



ST JOSEPH'S INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COLLEGE

IN THIS ISSUE

Holy Rosary Prayers

St Joseph's Feast Day

Technology, Social Media and Discipline

Academic Activities and Notices

Grade 11 Differential Aptitude Test (DAT) Results

Grade 10 and 12 Written Expression (WEX) Trials

Grade 10 WEX Exams (Week 8)

Grade 8, 10 and 12 Extra classes and Revisions

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

A very warm welcome to all our students back to school from your restful Term 1 Holidays. We are now into week 2 of term 2 and it is pleasing to see all our teachers and students settled in well into their teaching and learning. It is another term full of exciting learning events including educational assemblies, St Joseph's Feast Day Ball Games Competition, Inter-school cluster games, excursions and Inter-House Athletics Carnival at the end of the term 2. Let us all make these experiences meaningful learning for ourselves by attending, participating and most importantly to have fun.

Attendance! Every 'day' counts!

Everyday counts for our learning. Every parent wants the best for their child. Research clearly shows that students who have higher levels of attendance achieve higher academic results, have better social and emotional wellbeing and establish positive friendships. This research tells us that students with an attendance rate below 90% are educationally at risk. 90% attendance is missing 1 day a fortnight and that adds up to a month of school each year that a student is missing out on. Above 95% is our expected student attendance.

Parents and carers can support a positive school attendance culture by:

Reinforcing the importance of attending school every day with their children

Supporting students to arrive on time every day and be prepared for learning

Allowing students to stay home only when genuinely sick

Working in partnership with the school to address any concerns or obstacles

Holy Rosary Prayers

The Holy Rosary month begins on Wednesday 1st May 2024, with a Para-Liturgy at the Peace Theatre, starting at 7:40am. All teaching, support staff and students will gather at the Peace Theatre each morning to say the prayers before going for their classes and work stations. During the month, each class and their homeroom teachers are scheduled to lead the Rosary. At the end of the month, Friday 31st of May, we have the crowning of Mama Mary at the Peace Theatre, to be led by Pre-Schools and floral offerings from Grade 12 to Prep to follow. Parents are welcome to join us in these morning prayers.

St Joseph's Feast Day

Friday 3rd May 2024 is St Joseph's Feast Day. We will celebrate this day here at the college with organized activities planned and prepared for the day. It is a normal school day and all students are expected to attend school to celebrate the day together:

Program of Activities:

7:50am	Homeroom for Roll Call
8:20am	Classes start moving to the Church
8:30am	Eucharistic Celebration
9:30am	Recess / Break
10:00am	St Joseph's Feast Day Assembly
11:45am	Shared Lunch - Classrooms
12:45pm	Clean up
1:00pm	Home Time

We expect all our students to be picked up by 1:30pm.

Technology, Social Media and Discipline

With the advancement in technology, the pervasive influence of social media poses significant challenges to teaching and learning. With students constantly connected to various social platforms, there is a growing concern about distractions, cyberbullying, misinformation, and the negative impact on mental health of our students. Teachers are observing and noting decreased students' focus in the classroom, as social media often competes for their attention. Additionally, the pressure to portray a curated online persona can create feelings of inadequacy and anxiety among students, affecting their overall well-being and academic performance. To address these challenges, home and schools must emphasize, responsible social media usage, and provide support mechanisms to help students navigate the complexities of the online world while maintaining a healthy balance with their education and personal development.

School is currently addressing discipline issues related to vaping, unhealthy relationships, pornography consumption, and disrespecting others in school. Therefore, school is now reaching out to our parents/guardians, to inform and seek support, to have an interest in what our students, your children are engage in, how much time they are spending to themselves and ensure opportunities for indulging in such behaviors are addressed.

At the school level, we are also stepping up to effectively implement our school Pastoral Care Policies to conduct effective homeroom sessions on these issues and we expect all our students to be at school by 7:50am, conducting unannounced bag search to confiscate illegal items including: mobile phones, vaping device, cigarettes and betelnut, pornographic materials, flash drives, external drives, unregistered personal laptops and following our school discipline procedures to discipline and educate students who brings these items to school.

These issues can contribute to creating a disruptive and hostile environment that hinders students' ability to focus on their academic work and negatively affects their emotional and mental health. When students engage in vaping, it not only poses serious health risks but also creates a culture where substance abuse is normalized, leading to potential addiction issues and a decline in physical health. Relationships within the school setting can also become problematic when they are unhealthy or abusive, impacting students' self-esteem, emotional well-being, and ability to form positive connections with their peers.

The consumption of pornography by students can lead to distorted views on sex, relationships, and gender roles, affecting their social interactions and attitudes towards intimacy. Disrespect towards male/female students and teachers can create a toxic and unsafe atmosphere, eroding trust, respect, and collaboration within the school community.

We understand the importance of parental support in addressing these issues, and we encourage open communication and collaboration between the school and home to reinforce positive behavior and values at home and school. By working together as a community, we can continue to promote respect, healthy relationships, and a culture of mutual understanding that nurtures the well-being and academic success of our students.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Term 2 – Term 2 has 11 weeks, 15th April to 28th June

Secondary School Report Distribution (Week 2)

Grade 7 – 12, Term one reports are available for collect on Friday, 26th April from 2:50 – 4:15pm.

Please see respective class patrons.

Parent Teacher Interviews (Week 3), from 30th April to 2nd May

Date	Grades	Timing
Tuesday, 30 April	Grade 12 and Grade 8	2:50 – 4:30pm
Wednesday, 1 May	Grade 11 and Grade 9	2:50 - 4:30pm
Thursday, 2 May	Grade 10 and Grade 7	2:50 – 4 :30pm
Friday, 3 May	St Joseph's Feast Day Celebrations – No interview	

Kindly check your child's report if he/she is on COMPULSORY/REQUIRED INTERVIEW, then PLEASE ATTEND THE INTERVIEW. The purpose of this brief meeting is to provide you with an overview of your child's academic progress, strengths and areas for improvement. We believe that this discussion will be beneficial in setting goals and strategies for further improvement in the upcoming term. Your presence and participation in this discussion are highly valued, as we work together to support your child's educational journey.

Grade 11 Differential Aptitude Test (DAT) Results

Individual Results are now available and will also be distributed on Friday together with Term 1 Report. Please read the meaning of these results and you are welcome to discuss with us should you have any query. Please keep this certificate safe because your child will need the information when doing DHERST online application in Grade 12.

Grade 10 and 12 Written Expression (WEX) Trials - there are scheduled WEX trials this term that students need to do. Kindly remind your child to be at school at all times so they won't miss these trials.

Grade 10 WEX Exams (Week 8) - 6th June, Thursday

Grade 8, 10 and 12 Extra classes and Revisions - teachers have started extra classes since Term 1 and are continuing this term 2 until term 3. Wednesday and Friday extra classes are from 2:50 – 4:00pm. Saturday classes are from 8:00am to 12:00 noon depending on teacher's schedule. Consent letters are always given to parents before any extra classes commence. Other grades extra classes are also being organized. Should you receive a notice from the subject teachers, we ask for your support to send your child to school.

Term 2 Examinations (Week 11), 24th June – 27th June. Please take note of these dates to not schedule any travel so your child could attend examinations.

Fr Justin Nenat, SVD
Executive Director

Mr Victor Piniau
Principal– Primary School

Mr George Swamy
Principal - Secondary School