joseph. Mary MacKillop, along with Fr Julian Tenison Woods began the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866. During this year special events will enable all who are part of the heritage of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods to celebrate the achievements of the Sisters of St Joseph and to renew their commitment to the vision of the co-founders. The prayer below is focussed on asking God to help us be united for these sesquicentenary celebrations.

We give thanks for God's generosity  
in calling the Sisters of St Joseph into being.

For Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods  
the first sisters, the children in schools  
the families around them  
the friends supporting them.  
For the vision, energy and legacy they left.

We give thanks for the Josephite spirit in God's mission  
for the women who heeded the call  
the people who supported the mission  
the families who welcomed the sisters.  
For the love and healing in our parishes.

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Join with us all who have gone before  
walking the Josephite way  
supporting the Josephite vision  
drawn into Josephite communion.  
Join us in praising God's abounding kindness.

#### **New staff**

We welcome to St Joseph's the following staff for 2016;  
Mr Luke Richardson – teaching French and HSIE  
Miss Rebecca McNally – teaching Mathematics and Religious Education  
Mrs Philippa Kaye – Learning Support Teacher  
Mrs Michelle Woloschyn – Teacher Librarian  
Mr Stephen Lobb – maintenance worker  
Mrs Therese Mulhall – Learning Support Assistant  
Ms Sara Nickless – Learning Support Assistant

We hope all 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 join our staff.

#### **HSC results**

Congratulations to our Year 12 cohort of 2015 for the wonderful HSC and ATAR results they achieved last year. They performed very well individually and as a group, with the college receiving 52 Band 6 results.

The top ATAR rank was achieved by Kellie-Ann Glassock with a ranking of 98.40. We will celebrate the achievements of our highest scoring students at our scholars assembly on Tuesday 9th February.

#### **Class Organisation for 2016**

We have modified our approach to forming classes in Year 7 - 10 in 2016 to maximise the learning opportunities for all students and challenge them to achieve their personal best in all subjects. Classes in Years 7 – 10 are based on:

- English and Mathematics – classes are graded according to student ability, performance and educational
- Science, HSIE (History and Geography), PDHPE, Religious Education, Languages in Year 8, Connected Learning - classes in these subjects have been placed into three bands according to student ability, performance and educational needs
- Mandatory subjects with a practical component (Music, Art and Technology) have smaller classes which are based loosely on a student's Science, HSIE etc. class.
- Elective classes in Years 9 and 10 are not grouped as they are formed according to their line on the timetable

We believe our decision to band classes will allow teachers to better meet the learning needs of students because higher ability students are grouped together so they can be extended and challenged with learning tasks that have been differentiated to meet their needs. Conversely, the smaller classes in the third band allow more focussed teacher attention and differentiated tasks to meet the learning needs of students and provide them with success experiences. It is expected that teachers of these core classes will be able to better direct the learning opportunities to their students and to enhance the learning gains for the girls. If you have any concerns with this process of banding classes please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Ms Love at the college.

## **Headlines (continued)**

Yr 7 news and pictures pg 6

Students settle into English and PDHPE classes pgs 7-8

## **Calendar Dates**

2016

February

7	Last day laptop roll-out Allwell catch-up tests for Yr 7
8	Vinnies night patrol
9	9.15-10.30am Scholars Assembly
10	Ash Wednesday 6pm-8.15pm Parenting Teens 2016
11	Diocesan HSC awards presentation
12	Tuning into Teens – 9am-11.30:Shekinah
13	JJAMM Leaders Conference begins
15	Year 12 Hos work placement all week
17	BBSSA Open Touch Manly Vale Yr 12 RE Mosque exc.

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### **Student Drop Off and Car Parking**

A couple of areas of concern have been identified already this year in regards to dropping student at school at the beginning of the day and parents parking in the staff only carpark. Parents are asked to ensure they do not stop too close to the roundabout to let students out when they drop daughters to school each morning. Stopping on the corner impedes access for buses and other cars trying to turn around. We ask that you move at least 10-20 m up the road to the drop off zone before stopping to let your daughter out of the car. Please also note that formal supervision at the college begins each day at 8.15am. Please take this into account if you plan to drop your daughter to school before 8.15am. Parents are also reminded that the St Joseph's carpark in Russell Drysdale Street is for the exclusive use of the staff of St Joseph's Catholic College during school hours.

God bless and best wishes for a very successful 2016.

**Tony McCudden**  
**Principal**

## **From the Assistant Principal**

Most parents are usually quite keen for the new school year to begin and experience tells us most students are very keen to catch up with friends re-establish familiar routines. Welcome to the term that has well and truly begun – students have their timetables and have met most of their teachers; Year 7 students have their new laptops, assessment booklets will be issued next week and we are thinking about camps and the disco.



The celebration of the end of the 2015 school year with our annual Christmas Capers seems so long ago. Year 12 college and house leaders are seen here enjoying a moment with Ms Nash.

### **New pastoral initiative in 2016**

The college has added an additional element to our program of pastoral care and wellbeing in 2016. It involves pastoral teachers making contact with all parents during the semester to introduce themselves and have a brief conversation about their daughters. We believe this will help build the connection between home and school which we know is important to student success. Pastoral teachers have started to phone parents so if you notice a missed call from the college number, it is probably your daughter's pastoral teacher. We encourage parents to inform us

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about any issues or changes in family circumstances that may affect your daughter's wellbeing and/or her ability to engage with school.

### Parent permission letter

Students were provided with a very important letter for parents last Friday seeking parent/carer permission for different college activities during the year, general medical information, care plans where appropriate and a mobile phone agreement. We are hoping this new system for permission notes is more efficient so ask that all parents complete the documents and return to pastoral teachers first thing next week. Parents of students who suffer from diabetes, asthma, anaphylaxis or other serious allergies are reminded to supply the college with a formal health care plan to assist staff in managing your daughter if she experiences an attack or reaction at school. Care plans can be supplied to the college in due course. However, please do not delay returning the medical, phone agreement and permission sheet.

### Managing student attendance email

This email was also sent last Friday to outline the principles we apply in managing student attendance at school. Parents are encouraged to carefully read the documents and to follow the guidelines for reporting student absence or lateness.

### Opal Cards



Students new to the college in 2016 and students changing their personal details will have their cards posted to their home address in the first two weeks of the term because they were required to apply online.

Students in Years 8 – 12 who were enrolled at the college in 2015 received their Opal Card this week and must use it to tap on and off each time they catch their school bus.

Transport NSW asks parents of students whose card has not arrived to contact <http://transportnsw.info/school-students> and download an application. The completed application is to be presented to the college to verify the student's enrolment status and home address.

### Support for parents



supporting school age students on the autism spectrum

#### Free autism workshop for families

Like all school-age students, young people on the autism spectrum benefit from strong, positive relationships between the home and school. Positive Partnerships uses evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers in your local community.

There is a one day workshop on the central coast funded as part of an Australian Government Department of Education and Training initiative to support school-age children with ASD across Australia.

**Dates:** Wednesday 24th February 2016

**Venue:** Quality Inn, The Willows. 512 Pacific Hwy, Wyoming NSW 2250

**Cost:** Free - including resources, lunch, morning tea and refreshments

Full details and **online registration** at [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au)

Enjoy the school year ahead. As always, it will be very busy so hopefully parents and students will have a happy and success filled year.

**Helen Love**  
Assistant Principal

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## From the Leader of Learning & Teaching

Welcome to a new year of learning. The students appear to be settling well into new routines and work habits. At St Joseph's we believe that academic success will be a natural outcome when students are organised and engage with and are motivated by growth in their learning. We know that having a commitment to hard work and effort impact positively on learning outcomes.

### 2015 HSC results

St Joseph's Catholic College has celebrated the achievement of one of most impressive overall HSC results on the central coast. We will be holding a scholar's assembly on the 9th February to acknowledge Year 12 2015 students who achieved outstanding results as well as demonstrating exemplary skills in approaches to their academic pathways. The highest ATAR achieved was by Kellie-Ann Glassock of 98.4.

At the college we offered a total of 35 HSC courses in 2015 with more than half being significantly above state average. 242 Bands 5 and 6 (equivalent to a HSC mark of 80 or above) were achieved by 118 students which is extremely pleasing. The Catholic Schools Office Broken Bay will recognise the following Diocesan achievements at a dedicated ceremony on February 11<sup>th</sup>:

Academic Excellence		Amy Leavey
All Rounder	Placed on the Distinguished Achievers List for achieving a mark of 90 or more in at least ten units	Kellie-Ann Glassock
Academic Excellence		Kellie-Ann Glassock
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	Kellie-Ann Glassock
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Studies of Religion I	Kellie-Ann Glassock
Exemplary major project	Visual Arts Exhibited in <b>ARTEXPRESS</b> for exemplary artwork as part of her HSC	Sarah Gardner
Academic Excellence		Yeshan Beryl Wang
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Mathematics Extension 1	Yeshan Beryl Wang
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Retail Services	Cassidy Foster
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Senior Science	Isabelle Barnes
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Music 1	Jaymi Toole
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Visual Arts	Jaymi Toole
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	English Extension 2	Jessica Wind
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Visual Arts	Jessica Wind
First Place in Course in Broken Bay	Geography	Sarah Keogh

### Assessment handbooks:

Each student in Years 7 – 11 will be issued with their 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. The

back page has a tear off grid with a summary of all formal assessment tasks for the year. This is a great page to have on display at home to help with planning and organisation throughout the year. All handbooks can be located on the college website.

2016 is bound to be another great year for learning and teaching at the college. Best wishes to all students and families for an enjoyable and productive year ahead.

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

## **From the Business Manager**

### **2016 school fees**

Your 2016 School Fees have been sent out to all families this week. You should have received this via email and as a hardcopy sent home with your eldest daughter attending the college. Please note the payment schedule at the bottom of your account which outlines payment due dates. Ideally please schedule these payments through your banking to ensure payments are received by the requested date. Otherwise you can contact the college directly to make payments if necessary.

Each month you will be sent a statement outlining all payments received and an account balance. This will be sent via email. Can you please ensure the college is holding the most appropriate email address for this account to be sent to. If you fail to receive a copy of your statement please contact the college so we can rectify this issue.

We ask that all families adhere to the payment schedule. This ensures the college can operate smoothly and financially stable.

If you have any concerns regarding your fees or wish to vary your payment schedule please contact us directly. In the case of serious financial hardship we are able to provide financial support and fee relief as needed.

### **Canteen volunteers required**

We are in need of some extra hands to help us in our canteen. If you are able to help out we would love to hear from you now. A roster will be provided so that you know when you will be required and the canteen duties are not stressful. Please contact the college on 4324 4022

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

## **From the Leader of Year 7**

With a jam packed schedule it has been go, go, go for the newest members of our school community. Despite this, Year 7 have adapted to high school wonderfully. They have navigated their way around the school, successfully read timetables, negotiated lunchtime seating areas, mastered their lockers, enthusiastically dived into their laptops, ventured to St Edwards oval, enjoyed school sport, received copious notes and returned them, have been welcomed by their houses, meet great new friends and even squeezed some curriculum in there too. The girls have managed to do all this with smiles on their faces demonstrating their great resilience when challenged.

We encourage Year 7 to remain resilient as they continue to journey through Term 1. If girls are feeling anxious about any aspect high school life it is important that they let their Pastoral teacher, subject teacher or myself know. There are a range of fantastic new experiences to look forward to this term and we want them all to be positives ones, so please encourage your daughter to let us know how she is travelling.

The girls are looking immaculate in their new school uniforms and are following our uniform policy excellently. If there are any question about the uniform policy the girls are encouraged to refer to the school procedures section of their planner. The student planner will be vital in helping girls this term as they continuing adjusting to life at St Joseph's. The girls must take these to each lesson, including morning pastoral, as they will be receiving important information about school administration, subject assessments and upcoming events. It is vital that this information is written down so it is not forgotten.



Year 7 Barnes being welcomed on the first day by girls in Year 12 Barnes



I encourage Year 7 to maintain their positive approach and make the most of every opportunity offered at Joey's.

**Olivia Daly**

## From the Leader of Learning English

Welcome back to all returning students to English! In particular, a warm welcome to the incoming Year 7 students who have had a very busy start to the semester. All years will be starting the term with some challenging, but hopefully interesting, texts and concepts.

Year 7 will be learning about the text type of Drama through their play 'Honey Spot'. The play explores the conflict that develops between two cultures trying to inhabit one space. The play is at times funny and poignant and enables the girls to engage thoughtfully with this very contemporary issue.

Year 8 will be delving into the novel 'Parvana' which explores the life of a young girl growing up in Afghanistan and the difficulties she faces in this demanding environment.

In Year 9 the girls are exploring what it means to be Australian through the medium of poetry. They will look at a variety of poetry styles and discuss the images of Australia that are represented and how they feel this embodies their experiences as Australians.

Year 10 will have a particularly interesting start as they become familiar with the world of Shakespeare, witches, murder and ambition in the famous tragedy of 'Macbeth'. They will learn about the importance of language and dramatic devices in conveying meaning and will present this knowledge in a speech later in the term!

The senior students have started the term enthusiastically and well prepared. It is a pleasure to see the girls in their fresh uniforms eager to tackle the senior curriculum. The Advanced Year 11 girls will be learning about jealousy and the dangers of 'the green eyed monster' in 'Othello'. Standard Year 11 students will become critical viewers as they learn about the importance of film techniques in conveying meaning in the film 'Strictly Ballroom'. Year 12 students will be preparing themselves for the upcoming half yearly examinations through the study of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' (Standard) and 'The Crucible' (Advanced). Year 12 Extension students are preparing themselves for their half yearly examination with their study of the classic novel 'Frankenstein'.

In the junior English classrooms all teachers are now using Google classroom as a unique and engaging pedagogical tool. Students have embraced this new tool which enables them to upload their work directly to their teachers, continue their work at home and complete research tasks online.

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All the English staff wish the girls the best for the upcoming Term and remember:

"Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life."

Sue Back

## From the Leader of PDHPE, Dance and PSS

A great start to 2016 with all students in Years 7 – 10 heading out for Sport and Recreation and PSS elective students starting their Surfing and Coaching Activities. Please remember to have permission notes signed and sent back to school this week including specific venues such as Kincumber Gym, Genesis and Fitness First for some year groups. Also it has come to our attention that the generic forms used for some of these venues have a clause allowing photographs to be taken of groups / individuals using the facilities. We have contacted these venues and a formal disclaimer from the Principal Mr McCudden is being issued to them advising that photographs cannot be taken and used whilst students are at sport.

We would encourage parents and carers to check that PE uniforms fit students and allow for movement as students do "grow" out of them and tight fitting shorts and tops in particular do not let students work comfortably in physical activities.

If students have an injury or illness a note must be brought on the Sport or PE day explaining the reason for not participating. The same applies if for any reason they do not have correct uniform on that day.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, Year 12 Dance students will be attending HSC workshops and "Callback" exemplary works from 2015 HSC at the Seymour Centre in Sydney. Later in the year Year 7 will be involved in "Jump Rope for Heart" and Year 10 will be attending the B Street Forum where speakers present real life scenarios and displays concerning road safety is addressed.

This is a very busy and happening time for our students for 2016 and we look forward to all the activities in store.

**J Bartholomew**

## Community News

**Holy Cross Kincumber 25 year reunion:**

**For all past and present Students, families and staff**

Holy Cross Catholic School Kincumber celebrates 25 years of Catholic education.



Come reconnect, revisit and remember. Past and present students, parents & staff are invited to celebrate 25 years of Holy Cross Parish School Kincumber on Saturday 13 February 2016 commencing with mass at 10.30am at Holy Spirit Church. After mass join others for morning tea in the school hall. Then meet at the Kincumber Hotel for lunch and drinks.

Please pass this on to all Holy Cross families and staff past and present you are in contact with.

Holy Cross Parish Council

