Principal’s Message

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of St Joseph’s College,

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT

As a principal and parent most of my waking hours are involved with children. I try to apply Gospel values and the example of Jesus in my dealings with them. In short, to make sure that the letter of the law is important but the spirit of the law more so.

The greatest challenge as parents that we have is to try and work out how we can live these gospel values. Here are some useful life tips.

1. The tennis principle - follow through
   Thou shalt do as you say you will. Children know where they stand when you are consistent and follow through.

2. The small mercies principle
   Expect children to help but don’t expect them to do so graciously all the time. Work comes after play in most children’s dictionaries.

3. The Vince Lombardi (gridiron coach) principle
   Remember that encouragement and praise will get children a lot further than criticism and punishment so be your child’s best encourager rather than his fiercest critic.

4. The get what you ask for principle
   Treat children as you want them to be. If you want responsible capable children then treat them as if they are responsible.

5. The elephant principle - have a thick hide
   Thou shalt take everything they say with a large grain of salt. Not that children lie, but they have been known to exaggerate or see facts only from their side.

6. The don’t miss the obvious principle
   Thou shalt say you love each of your children once a day. Knowing they are loveable is the basis of self-worth.

7. The Lord Nelson principle
   Thou shalt pay attention to your children’s positive behaviour more than their negative behaviour. What you focus on expands so if you focus on the positive behaviour that is what you generally get.

8. The self-imposed slavery principle
   Thou shalt never regularly do for a child the things he or she can do for him or herself. Remember your job is to make yourself redundant.

9. The reality principle
   Thou shalt set limits and boundaries for children and expect that they will push against them. Making life hard for parents is in many children’s job descriptions.

10. The mirror principle
    Thou shalt keep a sense of humour when dealing with children, as this will help you keep things in perspective. It may seem improbable some days but they will soon grow up and be out of your hair and be a living, breathing reflection of YOU.

God Bless

Eric Littler
Principal
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**WEEK 10**
**Monday 17 September**
Graduation Mass Practice
Year 11 End of Prelim Course Exams
(17-21 Sept)
Year 10 Marine Studies Excursion
(17-21 Sept)

**Tuesday 18 September**
Year 10 Community Service: St Martha’s
Centenary Celebrations of the Parish

**Thursday 20 September**
Year 12 2012 Graduation Mass and Prize Night

**Friday 21 September**
TERM 3 ENDS - This is a normal school day
Year 12 2012 Graduation Mass and Prize Night
Year 12 2012 Farewell Breakfast
Year 12 2012 Farewell Assembly
Years 7-10 Interim Reports posted

**Weekend**
Friday 21 September
Sausage sizzle with tea/coffee at interval
Saturday 22 September
Centenary Celebrations of the Parish

**Next week’s Newsletter**
(and the final one for this term)
will include the calendar for Term 4

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**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**
**Sunday 23 September**
Centenary Celebrations of the Parish of St Joseph’s Tweed Heads
Parish Picnic at St Joseph’s College
‘Pot Luck Lunch’ (Bring-a-plate)
12:00noon to 1:30pm
Followed by a free “Parish Concert”
commencing at 2:00pm
Sausage sizzle with tea/coffee at interval

**Sunday 30 September**
Centenary Celebrations of the Parish of St Joseph’s Tweed Heads
Morning Tea with the staff
at the Youth Service Office
following 9:00am Mass

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**“A Day with Mary MacKillop”**

In this ‘Year of Grace’, the Josephite Associates invite all teachers, staff, parents and their friends to spend a day reflecting on the Charism of St Mary MacKillop and how we can incorporate that Charism into our daily lives and the Mission of the Church.

We all need Role Models in our lives and who better than our own Australian St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, one of the patrons of the ‘Year of Grace’? Someone who experienced firsthand the very same things we do today; a dysfunctional family, too little money to make ends meet, homelessness, tragedy, grief, betrayal, as well as all the good things life has to offer.

St Mary MacKillop saw the Grace of God in every aspect of her life. A lesson we can all learn from looking at her life. An incredible Australian woman!

The day will be run by Josephite Sister, Christina Neunerling, an excellent facilitator, educator, musician and composer. Do yourself a favour and take “some time out” of your busy life and do something special for your Spiritual Life in this ‘Year of Grace’, come join us for this very special day.

WHERE: St John’s Hall Mullumbimby
WHEN: Saturday 13 October
TIME: 9:00am-3:30pm
COST: Donation. BYO lunch, tea, coffee and morning tea provided
TO REGISTER: Please call Jan Lang on (02) 6684.7241 before 17 September

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S NOTES**

**END OF TERM 3, 2012**
Term 3 ends next Friday, 21 September at 3:20pm.

Any parents wishing to commence their child’s vacation before this date should comply with the College policy regarding student leave, and on the leave form available from the College website.

Approval is given on a case-by-case basis.

**LEAVING ST JOSEPH’S COLLEGE**
Fourth term is a time when families make decisions about moving to a new area because of employment changes etc.

I would ask that all parents of students who will not be returning to St Joseph’s College in 2013 to please contact the Principal’s Secretary, Mrs Helen Baker on (07) 5524.9002 as soon as possible.

All students who leave St Joseph’s College are required to complete a Clearance Form.

**CLASS INTERRUPTIONS**
If your child asks you to drop any equipment into the College, including his/her computer, money, lunch, please remember that it is the responsibility of the child to report to Student Reception to collect it.

We do not interrupt class to pass messages on unless in the event of an emergency.

Please help us keep class disruptions to a minimum.

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**TEACHER APPOINTMENTS**

While we encourage contact between the College and our families, we do ask that parents first call the required teacher to make an appointment to see them.

Arriving without an appointment can sometimes lead to disappointment as the teacher you want to see may actually be teaching a class.

**Please note:**
- The final Term 3 Newsletter will be distributed to students on Monday 17 September, and will include the coming events of Term 4.
- On Friday 21 September we will be issuing a Special Edition of the College Newsletter celebrating the ‘St Joseph’s College Class of 2012’.

Mr Peter Lyon
Deputy Principal

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**TERM DATES 2012**
Term 3 concludes on Friday 21 September
Term 4 commences on Monday 8 October
Term 4 concludes on Friday 21 December
**Religious Education News**

For a few moments, I think of God’s veiled presence in things: in the elements, giving them existence; in plants, giving them life; in animals, giving them sensation; and finally, in me, giving me all this and more, making me a temple, a dwelling place of the Spirit.

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**Reading of the Week**

*Triumph of the Cross*

**Numbers 21:4-5**

Jesus said, “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

- There are times when, like the people in the desert, I wonder about God’s presence and providence.
- I pray for a deeper faith and for the ability to recognize God’s movements in my life. I pray with compassion for all those who struggle, for any who seek light in their lives at this moment.
- I ask God now to open my eyes to help me to see how I am blessed in ways that I may have come to think of as ordinary.

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**ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC PARISH**

**Tweed Heads**

**Catholic Presbytery**

Ph: (07) 5536.7522

**Parish Youth Mass**

There will be no Youth Mass on Sunday 30 September

The next Youth Mass will be held on Sunday, 28 October in the Holy Family Chapel, St Joseph’s College, Doyle Drive, Banora Point commencing at 5:30pm

Youth Mass Dates for the remainder of 2012 are as follows:

**TERM 4:**

- Week 7: Sunday 25 November

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**St Joseph’s Parish**

**Tweed Heads**

As part of our Centennial Celebrations

Join us for

**High Tea**

this Saturday,

**15 September 2012**

South Tweed Sports Club

4 Minjungbal Drive,

South Tweed

Tickets on sale for $30pp

We have a limited number available from the College Office if you would like to purchase a ticket for this event.

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**Year 9 News**

**FREE TUTORING**

Every Thursday afternoon from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in the College Library, Mr Malone and Mrs Borrowdale are in attendance to assist students with Mathematics.

This is a great opportunity for students to prepare for assessment items. It is also an ideal time to complete or work on upcoming assessments.

**Mr John Besgrove**

Year 9 Coordinator

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**Weekend Mass Times**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Joseph’s Parish</th>
<th>St Anthony’s Parish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday Vigil:</strong> 6:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Saturday Vigil:</strong> 6:00pm (Kingscliff)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday:</strong> 7:00am &amp; 9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Sunday:</strong> 7:00am (Pottsville)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday:</strong> 9:00am (Bilambil)</td>
<td><strong>Sunday:</strong> 9:00am (Kingscliff)</td>
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Fr Michael Brady

Parish Priest

Fr Jim Griffin

Parish Priest

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Students Absences: Please telephone the College between 7:45am and 9:30am on the day of the absence. A signed parental note is also required within seven days.
ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC PARISH
TWEED HEADS
Catholic Presbytery
Ph: (07) 5536.7522

SCHOOL FEES

The date to finalise school fees was 13 August and the Parish Schools Board would like to thank all families who have paid their fees in full or have set up an agreed payment plan.

It would be appreciated if all other families could arrange to finalise their accounts by the end of Term 3, or contact either Kim Lockley (07) 5536.3884 or John Klein (07) 5536.8701 to discuss payment options.

John Klein
Schools Finance Manager

FEAST
Future Experiences in Agriculture, Science and Technology

Milking the cows at the UQ dairy

Looking at the different types of pigment in leaves

FEAST is a five day camp which is held at UQ’s Gatton Campus in the July school holidays.

It allows students from Year 11 and 12 who are interested in the agriculture and looking to study at university to achieve job in the Agriculture industry. It also allows you to meet other people with similar interests, check out the facilities of UQ Gatton, experience living of halls of residency and talk to uni students in a range of courses.

Throughout the week I attended many workshops such as dairy, water quality testing, agribusiness and lab practical session. We had guest speakers talking to us about careers in Agriculture and real life graduates. We also spent a day touring around UQ St Lucia Campus and participating in more workshops.

From FEAST I gained a better understanding into the agriculture industry and clarified what courses I would like to study after Year 12. I also gained lots of valuable information and experiences which has help with my HSC Agriculture studies.

I would recommend FEAST to anyone that is interest in a career in Agriculture or interested in studying a cores at UQ Gatton Campus.

For further information go to: http://www.science.uq.edu.au/feast

Lucy Caltabiano, Year 12

ADFA Open Day
Saturday 25 August 2012

My family and I travelled to Canberra, ACT, to attend the Australian Defence Force Academy Open Day, on Saturday 25 August 2012.

The Open Day involved numerous defence displays exhibited by the ADFA cadets on the Parade Ground. These also included a fly over by the RAAF Roulettes, a number of ground based infantry attacks, a display by the RAAF Military Dogs, abseiling and a tough above pool obstacle course demonstration.

We also visited a number of course information sessions, run by the University of NSW and the staff at ADFA. An ex student of St. Joseph’s College, Xavier Ricketts who currently attends ADFA, studying an Arts Degree in the army, was kind enough to give up his time to show my family around the campus, showing the aspects of life at ADFA.

This was a great opportunity for myself to look into what life is like at the Australian Defence Force Academy, inspiring me to complete the HSC as best as I can.

Louis Oram, Year 12

‘You Have A Friend’

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>(Accompanying Adult in bold)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/9/12, T3, W9</td>
<td>Kendal Fitzgibbons, Catalynne Scott and <strong>Mr Chris Mason</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17/9/12, T3, W10</td>
<td>Daniel Lesslie, Rachel King and <strong>Mr Andrew Chambers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24/9/12, Hols</td>
<td>Jacob Godfrey, Lauren Stevens, Tamika Edwards and <strong>Ms Lynn Pymm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10/12, Hols</td>
<td>Taylor Fien, Joel Kachel, Mary Hinksman and Mr Scott McDermott</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/10/12, T4, W1</td>
<td>Tiarlee Bellhouse, Kacey Gambin and <strong>Mrs Louise Parker</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15/10/12, T4, W2</td>
<td>Carmen Curtis, Jessica Rutledge, Rory Clayton and <strong>Mr Jesse Carroll</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22/10/12, T4, W3</td>
<td>Ebony Serone, Olivia McLean, Rose Samuels and <strong>Mr Peter Serone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>29/10/12, T4, W4</td>
<td>Jasmin Hughes, Skye O’Halloran and <strong>Mrs Kerrie Connolly</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/11/12, T4, W5</td>
<td>Natasha Madsen-Gullison, Sam McWilliam and <strong>Ms Jenna Mepstead</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11/12, T4, W6</td>
<td>Amy Bacon, Will Yates and <strong>Mr Frank Malone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>19/11/12, T4, W7</td>
<td>Brooke Mallard, Ben Sullivan and <strong>Mrs Vicki Sargent</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>26/11/12, T4, W8</td>
<td>Harrison Steele, Jessica Mandall and <strong>Mr Chris Morrison</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/12/12, T4, W9</td>
<td>Jarrod Mathieu, Tahlia Breen and <strong>Mrs Michelle Delaney</strong></td>
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Students Absences: Please telephone the College between 7:45am and 9:30am on the day of the absence. A signed parental note is also required within seven days.
COMPETITION WINNERS FOR NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK
Well done and thank you to the many students who participated in the competitions in the library last week as a part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week celebrations.

Congratulations Louis Monaghan for winning the ‘Letters and Numbers’ competition, Emily Longworth for winning the ‘My Current Read’ competition and Rachel King for winning the ‘Jelly Bean Estimation’ competition.

Students participated in many class activities during the week including, problem solving, “How many class mates can fit into a square metre?”, playing ‘Bingo’, forum discussions on science articles from the COSMOS and Double Helix magazines, participating in ‘Speed Book dating’ and writing ‘Ten word stories’.

The following are the runners up and winner of ‘Ten word stories’:

- Compelled by love in a spontaneous moment, Catherine got married. (Vishani Khoosal)
- She then realised, little can be said in ten words. (Michaela McLeod)
- Bridgette walked slowly out of the alleyway, leaving her past behind. (Jordyn Gray)
- Your light goes out. A voice from behind, “Finally.” (James Yardley)
- Planning a holiday. Only problem is chronic lack of cash. (Mr Thorsby)
- Punched someone who is un-loved. Whoops! It is the mirror…. (Isabella Trew)

And the winner . . .

- The earless oil-painter was shunned; now we praise dead memories. (Liam Aiken)

Thank you to all the teachers and students who helped celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

Ms Fiona Murray
Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator
This year’s Night of Notables was an outstanding success!

Notables from all walks of life “visited” SJC for a few hours. This was the biggest group of eminent figures the College has seen in recent years. The standard of presentations was outstanding, overall. Visitors on the night were visibly impressed and full of praise for all the students involved.

All students in Year 9 should be proud of their efforts in making the 2012 Night of Notables a memorable event!

Mr Tim Connolly
English Teacher
Please see me about any of the following or any careers concerns you may have.

Mr Matt Hall
Careers Advisor

Earth n Sea Pizza & Pasta Coolangatta
are looking for a couple of delivery drivers/pizza makers. For the drivers, Earth n Sea supply the vehicles but the driver needs to have their manual car license ("P" plates are fine).

This is weekend and school holiday work.

Interested senior students can contact Fergus Sillar at fergus@earthnseapizza.com.au or by dropping into the restaurant after school on a week day.

Fergus Sillar 0414 496 259
Earth n Sea Pizza & Pasta

2012 LAW EXPERIENCE - REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!
Bond University’s Law Experience is a great program aimed at students who have an interest in legal studies or a career in law. The program provides budding lawyers with information on what it takes to study law and the diverse career options available.

While on campus students will:
- Find out first-hand what studying law is all about
- Discover special topics in law with our professors and legal specialists
- Engage in legal scenarios in our purpose built moot courtrooms
- Enjoy lunch and refreshments with current law students

During the course of the day, students will also be involved in a range of activities including a ‘client interview’ and a ‘mock trial’, which will demonstrate how legal skills are put into practice. The complimentary program is open to all high school students with teachers and parents welcome, but places are limited.

When: 9:00am - 3:00pm,
Saturday 15 September 2012

Where: Bond University

To view the 2012 program and register via the online form, please visit www.bond.edu.au/law-experience. Registrations close on Monday 10 September.

2012 DEFENCE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Earlier this year, students from this school applied for the 2012 Defence Technical Scholarship and it gives me great pleasure to announce the successful recipients here today.

The DTS Program commenced in 2009 and provides a financial incentive to eligible Year 11 and 12 students to stay at school and finish their education whilst undertaking Maths and English, and a trade or technical-related subject, suitable to further study and training for a technical trade in the Australian Defence Force. The Defence Technical Scholarship consists of an award of $3000 for Year 12 students.

To be successful for the Scholarship, winners had to complete an application demonstrating their knowledge of technical trades within the Australian Defence Force and describe in detail what they would do as a tradesperson in a real life crisis situation; on this occasion, the scenario was based on the provision of humanitarian support after a natural disaster affecting a neighbouring country.

Their applications went through a thorough and competitive selection process and they were up against well over 2,300 applications from across Australia.

Congratulations to Alex Mitchell, Will Yates and Josh Menz.

Attention: School Leavers

PRDnationwide Tweed Coast requires a Junior Receptionist to support the Sales & Property Management Team.

The successful candidate will need to have excellent communication, organisation skills and a willingness to learn. You will be liaising with customers and staff, therefore you will display yourself to us as a neat, bubbly and professional character.

A traineeship will be available to the right applicant.

If you are eager to take up the opportunity of this role, please email your resume and a cover letter to Amy Yuile using the details below or feel free to personally deliver your resume to our office at 1 Pearl Street, Kingscliff.

This is a full-time position with some Saturday work required. No previous experience required as this is a junior position. All applications are confidential.
PARTIES - WILL YOU ALLOW ALCOHOL AT YOUR ADOLESCENT’S PARTY?

Many parents and carers will be helping young people in their family celebrate birthdays, special occasions, finishing their school year or leaving school.

It is time for careful planning so that everyone enjoys themselves. Some parents may not be aware of their responsibilities in relation to supplying alcohol to under 18’s.

Regardless of where the function will be held, it is against the law to obtain, or supply alcohol to anyone under 18 years of age - even at private parties. This activity is called secondary supply of alcohol - an offence that carries a maximum penalty of $5,500 per offence or $11,000 and 12 months prison in very serious circumstances. On the spot fines of $550 can also be issued by police.

This information comes to you from the NSW Department of Liquor, Gaming and Racing. Check their website for further information: www.oldg.nsw.gov.au/liquor_info_young_peopl_e_2nd_party.asp

Points to consider:

- What do you do if an underage guest arrives with alcohol?
- What do you do if students arrive intoxicated?
- What do you do if your alcohol has been consumed during the course of the party?
- How can you plan a successful party that addresses these issues?

It is much easier to plan and control what happens at your next party if you follow some simple guidelines. Here are some suggestions that can make a difference:

- Ideally RSVP invitations should be issued, giving as many details as possible about times of starting and finishing, the nature of the party, a dress code, how it will be supervised and how guests will return home. Indicate guests will be required to bring supervised and how guests will return home. Indicate guests will be required to bring
- On the invitation, suggest guest parents contact host parents to fine tune details and discuss any concerns. This will ensure parents are not pressured against their better judgement and gives everyone permission to talk about supervision, safety, alcohol and drug issues etc.
- Have only one entrance or exit to make it easier to control who attends your party.
- Guests lists should be kept to a manageable size. If guest numbers are large, ask other parents to assist with supervision or consider hiring security personnel.
- Host parents need to be aware of appropriate return transport for guests and/or provide overnight, supervised accommodation.
- Make it clear in advance it is an alcohol free party. (Parents are reminded of the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing penalties cited earlier).
- Alcohol at parties is not easily supervised. Alcohol can easily be consumed in advance or mixed with soft drinks prior to the party.

Alcohol may be left outside in cars or hidden in bushes. Although these problems can occur, they are less likely if the party is well supervised.

- Confiscate BYO alcohol from under 18s. Return it to their parents or carers.
- If guests are a mixture of under and over 18s, there is less control over the consumption of alcohol. A nominated adult should serve alcohol.
- Actively serve non-salty food throughout the party. This will slow down alcohol consumption for those who are drinking.
- Attractive non-alcoholic drinks should always be provided. For example, "Mocktails", non-alcoholic punches, soft drinks, fruit juices, coffee, tea and of course, water.
- If under 18s consume alcohol or other drugs during the party, their parents should be contacted and asked to collect them. Parents should be advised of unacceptable behaviour.
- Be firm about excluding gate-crashers. If admittance is by invitation only, gate-crashers are less likely. Prior to the party, encourage students not to broadcast party details in the school community, via the Internet or mobile phone. If gate-crashers arrive, ask them to leave immediately or tell them the police will be called.
- Parents should be present and provide active supervision throughout the party.
- If you are planning a large party, it may be a good idea to employ security guards.

Register your party with NSW Police
NSW Police have developed a range of strategies and an online Party Sign Up form which must be completed at least 72 hours before your party. Register your party at www.mynite.com.au.

This way local Police will know that you are having a party and can offer support. Have emergency numbers handy and call police before the situation gets out of control. Advise neighbours of your party as common courtesy.

Other useful websites to help you plan a successful party and avoid problems:

Alcohol: celebrations and supply information for parents
http://www.youthsafe.org/safe_celebrate.html

This website has current safe partying information, games, and competitions on how to party safely for young people and information for parents


Tweed Valley Relay
for Life 2013
Volunteer Committee is looking for additional volunteers to join the committee to assist with the planning and running for the next Relay. We invite any interested person to please come along to the next meeting on Thursday 13 September at South Tweed Sports Club, 5.30pm in the Dusk Room.

More information can be obtained by phoning Lynn (07) 5599.2175.
Research has shown that regular exercise can significantly reduce mild to moderate depression. We know that people experiencing depression can have even lower levels of activity and fitness. Two-thirds of Australian adults do not meet the minimum recommended level of physical activity of 30 minutes a day, so that’s why we encourage Australians of all ages to exercise your mood!

EXERCISE TIPS
1. Try to get a minimum of 15-30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week
2. Exercise for at least 10 minutes at a time
3. Combine short sessions of different activities to make the daily total

How can I help Black Dog Institute?

- Join the online fitness challenge Fitember (www.fitember.com.au)
- Join in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival (www.sydneyrunningfestival.com.au)
- Join the Yoga Aid Challenge in your state (www.yogaaid.com/australia)
- Join an existing event in your state and fundraise for Black Dog. Visit the Physical Activity Calendar of Events (PACE) to see what’s on in your state visit www.exerciseismedicine.org.au/active-workplaces/events
- Fundraise using our EYM merchandise boxes - visit http://shop.blackdog.org.au

www.blackdoginstitute.org.au – click on Exercise Your Mood

The Black Dog Institute is a world-leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder. Funds raised during Exercise Your Mood Month will support cutting edge research programs and ensure our clinical and educational services are available to anyone in need.
Giinagay. “Welcome”
Ngujawiny. “You mob”

An invitation to
a weekend of fun and socialising
in the Aboriginal Catholic spirit

Family Faith Retreat
A spiritually enriching opportunity for parents and
care-givers of children in Parish Schools. All are
invited to join together for an exciting time
to strengthen family life through our Catholic faith.

This can be the start of a new
beginning in a busy and stressful
life, and a great opportunity to
strengthen and reconnect – to stop
and take time out as a family.

Team Leaders
Aunty Robyne Bancroft
Louise Campbell

Details
Accommodation and meals are
free for all families with children
enrolled in Parish Schools in the
Diocese of Lismore

Location
Yarrawarra Aboriginal Culture Centre

Dates
12.30pm, Saturday 27 October to
1.00pm, Sunday 28 October 2012

Register Now
call Doreen Flanders on 0419 986 940
or your school’s IEW
email: parents@lism.catholic.edu.au
or call 1300 557 874

Strengthening our Aboriginal Catholic Spirituality in everyday life
You are cordially invited to join us in our parish for the following celebrations:

Beginning Sunday September 2
Time: 10:00am

Sunday September 2:
Community Sunday Mass commencing at 10am followed by a sausage sizzle at St Joseph’s Primary School ~ this will include the launch of the “Parish Centenary” book.

Saturday September 8:
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 9:00am Mass ~ Concluding with Benediction at 3:00pm.

Saturday September 15:
Join us for “High Tea” commencing at 2pm South Tweed Sports Club Parish guest speakers, celebrity, raffle, the music Liza Beamish and Harry Lynn and his quartet. Tickets now available.

Sunday September 23:
Parish Picnic at St Joseph’s College ‘Pot Luck Lunch’ ~ please bring a dish to share, commencing at 12:00noon to 1.30pm. Followed by free “Parish Concert” in the Doyle Centre at 2:00pm. Sausage sizzle with tea/coffee at interval.

Sunday September 30:
After the Sunday 9am Mass you are cordially invited to have Morning tea with the staff At the Youth Service office (next to the Hall in Frances Street) and find out about the great work that they do in assisting our youth.

THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TWEED HEADS ~
researched and written by Di Millar

To celebrate the centenary of St Joseph’s Parish in Tweed Heads, well known historical writer Di Millar has produced an informative book on the history of our parish. The book is in print production at the moment, and will be available for purchase on September 2.

Limited copies are being printed, so if you are interested add your name to the pre-order list at the back table. The cost will be $22 per book.
NSW Bishops: unprecedented threat to Catholic schools

For the first time ever, all Catholic schools in NSW face a radical and immediate cut to their NSW government subsidy.

The Bishops of NSW are advised that the NSW Government is about to announce an unprecedented cut to the recurrent grant for NSW non-government schools of $66.7 million per year, or 8% of the 2012 total. We understand that from January 2013, state government funding for Catholic systemic schools is to be cut by $24.5 million per year. Catholic independent schools will face immediate cuts of up to $496 per student.

NSW State government per capita grants provide 20% of the annual recurrent income for most systemic Catholic schools in NSW. They contribute significantly to teacher salaries and meeting other operational costs of every Catholic school.

Impact of proposed cuts on Catholic schools

The NSW Bishops reject the projected cut in NSW government funding to Catholic schools from 2013. We are seriously concerned that this decision:

- is an unprecedented withdrawal of government aid to Catholic schools
- breaks the long established trust of parents in continued government support for Catholic schools
- comes without prior consultation or reasonable notice
- impacts potentially on every systemic Catholic school in every diocese across the state
- will require systemic Catholic schools to increase their fees by about $100 per student beyond planned annual increases, or find other school savings, to compensate for the cut in NSW government grants
- will require independent Catholic schools to increase fees by between $58 and $496 per student beyond planned annual increases, or find other school savings, in order to compensate for the cut in grants
- may force some families out of Catholic schools, force reductions of teachers and curriculum options, compromise other essential educational provisions or even force school closures
- comes at a time when most Catholic schools have already finalised their key staffing and budgeting decisions for 2013.

The Bishops are shocked that such a significant cut in NSW Government funding should come ‘out of the blue’ and precisely when Catholic school authorities and all Australian governments are exploring ways of increasing, not decreasing, government investment in all schools.

The recent Gonski report on funding for all Australian students relied upon Commonwealth and State governments negotiating future funding in good faith. Unfortunately, this NSW government decision erodes its credibility in such negotiations. It also repudiates the public positions of both the Commonwealth Government and the Federal Opposition that no school – government or non-government – will be worse off financially from 2014.
Over the past fifty years NSW and Australian governments have acknowledged the right of parents to government financial support for their choice of school. Government grants have enabled Catholic schools to remain affordable for most parents but many still struggle to meet fee payments. Now, for the first time ever, all Catholic schools in NSW are faced with the threat of a significant and immediate cut to their NSW government grants.

**Bishops’ commitment**

The NSW Bishops are committed to doing our best to keeping Catholic schools affordable and to helping ensure the highest educational standards in them. Any reduction in funding undermines that ambition.

While the Catholic community recognises that in tough economic times governments seek to cut expenditures, we believe it is false economy to deprive our young people of educational opportunities. We expect government always to act fairly in such situations and not make the situation for struggling families worse. Parents with children in Catholic systemic schools already pay the same state taxes as anyone else and yet get only 25% of the state government recurrent funding per student that government schools get.

**Planned response**

The Catholic Church is proud to have been contributing to the education of the children of New South Wales for 190 years and is committed to continue providing that vital community service into the future. We only ask of governments that they be fair to our parents and children when it comes to school funding.

The NSW Bishops call on the Premier of NSW, Barry O’Farrell, to intervene immediately to block the announcement of what amounts to the biggest threat to NSW Catholic schools in decades, and to provide reassurance to the Catholic community and those families of all religious backgrounds who entrust their children to Catholic schools.

In addition, principals, staff and parents of children in Catholic schools, priests and parishioners are invited to contact their state Member of Parliament to highlight the potential impact of the cuts on individual schools within their electorate, and to seek clear answers to the following questions:

- *Since NSW government grants to non-government schools are linked to NSW government school costs, are government schools being subjected to similar reductions?*
- *Before making its decision, was the Government aware of the adverse impact it would have on individual non-government schools, parents and children?*
- *How can the NSW Government justify cutting funds to schools when it is simultaneously negotiating with the Commonwealth about how to increase future government investment in all schools, following on the recommendations of the Gonski report?*
- *How can the government defend such a large and immediate funding cut without any prior consultation or notice to schools who have already set their staffing levels and budgets for 2013?*

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