Dear Parents,

The lovely fine weather did not last too long – as I write this it is raining quite heavily! Let’s hope that it fines up and stays that way for Friday night when we try again to hold the Welcome Dance. The arrangements are the same – it will be held here at school mainly in the area around the Deck and the Undercover area. There will be a jumping castle, a couple of stalls selling lollies and sno-cones, a bar-b-q and a disco. For our new families, it is a great opportunity to meet people and for our ‘old’ families it is always good to catch up! It is always one of our most enjoyable evenings.

This is another busy week for some of our children. Apart from the usual school life, our Year 3 children had an incursion with “Little Green Thumbs”, a company which provides entertaining and educational input for children around the wonders of nature. Each child was able to transplant seedlings into their own pots so as to track their growth and development over the coming weeks. This is part of this term’s Science work on ‘Plants in Action’. I saw the children carrying their plants back to the classroom and I’m sure they will be well looked after.

Our Year 6 and 7 children will be visiting Parliament House on Friday. This is part of their Study of Society and Environment unit on Government, and gives them a great insight into the workings of our parliament – this is particularly interesting for them in an election year.

Yesterday all teachers attended a three hour evening seminar focusing on the English component of the Australian Curriculum. We found it to be a very worthwhile Professional Development activity and we will be having a second evening in May. Teachers are already working towards the complete implementation of the new curriculum and are always gaining a better understanding through reading, planning sessions and professional development. Mrs Nisbet attended another seminar on Monday and Mr Malone is at a Curriculum Support Teachers’ Network Meeting today.

Tomorrow, Miss Smith (Yr4) and Mrs Smith (Yr3) will be going to Autism Queensland to attend a workshop to aid with ideas and strategies. I will be working with BCE personnel on a survey of staff regarding children’s behaviours here at school. This is the next part part of our Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support programme started last year. On Friday, Miss Godfrey will be attending a workshop focusing on children who achieve at a **very high level** in one or more areas of the curriculum.

At the end of this busy week, I look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Dance.

God Bless,

Maryanne Riley  PRINCIPAL

Remember a $2 donation for the St Paddy’s Day Free Dress this Friday – all money raised goes to the help with fete expenses.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN FOCUS:

FROM THE APRE
This coming Friday we will not have a prayer assembly. Our normal prayer assembly will shift to Monday morning for this week to allow us to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on the 19th of March. By changing this prayer assembly to Monday, it will also allow our 6/7 classes to take part, as they will be on an excursion to Parliament House this Friday morning.

On Saturday evening, we will have a school representation at mass. A big thank you to the families that are attending, and importantly those students who have volunteered to take part and have practised in some of their own time at afternoon tea.

Our on-line parent survey has now closed. Thank you to all those who took the time to take the survey. Your responses are used within our annual school review and strategic planning processes. We have obtained some very positive and affirming data, as well as some constructive feedback on areas of the school that are up for review.

Project Compassion, Week 3, brings you the story of Colletta. Colletta lives in Zimbabwe. With Caritas Australia’s support, her community has set up a vegetable garden and repaired their village borehole. Colletta, who was very ill seven years ago, now has safe water to drink, enough food to make her medication effective and even has vegetables left over to sell to pay for school fees and other expenses.

Your donation to Project Compassion enables marginalised communities to participate in their own development and create a future free from poverty. www.caritas.org.au

Bryan Malone - APRE

TUCKSHOP

Wednesday 21/03: Alana Coomber; Jeanette Kennelly; Nicole Brennan Cake Roster: Rocio Steinkohl; Deb Wessling

Friday 23/03: Georgina Horky; Di Frazer; Jan Robinson Cake Roster: Anne Juillerat; Mariangela Boland

Uniform shop will be closed from Friday 23rd March until after the holidays, as Mrs Hammond is having an operation on her shoulder.

2012 Fete: Don’t forget our first meeting is on this Thursday, 15 March at 7pm in the Prep Blue Classroom (Old Multi-purpose room). If you are interested in finding out more about the fete come along and meet some of our Stall Convenors. We are still looking for Convenors for Face Painting and & Monster Raffle. We are also looking for Co-Convenors for Second-Hand Clothes and Side-Show Alley. If you are interested but can’t attend please email pfstjoseph@gmail.com or phone Julie Wright-Smith on 0402 144 391. Don’t forget to bring in your Moccona Bottles for Jams & Pickles!

School Banking day has been changed to Tuesday.
SPORTS NEWS - HOCKEY: Any student aged 10-12 years who currently plays for a team and is highly skilled in the game of hockey may be interested in trialling for the Met West Hockey Team. Trials for boys will be held on Monday 19th and 26th March at the Ipswich Hockey Association Grounds. Trials for girls will be held on Thursday 29th March at Goodna State School. If you are interested please come and see Miss Cashman in her classroom (1 Green) on Thursday 15th March for further details.

GOLF: Any student born in or before 2002 who is experienced and skilled in the game of Golf and would like to trial for the Metropolitan West Regional Golf Trials, please come and see Miss Cashman in her classroom (1 Green). All students who wish to trial MUST have or be in the process of gaining an AGU handicap. Trials will be held on Tuesday 8th May at the Gailes Golf Course in Wacol.

YOUNG SPORTS KAYAK DAY!
Instruction! Games! Sausage Sizzle!
On Sunday March 25th Young Sports is holding a Kayak day at Spring Lake, Springfield. The event is for children from 8 - 12yrs of age and is from 8.00am – 12.30pm.
An instructor from Canoeing Queensland will join us to teach children the basic paddling techniques in kayaking. They will then have a chance to test their new skills with lots of fun games. Our aim is for children to gain confidence and therefore enjoyment in paddling. There is a sausage sizzle to finish. All children will be supplied with PFD’s. Please book early as numbers are limited. Cost is only $25. Contact Young Sports on 3376 3388 or info@youngsports.com.au.

Semester 1, 2012 Online applications for the Bus Fare Assistance Program and the Students with Disabilities Scheme are being accepted now until 31st May 2012. To lodge an online application to receive a rebate for either program, go to: www.schooltransport.com.au. Further enquiries to: 3336 9192 or schooltransport@qcec.catholic.edu.au. Applications received after 31st May 2012 cannot be processed.

Clarinet for sale – Selmer brand please contact Richard on 0432 890 344.

Resiliency Building Program. Helping kids Thrive!
Enrol now for Term 2! Confident Kids and Teens is an innovative group for 5-14year olds that aims to build confidence and resilience. Children learn about personal strengths, resilient thinking, dealing with stress, anxiety, worry, relaxation and practical strategies to manage various situations at home and school. Essential skills to negotiate the teenage years. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Medicare and Private health fund rebates apply. For more information go to www.confidentkidsandteens.com.au or phone 3368 1307.