Dear Parents and Caregivers

Communication with parents and caregivers is an important and valued part of the education of each student at St Joseph's School. From time to time, the School considers it important to create opportunities for discussion around topics of importance to both families and the School. Last Thursday evening, the School held a parents’ forum around issues of significance to them and their children. In particular, parents received information about mental health, the complex social worlds of young people, and how parents can support their child. It was also no surprise that parents expressed concern around their child’s access to and use of technology, which highlighted another area in which the School needs to continue to support families.

Based upon the positive feedback from this forum, similar sessions are planned for parents of students in Years 6-9. These will take place in the first half of Term 2.

I had the pleasure of being present at the Regional final of the Lions Youth of the Year competition last Saturday in Goondiwindi, where Matthew Manahan represented St Joseph's School. I am happy to announce that Matthew was the overall winner of the final and now moves on to the District final in Warwick later this month. Matthew presented a fine speech on the challenges for rural youth in the area of the Arts. He had some excellent competition from students from St George, Goondiwindi and Warwick. Congratulations Matthew!

I take this opportunity to remind all families who are yet to identify how they are going to contribute to St Joseph’s School in 2013, to complete the Community Contribution Register located in the “For Parents” section of the School’s website. Friday is the deadline for completion of the register, after which the Community Contribution Levy of $105 will be applied. For those who have registered for the Term 1 Working Bee, please claim Saturday 23 from 8-11am.

Congratulations Matthew- Lions Youth of the Year Regional Finals winner

Michael McCarthy
Principal
NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

As a parent I have been driven to distraction with the reply to the question how was school today? How often has your genuine question (and interest) lead to replies of “Ok,” “Good” “I don’t remember!” With thanks to one of my favourite Bloggers I have included the following for your information and advice.

A vague question like “how was school today?” just becomes part of the getting-home-from-school ritual. A glass of milk, a quick “dunno” and they’re out the door. If we really want to reconnect with them and get to know them through their day, we’ve got to be clever with our questioning.

A couple of tips to remember:
Try not to sound like a detective – too many questions makes children think you’re fishing for something to get them in trouble over.

“What” questions are always more effective than “How or Did” in this situation. (What did you most enjoy at lunchtime?).

A couple of questions you may like to ask when they get home today could include:
What was the funniest thing you heard all day?
What was your favourite thing that happened today?
What happened today that you wish hadn’t happened?
What did you play at lunchtime today?
What are you learning about in science/maths/history/art etc?

And a bonus question that is always absolutely lovely to ask:
“What are you looking forward to tomorrow?”
Remember that a conversation is a two-way street. You can open up your questions with an anecdote from you own day. “I laughed so much today when I dropped my shopping all over the kitchen floor… what made you laugh a lot today?”

Keep the conversation going and maybe, just maybe, you’ll actually get to know the answer to “how was school today?”

A full transcript of this article can be found at http://blogs.kids-spot.com.au/villagevoices/10-things-to-ask-your-child/

David Fleming
APA Primary Campus

I am currently on a mission to build a costume and props wardrobe here in the Secondary Drama department at St Joseph’s, so was wondering if anyone might have any old clothes, hats, scarves, gloves, bags, shoes etc. they would be willing to part with for our costume cupboard? Any contribution will be of great value. Please send them in with your son/daughter. You never know you might see them make a cameo appearance onstage in the future.

Amelia Thomas
Drama/English and Media Teacher

St Joseph Leo Club raffle
St Joseph’s Leo Club is selling tickets for their Easter Lenten raffle. The raffle consists of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes all with plenty of chocolate guaranteed to please the whole family. Tickets are $1 each and can be purchased from the School office. All proceeds will be divided between the Cancer Council and Caritas. The raffle will be drawn at the end of term liturgy at St Joseph’s Church on 28th March at 9am. Please support this worthy cause.

Leo Club members

P & F news
The first P & F meeting of the School year was held on Tuesday 26th February with nineteen in attendance. A good response was received for the Show Canteen bar and we would like to acknowledge and thank all those helpers.

In his report, Michael advised that advertising for Prep 2014 enrolments will occur soon. Already a number of applications have been received. Painting of the Primary campus both inside and out will take place this year. New signage will be erected on both campuses so that it will be easier for visitors to the school to be able to locate exactly where they need to go.

A decision was made to eliminate the Melbourne Cup Sweep. The Melbourne Cup Sweep is at a busy time of the year and also clashes with the Trail Ride which is one of the School’s major fundraisers. The commitment levy has been accepted very well and all families need to respond by week seven of Term 1 otherwise the levy will be allocated to their school fees.

The P & F have supported the Jane McGrath Foundation by donating $500. More details will follow regarding a first ever open cricket competition against the Stanthorpe State High as a fundraiser.

Angie Sims
President
Year 10 - Community Service

This term the Year 10 students have enjoyed the enriching experience of visiting the Carramar retirement village to spend time with and assist the elderly residents. Small groups of students take this opportunity to get to know the residents and to lend a hand wherever may be needed. These visits will continue over the next two terms. We are very proud of the student’s efforts and their enthusiasm they have displayed so far. Officially these visits began with the first groups visiting last week. These students commented on how fulfilling these visits have been. We know these Year 10 students will make the most of this great opportunity to give something back to the senior citizens of our community as they are such a warm, generous and vibrant bunch with plenty of stories and tricks to share with the folks at Carramar.

Miss Thomas and Mrs Sutton
Yr 10 Pastoral Care Teachers

Musical update
Rehearsals are well underway for the School Musical “Man of Steel”. A reminder to all the cast that a musical singing rehearsal will be held on Sunday 24th March from 1-3pm in the multi-purpose room. It’s important that the students involved attend this rehearsal.

“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.

“Howling winds of Kropton…Can this be true?..Has our heroine really been kidnapped?....Which dormant evil force has reared its ugly head to challenge the might of the Man of Steel? Will the Man of Steel rescue Linda.. Will Linda live to see the Man of Steel again?...To find out these answers, mark your calendar for 31st May and 1st June and head to the Civic Centre. Up, up and away! A super show!

Year Two - Tadpoles, worms and frogs
This term the Year Two class have focused on investigating living things across a number of subjects – English, Religion and Science. We have been out into the garden looking for different kinds of life. In the classroom, we have tadpoles and worms which the children have been fascinated in observing and they are eagerly waiting for the tadpoles to change into frogs. For History, the Year Twos are exploring how life and lifestyles have changed since their parents and grandparents were children. We have started a display with various artefacts and photographs from bygone eras.

Bernadette Brunckhorst

For attention of Prep & Year 1 students
Making the Grade publication will feature in the Warwick Daily News on Saturday 16th March. The Border Post will also have this feature in their Tuesday 19th March edition.