Dear Parents,

We have a new website and it has the basic information on it at the moment. We have a training day on Tuesday and we will be able to add more details and up to date information.

The Chromebooks have gone very well and the student are enjoying the collaboration of ideas and communicating with their teachers.

Thank you to all the parents who attended last night’s Parent Information night. The teachers did a great job in imparting information about their expectation for this year.

Last year we worked on a new behavioural support program (PBS) and this year we are starting to implement this throughout the school. More information will be in the coming newsletters.

Next Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY and the start of LENT. The whole school will attend the 9.15am mass and you are all invited to attend. Pope Francis highlights this season of Lent should be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate an experience God’s Mercy.

Last year I asked a parent to give a talk at a parish gathering. She was to tell the new parents why she had chosen a catholic school for her children. It was a wonderful speech so I have included it below. Please take the time to read it.
Why we chose a Catholic School

We chose catholic education and specifically St Joseph’s for our 4th child for a few reasons. The reasons are the same for our older children; our son who is finishing his primary education as for our daughter who embarks on hers.

My husband, our 4 children and I are catholic. The promises that we made when we had our children baptised included passing on our faith to them and enabling their faith to be nurtured.

We work hard to try and fulfil those promises and it’s certainly not an easy job!

The parish of Nazareth is a real support for us. It’s great to feel that it’s a place where we belong. We enjoy belong part of the parish ad being able to contribute. We are able to feel that we are trying to assist our children in developing their faith each week. Our children seem to get more out of mass though, by being part of it (altar serving, reading, choir, children’s liturgy) and their faith develops when they are involved in something in which they are engaged.

We attempt to continue this throughout the week but it’s a difficult job because we are all busy. Most of the time it feels like we aren’t doing a very good job! We all get tired and grumpy. Things don’t go to plan or work out how we would’ve expected. Nobody is perfect so it’s hard.

So, given the choice of schools we opted for a place that we feel assists us in fulfilling our promise to our children. St Joseph’s helps us do that in many ways.

Whilst the school is there to assist in the catechesis of the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation and provides opportunities for observation of holy days and acknowledgement of Lent and Easter; Advent and Christmas, those aren’t actually the reasons we chose St Joseph’s, because the parish on its own could assist us with all those ‘reasons.’

We chose St Joseph’s because we wanted an environment where our children would be educated well, by people who have the same common goal as us-to develop the faith of our children.

We want our children to arrive at school and continue what we have tried to start for them at home. We love that the school day involves real reconciliation. That our children have the expectation that they will forgive and can be forgiven. That they need to say sorry.

That they experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit first hand, together, through the excellent curricular and extracurricular education. They learn that they are the face of Christ to those who they meet and are able to bring that home with them.

Their day involves learning the importance of living in real communion with one another. The school allows them to develop an understanding of the responsibilities we have to look after our world. That we are provided for by God and that we can choose to take that and make it good.

They learn about other cultures-the similarities and differences and how fortunate we are. They learn to choose to recycle and care for the environment. They learn how to choose to use the waste they create daily to make rich and fertile soil to grow food, literally and metaphorically. They learn how to prepare and enjoy that food together.

They learn through living the Gospel values, how to make Jesus REAL.
And we, the whole family are challenged to do the same. The school assists us by educating us directly through newsletters and meetings and in turn St Joseph’s asks us, the families and students, to assist them in their plans and decisions.

We chose St Joseph’s because we want a school where everyone is important. Our experience is that our child has a chance to be good at what they are good at, whatever that is. Talents are celebrated. The education is as personalised as is practical. Our child is celebrated an individual. St Joseph’s School is a place where everyone knows our child and reports to me if they notice something isn’t quite right or to celebrate success. Even those who don’t directly teach our child.

We chose St Joseph’s because we want a God-centred education and a school where our child can develop because they feel involved and are engaged and we feel that St Joseph’s does just that!

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St Joseph’s
2016 School Leaders

School Captains : Bailey Paynter & Charli Rymer
School Vice-Captains: John Mac Manus & Millie Brown
Nazareth Leaders: Lucy Stewart & Isobel Nicolis
Nagle Leaders: Julian Trajer & Portia Ronsberg
Cullinane Leaders: Noah Buckell & Ashley Vinci
Ministry Leader: Ruby Mc Loughney & Mykela Losurdo
IT Leader: Adam Teneglia
Environmental Leaders: Christian Carri & Jerzi Nunes
Sports Leaders: Tom Aughterson & Dan Finnegan

Dolphin Ambassadors

Matthew Chambers, Jai Budin, Mia Gualano & Sarah Halliday:

SRC Junior Representatives

Sebastien Sands & Kieran Botterill
Resource Smart is a Victorian Government initiative that helps school’s become more sustainable – reducing their costs and creating real-life learning opportunities.

There are a number of modules the school has achieved over the past 4 years including biodiversity, waste and energy. Over the next two years we will be working on water and our forth star!

Please wander through the vegetable garden with your children after school to see the fruits of their labour!

It's looking very productive.

Louise Murray

Financial Assistance Information for Parents
Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be: $125 for primary school students $225 for secondary school students.
How to Apply
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 25th February, 2016.
For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

To: All Grade 6 Boys

From: enrol@stbedes.catholic.edu.au
Subject: Enrolment Applications for Year 7 in 2017

CLOSING DATE for Enrolments Year 7 in 2017

Please note that the closing date for St Bede’s College to receive Enrolment Applications for Year 7 in 2017 is: Friday 26 February 2016

To obtain a Year 7 Enrolment Application Form you can download and print the form from our website www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au