Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Tie Up the Black Dog day,

Yesterday, the 7-12 students were very fortunate to be a part of the mental awareness day organised by the St John's staff in conjunction with Black Dog. The students had talks from the following people:

Dr Casey Bennett, Dru Flesser, Trent Young, Sam Benham, Nicole Gibson, Matthew Johnstone, Blind-eyed ministry, Mary Woods, Jean Benham and Cathy Perkins.

Each of these people had something to share, regarding their own experiences or they work with people who have become more positive in their life once they have dealt with issues that had a less than positive effect on them. There is no doubt mental health is vitally important and that through our life time we will be in touch with or working with people who suffer from the various forms of mental health issues: some are short term, others are more life long issues. It is extremely important to ensure our students, staff and community are well aware of these issues and are able to seek help and to remain positive.

As the curtain falls on another very successful year, (last day for students Wednesday 2nd of December), I reflect on the key “ingredients” which create a successful school. This year has been very successful, very rewarding, with a vast array of learning opportunities for our students. Success comes with a cost ... a cost of time/effort/commitment, but with enormous rewards. And the more I reflect, the more I appreciate our staff and wish to express my appreciation and admiration for them.

THE WORTH OF TEACHERS

We don’t speak enough in our culture about the intrinsic value of a teacher’s worth. We are steeped in performance standards, job outlooks, business readiness, tests, taxes, and yet there are far more valuable assets we tend to ignore when we look at a majority of our teachers.

I could argue the problems in education rest in, missing fathers, the testing mania, illiteracy, antiquated school-funding. But soon we shall be nearing the start of the new school year, a time when students walk up to school and teachers wait at the classroom door with the vocations tucked squarely in their hearts. This is the time of year to celebrate teachers and what they do for our children year after year.

We don’t speak enough in our culture about the intrinsic value of a teacher’s worth.

Acknowledgement:


I was a teenager when I entered school. I’d play a game when I stepped into the building each morning.
Current NEWS!

Breakfast Club
This week was the last week for Breakfast Club for the rest of the Term. Thank you for everyone who supported and participated in the Breakfast Club this year.
Patricia Barrett

2016
If your child/children are not returning to St John’s in 2016 (other than Year 12’s) can you please let us know - phone 46221842 or email roma@twb.catholic.edu.au

Chicken Pox
Please be aware there has been a case of chicken pox in the school. Keep a vigilant eye on your children at this time.

School Finishing Dates
Twelves - Friday November 20
Clap Out 9.30 am

Ten/Eleven - Friday November 27
Finish at 10.30 am

Prep/Nine - Wednesday December 2
Finish at 3.00 pm

Year Four Reading
This term in Year Four we have been reading How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell. This book tells the story about a young group of boys who bet one of their friends, Billy that he couldn't eat 15 worms! The story proceeds to tell you all about what Billy does to try and eat his way through the 15 worms. The students have been reading different chapters from the book each week and completing a number of vocabulary, reading comprehension and novel work activities to go with what they are reading. The book, so far, has been an exciting read and we are all looking forward to seeing how it ends and if Billy can eat all 15 worms!

Danielle King
Michaela Wehl

I’d say to myself, “Let’s see how many people will say hello to me in the hallway today.” And 100% of the time the answer was zero, until I stepped into Mr Emra’s English class.

Mr Emra was a new teacher. I was impressed that he had an excellent masters degree and he liked books, foreign movies, poetry, art, history, football and he seemed to like me. That year Mr Emra had us all sit in a circle as we discussed novels and short stories. We delighted in being in Mr Emra’s class where we all got to know each other and learned to like each other as we worked on group projects.

We spoke openly about ourselves and about our connections to the books that we read. We wrote essays, plays, poems, short stories and Mr Emra spent countless hours at home reading our work and making personal comments on each of our papers: words of encouragement, suggestions for improvement, and kind praise.

It was in this class that a teacher taught me that I was good, smart, charming, cheeky, alive, and I have carried that newly discovered confidence with me for all of my life. Because of Mr Emra’s class, I not only walked through the high school halls with many people saying hello to me on a daily basis, I have walked through life with a sense of purpose, with a sense of confidence, with a sense of joy about living thanks to Mr Emra and his interest in a goofy, lonely kid.

Reflection
John Greenleaf Whittier wrote: “The dark night is over and dawn has begun: Rise, hope of ages, arise like the sun. All speech, flow to music, all hearts beat as one!” Spring is our chance to try again to make the world right. What one thing can you do today to make your own life right again?

Regards
Nicholas Lynch
“Paper Planes” has been our lunch time talk in the Resource Centre this term; a quest to read the novel Paper Planes by author Steve Worland, have a St John’s style paper plane competition and watch the movie as a grand finale was completed successfully. It was all to raise an enthusiasm for reading. Paper Planes is an Australian children’s novel and film aimed at a Year Five to Eight audience, though at St John’s, students from Prep to Year Nine have been interested in the topic of “Paper Planes”. Needless to say, we have had the odd one or two paper planes whizzing past our ears in the library and throughout the school campus in the lead-up to the competition.

The novel was great in giving students hints on making a winning paper plane, though to compliment this, our secondary teacher Mr Luke Colbert, gave students some expert instruction in making THE...BEST paper plane! Then the competition donned a serious tone with paper plane contenders eagerly attending a session with Mr Mike Padbury, a local pilot with the Flying Doctors, who spoke to students on the basics of aerodynamics and the trend of aircraft design mirroring nature. This was the central focus of the novel, with the main protagonist designing his paper plane to replicate the wing-span of an eagle.

On competition day, with the help of Mr Swires and Mr Brits, around 35 students lined up in heats to trial their models, with a winner’s playoff to determine who had the best St John’s design and of course, skill, in throwing their plane the longest distance to win. The Ogilvie boys, Heath (Prep) and Lincoln (Year Two) both won their individual heats, with Lincoln taking out the finals throwing his plane a winning 20.9 metres. Well done Lincoln! Lincoln’s prize was a book of his choice from the Book Club catalogue.

Jenny Eeles
Teacher Librarian
Music Fest Concert

I would like to congratulate all the Instrumental Music students who participated in the Music Fest concert on Saturday. I was very proud of how each and every student performed. Your behaviour was outstanding and you showed a great deal of musical professionalism when up on stage. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. I would also like to thank all the parents for your ongoing support and involvement in your child’s instrumental music studies. I am looking forward to what 2016 brings to the music program.

Rikki Bensley
Instrumental Music Teacher
Roma State College Middle Campus

PICNIC BLANKETS

The deluxe picnic blankets are still available from the office, $40 each (please bring cash only with correct change).

All Saints Parish Picnic

All Saints Parish Picnic was a lovely celebration together as a Parish. Although it rained the whole night (thank God for the rain!!), we all still enjoyed time together. The St John’s student leaders and other student members did a wonderful job in helping out on the night.

THANK YOU

To all who have worked hard to make our Parish Picnic possible, especially in planning the liturgy, selling the tickets and catering for the Barbecue.

Also a big thank you to all our young people who participated in the various ministries at Mass.

Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Congratulations to all Parish Picnic Winners!

Money Tree Winner of $1000 cash is Graham & Agnes Tiffany
$100 Board Draw One
Clare Cherry Number #85
$100 Board Draw Two
Vicki Tucker Number #59
$100 Board Draw Three
Barry McCabe Number #77

ST JOHN’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

“Come One, Come All” to the St John’s Christmas Concert. In just a few short weeks, St John’s will be holding their Christmas Concert on Monday, 20th of November, in the P&F shed. It is already shaping up to be a fantastic night with a number of performances already being rehearsed by classes in preparation for the big night. There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks on sale at the tuck shop on the night. A program, with performance times, will be made available in next week’s newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

YEAR ONE LOTE

We have been learning the German language in LOTE this semester. We know how to say ‘Good morning’ and ‘Good afternoon’ as well as how to count to ten and can label some body parts. It was interesting to discover some of the common food eaten in Germany and where we find Germany on the world map. In the next couple of weeks we will explore some Christmas traditions from Germany, including the origin of Christmas trees, the Christmas stocking and Advent calendars. “Frohe Weihnachten!” or “Merry Christmas!” from Year One.

Narelle Freeman
Yvette Croft
Year Ten Religion

In Year Ten Religious Education this semester students have studied units on moral dilemmas and St Paul. In Term Three students completed a unit focusing on moral dilemmas and different frameworks for dealing with these big, life-changing decisions that we have to make.

Term Four has focused on St Paul, one of Jesus’ disciples, and his travels. Students have explored the journey of St Paul, engaging in this period of history through a variety of multi-modal activities. Students recreated St Paul’s itineraries in Google Maps, made a ‘Fakebook’ account for St Paul and produced travel brochures for their own ‘St Paul Travel Company’. It has been a fun and interactive unit that has given students the opportunity to get ‘hands-on’ with a vital figure in the Catholic faith.

Two classes have even prepared a St Paul rap!

All Year Ten Religious Education students are wished the best as they head into their final two years of schooling and take either Religion and Ethics or Study of Religion.

Mrs Anne Moloney, Miss Holly White, Mr Alexander De Petro
Year 10 RE Teachers

Focus on Science

YEAR SIX

What makes things change and what affects how fast they change? Why do some things burn more fiercely, rust more quickly or smell more strongly? These are some interesting questions that Year Six are investigating this term in our unit, ‘Change Detectives’. Throughout this unit, the students have been provided with opportunities to explore melting, evaporating, dissolving, burning and chemical reactions. These hands on investigations have been very educational and loads of fun. Students have enjoyed becoming detectives and having to identify and explain physical and chemical changes in everyday materials.

Have a great week!

Geraldine Roberts
Jenn Fuller
This term the Year Ten Business students have been learning about business ethics and productivity. One way a business can improve their image and reputation is through the application of corporate social responsibility. Corporate social responsibility is the responsibility a business has on its surrounding environment and community. For the next two weeks the business students will be focusing on an environmental and social issue in Roma, which will be supported by our school as a profitable business.

See how you can become involved in helping our community.

**Number One Environmental Issue - CANS CANS CANS**

The Year Ten Business Studies class is collecting all your used aluminum cans and plastic bottles for recycling! Please deliver these into the marked bins located in your form room starting Monday Week Seven. House Point's will be awarded for every bottle/aluminum can recycled. Our goal is to raise awareness regarding the waste of metals and plastic bottles in Roma due to our lack of recycling facilities in town. **Recycling is not a waste of time.**

*Please don't give any alcoholic cans, glass bottles or general waste.*

**Support our community in more ways than one - Clothing Drive**

Are you sick of your Mum yelling at you to throw all your old baggy clothes away? Lucky for you, that problem can now be easily solved. Our Year Ten Business class is organising a clothing drive. You can spread the Christmas cheer by donating your old clothes and giving them to charity. In fact, your clothes will be donated to the brilliant St Vincent De Paul Christmas Clothing Drive and in return, you can also receive five house points for every bag of clothes you supply. Your clothes will then be taken to Vinnies and given to families that need it most. With the year coming to an end, this is a perfect opportunity to seek some final house points and do something positive for your community!!!

*Patricia Barrett*
We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
LIVE THE YOUNG ENDEAVOUR EXPERIENCE!

Applications are now open and close 5.00pm Monday 22 February 2016

For more information contact your Local Development Officer on 1300 007 662 or council@maranoa.qld.gov.au
www.maranoa.qld.gov.au

You are invited to the Hodgson Hall
BBQ, Christmas Tree & Old Time Dance

Saturday, 12th December 2015
BBQ 6pm : $15.00 Per Person
BYO Chairs

We encourage everyone to get up and have a go at Old Time Dance, but it is not a requirement for the night. Even if you do not dance, come out for a great social night with family and friends.

Christmas Tree 7.30pm
Children to 12 Years $15.00 per child, includes Tree, Meal & Ice Block

Names, Children’s Ages and Money to:
Kylie Sabine @ Kimlin’s Camping World 4622 1327
Or 0448 528 462
Ang Lorenz: 0428 229 003
By: Wednesday, 18th November 2015

RSVP for BBQ by Saturday, 5th December 2015 to Kylie or Ang
Please bring a Salad or Sweet to share with the BBQ. Drinks available for sale.