Dear Friends of the St Joseph’s Community

Our Lenten journey began this week with Mass on Ash Wednesday and the distribution of ashes by Father Mick along with a reminder that the ashes represent a time for spiritual renewal in our own short lives and a challenge to engage more fully with the message of Jesus. Our very grounded Pope Francis sums up the essence of Lent 2015 in his recent message:

“Make your hearts firm!” (James 5:8)

“As individuals, we are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer!

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church’s many charitable organisations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God’s love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.”

On Wednesday I had an interesting interaction with a visiting electrician who was here to test and tag our electrical cords and appliances. He asked: “What’s that mark on your forehead?” Seizing the opportunity I said, in layman’s terms, it was a symbol of our mortality, reminding us that we will all end up as those who have died before us and it is up to us to make the most of our time here on earth. He left with a furrowed brow – perplexed and/or confused? Or perhaps reflecting on what we can do to influence the lives of others?

Congratulations to our swimmers who represented the school at Narooma yesterday and to the parents who provided such wonderful support with encouragement and transport. By all accounts it was a very successful day and all our students were great ambassadors for St Joseph’s. Well done!

It was non-stop activity on Tuesday afternoon at the Working Bee and BBQ. The proportion of parents at the school who support such activities is outstanding and the school grounds look great as a result. Thank you to all the parents and students who came along to help!

With Catholic Schools Week coming up on 9th March we will again be having our Grandparents and Friends Day on Thursday 12 March from noon so please give advance notice to those who might like to visit the school and see what our students are doing in class. There will be more detailed information provided soon.

All parents/carers are reminded that if you collect your child early from school, could you please ensure the leavers’ book in the foyer is signed. If the early collection is to be a regular event, could you please provide the teacher with a note outlining the details as we will sometimes need to make alternative arrangements for KLA work that is missed on a regular basis.

It was wonderful to see Mrs Moroney back with us on Wednesday and we look forward to her visits during the year.

May God bless you,
Phil Stubbs, Acting Principal
If you support the Communities request to enclose and heat our public swimming pool, to enable longer operation please be sure to attend the pool on Monday 9th March at 6pm to show your support and send a the message to our Council that this is what the community wants!

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Calling for names:
- Junior Mini Ball
- Senior Mini Ball
- Ladies and Mens Competition

Contact
Carol Ingram 6458 3562 or Donna Shelly 6458 3358
By 27th February 2015

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Football Training starts Tuesday 24th February, 4pm at the Showground. Player Registrations will also be taken its $20 per player.

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Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the competitors who attended the Catholic Schools Regional Swimming Carnival in Narooma yesterday.

You should all be proud of the tremendous effort you put in and the wonderful St Joey’s sprit displayed.

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Infants Class

Last Tuesday we were lucky enough to receive a visit from a very special guest Jetta the poodle and her owner Mrs Spears. With the aid of the interactive white board, songs and roll play, Mrs Spears created a fun and informative lesson about Dog Safety.

The students were very enthusiastic and remained engaged throughout the session, learning some extremely valuable information. At the conclusion, each student was able to meet and pat Jetta.
Thank you to the families who attended this week’s working bee. We have again transformed the school yards to ensure the safety of our children.

Things you can do to help your child learn mathematics:

- **Play games together** (number games, board games, card games, dice games, computer games).
- **Use the language of mathematics** - words like 'under', 'over', 'bigger', 'smaller' when your child is young.
- **Discuss the maths your child is learning at school**. Ask your child to explain what they have learnt and how they can use the ideas.
- **Show your child the maths that people use every day** - for example, in an NRL game, how is the score made up from different points for a try, a conversion, a penalty.
- **Show your child the maths that you use every day** - for example, in the kitchen you measure ingredients or use a timer.