Welcome for 2015

Dear St Joseph’s Community

What an exciting time as our students embark on their 2015 educational journey; one we will celebrate together in humility, care and respect. All practices within our school are driven by our School Vision Statement: *As a Christ centred learning community, inspired by the Franciscan values of humility, care and respect, St Joseph’s strives for equity and excellence in education.* Last week, at our Professional Learning Days, our staff reflected on our unique and distinctive school culture and together established goals for our year ahead. One of these identified goals is authentically living our Vision and Mission as together we continue to build a truly welcoming, inclusive school community; where equity and excellence in quality education is our shared outcome.

In 2015, we welcome our new teachers; Teresa Jirasek (Prep G), Simone Bannan (Year 3B) and Lucy Walker (Year 4B) and welcome back Meghan Bach (Year 2W) and Michelle Johnson (Year 6B) who join our 2015 professional learning community. Amy Heshusius (APRE) and I have been inspired by our staff community who have been extremely professional, generous and supportive as we begin our journey of leadership in this wonderful community. A highlight was our combined day with sister schools in our Jubilee Parish of St Ambrose and St Finbarr’s where our 3 staffs combined to celebrate Eucharist led by Fr Peter, Fr Stanley and Fr Josen. The theme of “light”; reflective of the International Year of Light; unified our roles as educators to challenge ourselves and others to be the light of Christ.

This week, I am proud to welcome 9 new families as well as 71 new prep faces. Correspondence will come home from your child’s teacher welcoming students and their families to these first few weeks of the term. This communication will provide important information in helping to make the transition as smooth as possible for our learners. Parent Nights will be organised in a few weeks and these evenings will provide information pertaining to curriculum and the year of learning ahead.

Another recognised focus for 2015 is school resourcing. At St Joseph’s we are about high quality education and this includes reviewing resourcing in our school, both physically and in the professional capital of our staff. Over the holiday break; some classrooms were painted, new carpet and new furniture were organised as well as a sandstone wall and new fencing installed near our oval. New laptops have been distributed to assist teachers in their pedagogical approach. Technologies, a new Australian Curriculum subject will be a learning emphasis for 2015 in preparation for 2016 where planning, assessing and reporting in this subject will be implemented. This Friday, Mr Gerry Conway, our Brisbane Catholic Education Manager of Building Services will be visiting to give some feedback on our Roundabout Zone, signage and the pathway from Prep to our Roundabout Zone. Next week, Mrs Hedwig Shears, an Art Specialist will be visiting. In 2015, we will be working on collaborative Visual Artworks that will depict our school culture that will be displayed physically in our environment. Her first project is working with our Prep team and Prep students in a combined Art piece in the Prep area.

Thank you to our P&F team, and the wonderful volunteers who organised our “Tissues & Tears” morning tea. This was an opportunity to meet some new faces as well as a time to catch up with past friends. We really look forward to our P&F Welcome BBQ on Friday 6th February; a great social initiative so please put this date in your diary.
Other dates:
Wednesday 4th February : Whole School Welcome Mass at 9.00am
Friday 6th February:  P&F Welcome BBQ 5.00pm to 7.00pm (Bar - cash only)
Monday 9th February:  Tuckshop commences
Tuesday 10th February:  P&F Meeting
Monday 16th February:  Our first school assembly 8.35am in our school hall

School assemblies will be every Monday at 8.35am in our school hall. We will not start school assemblies until Monday 16th February. Swimming starts for our Years 3 to 6 on 5th February to 26th March at the Taylor Range Country Club. Our Swimming Carnival will be on Tuesday 3rd March. Next week, we will post onto our school website an overview of Term 1 dates so you can lock in all important dates. Today, important correspondence is being sent home pertaining to After School Arrangements. I would ask for your prompt attention returning these slips to the class teacher as soon as possible.

Next week, our Year 4 students will begin one-to-one “Boot Camp” as they become familiar with their devices. This is a new pedagogical approach for these students as they engage with the Curriculum. We welcome some external experts as well as our dedicated Year 4 teachers who will guide students through general orientation, set up, Digital Citizenship and Cyber safety. A whole school approach to Cyber safety is an element we will direct attention to as our students develop their ICT capability as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school. Resourcing in this area to support will be priority.

As our new year begins, I look forward to meeting our students, who are at the heart of all decision making, and our parents who will journey in partnership as we fulfil our Vision at St Joseph’s. One of the most important elements of a great school is the partnership between the school and parents. This positive connection and relationship is one of the exceptional strengths of St Joseph’s, Bardon.

In 2015, we will nurture, challenge and inspire our students to shine in all areas of school life.

Best wishes
Fran
Principal
Save the Date

The Joey’s welcome Barbecue

In the Undercroft Bar and BBQ
Friday 6th February
5.00pm to 7.00pm

Let’s welcome new families and catch up with friends

Click here to RSVP