What teachers want you to know....

Tonight sees the first of our Parent Information Meetings, a time set aside annually for you to meet your child’s teacher and to hear some of what they have planned for the coming year. You will be given a curriculum overview and hear about various aspects of school life though perhaps the most important aspect of attending the meeting, is the message you are giving both to your child and to the teacher......I am interested! We are a team!

I thought I would have my ‘two cents worth’ too as I believe the following sums up good practice! (Acknowledgement: “What Teachers Wish You Knew.” Lisa Collier Cool)

Don’t be a stranger! Talk to your child’s teacher early and when you feel the need. Parent-teacher interviews shouldn't be the only time you connect.

Learning doesn’t stop at 3.30pm. You can help the teacher do a better job by encouraging your child to show you something they are working on at school. Every time your child gets a chance to show off what they know builds confidence.

Let your child make mistakes. Teachers don’t want perfect students; they want students who try hard. Sometimes parents think homework has to be done exactly right, and can put too much pressure on their children. But it’s okay for children to get some things wrong....and for the teacher to see what they don’t know.

Teachers are on your side - give them the benefit of the doubt. If your child is having a grizzle about their teacher, don’t go into ‘blame’ mode or attack. This is where a good relationship helps as a quick chat can usually sort things out before it all escalates.

Keep your child organised. Most teachers have to spend far too much time tracking down pencils. It’s a good idea to have your children empty their bags every day as part of a regular after-school routine. Look for anything that needs to be returned and have extra supplies on hand so your child doesn’t go to school without their ‘tools of the trade’.

If the teacher deserves praise, give it. Teaching isn’t easy so its incredibly uplifting when someone takes the time to say ‘thank you’. Why not email when your child enjoys a class event.... and if you think the teacher is doing a good job, let me know!

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and hopefully, at next week’s P&F AGM!

May God bless you and yours this week!

Mary Pont

PRINCIPAL
**APRE NEWS**

**Project Compassion 2012**

In 2012, Project compassion carries a simple, yet insightful message “If you want Peace, work for Justice” – Pope Paul VI.

Next week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Each class will receive a collection box this Friday and these will be monitored weekly by the Yr 7 Justice and Peace Committee.

Justice and Peace is our doing – help us embrace Project Compassion in 2012.

**Pancake Tuesday – A Whole School approach to Project Compassion**

We will have a whole school approach to our Project Compassion collection next Tuesday – Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday). We are asking for the parent contacts of each class to coordinate the donation of plates of pancakes for each class.

All children are asked to make a donation of a gold coin to Project Compassion and join their classmates at morning tea eating pancakes.

**UNSW Competitions 2012**

Every year, competitions in English, Mathematics, Science etc. are run by the University of New South Wales for students in years 4 – 7. They are a one day “snap-shot” in these curriculum areas and are conducted throughout Australasia. This is an opportunity for students to participate in test-like conditions. Every child entering receives a certificate and their results.

The entry fee is $7.70 per student per test in 2012. Participation is not compulsory, however, they also provide an opportunity for students to gauge their performance against others beyond the School / State.

Please follow these steps if you wish your child to participate:

1. Complete the attached form and return to the school office with $7.70 per student per test by Wednesday March 28th, 2012.
3. Mark on your calendar the following competition dates at St. Joseph’s School:
   - Science – Monday 4th June, 2012
   - English – Monday 30th July, 2012

If there are any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

*Narelle Harney*  APRE.

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**The University of NSW Australian Schools Competition 2012**

I/We wish to nominate ____________________________ Class______ for:

(Please tick the appropriate boxes)

- [ ] Australian Schools Science Competition: Monday 4th June, 2012. Cost $7.70

The Total Competition Entry Fee of $________ is included.

NOTE : CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES WITH PAYMENT IS WEDNESDAY MARCH 28TH, 2012.

I/We understand that if our child is absent on the day of competition – then the entry fee will not be refunded.

Signed:________________________________________________ (Parent/ Caregiver)
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Prep J  Chanar Marks - for being a wonderful leader in his group and very helpful to others. He shows kindness and listens well in class.
Prep S  Piper Tomasini - for working so hard during guided reading groups. Piper has worked very hard at learning and remembering her first 3 sight words. Well done Piper.
1J  Isabella Norval - for always following the rules of our classroom covenant. Isabella is an excellent role model for other students because she quietly goes about her work with diligence and pride. Thank you Isabella, you are an asset to 1J.
1S  Jacob Sims - For working hard in Yr 1 and this is really showing in his wonderful writing.
2J  Molly Vogler - Beautiful student in every way. Polite, responsible and caring.
2S  Jazerah Bettles - for the hard work you have been putting in each day with Miss Jenny to learn your sight words. We are so proud of how well you are reading them to us. Keep up the hard work Jaz. What a great start to the school year!
3J  Max Twomey - for all the knowledge and wisdom he brings to Year 3 classroom and especially when helping fix problems with interactive whiteboards. Well done Max.
3S  Noah Brown - for an excellent attitude to learning and always having a go. Keep it up Noah!
4J  Jackson Ponder - for always using beautiful manners. Your happy, cheerful personality helps make our classroom a pleasant place to be.
4S  Mitchell Woodhouse - for perseverance and determination to succeed when working on new concepts. Well done Mitchell.
5J  Zariah Lamont - for the effort she is putting into her school work and for trying really hard to be on time for class. Well done Zariah.
5S  Jack Beetson - for showing great maturity in his attitude and commitment to his school work. Jack has embraced the tenets of our class covenant with enthusiasm and is accepting and considerate of everyone in 5S.
6J  Adele Wight - for working consistently in all her classes, particularly mathematics and especially the work on circles. It would have been easy to give in, but Adele did not. Well done Adele! You are going to go so far with such a wonderful attitude.
6S  Caitlin De Paoli - for her zest for learning and friendly nature makes her a valuable member of 6S.
7J  Sophie Lever-Zabellan - Sophie is a very enthusiastic student who is showing true leadership qualities. Her involvement in class activities is excellent. Sophie’s hand is always up to either answer questions or to ask them. Keep up this fine effort, Sophie.
7S  Eric Domjahn - for the excellent effort you’ve put into your homework so far this year for your thoughtful contributions to our 7S science and history lessons. You are truly appreciated Eric!

PE Award : to Lachlan Back (2J) for demonstrating excellent soccer skills in HPE. When moving with the ball, Lachlan can control the ball with speed and when striking the ball he does so with power and accuracy. Well done Lachlan.

Literacy Award (Cathie Menck) : To Lani Geppert (Yr 1J), a great reader and writer who really knows how to make great use of her personal dictionary.
ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

From the 27th of February the website will open for the Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project. Our school is a pilot school among 50 Catholic schools nationally for this significant project. It will help us to determine the real values and identity of our school population and the directions that our school can take in the future.

Your voice is important. The survey is in four parts and it will take about 40 minutes to complete. You can do each section one at a time and return later if you are short of time. Further details on internet access and how to contribute to this survey will be made available over the coming weeks.

FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Kids Matter!

School is not only about reading, writing and arithmetic. It’s also about making friends, learning how to work with others, and knowing how to be more responsible for yourself.

Knowing how to manage feelings and get on with others are important skills for everyone. This kind of learning starts in early childhood with parents and carers as children’s most important first teachers.

Research has found that teaching children social and emotional skills at school as well as at home makes a positive difference to their wellbeing. Social and emotional skills help school children settle in the classroom and get on with learning. Useful skills to learn include:

- coping with frustrations or worries
- getting along with others
- solving problems.

The kinds of social and emotional skills that are important for children to develop have been identified by researchers as:

**Self-awareness**
- understanding feelings; developing self-confidence

**Social awareness**
- respecting and understanding others, and appreciating differences between people

**Self-management**
- managing emotions, and being able to set goals and stick to them

**Responsible decision making**
- choosing wisely and thoughtfully

**Relationship skills**
- cooperating, communicating, making friends and resolving conflict.

As parents you have a critical role to play in supporting children’s social and emotional learning throughout the school years. At St Joseph’s, we understand how important social and emotional skills are for the lifelong learning of every student. Over the course of this year we will begin the process of adopting a whole of school approach to this important area. This approach is called ‘KidsMatter’ which provides a framework from which we can consolidate the wonderful things already happening at St Joseph’s, but also from which to evaluate ways to improve the delivery of social and emotional learning. I encourage you to visit the KidsMatter website, [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary) and take a look at some of the resources available for parents.

Andrew Wood  (Guidance Counsellor)
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
We offer the following students birthday blessings on their special day!
Feb 13 Ebony Brown - Rossano Bugg - Jarvis Hendricks - Brittany Stark
14 Alyssa Chemello - Pia Lever-Zabellan - Sophie Lever-Zabellan - Lachlan Renshaw
15 Lucy Hawthorne - Erin Hawthorne - Mahalia Anne Smith - Xander Sutton
17 Colby Cummins
18 Corey Sellies
19 Parker Connolly

MUSIC NEWS
All our groups have started and it’s wonderful to see students giving it a go and getting involved.

A reminder that Junior Joeys come to the music room with their lunch at 1pm and are to stop eating at 1.10pm to start singing.

Senior Singers this week will be held in the music room with the Year 4’s only at noon to 12.30pm and the Year 5, 6 & 7’s at 12.30 to 1pm.

The band practices this week are the Rock/Lit Band at 1pm and the Pops Ensemble at 2pm.

All students in the Yr 4 Instrumental Immersion Program should have their instrument for Wednesdays. Please remember to fill in your home practise table and get your parent to sign it.

MISSING - 2 ¾ size guitars. Could you have one at home? They have coloured dots on the fingerboards. Please return to the music room.

Keep singing!
Paula Simpson (Music Specialist)

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS....1J
Hello Everyone from 1J
We are learning all about what it means to be a member of the St Joseph’s school community. We are getting to know the rules of our classroom and that of our school so we can enjoy a safe and happy learning environment. This term we are focussing on how to write in the blue and red lines of our handwriting books and doing really well. In maths we are learning to count to 100 and using different things to measure items around our classroom. As budding scientists, our focus this term is about the chemical changes that happen when food is heated and cooled. We will explore how cooking or freezing effects the properties of things like popcorn, iceblocks and chocolate... Yummy!! In addition to all that, our Religion focus is all about Mystery and Wonder. Our books are almost finished, which show how God created a beautiful world.

Keep a look out in the library where they will be on display for everyone to have a look at.

See you later and God Bless.

CHESS
Congratulations Year 4J, who have scored this semester’s chess lessons with mentors Mr Vander Beek & Mr Finn Sorenson, as well as teachers Mrs Low and Mrs Devlin.

Lunch time chess lessons have also begun this week - welcome to those who came. I hope to see you again next week.

Due to huge numbers of Year 4 - 7, I have had to change Year 3 to Thursday lunch. Sorry for this but WOW, such enthusiasm.

Keep practising!
Dorothy Devlin.
(Enhancement Teacher)

BOOK CLUB
I have a mystery buyer of a Lucky Book costing $10.
No Name was attached and the money was folded up in the order.
Please contact the office if this is yours!
Dorothy Devlin
(Book Club Coordinator)
TUCKSHOP
Hello from the Tuckshop!

Thankyou to the Year 3 families who helped out last week. Your yummy homebaking is much appreciated as are your helping hands! Please remember that you don't have to stay for long at tuckshop to be a help. If you only have half an hour, or even 15 mins to spare, you can be a help, especially in the mornings after drop off...don't be shy, we are very friendly! **Year 4 families** are on deck this week and we look forward to welcoming them.

Please remember to double check that your child's class is accurate when ordering from the flexischools site. There has been a few muddles with the new year & new classes! We had almost 200 orders online last Friday, which is such a great response!  
(www.flexischools.com.au/ is where you need to register for those of you who haven't tried it!)

This Week:
- **Special**: Mexican Meatball Wrap mild mexicana meatballs wrapped with salsa & cheese  
- **Homebake & Helpers**: Year 4

Next Week:
- **Special**: Crunchy Chicken Drumsticks oven baked & served with a small salad  
- **Homebake & Helpers**: Year 5

Remember... Tuckshop only happens with your help!

Lee Etheridge  
Tuckshop Convenor

Nude Food Day is Coming!!

On **Tuesday 21st February**, we are asking that all kids (and parents) think about what’s going into their lunch boxes and **CUT OUT THE WASTE**!

That’s right! Next Tuesday, bring your lunch and snacks to school wrapper free.

Did you know that one household produces 1.14 tonnes of waste per year, and lots of that ends up in our water systems?

So become environmentally aware and do your bit towards creating a cleaner, greener world.

*Nude Food is Cool!*

HAVE YOU RETURNED....
1. Your Family Information Form (even if there are no changes)?
2. Your child’s Internet Agreement Form?
3. Inclusion in the P&F Contact Book form?

All are due by this Friday, 17 February.

UNIFORM SHOP  
Hours are 8am - 9am
Next Days: Thursday 16th Feb & Tuesday 21st Feb
Glenys Appleby  
Uniform Shop Coordinator

PARENT CONTACT GROUP
Thanks to the many parents who have already ‘put up their hand’ to be their child’s class Parent Contact for the year! We only need 5 more for.... **Year 4J, 5S, 6J, 7S & 7J**.

Why not ask a friend and share the position?

Please notify your child’s teacher or the office. First meeting will be in the staffroom after assembly this Friday, 17 February 2012.

LIBRARY NEWS
Borrowing is now in full swing with times now decided. Here they are for your reference:

- Monday: 5J, 5S, 6S & 7J
- Tuesday: PJ, PS, 2S & 3S
- Wednesday: 1J, 1S, 2J, 4J & 7S
- Thursday: 3J, 4S & 6J

This week the children in Years 6 & 7 have been given the opportunity to participate in this year’s Readers Cup competition. If interest so far is anything to go by, it’s going to be big. Get those entry forms in soon and let’s start reading!

Applications have also been called for this year’s Library Assistants. Students in Years 5, 6 & 7 are eligible to apply and jobs are either done before school or at lunchtime. Please get your application in to me this week.

Cathie Menck (Teacher Librarian)

Parent Information Nights
- Wednesday Feb 15th – Prep & Year 1
- Thursday Feb 16th – Yrs 4 & 5
- Wednesday Feb 22nd – Years 2,3 & 7
- Thursday Feb 23rd – Yr 6
13 February 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Monday (20 February) the Australian Government will release its report of the *Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling*. This report is the first step towards the Government’s plan to introduce a new funding system for Australian schools from 2014 and it could have significant consequences for Catholic schools.

We believe it is vital that Catholic school communities are well informed of the facts about school funding and are able to constructively participate in the discussions that will follow the release of this report.

Some of the key facts about funding for Catholic schools are:

- Catholic schools educate 1 in 5 Australian children, yet on average operate with 10% less recurrent funding than government schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account (NB: ‘recurrent funding’ is the money received every year by a school for its day to day operations).
- On average, 53% of Catholic school income is provided by Federal government and 19% by State government, while 28% is contributed by parents and community.
- On average, Catholic schools receive just 73% of the annual recurrent government funding (per student) received by government schools. Catholic schools receive $7,708 per student while government schools receive $10,562 per student.
- Including government funding + parent contributions, Catholic schools have an average annual income of $10,008 per student, while government schools receive $11,132 per student and independent schools $13,711. (MySchool website 2011)
- Through parent and community contributions to schooling costs, Catholic schools deliver savings to Australian tax-payers of around $2.2 billion per year.

The school funding debate should not be reduced to an ‘us’ or ‘them’ argument. The success of Australia’s education system relies on children in all schooling sectors - Government, Catholic and Independent - receiving fair and equitable government support.

Fair and equitable government support for Catholic schools guarantees real parental choice in education. Catholic education authorities are seeking a modest increase in funding that will assist Catholic schools to build on their capacity to provide high quality education while keeping school fees as low as possible and striving to address educational disadvantage.

We encourage you to take note of the recommendations of the Gonski report and remain vigilant of the school funding policies that will be framed by government and opposition in the weeks that follow its release.

For further information we invite you to visit [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au) or contact your school principal or Diocesan education office if you have particular queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mike Byrne  
Executive Director  
Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Carmel Nash  
Executive Director  
Parents & Friends Federation
SAINTS NETBALL CLUB NAMBOUR

2012 Sign On
Thursday 16th Feb at Nambour Netball Courts
Players From Prep To Yr 7 Welcome
For more Info Call Kate Baker 0438761293

SIGNIFICANT DATES TERM 1

FEBRUARY
Wednesday 15th 5.30pm
Parent Info Meeting Prep & Year 1
Thursday 16th 5.30pm
Parent Info Meeting Years 4 & 5
Monday 20th P & F Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 22nd ASH WEDNESDAY
10.00am Mass Years 4-7
5.30pm
Parent Info Meeting Years 7, 2 & 3
Thursday 23rd 5.30pm
Parent Info Meeting Year 6
Friday 24th Assembly 7J

MARCH
Friday 2nd Assembly 7S
Friday 9th School Cross Country
Assembly 6S
Tuesday 13th School Photos
Friday 16th School Cross Country (Rain Day)
Assembly 4J
Sunday 17th St Patrick’s Day
Monday 19th Feast of St Joseph
9am Whole School Mass
Wednesday 21st Year 5 Camp till Friday 23rd
Friday 23rd Assembly 4S
Friday 30th Assembly 5J
Last Day of Term 1

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP
by Leeza Baric (Writer Editor Mentor)
Saturday 25th February from 9.45am to 4pm at Nambour Community Centre
Cnr James & Shearer Street. $100 includes morning and afternoon tea, workbook and gift.
Contact Leeza 0420 317 046

ST JOSEPH’S PARISH NAMBOUR
Ph: 5441 1034
Email: stjoenam@ozemail.com.au
Web: www.nambourcatholics.net

Wednesday 15th February
8.30am RCIA Group 2
9.30am Reconciliation
10.00am Mass; Year 7J
12.00pm Reconciliation Year 7S
7:00pm-9:30 Quilt Craft Group

Thursday 16th February
11.30am Liturgy at Hospital Chapel
7:00pm-8:00 Music Meeting

Friday 17th February
6.30am Mass
7-8.00am Rosary and Adoration in the Chapel
9.00am-12.30 Creative Art Group

Saturday 18th February
4.30-4.50pm Reconciliation
6.00pm Evening Mass for Sunday

Sunday 19th February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7.00am Mass
9.00am Mass
Baptism: Bella, Mia & Shane Evans (Kristy)
12.00pm-3.00 Nambour Cursillo Ultreya

Monday 20th February
8.00am Mass

Tuesday 21st February
7.00pm RCIA Group 1

Wednesday 22nd February Ash Wednesday
8.30am RCIA Group 2
9.30am Reconciliation
10.00am Mass; Years 4-7
12.00pm Reconciliation Year 6J
2.00pm Liturgy for lower primary
7.00pm Mass for Ash Wednesday
7:00pm-9:30 Quilt Craft Group

St Joseph’s Nambour
Confirmation/First Communion Program 2012
Enrolment forms for Children year 4 and older preparing for the Sacraments in 2012
are now available from the Parish Office or St Joseph’s Primary School Office
Enrolments close Friday 9th March 2012

Position for Cleaning
St Joseph’s Parish requires a cleaner for a small number of hours per week. Please contact Cecilia in the office 5441 1034
to register your interest and to discuss details further prior to Friday 10th February, 2012

St Joseph’s Parish Car Park
Parents/carers we understand the inconvenience of car parking for all at present however, please do not park in the Priest or
Parish Administration Car Parks when dropping off or collecting children from school. Your co-operation would be most appreciated. Thank you

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NAMBOUR LIBRARY NEWS
The Cookie Monster comes to Nambour. Come along and meet the Lovable and very Huggable Cookie Monster at Nambour Library on Friday 17 February at 3.30pm

SAINTS NETBALL CLUB NAMBOUR
2012 Sign On
Thursday 16th Feb at Nambour Netball Courts
Players From Prep To Yr 7 Welcome
For more Info Call Kate Baker 0438761293

NAMBOUR DISTRICT NETBALL TWILIGHT COMPETITION
Wednesday Evenings—Laidlaw Road—Woombye
Starting March 22nd Rounds at 6.30pm and 7.30pm
Grades for social and competitive with mixed and ladies teams.
Please contact Brenda 5441 1530 by 15th March