Dear Parents and Caregivers

This short Term is swiftly passing us by. Our Prep have almost completed their first Term of school and our Year 12s have only three more to look forward to. For the rest of us, time is of the essence. Projects, assignment and exams will be the focus for many students as teachers begin the assessment period. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's work at school, please contact your teacher.

I was very proud to be present at the Stanthorpe Lions Youth of the Year competition a couple of weeks ago. Matthew, Holly, Bridget and Sophie all performed spectacularly well on the night, and St Joseph's came away winners. Bridget Campbell won "Best Speech of the Night" and Matthew Manahan was the overall winner. Matthew now moves to the next stage of the competition to be held in Goondiwindi next weekend.

In addition to her Lions Youth of the Year pursuits, Sophie Sims competed in the State Final of the Leo's of the Year competition. Sophie and her family travelled to Proserpine on the weekend and did not leave the tropics disappointed with Sophie being awarded the winner of the Public Speaking section. Congratulations Sophie.

I offer a reminder to all families who are yet to register their community contribution that Friday 15 March is the deadline. You can find the register in the “For Parents” section on the School’s website. Further to this, our first working bee for the year will be Saturday 23 March.

Finally, during the season of Lent, our students are reminded of the importance of sacrifice and selflessness. One way we achieve this is through our participation in Project Compassion. Each week Project Compassion profiles the ways in which funds have improved the lives of the world’s most poor and needy. This week features a story of a woman in Bangladesh, whose access to prenatal and obstetric care during her pregnancy was the result of Bangladesh’s Safe Motherhood Program. This program was funded with the aid of Caritas. This kind of service is something we expect from our government and, I expect, a service we take for granted. Please talk to your children about this important work which is made possible through human compassion.

Michael McCarthy
Principal

REMINDER: School photos are on Monday. All students must wear full dress uniform. Years 11 & 12 are to wear their blazers.
Term 1 has progressed hastily and students are engaged in a variety of classroom learning experiences. All Year 9 – 12 students were emailed Assessment Calendars – outlining the dates of assessment items for Term 1, Year 8 Assessment Calendars were printed and provided for students. This Wednesday night parents and students will attend the Laptop Information Evening in the Betty Yap Centre and receive the much anticipated laptops. Students are reminded to not have any stickers or decorations on their laptops, excepting a label indicating their name. Parents often seek an understanding of the homework expectations at St Joseph’s School. For Year 8 – 10 students, it is expected that students will have 10 minutes of homework for each 50 minute lesson of that day (a maximum of 1 hour per day). Once assessment tasks have been distributed it is expected that homework would be focused on completing that assessment item – rather than teacher directed day to day tasks. If parents have any homework questions or any other questions that they would like to ask classroom teachers, please do not hesitate to contact teachers on their email firstname.lastname@twb.catholic.edu.au.

Student Council Representatives have been elected by each PC class and the Student Representative Council have begun meeting to discuss the plans that they have for 2013. Public speaking competitions have been on the agenda for several of our senior students and we congratulate Matthew Manahan for his Lions of the Year win, as well as Bridget Campbell for winning the public speaking category. Prefect, Sophie Sims also competed this past weekend in the Leo of the Year Competition, winning the State Public Speaking Award on Saturday evening in Proserpine.

It was a pleasure to attend the Dedication of St Joseph’s Church on Sunday. Some of our students, who assisted in many ways, including altar servers and ushers, represented our school with decorum and dignity. Well done to our students on their achievements.

Linda Perrett
APA-Secondary

Naming ceremony for St Joseph’s buildings
On Friday 22nd February a Naming of Building Presentation was held at St Joseph’s School. Mr Greg Yap and his daughter Ann, Archbishop John Bathersby, Mr and Mrs Mike Bathersby, Mr and Mrs Carmel Mahoney and other members of the Bathersby family, Mr and Mrs Brian Shannon, family and friends were invited to acknowledge the dedication and work of Mrs Betty Yap, Mrs Donna Shannon and the Bathersby family. Eleven buildings have been aptly named to commemorate special people who have given many years of service and dedication to the school as well as places and names that are significant to the foundation and Mercy values that St Joseph’s upholds. Guests walked around the school to observe the signage before enjoying refreshments at Valentes.

Woolworths Earn and Learn thank you
St Joseph’s School would like to thank parents and caregivers who collected Earn & Learn stickers between May and August last year as part of the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Several items of furniture were purchased and are being enjoyed by students of St Joseph’s Primary.
Year 11-Goal setting and camp excitement

2013 promises to be an exciting and busy year for the Year 11 cohort. They have eagerly begun the year working on goal setting, both personally and as a group. These goals will be reviewed on a regular basis in their Pastoral Care class as the year progresses. The Year 11 camp at Emu Gully will occur in the last week of Term 2 and focus on extending the leadership and team building within the group.

Studies in the many and varied Year 11 subjects are well on the way, including Lawn Bowls for Senior PE.

Students are also getting involved in a number of activities such as sports coaching for the Bronco’s Cup, Student Council, Leo’s, assisting in the tuckshop as well as being focused on achieving great results in the many assignments and exams they will have before the end of term.

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Hope and Dreams of a future in the performing arts, the trials of being the younger sister, the pleasure music brings to one’s life, and the dilemma posed by the dream to become an elite sportswoman. These were the topics for the speech component of the 2013 Lion’s Youth of the Year competition prepared by our four contestants: Matthew Manahan, Bridget Campbell, Sophie Sims and Holly Hitchener. It seemed that they were hardly back at school before they had to prepare a speech and deliver it in front of a very large audience of Lions and family members. They spoke so well and we are all very proud of them.

Matthew Manahan won the overall prize and will compete in Goondiwindi against young people who won their own regional competition. Bridget Campbell’s highly amusing speech won her the prize for the Best Speech of the evening. Congratulations to our four contestants and to the four students from the State High who also delivered very interesting and entertaining speeches.

Year 1 -investigating mini-beasts

The Year One classes have started the year off with a wonderful investigation of mini-beasts. The children have explored not only their school environment, but also their own back yards to see what interesting things live there. In class, we have observed closely some worms, ants and snails and we’ve been learning about how they move, what they eat and how they might protect themselves.

On 29th January 2013, a deposit of $100 was made into the school’s National Australia Bank account. The description on our statement is “Vietnam… New England C/U”. As there is no reference number or name showing, I am unable to receipt this against an account. Please contact Maria Davies on 4681 5903 if you made this payment so I can reconcile it against your account.