Dear Parents and Caregivers,

English novelist Rose Tremain once said, “Life is not a dress rehearsal.” It’s a great reminder that in the grander scheme of things, there are no second chances and we only get one shot at life. We only have a limited period of time on this planet and as we’re not practising for something else, we have critical choices to make.

Do we potter away at meaningless activities or do we live with purpose? Do we choose to be controlled by our fears or do we act with boldness?

Do we squander our talents or do we maximise our potential? Do we spend our days complaining about life or do we identify a multitude of reasons to be grateful? Do we wait to be chosen or do we choose ourselves? Do we live on a treadmill or do we make progress towards meaningful goals? Do we keep saying “One day I will” or do we make today the day that we do? Do we live self-indulgently or do we make a positive difference in the lives of others? Do we wait for something to happen or do we make it happen? Do we criticise the efforts of others or do we become the person in the arena?

My advice for our students is that we create our own future by living in the ‘now’, by being truly awake and present in each moment of every day.

My final message to the Year 12 class of 2015 was to remind them that, no matter what career or profession they end up in, the talents and gifts they have been given are not just for their own personal success, but also for the betterment of society and to help others. A sign of a successful school is not about what cars they drive, houses or suburbs they live in or their profession. It is for what and whom they use their talents so we have our St John’s past students making a real difference in the lives of the community they live in. “The Proof of the Pudding is in the eating.”
2016

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

School Finishing Dates

Ten/Eleven - Friday November 27
Finish at 10.30 am

Prep/Nine - Wednesday December 2
Finish at 3.00 pm

PICNIC BLANKETS

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

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.

Regards
Nicholas Lynch

Christmas Concert

St John’s annual Christmas Concert will be held on Monday 30th November in the P&F Multi-Purpose Centre. Each class has been working hard on their performance items getting them perfect for the night. Students can start arriving from 5:30 with the concert starting at 6pm. The Christmas Concert will be run without an interval this year, with the list of items being finished by about 7:15pm. There will then be sausages and drinks on sale at the tuck shop. A flyer and program with the performance list can be found in this week’s letter. We look forward to seeing everyone there!
Last week was a very important week in the lives of the 2015 cohort of Year Twelves.

Sunday saw the students head to Lake Perseverance to attend the Year Twelve Emmaus Retreat aptly led by Mr McGoldrick and assisted by Miss Nelson, Mr Shields, Miss Jones and Miss Topic. The year Twelve students reflected on the last twelve years of their life.

Students returned to school on Thursday morning and headed straight to All Saints Church for a Mass practice. In the middle session of the day, students wrote their bucket lists and identified their character traits as young adults heading out into the ‘Real World’. The afternoon saw an intensive T-Ball training session. After a loss in 2014, the students were out for revenge against the teachers in the Staff v Year Twelve T-Ball game. The training session paid off with a convincing win over the overall result of the game.

Graduation Dinner was held at Explorers Function Centre after the mass on Thursday night. Keely McDermott and Ollie Peak gave a heartfelt speech to their graduating class, whilst Mrs Rebecca Lynch and Mr Ross Penrose spoke on behalf of the parents and staff respectively.

Finally, Friday had come around; the day that was 12 years in the making. The Graduating Class of 2015 had done it; they had completed their 12 years of schooling. It was a very emotional week for all concerned but one they will never forget.

We wish the graduating class of 2015 all the best for their future endeavours and remind them that they will always have somewhere to call home at St John’s.

Thomas Moore
DEAN OF HOUSE - XAVERIAN
Audience members were treated to an excellent Ancient Greek Theatre performance by St John’s Senior Drama Students early last week. The 30 minute show was a workshop production of extracts from Euripides ‘Trojan Women’.

After the fall of Troy, the Greeks slaughtered the Trojan women or carried them off as prizes. The men they’d fought for ten years all lay dead, the city was burning, yet still the widows, sisters and children had to be put to the sword. The play tells the story of the women of Troy. It features the Greek God, Poseidon, the famous Helen of Troy, whose face launched a thousand ships, Hecuba the de-throned Trojan Queen and a Greek Chorus. Excellent performances were given by this very talented cast. Emotionally charged arguments and recounts of the horror experienced by the survivors drew in the audience and helped created a truly inspiring event.

The night was further enhanced with the addition of lighting and sound, operated by our star technician, Tony Kerr. It is my intention to host many more evening events which showcase the many talented students currently studying Drama.

The Drama room was transformed to replicate the ancient performance space of an amphitheatre, where the seating was raked to help amplify the voices of the actors.

Sarah Nerva
Drama Teacher
The Year Seven students of St John's recently moved into a new open classroom. After spending the first three terms of the year in the old Year Seven building, they were finally able to move to the newer and more modern building. The building features modern furniture in a variety of exciting colours. This furniture includes booths, high desks/chairs and chairs with desks and wheels. The classroom also has whiteboard walls, so the walls can be drawn on with whiteboard markers. The two large classrooms allow for lots of freedom every day, for example changing seating plans. Combined classes are much easier, thanks to an opening wall in the middle, which lets both classes receive the same information for assessments. We now work in groups rather than individually which enables us to improve our understanding of the topic and communicate with other students from both classes.

All of the year seven students are very happy about getting to be the first ones to use this new block and the year six students are getting excited about using the rooms next year. The year seven rooms have certainly made a big difference to the school. Caitlin Hafemeister said, “The new rooms are definitely more exciting than the old rooms and they give both classes the chance to interact more,” and Faith Welk said, “Everybody certainly loves the new rooms and the fancy furniture in them.”

The New Year Seven Room Is Open for Business

The new Year Seven block is certainly an improvement to the school and makes school days much more exciting for the year sevens.

Our freedom is increased by the classroom being an open one so that they can move freely between groups when doing group activities. The fact that each class is receiving the same information is beneficial to all students as they will be more commonly able to discuss confusion, problems and work with people of both classes.

The students have developed their skills as well. They have learned to communicate with teachers and other students more, greater their independence and they have discovered just how well they can work individually or in groups with pretty much any task.

By Amy Shaw and Georgia Pearson
Year Three LOTE

Throughout Term Four, the Year Three students have been exploring French culture. They have had the opportunity to develop their research skills by using non-fiction books to source information on school life, home life, food, climate, art and sport. For assessment, the students used this information to compare and contrast the French lifestyle with the Australian lifestyle and discussed in which country they would prefer to live. Students were required to justify their answer using the information gathered throughout the term. To conclude the unit, students had fun exploring the different Christmas traditions experienced in France and they compared these to what we experience here in Australia. Year Three students have loved learning about a new culture!

Cassie Shields

Year Two Geography

This term, the students in Year Two have been exploring local and global connections. We have looked at our connections to our home by asking our parents questions such as, ‘How long have we lived in our house?’, “Why did we choose to live in this house?” and what the best thing is about our house.

We discussed those places outside Roma to which we are connected. We found out that we can be connected to places by visiting them, through the people who live there and the goods and services we use that have come from other places. We also looked at the connections the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to a place and how the term ‘country’ is used to describe a place that is very special. We looked at the products in our pantry that we buy here in Roma and found out where in the world that they were made.

For our assessment task this term, we chose one place in the world to which we are connected. We looked at where in the world our favourite place could be found and coloured our favourite place on a map. We found out that we are connected to many different countries in the world, such as, England, India and the Philippines. We also found that we have local, regional and national connections in Australia. We explored our favourite place by writing how we can connect to our favourite place by caring for it and through different methods of communication and transport. We also considered those changes which might occur that would affect our connection to our favourite place.

Mrs Brennan, Miss van Slobbe and Mrs Purssell
This term in Physical Education, students in Year Nine have been working hard on improving their invasion game skills while also looking at drugs and alcohol in the theory unit ‘My Social Responsibility’. An invasion game is any game where players take an implement into an opposing teams half or zone and use that implement to then score. This covers a wide range of games such as touch football, netball, European handball, soccer and many, many more. Many of these games have concepts and strategies for attack and defence that are transferable. Year Nine Physical Education students have played a wide variety of invasion games this term including games such as quidditch, oz-tag, European handball, netball, basketball and flag gridiron. Students have improved their capacity to apply and transfer concepts and strategies in invasion games. In the unit ‘My Social Responsibility’, students have explored public health and advertising campaigns to determine their effectiveness on adolescent choices about using alcohol and other drugs. Students have examined norms and stereotypes surrounding adolescent alcohol and drug use as well as investigating information about alcohol and other drugs; standard drinks; blood alcohol concentration and alcohol and drug laws. Students also examined scenarios and used the decision-making process to be able to make smart choices in regards to alcohol and other drug use.

Doug Amiss
Teacher- Physical Education & Science
### Water Fun Day – Tuesday 1st December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Prep Blue</th>
<th>Prep Maroon</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>1 Maroon</th>
<th>2 Blue</th>
<th>2 Maroon</th>
<th>2/3 White</th>
<th>3 Blue</th>
<th>3 Maroon</th>
<th>U9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.40 – 9.10</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10 – 9.40</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.30</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.00</td>
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<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 – 12.35</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15 – 1.45</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.45 – 2.15</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
<td>Wet Sponge Toss</td>
<td>Massive Slip and Slide</td>
<td>Rob the nest</td>
<td>Sponge Relay</td>
<td>Sponge Skirmish</td>
<td>Human Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Chill out zone</td>
<td>Water Limbo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Ten Pin Bowling**
**Sponge Skirmish**
**Sponge Relay**
**Rob the nest** (Robbing other peoples water bucket with sponges)
**Massive Slip and Slide** (Race)
**Wet Sponge Toss** (Shot Put)
**Water Limbo** (With a hose)
**Chill out zone** (Blow up pools)

The water fun day will run on Tuesday Week 9, December 1. Students are to wear a sun safe shirt, shorts and a bucket hat (no caps allowed). They are also to wear enclosed shoes. Any student not wearing sun safe clothing will not be participating in the day’s activities.

All students clothing this day will get wet, but will hopefully be dry by home time. Students are asked to bring a towel, normal lunch times will occur. Activities will be run by staff and student leaders.
A fun filled evening for the family and friends. There may be a visit from someone special...

Christmas Concert

Monday 1st December

Arrive at 5:30pm for a 6pm start

Featuring:
Christmas Carols, poems and plays.

Sausage sizzle, chips and drinks will be available for sale

A fun filled evening for family and friends. There may even be a visit from someone special...

2015 St John’s Christmas Concert Program

Thank you for supporting our students and joining us in celebrating the end of another year.

Preps: ‘The Happiest Christmas Tree’ & ‘Mary’s Boy Child’
Year 1: ‘Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer’
Year 2: ‘We’re going on a Christmas Hunt’
Year 2/3: ‘Christmas in the West’
Year 3: ‘Aussie Jingle Bells’
Year 4: ‘Mon Beau Sapin’ (Oh Christmas Tree in French)
Year 5: ‘The Boxing Day Blues’
Year 6: ‘Cool Rockin’ Santa’
Drama: Shadow Puppet - Nativity Story
Stage Traffic: ‘All I want for Christmas’
Teachers: The Chocolate Nativity

Sausage Sizzle and a special visitor!
Term Four Finishing Dates

Ten/Eleven - Friday November 27
Finish at 10.30 am

Prep/Nine - Wednesday December 2
Finish at 3.00 pm

School Resumes
January 27, 2016

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

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Rocking Around the Christmas Tree

2015 Community Christmas Carols
Sunday 29th November
4:30pm - 8:30pm

Roma Cultural Centre
Bungil St.

Maranoa Chaplaincy - BBQ & Iceblocks
Global Care Roma - Drinks
Jumping Castle, Outdoor Games, Face Painting & More.
Roma Scouts

Car Wash

LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
From 8.30 am – 12pm

Banks Bolts & Fasteners
(Mitchell Road)

While you wait take a browse in Banks Bolts & Fasteners or sit down and enjoy a coffee, cake and sausage sizzle.