We wish to welcome back all families after the summer holidays and hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday period. We especially welcome our twenty Prep students and their families and other new students and families to the school – we look forward to working in partnership with you in our wonderful school community. To assist with the smooth transition into the new school year a Term Calendar and Class Term Overviews will be sent home next week. Also included in the body of the newsletter is the 2015 Staff List and the days classes have specialist subjects.

Over the summer holidays work has continued on our new Administration building. The building is about a month away from completion and I am sure that you are starting to see it all taking shape (and colour). The architects selected the purple to pick up the colours of the mural that was on the front wall (picture below) which blended purple with green (and surrounded by blue). They also selected the colours to reflect our liturgical seasons: Green – Ordinary Time and Purple – Advent, Lent and other special Sacraments and feast days. Our aim is that we will have fully moved into this building for the commencement of Term 2.

On Saturday, 14th February we have our Opening of School Year Mass at 6.00pm in the church. We invite all families to share in this liturgy to welcome the new school year. At this Mass our Year 6 students will be presented with their leadership jackets and our Prep students will be presented to the school and parish community. Mass will be followed by a BBQ dinner. We look forward to seeing all families there on the night.
Next Monday, 9th February is the Reconciliation Parents Reflection Night at 7.30pm in the church. If you have a child in Year 3 that is wishing to make this Sacrament (or Years 4-6 who have not previously made this Sacrament) it is compulsory that at least one parent attend this meeting. As part of the preparation for this Sacrament students MUST attend one of the Reconciliation Commitment Masses on the weekend of the 14th (Opening of School Year Mass) and 15th February.

Our first School Improvement Committee (SIC) meeting will be held next Monday, 9th February at 6.00pm to plan for our first Working Bee on Saturday, 21st February. Anyone interested in joining our SIC Committee is most welcome to attend.

Our Parent Teacher Chats will be held on Tuesday, 17th February. These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to gather information about the students in their classroom from their parents. School concludes at 1.00pm on this day to allow staff to meet with all families. Notes will go home this week further explaining the Parent Teacher Chats. Bookings will again be completed by families online or by contacting the office if you do not have this facility.

During the coming days all students will receive a “Cybersafety Use Agreement”. Could you please take time to go through this in detail with your child(ren) before signing and returning this to school. Students will be restricted from using the internet at school for lessons until this form is received.

Students must wear correct school uniform to school each day. Students are not permitted to wear runners to school unless it is their sports day. Students not in correct uniform must bring a note from parents. Simple earrings and watches are the only acceptable jewellery. Chains, dangling earrings and bracelets are a safety issue especially on the playground. Make up and nail polish are also not to be worn at school.

St Joseph’s School is a SunSmart School - All students are required to wear an appropriate SunSmart school hat at all times between 1st September and 30th April when they are outside at play. Students without hats are required to sit in the designated shaded area during recess, lunchtime and during sporting or other outdoor activities.

Can you please ensure that your child’s clothing and belongings are clearly named. Already in a week we have found “new” clothes left outside and placed in the Lost Property basket. I appreciate that families spend good money to purchase school uniforms – if they are named we can hopefully return them to their owners.

To encourage independence in your child we ask you allow them to carry their own bags, to pack and unpack their own belongings and to follow classroom routines at the start and end of each day. Although it is often easier to do these things for them this does not allow your child to be independent and take on these simple responsibilities. It is also important that if you see your child to the classroom (and you are not staying as a classroom helper) that you leave promptly to allow your child and the class to settle into their daily program.

Students arriving late to school MUST be brought to the office by their parent and have a late arrival form filled in and signed. This is not only a legal requirement but also is essential if there was an emergency evacuation. School rolls are completed at the start of the day and with-
out this late arrival form being completed there is no record that your child is on the premises. If you are picking up your child before the end of the school day, you will need to fill in an early dismissal form at the office and take it to your child’s classroom when collecting your child. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

At the end of the school day, children can be met at their classroom, or alternatively they will walk to the designated pick up area located in the lower car park in front of the hall. A teacher will be on duty until 3.45pm. Supervision of students is from 8.30am—3.45pm. If your child has not been collected by 3.45pm they will be brought up to the office.

If your child is celebrating a birthday and you wish to bring along food to share, this must be prearranged with the class teacher. When planning this staff need to take into account food allergies and special dietary requirements. Prearrangement is crucial as we have students in the school who are Anaphylactic, a severe peanut allergy which is life-threatening. Students are also reminded not to share any food or drink as we have students with severe food allergies and Anaphylaxis. We ask to avoid providing Peanut Butter and Nut products in your child’s lunch to support these students. Please also discuss and stress with your child/ren the importance of washing hands following eating.

Thank you to Parents & Friends for organising and funding the Coffee van on Monday to Welcome Back families. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying a coffee and chat, and a lovely way to welcome our new families to our school community.

Finally, before school commences each day teachers are preparing for and focusing on their day with their students. Unless prearranged this is not the most practical time for an unscheduled meeting. At St Joseph’s School the teachers are very approachable and always happy to meet with parents to discuss any concerns, however, at the start of the day their focus must be on their teaching and their students. To make a suitable time to meet, please arrange this with the class teacher or contact the office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Once again welcome back and we look forward to a great year!

Peter Vanstan

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Hello Everybody,

Welcome back to yet another very busy year at St. Joseph’s. Next Monday night (February 9) at 7.30pm there is a Parent Reflection Meeting for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you wish your child to make their First Reconciliation, then your attendance is compulsory.

Saturday (February 14) at 6.00pm is the Opening of the School Year Mass. At this mass the Year Six students will be presented with their leadership jackets, our new Prep students will be introduced to our parish community and the Year Three children who will be making their First Reconciliation, it is also their Commitment Mass weekend. Our wonderful School Choir will be singing as well. I hope see everybody at our Opening of the School Mass next Saturday.

Yours in Faith,

Nerida Byrden
ST. JOSEPH’S SCHOOL 2015 STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr. Mirek Knap
Principal: Peter Vanstan
Deputy Principal/ Student Services: Leonie Sheehy
Administration Officers: Marg Booth
Gayle Ashdowne
Religious Education Leader: Nerida Byrden
Learning & Teaching Leader (Literacy): Jenny Small
Learning & Teaching Leader (Maths): Sandra Anderson
Student Wellbeing Leader: Liz Miller
Prep Kylie Hare
Year 1/2 A Sandra Anderson
Year 1/2 B Georgina Bennett
Year 3/4 BK Nerida Byrden (M, T, W) Julie Klep (Th, Fri)
Year 3/4 H Belinda Harman
Year 5/6 D Maree Davis
Year 5/6 SM Jenny Small (M, T, W) Liz Miller (Th, Fri)
Reading Recovery Teacher: Anne Baumann
PE: Anne Baumann
Liturgical Music: Marian Van Grieken
LOTE (Indonesian): Olivia Hutabarat
Visual Arts: Julie Klep
Learning Support Officers:
Junior: TBC, Maree Jones, Jenny Killian
Middle: Ryan Bruce, Fiona Dixon, Luke Lambert
Senior: Cathy D’Arcy Evans
Student Services support: Maree Jones
Kitchen Garden: Cathy D’Arcy Evans
Library Technician: Elaine Folino
Maintenance: David Amor
Cleaners: Edward and Mary Ann Mayarich
2015 Specialist Days

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<th>Physical Education (PE)</th>
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For all families new to St. Joseph’s we use the ‘bucket system to distribute correspondence. In each classroom there is a bucket where correspondence from school to home and from home to school is sent. The buckets are brought to the office at the beginning of the day and returned to the classroom at the end of the day. Fee payment, Uniform Shop Orders, Special Lunch Day Orders, Student Banking or any other correspondence can be sent to the office via this system. Please don’t hesitate to contact Marg or Gayle if you have any further questions.

Please contact the office if you have changed any of your personal details i.e. Phone number, address, emergency contact etc. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically you can do so by emailing your details to gash-downe@sjboronia.catholic.edu.au or filling out the form below.

The school newsletter is distributed each WEDNESDAY via email. All information for inclusion in the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 4pm to Gayle Ashdowne at gashdowne@sjboronia.catholic.edu.au.

The newsletter will also be placed on the school website: www.sjboronia.catholic.edu.au each Wednesday afternoon.

CDF Student Banking CDF SCHOOL BANKING DAY is every Tuesday. CDF encourages you to open an account for your child, to teach them about saving. As a practical sign of appreciation, there is a welcome gift for each child who opens a CDF Student Account. Further information /or an application form can be obtained from the office.

All students in Grades 3-6 require a diary. These can be purchased from the office for $3 if you haven’t already done so.

I would like to receive the school newsletter via email/hardcopy - please circle

Name:___________________________________________________________

Email address:__________________________________________________

Please return this form to the office via the bucket system Thank you.
Dear Parents,
Welcome back! I trust that you have had a relaxing break and that your children are enthusiastic and ready to begin a new year. This year, our overarching theme “Everybody Matters” will be the basis of all the learning undertaken at St Joe’s. The message that every student, every parent, and every staff member is a valued member of our vibrant community will underlie all our endeavours, and will be the inspiration behind all our wellbeing initiatives. With this in mind, our school will be undertaking the Kidsmatter Program - a framework that will help improve the wellbeing and mental health of our students. This program will support the existing programs we have at St Joe’s, which include the You Can Do It Program, Better Buddies, Healthy Together, Sip and Crunch, Meditation, Morning Fitness and the Kitchen Garden Program. In addition to this, we aim to continue the conversations with parents and families through the Parent Voice sessions. Working together, we will be able to improve the learning outcomes of all our children, and continue to build a community where “Everybody Matters”.
I look forward, with enthusiasm, to the exciting year ahead.
Have a great week.
Regards,
Liz Miller

RT=

Welcome back one and all to the new year. It was good to hear such positive feedback from students and parents regarding transition and testing sessions. Many of our students benefit greatly from small group sessions prior to beginning on Monday. The opportunity to orientate to a new teacher, class mates and learning environments, settles the initial nerves after the Christmas break.

Congratulations must go to the children who approached the testing with the confidence and persistence to have a go at completing all Literacy and Numeracy tasks. Prior to commencing any testing is the assurance that we are wanting to find out what each student can do, rather than what they cannot do. This allows us to tailor learning to the individual needs of each child. Learning is about building on what your child knows, tailoring learning needs to provide realistic challenges.

Visiting our new Foundation children on their first school day at school was an absolute pleasure. It was fantastic to join in and observe the engaging 'play' experiences and rich oral language exchanges afforded during these tasks. As we know, oral rehearsal precedes writing. Whilst it appears that your child is 'just playing', the thinking processes and social benefits are the most powerful learning vehicle in the early years of school. Play is often the window into a child's thinking.

We look forward to re-establishing partnerships with you this year, to ensure quality learning experiences for the children in our care.

Jenny Small
EXTRA CURRICULAR

AUDITIONS FOR THE GREEN AND GOLD SONGBIRDS (SCHOOL CHOIR) 2015 HAVE TAKEN PLACE
And what a fabulous group of singers we have!
If you are in Gr 3-6 and missed out on auditioning come and see Mrs. Ashdowne in the office to arrange a suitable time.
Choir takes place every Tuesday at 2.40pm!

COMMUNITY

We welcome to St. Joseph’s School the following families: Dalton, Delport, Dobson, Dorn, Fox, Kors, Richardson, Withana, Wakartschuk, Stafford & van Reenen. We hope that your time as part of our Faith Community is full of support, friendship and blessings.

Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday to Bailey Shaw, Ruby Bundy, Alexandra Kund, Lily Edwards, Áakash Gujral, Olivia Wakartschuk, Aaron Kelaita, Allegra Castrechini, Jasmine Buis, Lachy Dalton, Laurie Martin-gale, Brodie Genovesi, Clare Somuiel, Ella Williamson, Emily Hill, Max Westwood, Luke Smith, Aliza Montaldo, Mrs Ashdowne, Mr Lambert & Mrs D’Arcy Evans who have celebrated their birthdays during the holidays or are celebrating in the coming week.

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

If your child has achieved something notable as part of a club/hobby, we would love to acknowledge it in the newsletter. Information can be sent via email to: gashdowne@sjboronia.catholic.edu.au

FETE NEWS

OWN A BUSINESS OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?
The fete committee would like to offer your business an opportunity to sponsor our 2015 Fete. Three packages are available (Gold, Silver and Bronze) and these would allow your business name to become well known within the school community and by residents of surrounding suburbs. For more details on sponsoring or making a donation, please contact Anna Hawkins 0417053316

Like us on Facebook...https://www.facebook.com/st.josephs.fete for regular updates and news

TRASH & TREASURE
Please bring in your preloved items for our Trash & Treasure Stall (no clothes please). The fete box is now in front of the uniform shop! We would love you to drop your items off and they will be taken to the Parish in preparation for the trash and treasure stall at our Fete next year. Thank you in advance for your support.
The Fete Committee
All Families and Friends of St Joseph’s School Community

Are invited to our

OPENING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

ON

SATURDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2015

Commencing at 6.00pm

St Joseph’s Church, Boronia
Year 6 Students will be presented with their leadership jackets
Prep students will be introduced to the school and parish community
Year 3 students making their First Reconciliation will make a commitment at this Mass.

Mass will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle Dinner
(If you are able to assist with the BBQ on the evening please leave your name at the school office)

ENROL NOW FOR MUSIC LESSONS AT ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY

** MUSIC TUITION INCREASES CONFIDENCE, SELF ESTEEM AND HELPS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SUBJECTS – MATHS, LITERACY, SCIENCE, READING ETC **

ST JOSEPHS Primary School in association with Metro Music School is now offering Music Lessons to students who are interested in learning an instrument at school every week. Lessons are held during school hours (30 mins/once per week) at suitable times. (Prep to Gr 6) Enquiries are welcome on 9460 4818 (Metro Music School). Lessons Offered: KEYBOARD PIANO GUITAR SINGING

Discount Hiring and Purchase also available. Contact us for details or visit our online shop at www.metromusic.net.au