Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term 1 has finally come to a close and it has been a very busy 9 weeks. Our students and staff have earned some time for rest and rejuvenation.

Last Saturday saw a number of families assist with our first working bee of the year. The gardens on the Primary campus were tidied in readiness for winter. I extend my thanks and gratitude to the parents and students who assisted on the day.

School Captain and Year 12 student, Matthew Manahan, competed in the District Finals of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Matthew was a stand-out on the night, but unfortunately did not proceed to the next stage. While it was a very strong field, Matthew acquitted himself honourably and diligently.

St Joseph's Day has come and gone for another year and, I know most will agree our celebrations this year were well received by staff and students alike. It was a genuine P-12 affair. The weather was absolutely perfect; it was as though St Joseph had arranged it himself. We look forward to next year when, with a few adjustments, we will do it all again. Many thanks to the staff and, in particular, to the Alumni Association, for their generous assistance.

Parents of Secondary students will be aware that with the departure of Robert Whannell, the School was seeking to recruit a replacement for the commencement of Term 2. I am happy to announce that Mr John Powell will return to St Joseph's School in Term 2 to teach in the areas of Science and Mathematics. Mr Powell will be known to some as a staff member in 2011. I look forward to welcoming John back to Stanthorpe.

Year 12 students had their first practice QCST Test this week. Students have an allocated lesson each week to focus on the Queensland Core Skills Test (QCST) in order to become familiar with the style of the tests and the nature of the questions. The practice tests allow students to refine their approach to the actual QCST in September, and provide them valuable feedback on the quality of their responses.

Finally, School resumes in Term 2 on Monday 15 April. In the second week of the Easter break, staff will be participating in a retreat at Happy Valley. I also take the opportunity to claim the date of Thursday 18 April (first week of Term 2) for an information evening for parents of students in Years 6, 7, 8 & 9 commencing at 6:30pm in the Bathersby Centre (Stadium). As alluded to in the previous edition of the newsletter, a similar session was held for Year 10 parents and was well received. The messages about mental and understandings offered around the social worlds of children are relevant to all parents.

Finally, I pray that you and your family have a holy and happy Easter. I encourage you to celebrate the pinnacle of the Christian calendar at your preferred place of worship. I look forward to welcoming students back to School in Term 2.

Michael McCarthy
Principal
“Happy Easter!” Well, almost. There are still a few days to go before we enter into the joys of “Chocolate Land!” Of course, one important thing to do before we loosen our belts on Easter Sunday, is to have a bit of a rethink about what actually happened on the first Easter day.

No doubt, if we had been alive in Jesus’ time we, too, would have been astonished by the miracle of a resurrected corpse. Luke tells us that just as Jesus was entering the town of Naim, a funeral procession was coming out. The dead man was the only son of a widow. Jesus was filled with compassion for the widow and so went over to the coffin and said, “Young man! Get up, I tell you.” The dead man sat up and began to talk and Jesus gave him back to his mother. Luke 7:11-17. Mark tells us how in like manner Jesus resurrected the corpse of the twelve year old daughter of Jairus, an official of the local synagogue.

“Little girl I tell you to get up. She got up at once and started walking around. Give her something to eat.” Mark 5:22-24, 35-44.

The two individuals raised to life by Jesus returned to their normal lives and at a later point in time they died, definitively. So, how was their “resurrection” different to Jesus’? Well, “Jesus’ Resurrection was about breaking out into an entirely new form of life, into a life that is no longer subject to the laws of dying and becoming, but lies beyond it – a life that opens up a new dimension of human existence.”

Unlike the widow’s son and the daughter of Jairus, “Jesus has not returned to a normal human life in this world like Lazarus and the others whom Jesus raised from the dead. He has entered upon a different life, he has entered the vast breadth of God himself, and it is from there that he reveals himself to his followers.” “In Jesus’ Resurrection, a new possibility of human existence is attained that affects everyone and that opens up a future, a new kind of future, for mankind.”

Now, what would you have been thinking if you were one of Jesus’ followers on that first Easter day? “...they were simply overwhelmed by the reality, but after their initial hesitation and astonishment, they could no longer ignore that reality. It is truly he. He is alive; he has spoken to us; he has allowed us to touch him, even if he no longer belongs to the tangible in the normal way.”

Jesus’ disciples were quite used to Jesus performing the unusual: restoring sight to the blind; restoring mobility to the crippled; curing lepers of their disease. But now they had to grapple with a new understanding of Jesus: “He was quite different, no mere resurrected corpse but one living anew and forever in the power of God. And yet, at the same time, no longer belonging to our world, he was truly present there, he himself. It was an utterly unique experience, which burst upon the normal boundaries of experience and yet for the disciples was quite beyond doubt.”

So, when Easter Sunday does arrive we can join with the writer of Psalm 117 in saying, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” . We can rejoice and be glad, because Jesus, through his humanity, has given us the opportunity of true resurrection. However, as the resurrected Jesus said to the once doubting Thomas, “You believe in me Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe.” John 20:29. That’s us.

Happy Easter – enjoy those chocolate eggs!
Peace and Best Wishes

Danny
APRE
All Quotes from “Jesus of Nazareth” by Pope Benedict XVI
SPARQ-ed Coordinator visits  Last Friday secondary science students were fortunate to receive a visit from Dr Peter Darben who is the SPARQ-ed (Students Performing Advanced Research Queensland) Coordinator at the Translational Research Institute located at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. This new state of the art facility will see more opportunities for Queensland’s school communities to engage with the scientific community. SPARQ-ed is a joint initiative of The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute and Queensland’s Department of Education, Training and Employment. This unique facility connects school students and teachers from across the state with the medical researcher community, and gives students the opportunity to take part in authentic research projects. The Year 10 students participated in a genetics laboratory, in which they undertook DNA restriction activity and then determined how long the DNA sequence was by running an electrophoresis. The students could then determine which DNA would be useful for using in genetic modification applications.

Year Nine—Communication, Caritas & Church  
This term Year 9’s have been extremely busy. They have settled in well to PC and are studying the importance of effective communication. Prayer and reflection has centred on the season of Lent and Year 9 Davadi is currently in the lead with Caritas donations after the introduction of an ‘up and raise you’ game with their PC teacher. During Religious Education students have studied a variety of historical Church figures with a focus on belief and have written essays to compare and contrast them. The Year 9 Graphics class have been working hard to create a first aid box in a 3D modelling program called Inventor. This is the first time they have used Inventor and Google Sketch Up and have produced some fantastic results. Meanwhile 9 ITAD have been very industrious creating a nail tray from timber. They are learning to use hand tools and recognising the importance of accurate marking out. Projects students are producing this year include an egg flip, letter holder and a coffee table. Students must be congratulated for their great approach to these subjects this term.

Year Three—Australian Landmarks, research & history  
Want to learn about the various Australian Landmarks and their history? Well just walk in and visit the Year 3 classroom. This term, as part of their History, the students have been learning all about Australian Landmarks, natural or built. The classroom has been abuzz with very enthusiastic students working together to make their final product. The students found many landmarks that are important to all Australians and some that are places where significant events that shaped Australian history occurred. From The Great Barrier Reef to Sydney Harbour Bridge, right down to Port Arthur in Tasmania, the students researched their particular landmark and produced their Information Report onto cardboard. Using a variety of technological devices, the students designed, created, painted and presented their 3D Landmark. All students were very proud of their constructions and can’t wait to showcase it to their parents.

St Joseph’s Parish—Three Saints celebrations—Sunday 5 May 2013  
10.30am-12.30pm- All stalls open (including BBQ & bar)  
1.00pm- Mass in honour of Three Saints  
2.30pm- Statues are carried out of Church onto float (acoustic fireworks)  
2.45pm- Procession starts  
3.00pm- Statues are returned to Church (veneration of relic)  
3.45pm- Entertainment & stalls in grounds near Bathersby Centre  
5.45pm-6.00pm- Multi draw raffle drawn  
6.30pm- fireworks spectacular

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