Dear Parents and Caregivers

At the last P&F Meeting on 30 April, there was a general discussion about the number of people actively engaged in the P&F Association. One of the comments was that parents don’t attend because they “don’t want a job!” Perhaps this captures the general sentiment of parents; or perhaps it is more about time and the lack thereof; perhaps a combination of both. I will state from the outset that, while numbers at P&F meetings may not be overwhelming, the support from our parents and the local community when the need arises is often overwhelming and an illustration of the great support people are willing to show our school. However, I think it is timely that the following overview of the purpose of the P&F be made available to all families. As you will read, it’s not all about “getting a job.”

The P&F Association’s first priority is to support the development of the school. It’s not primarily about fundraising events. The P&F supports the school best by “spreading the good news”, as it were, about our School. This is, singularly, the most powerful and effective way parents can assist the School. How do you find out about the “good news”? – You come to the P&F meeting. You will gain an unprecedented level of insight into the School.

The P&F Association gatherings are a unique opportunity to bring parents and carers together. A P&F Meeting is certainly a social occasion of sorts: limited formality, useful discussion, and good humour. It’s a great experience to be among like-minded people who only want the best for our School.

Yes – fundraising is one of a number of functions of the P&F Association. Over the years, the St Joseph’s P&F Association has contributed in so many significant ways across the School – we continue to reap the benefits of the Association’s hard work and commitment. Every single dollar raised goes back into the School for the benefit of every student. I understand that everyone’s time is precious; but there is so much to be personally gained from making a contribution which could impact a child (because of access to funding or resources) for the rest of their life. It is really important (and fun) work.

The next meeting of the P&F is Tuesday 28 May at 7pm in the Library. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Rotary Club of Stanthorpe is offering an unprecedented opportunity for Year 10-12 students to take part in a 2 week visit to Naiyala High School in Fiji in early August. You may recall that in 2012 the School contributed a number of items (desks, chairs, books and so on) through the Stanthorpe Rotary Club for use by this Fijian school. This has blossomed into an opportunity for our students to visit Naiyala High School, and for three of their students to visit Stanthorpe. Students can express an interest in this opportunity through the School Office. Students will be selected based upon an application process, including an interview. If you would like more information about this opportunity, make contact with the School Office.

Michael McCarthy
Principal
NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Demonstrating their commitment to assessment and preparation, our leadership team provides an update on our students’ progress and upcoming events.

Woolworths Earn & Learn kicks off again
Don’t forget that St Joseph’s School is participating once again in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. When you shop at Woolworths remember to ask for stickers and place them on the Points sheet. Once completed, these sheets can be placed in the collection box situated either at the School office or Woolworths.

Reminders:
- Second hand uniforms & 2012 Yearbooks
  - The School Office has a supply of second hand uniforms for sale at $5 per item. With the cold weather fast approaching, a good range of winter clothes are available.
  - There are still some copies of the 2012 Yearbook available for sale at $20 each. Call into the School Office if you’d like to purchase a memento as a keepsake for your child.

Naplan
We are fast approaching national testing program (NAPLAN) which will be held in May for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This testing program focuses on the skills developed by these students in Literacy and Numeracy.

As a school we have no ‘build up’ to the NAPLAN tests. Our students are generally familiar with the format of the tests and the NAPLAN test days are treated as a routine event and as such we have no excessive preparation which has proven to be of little use to the students results and often leads to unnecessary anxiety. Traditionally our students have achieved to the best of their ability at levels above the State average as I am confident they will once again do this year.

Further information for parents can be found at http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html

Primary Sports Stars
Term One and the beginning of Term Two are traditionally busy times for our students on Sports Fields across the Granite Belt and the Darling Downs. St Joseph's students have represented their school and district in the Sports of Swimming, Netball, Football, Rugby League, Basketball and Cricket.

In Cricket Spencer Jensen and Lachlan Green have been selected to represent the Country Cricket team in the Darling Downs trials. On the basketball court Josh Musumeci, Spencer Jensen, Lachlan Green, Anika Spiller and Brody Pearce competed in the Darling Downs trials and Brody has been selected to represent our region in Cairns at the State Titles.

In Swimming, Ben Rogers, Lachlan Mahoney, Spencer Jensen and Alex McMeniman all represented the Granite Belt.

Year 12 Preparing for QCS
Term 2 has seen no reprieve for the Year 12s and their various commitments. In conjunction with their leadership roles, community service and assessment, the students are undertaking QCS practice on a weekly basis with Mrs Michelle McCarthy. This practice lesson exposes them to the test conditions, within which they have shown enthusiasm towards learning the rigours of this test, which will contribute towards the calculation of their OPs.

In order to assist in the connection between Secondary school and University, the Year 12s will be travelling with Mr Brown and Mrs Paras to USQ in May and UQ in June. These trips will be an excellent opportunity to indulge in campus life and examine the facilities that are on offer.

Reminder for Year 8 & Year 10 Parents
Students in Year 8 & 10 (female and male) have Immunisation on Monday 13th May for Guardisal and Chicken Pox.

Year 10 boys will also have the Guardisal immunisation. Immunisation will occur at lunchtime in the Parish Hospitality Centre.

David Fleming
APA-Primary
Year 5-Dynamic Deadlies (DDs)

Year 5 student Stephen Baronio is currently working with Education Queensland on a program for Indigenous Students with high learning potential called Dynamic Deadlies (DDs). This is an online program where the students work with other DD students on a weekly basis and culminates each term with an academic learning day, (Deadly Day). Here students have the opportunity to work face to face with high profile Indigenous Academics and Artists. In 2012 author Anita Heiss and artist Arthur Conlan worked with around 30 students. Indigenous students from all over our dioceses will be working through this program.

P & F News

The P&F Committee met on Tuesday 30th April and it was my first meeting as the new P&F President. Was I nervous, did I feel overwhelmed, did I think of faking an illness to get out of it – OH YEAH!!!! But the meeting was wonderful and I have the nicest, most supportive committee. We sat, we spoke, we got involved and that is what it is all about. Parents getting involved and having their say because we all like to be involved in matters that affect our children. We spoke about the upcoming fundraisers for the year and we will start putting sub-committees in place to run with them. We have the annual Palgrove sale in August, the Trivia Night in September and the Trail Ride in November to prepare for and I invite all parents to step forward if you would like to be involved. If you would like to contact me to discuss, please do. Remember our Pie Drive is already full steam ahead. If you require a pie drive form, they are available from the School office. These forms need to be returned by 7th June. We are also planning a social for parents and students, something fun and exciting and all we need from you is to arrive and enjoy the day.........so look out for our invitation. Parents, on behalf of the 2013 P&F, I look forward to great things and I hope you will join me on this incredible journey!

Nicci Prins
P & F President

“Man of Steel” update

The biennial School Musical “Man of Steel” performance week-end is nudging closer. Now in its twelfth year of providing family entertainment at an affordable price, the cast are excited to showcase their many months of hard work. The play opens in the Man of Steel’s bedroom and as is the usual case with men, it’s in a mess. The hopeless, off-key trills of an old-fashioned love song are heard offstage. It’s Rita, his landlady. Armed only with a mop and brush Rita sweeps her way onstage still singing. “Man of Steel” was written especially for young people, and is full of fun, fast-moving action, larger than life characters and really spectacular chorus numbers. Students have been rehearsing during lunch times, after school and on week-ends to ensure “The Man of Steel” will be funny and entertaining. This action-packed musical spoof and spectacular show of heroically super proportions will showcase some of St Joseph’s finest local talent. For some of these students, it will be their final performance with St Joseph’s school. Many hours of behind the scenes work from volunteers with set designs, costumes, props and music will ensure the end product won’t disappoint. In the last scene, The Man of Steel is tied up with Linda Street (or as we know Lois Lane) with a ten ton weight suspended high above their heads. Next to them is a large green glowing thing…Kroptonite. Will the Man of Steel save Linda? To find out head to the Stanthorpe Civic Centre on either Friday 31st May or Saturday 1st June at 7pm. Tickets available with allocated seating from St Joseph’s School Office and Pink Poppies. Adults $15, Concession $10, Students $10 and Under 5 $5. Seats are selling fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

Up, up and away! A super show!

If you would like to join the list of generous sponsors for the musical, please contact Angie at the School office on 46 815952.