Dear Parents, Staff, Students, and Supporters of St Joseph's College,

“YOUTH ATTACKS PUSH POLICE TO CRISIS POINT”
“RAMPAGING TEENS INVADE HOUSE”
“CHEERS, MUM AND DAD – PARENTS BLAMED FOR TEEN ALCOHOL ABUSE”

These are some of the newspaper headlines that have occurred already in 2007. They don’t paint a pretty picture at all. Andrew Farrugia, 17, was killed in front of sixty people in the rural NSW city of Griffith in the early hours of New Year’s Day. Peter Dando, 46, died after he was allegedly bashed by a 24-year-old man. Mr Dando had just bought two youths a pie. Geoffrey Taban, 26, escaped Sudan but was bashed outside a hotel in Parramatta. He later died in hospital. Mitchell Mosely, 23, was bashed to death outside St Andrew’s Cathedral in the centre of Sydney on 6 December 2006. Mathew Sharp, 33, was a victim of a fatal assault in Lithgow in December as he walked home from a local hotel.

We hear about similar incidents all the time. Police are frustrated because they believe a lack of police numbers is a contributing factor. The heading quoted above, “RAMPAGING TEENS INVADE HOUSE”, was about an incident at Brunswick Heads on New Year’s Eve. A man had his front teeth knocked out, his brother sustained a fractured eye socket, and the man’s three-year-old child was picked up and thrown onto concrete.

It’s an alarming, ever-increasing feature of society. But we lose sight of the long-term effects. Surgeon Marcus Stoodley said that whilst a person can recover physically, it’s the psychological trauma that can be a long-term battle. We hear stories of people losing the confidence to go out of their homes for fear of a repeat attack.

What can we do? We have to talk to our children. Sure, we all have rights, but those rights have responsibilities attached to them. Here at St Joseph’s College, we proclaim to be a community. A community is a group of people who care for one another – even to the extent of putting the needs of others ahead of our own.

Parenting is a very challenging activity. The “CHEERS, MUM AND DAD” headline referred to the fact that the National Drug and Alcohol Centre states it has figures indicating forty percent of under-age drinkers are being supplied alcohol by Mums and Dads. Statistics indicate the average age for trying alcohol in Australia is 13.6 years – but if the child is given alcohol by their parent, the age drops to 12.

Research between USA and Australian Year 9 students found that rates of binge drinking were up to three times higher in the Australian students. A representative of the National Drug and Alcohol Centre states that normalising alcohol at a young age increased the risk of binge drinking later in adolescence and suggests the following “do’s and don’ts” for parents:

- **DO** set boundaries and rules around alcohol use – tell them what you expect. If you can, develop these rules with your child.
- **DO** take a look at the place alcohol has in your family – if you have alcohol with a meal every night, you’re going to have a different response to a teetotaller family.
- **DO** be willing to say NO to your child.
- **DO** tell your child they’re great at every opportunity.
- **DON’T** introduce your child to alcohol at a celebration, eg. wedding, New Year’s Eve, 21st birthday party.
- **DON’T** be a friend, be a parent – your child has lots of friends, parents don’t come so easily.
- **DON’T** panic if you find out your child has been drinking. Take some time to respond and never respond in anger.
- **DON’T** believe that your child’s friends have more influence on your child than you do. If you have a good relationship with your child, research shows that parents have a major impact on their child’s alcohol consumption.

It’s very important that we confront issues that are cause for concern in our society and we pray that God will guide us all to make responsible decisions for our children.

Let’s all try to build a positive community here at St Joseph’s College, focussing on giving our students every opportunity to achieve their personal best.

Best wishes and God Bless,

Mr Peter McLoughlin
Principal
We hope you have all settled in to the new school year at the College . . .

As this is the first full Newsletter for 2007, we have lots of information for both new and returning families. Please take the time to familiarise yourselves with the coming events in this term - we have lots going on!

And don’t forget, we are in FULL COLOUR on the website. You can look up today’s Newsletter as well as back copies of the College’s weekly Newsletter/News Sheet.

Do visit us at www.bps.lism.catholic.edu.au to see this and a whole lot more!

We hope you enjoy today’s issue.

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- Curriculum News
- English News
- Year 12 News
- Uniform Shop Hours
- SRC Fundraiser: Valentine’s Day Roses for sale
- Motivational Media
- The WORD this week is . . .
- Centacare (Catholic Family Community Services Early Intervention Centre)
- Canteen News & Roster

PRINCIPAL’S NOTES

TELEPHONE
At the end of 2006, I recorded a message on the (07) 5524.9002 College number, saying that the Office would be closed until 23 January. Upon our return to school, we have been unable to have this message deleted.

We have actively sought the assistance of Telstra on this matter and we are hoping that it will be rectified as soon as possible.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience this has caused to many parents who have tried to call the College.

Mr Peter McLoughlin
Principal

DEPUTY’S NOTICES

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL EVENTS
Don’t forget to always check the latest Newsletter or News Sheet for the most up-to-date version of the ‘Coming Events’ each week:

COMING EVENTS

WEEK 2
Thursday 8 February ................................................... (Day 9)
☞ Year 12 CAPA Sydney Excursion (8 & 9 February)

WEEK 3
Monday 12 February .................................................. (Day 1)
☞ Opening Mass
Wednesday 14 February .............................................. (Day 3)
☞ College Photo Day
Thursday 15 February .................................................. (Day 4)
☞ Year 12 Visual Arts Sydney Excursion (15 & 16 February)

WEEK 4
Monday 19 February .................................................. (Day 6)
☞ Year 7 Reflection Day (Sticks & Stones)
Wednesday 21 February .............................................. (Day 8)
☞ Ash Wednesday
Friday 23 February ..................................................... (Day 10)
☞ College Swimming Carnival

WEEK 5
Monday 5 March ......................................................... (Day 6)
☞ Year 12 Hospitality Placement (5-16 March – Weeks 6 & 7)
Tuesday 6 March ......................................................... (Day 7)
☞ Years 7 & 8 ELLA Tests

WEEK 6
Thursday 15 March ..................................................... (Day 4)
☞ Tweed Valley Trials begin

WEEK 7
Monday 19 March ....................................................... (Day 6)
☞ St Joseph’s Day
Tuesday 20 March ....................................................... (Day 6)
☞ Year 11 Excursion Banora Point Sewerage Plant

WEEK 9
Monday 26 March ....................................................... (Day 1)
☞ Motivational Media (Years 7-10)
Thursday 29 March ..................................................... (Day 7)
☞ CCC Swimming Carnival (29 & 30 March)

WEEK 10
Monday 2 April .......................................................... (Day 6)
☞ Year 11 Brainstorm Productions
Tuesday 3 April .......................................................... (Day 7)
☞ Year 7 Vaccinations
Wednesday 4 April ..................................................... (Day 8)
☞ Tweed Valley Competitions begins
Thursday 5 April ........................................................ (Day 9)
☞ Holy Thursday
☞ TERM 1 ENDS – THIS IS A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY
Friday 6 April ............................................................ (Day 10)
☞ Good Friday

Mr Peter Lyon
Deputy Principal

STUDENT PHOTO DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When:</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 February, (Week 3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>Dependant on individual order.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dress:</td>
<td>Full school uniform. Boys will need to wear their tie for the photo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment:</td>
<td>On the day – and directly to the photographer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please note:</td>
<td>Every student will have an individual photo taken for their Student ID card. The cost of this is borne by the school.</td>
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The School Newsletter and School Calendar are both available online @ www.bps.lism.catholic.edu.au.
The School Calendar contains year group events, assessment schedules and term dates.
**RE NEWS**

**2007 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**
If there are any students who are baptised Catholics but have not been confirmed or received their first Holy Communion and would like to do so, would you please contact me at the College.

**YEAR 7 REFLECTION DAY “STICKS AND STONES”**
A reminder to families that Year 7 will have their first Reflection Day for the year on Monday 19 February 2007. Students are to bring a shared recess and please note that lunch will be provided.

Permission slips, together with payment of $5.00, is to be brought to Student Reception by Thursday 15 February.

Mr Scott McDermott
RE Coordinator - Ministry

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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>Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm</td>
<td>Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm (Kingscliff)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday: 7:00am &amp; 9:00am</td>
<td>Sunday: 7:00am (Pottsville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday: 9:00am (Bilambil)</td>
<td>Sunday: 9:00am (Kingscliff)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fr Michael Brady  
Parish Priest

Fr Jim Griffin  
Parish Priest

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**LIBRARY AFTER HOURS**
I will keep the Library open each Wednesday afternoon (commenced Week 1, Term 1) until 4:30pm. Students from any year group are welcome to attend. Students will be able to do research, homework, study or access help in Mathematics.

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**YEAR 11 PATTERNS OF STUDY**
Any Year 11 student wishing to alter their senior pattern of study must see Mrs Borrowdale in the early weeks of Term 1.

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**YEAR 9 ELECTIVE CHOICES**
Year 9 students have settled into their elective classes. Many of the elective subjects in Year 9 are full.

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**TAFE STUDENTS IN YEARS 11 AND 12**
TAFE commences in Week 2, Term 1. Travel arrangements and other details were explained to students during Week 1 of this term.

Mrs Helen Borrowdale  
Curriculum Coordinator

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**CUSTOM NEWS**

**ENGLISH NEWS**

Every member of the English Faculty is concerned that all students achieve their personal best. To that end, students have been made aware that, each lunch time, except for sport days, an English teacher will be in a designated room which students are invited to visit.

Students may do English homework, seek additional assistance in the subject, work on English assignments and assessment tasks, or simply spend time reading. The teacher in the room on any day is most willing to assist.

Any student who fails to complete homework will also attend this room. Records will be kept of those attending and there will be consequences for homework defaulters who do not attend the lunchtime work session.

We sincerely hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity to improve their skills and to complete work in a pleasant environment.

Mrs Janet Crouch  
English Coordinator

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**YEAR 12 NEWS**

The first week of school has certainly been a smooth transition for Year 12 students. While there are many things to organise and begin, students have been positive and enthusiastic about the beginning of the school year.

I would encourage each student to organise a revision timetable. Although Half Yearly Exams are not until the beginning of Term 2, it is never too soon to begin study.

Drama and Visual Arts classes will visit Sydney in the coming weeks to complete assessments and attend various performances. Many thanks to their teachers, Mrs Singleton and Mrs Taylor for their organisation.

During Term 1 (Weeks 1-6), Year 12 have been offered a study option during Sport. Many of them have elected to do this and therefore are able to use this time to catch-up on homework, complete assessment tasks or revise coursework.

I would ask that any parents interested in assisting with this year’s Year 12 Formal/fundraising activities to call me at the College. Although the Formal is not until November, we have found in the past that beginning early with organisation makes for a far less stressful final term. Once I have number of names, I will contact you about a meeting.

Ms Kerrie Priddis  
Year 12 Coordinator

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**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

Monday to Friday  
(8:30am – 12:00noon AND 1:00 – 3:30pm)
College Procedures: Unsure of College Procedures or Policies? The student diary contains information. If you don’t find the answer, contact the relevant Year Coordinator.

**Motivational Media**

“The pathways we take in life may be diverse, and the rate that we travel along them varied. There may be times when life throws up hurdles that seem to stop us in our tracks and make us give up on our dreams. But life isn’t just about chance. We do have the power to work through difficulties and to move forward. We also have the power to become the force that is needed to initiate the change that encourages others to move forward, and reach their full potential.”

This year’s Motivational Media presentation is entitled “Velocity, Taking Control of Life’s Direction”.

**Location:** Drama Space, Doyle Centre
**Date:** Monday 26 February
**Students:** Years 7-10
**Cost:** $2.00 (payable at Student Reception)

Ms Kerrie Priddis

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**CENTACARE**

Catholic Family and Community Services
Recently separated / divorced?

Centacare at Ashmore is conducting a “Divorce and Separation Recovery Workshop” commencing Wednesday 7 March 2007.

The workshop will run for seven weeks each Wednesday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at their office at Unit 50/207 Currumburra Road, Ashmore.

This gentle, non-confrontational and supportive workshop provides a wonderful opportunity for people who are struggling to overcome one of life’s great challenges.

For more details please phone Centacare on (07) 5556. 9900.

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**Canteen News & Roster**

Welcome back to school, one and all! I have a couple of notices for the attention of all families – there are a number of dates in this term’s Canteen Roster without helpers and I urgently need to fill these places:

**Volunteers Needed Urgently**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helper/s</th>
<th>How Many Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13 February</td>
<td>~ 1 person</td>
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<td>Thursday 1 March</td>
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<td>Monday 5 March</td>
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<td>Thursday 5 April</td>
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For those who haven’t volunteered in the Canteen before, you will be doing us a great service AND in air-conditioned comfort; you will be entertained by our Canteen Manager; you will get to see the teachers, support staff and students up close in their natural habitat: ‘the schoolyard’; and you will be fed as well!! Consider it “lunch and a show”!!

And of course ‘Thank You’ to the wonderful mums who are already on our roster. These wonder-mums really keep us going!!

**Meal of the Week**

To kick off our ‘Meal of the Week’ for 2007, this week we have a chicken, rocket, tomato, cheese and onion wrap with our original SJC ranch dressing, for the very affordable sum of $4.00. So come on in – and make it EARLY – and order our first 2007 special!

**CENTACARE Roster**

**Week 2**

- **Monday 5 February**
  - Sylvia Hendriks & Sheree Lynch
- **Tuesday 6 February**
  - Alison Hedge & TBA
- **Wednesday 7 February**
  - Helen Steele & Sonia Haajer
- **Thursday 8 February**
  - Lyn Klein & Julie Crouch
- **Friday 9 February**
  - Donna Fien & Margaret Putland

**Week 3**

- **Monday 12 February**
  - Fran Hardy & Susan Klein
- **Tuesday 13 February**
  - Donna Schmith & TBA
- **Wednesday 14 February**
  - Robyn Crowe & Tracie Ebsworth
- **Thursday 15 February**
  - Gert Webb & Kim Mitchell
- **Friday 16 February**
  - Karen Holland & Jan MacQueen

Mrs Dianne Pinkstone
Canteen Manager