Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Early adolescence is a time of significant change for all students. The exact timing and nature of these changes can vary greatly, but what is common to all students is that they will experience physical, social and emotional shifts that can make life seem far more complex than their earlier years.

One of the great challenges for schools is to ensure that students are nurtured through early adolescence in a way which makes them feel connected and supported, and which enhances their capacity to flourish as learners. At St John’s, we understand that students learn best when they are energised, engaged and stimulated. As such, our current visits to Sydney Schools aim to provide the best pastoral care for all students, interwoven with a contemporary learning program designed to meet the needs of each student.

One of the foundations of such a learning program is the provision of opportunities for students to construct their own knowledge. Traditional models of schooling focussed heavily on the process of delivering knowledge to students and asking them to recall facts in determination of learning quality. Knowledge construction activities require students to generate ideas and understandings that are new to them. This can be achieved through interpretation, analysis, synthesis or evaluation.

This focus on user-generated wisdom still requires students to master the content of academic disciplines, but challenges them to apply the theory of their learning in ways that help to deepen their understanding. This type of learning engages the learner and, through the required application of their learning, can greatly enhance academic outcomes.

Further to this, early adolescents tend to be better engaged with learning tasks that ask them to solve problems that are new to them, and which they have not been instructed how to do. Solving real world problems, like those experienced by real people, give students real incentive to learn. This type of learning supports students to prepare for a workplace where excellent problem solvers are highly valued and keenly sought.

The world we live in today is ever-changing, growing and evolving as it adapts to the exponential rate of technological development. While this development is largely intended to make our lives more productive, efficient and perhaps simpler, it also seems to add complications. This is particularly true for families and schools, as we seek to help to safely guide children through their early years of schooling, adolescence and young adulthood.

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Events in this month

**Monday, June 16-19**
Years 11 & 12 Exam Block

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**Monday, June 22**
Leadership Interviews

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**Thursday, June 25**
Year 11 Leadership Dinner

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**Friday, June 27**
St John’s Day and Student Leaders Induction Mass

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**Monday June 29th to Friday July 10th**
School Holidays
Interesting Statistics

Social Media has revolutionised the way we communicate over the past decade and the Internet itself has opened many doors for education. There are so many examples of the positive application of these communication tools. However, we must also educate our children to ensure they are not only safe in the physical world, but in today's virtual world as well.

With the rise of mobile technology in recent years, the expansion of Wi-Fi capabilities, and the reducing costs of smartphones and tablets, social media online communication channels (like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat) are now more accessible to our children than ever before – just a finger tap away.

However, recent statistics and information concerning the use of technology are confronting.

- Research from a consortium led by UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre indicates that nearly three quarters of Australian schools have reported incidents of cyberbullying, and the researchers found that the worst affected age group is children from 10 to 15.
- An estimated 463,000 young Australians aged 8 to 17 were victims of cyberbullying in the year the research was conducted. Cyberbullying can be serious, according to the research, and its consequences can be more far-reaching than bullying in the schoolyard.
- On a concerning note for both parents and their children, the research found that most instances of cyberbullying occurred on social media. This is an important finding, particularly given how pervasive social media is in the lives of the children in our school – something which barely existed a decade ago.
- The pace of change in the devices our boys access is also worth considering. Given that smartphones didn’t exist when today’s Senior School students were born. In 2005 most people accessed the Internet over a desktop or laptop computer, while today more than three quarters of Australians now use their smartphone to access the internet. Amongst young people, the most recent data shows that 69 percent of teens with a mobile phone have a smartphone, and that 56 percent of teens use their mobile to get online.
- La Trobe University researchers recently interviewed more than 2000 teenage students across Australia as part of a study commissioned by the Federal Government. In the study, researchers found that more than half of those surveyed had received a sexually explicit text message and 26 per cent reported sending a sexually explicit image of themselves.

Statistics and information such as the above is why cyber safety education for both parents and students is essential. As an educator, in this and previous roles, I have certainly had to manage and resolve numerous concerns related to cyberbullying, sexting and other online related matters over the last decade.

What is clear is that we must continue to educate students of all ages across the school about the positive benefits of technology and the cybersafety issues to look out for. Our students must be able to discern between right and wrong, what cyberbullying looks like, and who they can turn to when they need help. Our parents and guardians need to know what the popular sites and apps are that our students are using, how they can monitor and protect their children online and what the legal consequences of their child’s actions are.

On a Lighter Note—(Never Argue with a Child)

I have currently been doing Prep interviews for the graduating class of 2029 and as part of the interview, we visit some of the classrooms. I would like to share with you some poignant insights from two young boys.

I was observing the classroom while the students were drawing. As I walked around to see each child's work, I noticed one little boy who was working diligently. I asked what the drawing was. The boy replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher who was listening, paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from his drawing, the boy replied, "They will in a minute."

The same teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with the class. After explaining the importance of 'honouring' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Reflection

The Philosopher Heraclitus taught, “You can’t step into the same river twice.” In other words, life is always changing. Life is simply one long series of changes, a collection of small deaths. The lesson is to learn from one so that we can live better in the next.

Nicholas Lynch
Principal
Some of our St John’s girls had a personal touch training session with current Australian Women’s 7s rugby player and former student Emilee Cherry last Friday. Very exciting!

Last Friday afternoon, our St John’s U/15 All Schools Touch girls team was fortunate enough to spend a personal coaching session with former St John’s student and current Australian Women’s Rugby 7s player, Emilee Cherry. A former Australian Women's Touch representative as well, Emilee now has her sights firmly set on selection in the Australian Women’s Rugby 7s team to contest the Rio Olympics in 2016, after a successful World Rugby 7s campaign in both London and Amsterdam. We wish Emilee all the best.

Year Six Science

Boom! Crash! Bang! This term, Year Six have been learning about the devastation that earthquakes cause.

We have been researching the 2012 earthquake in Japan; the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, the 2014 earthquake in China and the 2013 earthquake in Pakistan. Earthquakes are caused by rocks under stress. The earth's plates are constantly moving by either moving apart, sliding past one another or colliding. We had fun using Mars Bars to recreate plate movement.

The students are undertaking a major assessment piece working as dedicated earthquake explorers! Students had the opportunity to research one of the above earthquakes, which will then be presented as a multi-modal presentation to teach others about earthquakes and how Australia assisted in this time of crisis. This presentation will be conducted early in Term Three. We have been busy creating visuals and models for the presentation and are really looking forward to presenting our knowledge to our families and the rest of the school.

Geraldine Roberts
Year Six Teacher

Year One

Year one participated in activities to reconstruct and construct short texts.

In Term Two, the students in Year One engaged in a variety of learning activities. The students were given opportunities to listen to, view and read imaginative, persuasive and informative texts. Throughout the semester, they participated in activities to reconstruct and construct (with support) short texts through drawing, writing and performance. The informative texts written by the students were on Humpback Whales, Frogs and Wombats. The appearance, habitat and diet of each animal were explained and also an interesting fact. Students presented their information reports to each other within the class.

Mrs Freeman, Mrs Croft, Mrs Smith Year One

Prep 2016

Prep students for 2016 are currently being interviewed. If you have a Prep student for 2016 and have not yet been contacted, please call the office on 46229002.
Book Fair is less than a week away.

Preparations are in full swing with Book Fair less than a week away. Our Hospitality students are busy baking scones for our Kings and Queens Café and our Resource Centre staff are completing the final touches to create a spectacular and fun Kings, Queens and Castles atmosphere for all to enjoy during this term’s Book Fair.

Just to recap, Book Fair will happen in the last week of term (22nd to 26th June) every day Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Parents and grandparents are welcome to visit the Book Fair which will be set up in our library at St John’s. To add to your enjoyment, a Devonshire Tea will be served daily Monday to Thursday at 9.30am and on Friday at 11am. A gold coin donation box will be available for this service to assist our students in raising funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

On Monday and Tuesday in Book Fair Week, classes in Years 1 to 6 will be allocated a thirty minute timeslot to browse the extensive range of Scholastic books for sale and make a wish list of the books they would like to purchase. Parents and grandparents can meet up with their students during the lunch breaks to view these books with them and make any purchases with our Cashier situated at the circulation desk. Students can make these purchases themselves if parents/grandparents are unable to attend, though we do recommend that money be placed in an envelope.

A photo booth, complete with a royal throne, will be set up so that your visit to Book Fair will be a memorable experience. You can choose from a range of costume items to capture the excitement of the medieval Kings, Queens and Castles atmosphere for your family or individual shot. There will be a cost for these which includes a small magnetised frame so that you can place your keepsake on your fridge.

So that students really enjoy the Book Fair, Scholastic have given us $60 worth of book vouchers to be given away during the week. Activities and competitions have been organised so that students have opportunities to win a book voucher to spend at the fair.

Our Resource Centre team hope you can come to the Book Fair in Week Ten of this term; it is sure to be a FUN time for all.

Jenny Eeles, Teacher Librarian
Auskick (AFL)

First Week: Wednesday 29th July (Come and Try Week)
Last week: Wednesday 16th September
Duration: 8 Weeks
Venue: Roma State College
Time: 3:30 to 4:30pm
Cost: $70

Participants will receive a backpack with an Auskick hat, footy pump, activity book, footy cards, footy card album and their choice of football. (Blue, Orange and Pink)

Auskick will teach the kids the fundamentals of the game of AFL and play lots of Mini Games. It is for everyone from Prep to Year Six.

Students will learn a new skill of AFL over each week of the eight week program until Week Six where they start to play a game of AFL Auskick.

Auskick will conduct a come and try session in the first week and from Week Two onwards all students must be paid participants to be involved.

For more information please contact:
Tasman Myles
Development Coordinator – Darling Downs
337 Ruthven St | Toowoomba QLD 4350
P: | F: (07) 4659 8001 | M: 0421 246 320

Danielle Gillam
Sports Coordinator

From the Parish
Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Thirty six children from All Saints Parish will be confirmed by Bishop Robert McGuckin in Roma on Friday night at 6.30 pm. Most of these will then receive their First Holy Communion from Father Jamie during Mass at 8.30am on Sunday. Congratulations to our St John’s students who are taking these next steps in their faith journey. As part of our Sacramental Program, All Saints Parish is inviting children to begin preparing for their Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The program will involve some individual preparation and group sessions to ensure they are fully prepared for the sacrament. This lead-up will culminate in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at All Saints Catholic Church on Wednesday 2nd September at 6.00pm.

To participate, children must be in Year Three or older and have been baptised. It is essential that the child has completed the Sacrament of Reconciliation before they are able to receive their Confirmation and First Eucharist which will be held for this group in Term Two of next year, 2016.

An information sheet and enrolment form is available from the All Saints Parish Office Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon, ph 4622 1075 or Mrs Anne Moloney at St John’s School. Students in Years Three and Four whose enrolment information identifies them as Catholic will be given a copy by their classroom teacher to take home.

An Introductory Session about the preparatory program will be held on Wednesday 24th June at 5.15pm in the Justin King Centre, 6 Feather St, Roma.

Anne Moloney
This term in Religion, Year Seven has been looking at the liturgical seasons and the colours and symbols. We have looked at the meanings behind colours and how they have historically been used. Students have also studied different symbols and what they mean to members of the Catholic faith. The assessment piece for this term asked students to create a liturgical banner for a particular season. They needed to include appropriate symbols and colours and explain how these relate to their chosen season. The presentation of the banner was left open – and we received the most amazing work of the year. Students sewed banners out of fabric; there were banners created out of timber and metal; there were painted banners and digital banners. The effort that went into this task was remarkable. Well done Year Seven!

Next week (Week Ten), will see the culmination of our Ancient Greece History unit. Since Week One, students have been researching a chosen aspect of Ancient Greece; these range from Weapons and Warfare, Death and Funerary and Daily Life. The students are going to display their work next Tuesday in the P&F Multi-Purpose Centre. After the work we have received of late, we can’t wait to see what they have produced!

We have already started some of our work for next term, so we ask Year Seven to keep working hard. We are excited that the move to our new building is getting closer and we have some very interesting ideas for next term.

Nicole Southee & Luke Colbert
Year Seven Teachers
**Position Vacant - Parish Secretary**

Our Parish is currently seeking a person for a casual part-time position of approximately three to four hours per day, each weekday, to work at the Parish Office. Experience in Administration/Reception duties, Finance/Bookkeeping skills, with an ability to multitask and work unsupervised is required. Familiarity with Church/Liturgical procedures would be an advantage. (Must be computer literate with specific skills in MYOB, Word, Publisher, Excel and Database Programs.) Applications must include a current resume and three referees. Post to: The Secretary, All Saints Parish, PO Box 119, Roma Qld 4455 or email: allsaints@hwy54.com.au by 24th June 2015. Training is available prior to commencement. For further information and a position description, contact the Parish Office 46 221075.

*Fr Jamie Collins*

*Parish Priest*
At last week’s Full School Assembly, eight students were presented with ‘St John’s Above and Beyond Awards’ in recognition of their Enrichment Night efforts. Judging criteria for Enrichment Night displays included: knowledge of the chosen topic, evidence of research, visual appeal, use of resources and accuracy of written text.

**Gold ‘Above and Beyond’ Award:** Dressage - Brooke Boland and Ciara Jackson

**Silver ‘Above and Beyond’ Award:** Anime - Caitlin Hafemeister, Faith Welk and Guinavere Vanstan

**Bronze ‘Above and Beyond’ Award:** Stamp Collecting - Georgia Pearson and Amy Shaw; Aviation - George Pollock

Congratulations go to all participants for their enthusiasm and the high standard of their displays.

*Yenda Emery & Bernadette Makim*

*Enrichment Night Coordinators*
My Journey to Roma

Hello, my name is Nathalie Jane P. Bracamonte. I am 13 years old and once lived in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

My father is Ronald Monroe House and my mother is Maricris Majorine P. Bracamonte. My three brothers are Nathaniel Jon P. Bracamonte (9 years old), Runako Maron P. House (7 years old) and Roman Marco P. House (15 months old). Cagayan de Oro is a first class, highly urbanised and capital city of the province of Misamis Oriental in Mindanao, the southern part of the Philippines. It serves as the regional centre and business hub for Northern Mindanao (Region X), and is part of the growing Metropolitan Cagayan de Oro area, which includes the city of El Salvador. According to the 2010 Census of Population, the city has a population of 602,088 people, making it the 10th most populous city in the Philippines.

In the Philippines, I went to school in Kong Hua School, which is located in Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City; it is a Chinese-Filipino educative community that has offered basic education from preschool to high school for more than seven decades. The school mostly teaches students in class with the English Language and has also adapted to use the developmental programs and innovations in the curriculum such as Singaporean Maths, US-based Science Curriculum, and E-Learning, which gears towards the school's vision-mission of academic excellence and Christ-centred character formation. During my Grades 7 and 8 school year, I had 16 compulsory subjects specifically English, Maths, Science, Filipino, History, Business Maths, Home Economics, C.L.E. (Christian Living Education), Speech, Health, Arts, Music, P.E. (Physical Education), Computer, Morning Chinese and Afternoon Chinese. School assembly starts at 7:20, class starts at 7:30 and ends at 5:00. At Kong Hua School, we stay in one classroom for most of my subjects, unlike here at St John's, and the teacher would need to come to us in our assigned classrooms. Furthermore, there are also times when the subject teacher needs us to be in another area for the lesson that we are going to have, such as Arts, Health, Music, and P.E. We mostly take the lessons in our M.A.P.E.H. (Music, Arts, P.E., Health) room but we usually take our Music lessons in our Music room.

I arrived in Roma on May 1st, 2015. My thoughts about Roma were that it would be a small town, a different world from the Philippines, a quiet place, a rural area, would have a small population, and would be quite a nice place to live in for peace-loving people. I settled on St. John's Catholic School; first it was a suggestion and then it became a choice by my dad for my brothers and me to study in. Now, here I am going to school at St John's Catholic School having new friends, having personal and educational experiences and trying to accomplish my Grade Nine year level in a new environment that I have never been before.

I hope you enjoyed reading my story.
Nathalie Jane P. Bracamonte

The Macbeths

An excellent performance of The Macbeths by Brisbane based theatre company Shake and Stir, was enjoyed by our students from Years Nine to Twelve. The 50 minute adaptation of the Bard’s classic tragedy was fast paced, energetic and contemporary. It was successful in helping the students understand the Elizabethan language.

The story of Macbeth was brought to life by the three highly talented and diverse performers. They provided dynamic interpretations of the characters, and showed a high level of attention to detail and modern nuances.

The production incorporated many multi-modal techniques which made the play appealing to its contemporary audience. Projected images helped set the various scenes in the play and the students were also privy to interviews conducted in modern English with characters who were able to shed more light on the assuring events.

Shake and Stir’s performance was professional and enjoyable. With its simple set and costume, tightly choreographed fight scene and brilliant character portrayal, all agreed the production of The Macbeths was certainly worthwhile.

Sarah Nerva - Drama Teacher
From the Resource Centre

Our Resource Centre staff would like to extend an invitation to all St John’s parents and grandparents to attend our Scholastic Book Fair in the last week of this term: 22nd to 26th June 2015.

The theme for the Book Fair is Kings, Queens and CASTLES and we are planning some extraordinary displays around this theme to create a medieval atmosphere for you to enjoy your book purchases.

This is a snippet of some of the activities and events we have planned:

- Devonshire Tea will be served at 9.30am each day at the Kings and Queens Cafe located at the entrance to the Resource Centre. Our hospitality students will be providing freshly baked scones which will be served with your choice of tea or coffee. A gold coin donation would be appreciated with funds to be donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

- A photo Booth will be set up in the library so that you can capture the medieval experience. Choose from our various costume items to create your unique “medieval” individual or family shot. Cost for photos will be advised.

- Student activities will be conducted throughout the week providing chances for students to win Scholastic Book Vouchers to cash in at the fair. Scholastic will supply us with an extensive range of books for a range of different ages and reading levels. Prior to the Fair, students will have the opportunity to make a wish list of books they would like to purchase. Funds raised from the Book Fair will be allocated to updating our library resources.

We hope you will join us in our Kingdom of Books Medieval Book Fair, relax and enjoy a cuppa and purchase some awesome Scholastic books in an atmosphere of great FUN!

Jenny Eeles - Teacher Librarian
Hannah’s Frizzy Locks of Love!

On Sunday the 12th of July, Hannah is donating her hair to be made into a wig for a child with alopecia. The wigs take about 3 months to make by hand and cost around $5,000 each.

Hannah’s goal is to raise the $5,000 needed so a child whose family cannot afford a wig would be able to receive one as a gift. Please check out our fundraising opportunities below or visit our Facebook page for more info:

Fri 19th June - Crazy Frizzy Hair Day, St. John’s
   Bring a gold coin and crazy hair!

Thurs 25th June - Inside Out Movie Premier
   3:15pm – 6pm, Cinema Roma
   Afternoon tea provided, adults at children's prices, tickets $17 each

Sun 12th July - The Big Cut & Sausage Sizzle
   11am-1pm, St. Paul’s Anglican Church

www.facebook.com/Hannahsfrizzylocksoflove

Donate online at mycause.com.au/page/104456/hannahsfrizzylocksoflove

Hannah’s Frizzy Locks of Love!

Crazy Frizzy Hair Day!

Friday 19th June

Hannah is raising money for a child with alopecia with a crazy hair day at St. John’s. If your child would like to be involved, please bring an envelope to school with the following information by Thursday 18th June:

• Child’s name and class.
• Your choice of the following:
  • Sticky moustache - $2 each
  • Coloured hair spray - $2 each
  • Colourful clip-in hair - $4 each
  • Correct change.

Fundraiser items will also be available on the day.
In the next issue

Prep to Year Six
Prep - Science
Year Two - Religion
Year Four - English
St John’s Day

Years Eight to Twelve
Year Eight - Physical Education
Years Seven/Eight - Robotics
Leaders’ Reflections

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.