Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday we gathered for the final time as a school community for 2013 as we celebrated our End of Year Mass. We came together in prayer to give thanks to God for the many blessings that have been bestowed on each of us and our school community this year. After Mass we took the time to farewell those families and staff who are leaving our school at the end of this week. We wish them well in their future ventures.

A special thanks to Fr Stanley who led our Eucharistic celebration and to the many parents and friends who came to help us celebrate as a whole school community and to Mr Michael Robertson who planned and organised this celebration.

As our school concludes, I would like to thank all the people who have played such an important role throughout this year. I would sincerely like to thank the staff for all their time, enthusiasm and commitment to teaching and supporting the learning needs of all the children. Thank you to all of our parents for your involvement and support in so many ways throughout the year. Finally, I would like to thank the children for their interest, participation and enthusiasm in all the activities, events and opportunities offered throughout this year.

Our school year concludes this Friday at 12noon. We will be gathering for a final farewell at 11:45am in the hall. You are welcome to join us for our last gathering for the 2013 school year.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I hope everyone has a relaxing, fun-filled break and I look forward to seeing you again for the 2014 school year.

STAFF FOR 2014
Secretary: Sam Lucey/Jan Brewster
APRE: Michael Robertson (Assistant to the Principal – Religious Education)
School Officers: Therese Beavis, Bernadette Duggan, Cathy Stagnetti, Lisa Buckingham, Carol Almeida, Lee Reed, Danni Harden, Belynda Barbeler, Lorraine Carroll
Prep: Miss Katie Jordan (PW), Miss Georgia Johnstone (PG) and Mrs Sonya Teevan (PB)
Year 1: Mrs Sharron Dale (1B), Miss Sam Lewis (1G) and Miss Katie Andreson (1W)
Year 2: Mrs Wendy Lamb Mrs Jane Robinson (2W), Mrs Di Rose (2B) and Mrs Anne Gole (2G)
Year 3: Mr Mark Deegan (3G) Miss Emma Russell (3W) and Miss Sarah Hore (3B)
Year 4: Mrs Andrea Murphy (4B), Mrs Suzanne Toole (4W)
Year 5: Mr Michael Robertson/Mrs Melinda Brockhurst (5B)
Year 6: Mrs Michelle Johnson (6B)
Year 7: Mrs Louise Busby/ Mrs Bern Skelly (7B)
Specialist Teachers: Jeanette Vanderzee (Italian), Ginetta Rochester (Art), Christie Lewis (HPE), Rosemary Zorzetto (Music), Linda Pendrith (Band and Yr 5 instruments).

WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND RELAXING SUMMER HOLIDAY.
SCHOOL BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY.

Carolyn
From the APRE

Sacramental Program 2014 – 1st Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation

**First Reconciliation:** (students in Year 3 who have been Baptized Catholic)
- Monday 17 Feb: Parent Preparation Night 7pm Sacred Heart, Rosalie
- Friday 21 March: Children’s Retreat Day Lavalla Centre
- Monday 24 March: First Reconciliation Sacrament, Rosalie

**Holy Communion/Confirmation:** (Students in Year 4 who have made their Reconciliation)
- Tuesday 29 July: Parent Preparation Night 7pm Sacred Heart, Rosalie
- Thursday 4 Sept: Children’s Retreat Day Lavalla Centre
- Friday 5 Sept: Confirmation Ceremony, St Brigids, Red Hill

St Vincent de Paul Appeal
Thank you to everyone who has sent things to school for this appeal. We have had so many items come in and it is amazing to watch them fill my office. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful caring community.

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Mass with us yesterday. The church was overflowing once again and we were very lucky to have someone as wonderful as Fr Stanley celebrate it for us. I would also like to thank Fr Peter and Fr James for the support and guidance they have given our school over the past year.

On behalf of my family I would like to thank the whole St Joseph’s community for your thoughts and prayers over the last few weeks. I hope you all have a wonderful time together this Christmas season and find the time to stop and remember how special we all are.

Michael Robertson
Assistant Principal (Religious Education)
Our Star Student of the Week is Gabby (3B)

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

**NOVEMBER STAR CLASS AWARD**

Congratulations to 2W who received the Certificate for the Highest Percentage of Active School Travellers for 2013.

2W averaged 54% of the class travelling To and From school every week. Well done!

**WEDNESDAY SURVEYS**

Congratulations to the winners of last week’s Wednesday Active Travel Survey.

1st – 2B – 32%
2nd – 5B – 31%
3rd – 1W – 27%

**WALKING SCHOOL BUS – EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN 2014**

In past years, volunteers have operated a walking school bus every afternoon from school to Bowman Park. The bus has been very successful in past years, helping to alleviate traffic around the school, and making parking and pick up at Bowman Park a lot easier. Mr Robertson has also operated a successful Park N Strike on various Wednesday mornings from Bowman Park to school.

As AST coordinator, I have decided to volunteer as Walking School Bus coordinator for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in 2014. We would ideally like to operate the walking school bus each afternoon, so are still calling for expressions of interest for the other days of the week.

As coordinator I will be responsible for taking student registrations, liaising with parents, organising other parent volunteer walkers and leading the school bus from school but I NEED YOUR HELP! For the Walking School Bus to be a success there needs to be at least one and preferably two parent helpers on each day. If we get enough volunteers, then we can set up a roster so that you don’t need to commit to every week.

If anyone is interested, please contact Christine Brown on 0406 425561 or mickandchris@mail.com.au
ST JOSEPH’S CHESS CLUB

Every Monday afternoon this year, some very dedicated St Joseph’s students across all year levels, have met in the library, in a bid to learn how to play the strategic and complex game of chess. They have been skilfully tutored by Anton, Murray, Vicki and Debbie from Gardiner Chess. They have learnt what the pieces are, how they move, the ‘four move check mate’ and studied some very famous games in order to improve their game. Their interest and dedication in learning more about chess has been impressive.

Earlier in Term 4, St Joseph’s School was represented by Maya (Year 4) and Ben (Prep) at the Individual Primary School Chess Competition. Both children thoroughly enjoyed the day and returned very keen to participate in future competitions. A special thank you is extended to Maya’s grandfather who accompanied them.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Victoria Versace (Ben – Prep & Lucia – Year 2) who has helped supervise Chess Club throughout the year. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

Next year Chess Club will be held during Term 2 and 3, so keep a close eye on the school newsletter in the New Year for more details.

Wishing you all a very happy and merry Christmas – Mrs Jane Robinson (St. Joseph’s Chess Club Coordinator)

SPORT NEWS

Congratulations to the 12 students who participated in the Queensland Primary School Invitational Swimming Carnival on Friday 22nd November at Chandler Pool. St Joseph’s was represented with a Junior Girls team (Ella, Lucinda, Chloe and Abbey), Junior Boys team (Sam, Sam, Luca and James) and Senior Girls team (Bianca, Georgia, April and Simona). The teams competed in a 4 * Freestyle Relay and a 4 * Medley Relay. The great results are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR GIRLS</th>
<th>JUNIOR BOYS</th>
<th>SENIOR BOYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 * FREESTYLE</td>
<td>19th of 39 competitors</td>
<td>16th of 31 competitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 * MEDLEY</td>
<td>14th of 34 competitors</td>
<td>18th of 28 competitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISTRICT SWIMMING

Nominations for the North West District Swimming Carnival are needed in the first week back of school next year. The Carnival will be held on Friday 14th February at Samford State School. If your child is 10 years or above and is interested in nominating for this Carnival it is advisable to continue squad swimming throughout the holidays. Please look out for more information in the 1st newsletter in 2014.

If you are on Facebook we would love you to 'Like us' as this will be one more way that we will communicate P and F news to you.

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**P&F Minutes, Agenda & Principal’s Report Available on Website**

On the Menu Bar, Click into About Us, Community, Parents and Friends, make your choice from the Menu, then download the appropriate file, press Ctrl and click into:

- P & F Minutes of Meeting: P & F Meeting Agenda: Principal’s Report:
- Fair News: P & F Constitution:

The Files will be uploaded to the site as the documents become available.

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**Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Thankyou for a great year of support for the St Joeys Second Hand Uniform Shop. We have enjoyed meeting both new and old parents of the school community, and hope that more families are getting to know us and the second hand uniform shop.

The Christmas break is the perfect time to clean out the school wardrobe. Bag up your cast offs, bring them to the school office or send them in with a friend in the first week back at school, we would love to have them!!

The shop will be open in the **morning of Friday 31st January** to accept donations and trade, but keep watching the school newsletter for our open details each month.

Merry Christmas and safe holidays.
Clarissa and Carolyn xx

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**Care and Concern Thank-You**

Just a note to say thanks to all the families who have prepared Care and Concern meals throughout the year. Your kindness has gone a long way and has been much appreciated. Also thanks to school office for helping to co-ordinate the food collections.

May you all have a safe and restful Christmas break. Prayers and best wishes to you all.

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A big thank you to all the hard working kids and to the teachers/parents who gave their time to help out in the garden. We have had some bumper crops and fresh produce shared by many. All the help, care and laughs has been really appreciated.

Love from Mrs Harden from the school garden.
Ceremony of Carols - St Brigid’s Church, Musgrave Rd Red Hill
Sunday, 15th December 2013, 7.00pm

St Brigid’s church, with its choir and organ in the beautiful acoustics, is once again set to spread the spirit of Christmas. Beginning with the church in darkness with only candle light, the choir will perform arrangements of carols, as well as leading the community in singing a number of well loved carols.

There will also be readings, and a beautiful string ensemble performance of Corelli’s Christmas Concerto. Supper will follow the ceremony.

We’re raising funds for the Jubilee Parish Refugee Support Group, as well as funds to support the music at St Brigid’s, and there will be an opportunity to give if you wish.

Parking is available in the church yard, accessed from Musgrave Rd.

Christmas Pageant – St Mary Magdalene’s Church

Baby Jesus lying in the hay, Mary and Joseph, the stable, the Angels, the donkey - these are all facets of Christmas that appeal to the minds and the hearts of children. Being a part of the Christmas Pageant allows children to fully appreciate the real Spirit of Christmas.

Christmas Present is made of memories of Christmas Past.

Christmas Eve Service will be held in the School Assembly Hall. The Service will begin at 4.00pm with the Christmas Pageant and Carols, followed by Mass at 4.30.

Children of all ages can be involved. Costumes are basic (no sewing required).

Rehearsals will be held on:

Monday 16th December at 9.00am Thursday 19th at 9.00am.

If you can’t make it to both, then make the one that suits you, but please let me know of your intentions.

Anyone acting in a major speaking role will be required at ALL rehearsals.

Dress Rehearsal will be at 9.00am on Monday 23rd (essential).

Guitar Lessons 2014
There are spaces for guitar lessons in 2014.
Please contact Eleanor at angel.eleanor@gmail.com for information.

Piano/Keyboard Lessons for 2014
There will be a few vacancies for piano/keyboard lessons at the school for the coming year.
If any parents are interested in lessons for their child—please contact Mrs Janice Oostenbroek Ph 3371 4543.

For Sale
Brand new St Joseph’s Back Pack and two hats for sale. Prices negotiable and can be picked up from the school office.

The Gap Health and Racquet Player of the Week is Gianluca
“Congratulations this week to Gianluca for his excellent on-court behaviour as well the improvements he has shown to his forehand and pro serve. Well done Gianluca!”

Lloyd Davies (Coach)