Boatardi hosí Timor-Leste!
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Before the holidays, I read an article in ‘The Age’ newspaper (20 June 2015) which I believe warrants sharing. The author is a skilled Careers Consultant who has linked an emotional strength to the various ways in which sharing contributes to our individual humanity. The following is an extract from the longer article entitled, “Life’s lessons for sharing”.

“Sharing seems to be part of our grand design. Whether you see love as merely a chemical reaction whose purpose is solely to promulgate our genes into the next gene pool, or whether you see it in higher terms and a reflection of greater powers, love involves sharing. Sharing is fundamental to life. Our work is social contribution; it is the gift of our talents that we share with society, with the world. It is why the loss of work, or being involuntarily excluded from it is so devastating.”

It is why there comes a time when we become personally concerned to ensure we are doing things that are meaningful to us and matter to us and to others. We also have a concern that the next generation occupies themselves in similarly meaningful work. The sharing of culture, knowledge and wisdom is reflected in society, myths and rituals that we have developed to support this transfer.

Schools, apprenticeships, training, churches and universities reflect some of the formal methods we have devised. We have coming-of-age ceremonies such as graduations and formals. (This Friday Night is our Year 12 Formal.) Informally, we create stories about generations that serve to highlight the differences between us and them. These myths we tell ourselves about the next generation may serve a purpose in motivating us to share our wisdom and so to “correct” the faulty thinking of our children. Sometimes, it is easier to share because of the fear of the alternative, rather than through love of ourselves, others and the planet. We need more positive stories about the next generation, and a greater recognition that sharing and love are the natural human condition. We don’t need to be afraid to share, or to work.

I look forward to the sharing of experiences that our students and staff had over the holidays with a two week immersion experience to East Timor. These experiences are often hard to share with others, unless you have had the same experience. People often come back changed in their outlook and have a far greater understanding of the word ‘sharing’ and of life in general.

Reflection

“My sense of worth and purpose in life is tied up with the quality of life I provide for others, for the planet, for the human race.”

Joan Chittister

Nicholas Lynch
Principal
**Notices**

**Children’s Liturgy**

Children’s Liturgy is held during the 8.30am Sunday Masses on the third and fourth Sundays of the month during term times at All Saints Catholic Church, Corner of Feather & McDowall Streets in Roma. All children are very welcome, no equipment is required. Morning Tea will usually follow the Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Dates for this month’s Children’s Liturgy are this Sunday July 19th and next Sunday July 26th. Next month, they will be on August 16th and 23rd. We look forward to seeing our St John’s students at Mass.

Mrs Anne Moloney

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

On Friday 11th September from 6pm in the P&F Multi-Purpose Centre we are holding a Fathers Day Footy Night, where sporting memorabilia will be auctioned. Please come along and enjoy a night of socialising; we will have the footy on the big screen and movies for those children who don’t want to watch the football…further details will follow.

**REMEMBER**

Year 10 SET plans will be held during Week Three (27-28, 30-31 July). Parents and students are encouraged to attend an Information Night held on Thursday night 13 August. More information will be sent out this week.

**Year Ten Business**

This term the Year 10 Business Studies students will be studying the unit ‘Economic Performance and Standards of Living’. Students have been introduced to the concepts of supply and demand through simulated world trade and product value activities. With this new underlying knowledge of basic economic principles; students will focus on Australia’s economic performance over the last few years and make future predictions about our economy. Students will be working in groups this term to create either a documentary, TV show, website or podcast. This presentation of information will demonstrate their understanding of living and compare it to that of another country located within the Asia-Pacific borders. Students will study the concepts of exchange rates, inflation, GDP, education, unemployment rates, etc.

Students will learn the value of teamwork and problem solving by working in groups to create a high standard piece of assessment. Throughout this term students will also develop cooperative teamwork and research skills as they embark on this learning journey.

Economic fun below!

Patricia Barrett
For the past two weeks, 8 intrepid St John’s students (and two teachers) journeyed around the small island nation of Timor-Leste, located about 700 kilometres north-west of Darwin. It is a country of great natural beauty contrasted with deep poverty caused by 25 years of Indonesian occupation and hundreds of years of Portuguese negligence.

Our living conditions were basic, eating local food (rice, vegetables, noodles and chicken) and sleeping one night on bamboo mats in a tiny village, this was less of a holiday and more of a very authentic experience of life for the Timorese. In a country without running water and with limited access to electricity, adjusting to the lack of creature comforts we enjoy in Australia was challenging at times: some students (and one teacher!) had a rude awakening when they realized that the bucket of water in the bathroom was for showering.

Travelling from the capital Dili to Baucau, Viqueque, Salau and Soibad – on some VERY bumpy roads, to say the least - our group of bold travellers were privileged to witness the inspiring work of the Catholic Church in Timor-Leste, and to stay with nuns at a number of orphanages. The students forged some great friendships with local youth and hopefully these relationships can strengthen in the future. Seeing the pride that they take in their churches, chapels, community centres and culture houses really made us appreciate everything that we have back home.

For students and teachers alike, this was a life changing experience. At times it was hard to believe that Timor-Leste is just an hour flight from Australia, as the living conditions of people there are so difficult and impoverished. What struck us the most was the happiness and friendliness of almost all the people we encountered. The Timorese are a warm and generous people who welcome visitors to their fledgling country with open arms. These experiences helped to put in context the reality of life for most people across the world and reminded us of how lucky we are to live in Australia. It was truly a humbling trip.

Going forward, St John’s plans to run a trip to Timor-Leste in 2016, so over the next year look out for a variety of fundraising events to support the communities that we visited. If you see any of the students who went on the trip - Jack Jones, Kate Martyn, Skye Howson, Kaitlyn Lane, Courtney Hassall, Wade Anderson, Bridget Treasure and Owen Williams - they would all be more than happy to answer any questions and fill you in with some stories of our adventures.

Miss Stephanie Topic and Mr Alexander De Petro – East Timor Journey of Solidarity 2015 Boatardi hosi Timor-Leste!
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Preparation at All Saints Parish

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 children 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 2 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.

Students in Years Three and Four whose enrolment information identifies them as Catholic were given a copy of enrolment information by their classroom teacher to take home at the end of last term. There was a great turnout at the Introduction Session about the preparatory program held on Wednesday 24 June. The first group session will commence on Wednesday of next week, 29 July, at 5.15 pm in the Justin King Centre.

If you are interested in participating or missed out on an information sheet and enrolment form these are 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.
The Year 9 students have been keeping busy this term, with each class focusing on a particular strand in their Science classes.

In Miss Mason’s Biology class, students have been exploring the nervous system and endocrine (hormone) system and how our body responds to external change. Students looked into spinal injuries and how they affect movement and coordination. We have also looked at the brain as a part of the nervous system and the responsibilities of the different lobes. Students have looked into being ‘left’ or ‘right’ brained and whether creativity or logic prevails in their thinking.

Students will be connecting this information to explore how some other body systems interact too. A sheep pluck dissection and growth of yeast and bacteria is ahead of us in the term as we look at body systems as well as energy change throughout an ecosystem. Students will complete an assessed practical report later in the term.

In Mr Shields’ Chemistry class, students have been investigating the Periodic Table and looking at how and why certain elements react with each other. The students have looked at the atomic structure of the elements and the changes that occur when reactions take place. This will lead in to looking at nuclear reactions later in the term.

As the term progresses, we will also look at reactions involving acids and bases, as well as the pH scale. This will include testing the pH of many different items and looking at the effect of pH on things like pool water, soil and many other things.

In Miss Barrett’s Physics class, students have been studying different forms of energy through the use of online simulations, hands on practical activities and theory. They will be examining heat, sound light, electromagnetic radiation and electricity in depth. Students have also been participating in Fun Fact Friday, where three students are nominated each week to find an interesting fact, video or recent scientific discovery to present to the class.

Did you know a while can send sonar signals up 800km! This is just one of the interesting scientific facts our physics class has presented this term.

A formal lab report will be written later in this term as part of their assessment where students will have the opportunity to develop their research skills and an in-depth knowledge regarding the physical sciences.

*Patricia Barrett*

*Science Teacher*
Canberra Trip
Final payments for the Canberra Trip are due in on Monday 3rd August.

Pizza Day
The St John's U18 girls and boys basketball teams will be running a Pizza Day fundraiser Wednesday 5th August at first break. $3.00 per slice or $5.00 for two slices. This fundraiser will help us get to Brisbane to participate in the CBSQ basketball tournament. Your support would be appreciated. Please return the order form and money to the front office or

Year Three Reading
In Year 3, students are progressing from ‘learning to read’ to the ‘reading to learn’ stage of their reading development. Year three students will be reading more challenging texts, so it is vital that they are comprehending what they are reading. This term we will focus on various comprehension strategies that will assist students to understand what they are reading. It is very exciting as students progress through reading levels, however, it is important to understand that the main goal of home reading is for enjoyment and to practice fluency and expression. This is why the readers sent home will be between 2-4 levels lower than your child's reading level. This encourages independent reading and develops fluency and expression. Reading fluently is not reading quickly, it's reading the way we talk so that we can better understand what we are reading. Reading fluently is a bridge to comprehension. Asking who, what, when, where and why questions after reading at home is a good way to elicit your child's comprehension of the text. You could also ask your child to relate an event or character from the text to his/her own life experiences. When your child makes a connection to a text, they are actively constructing meaning which builds higher levels of comprehension. If you would like more information on ways to help build your child's comprehension skills please come and see your child's teacher!

Annie Wright
Year Three Teacher

Congratulations!
Congratulations to Jake Williams. During the school holidays Jake won a Queensland Motocross Title in the Junior Lites 4 stroke class. He has been working very hard towards this goal and we are very proud of his achievement. Jake will compete in the Australian Junior Motocross Championships in Bunbury, WA in the September holidays.

Good luck Jake!

Citizenship
Any families who have been granted their Australian Citizenship this year, please bring a copy to the office.
Year Seven Science

In Year seven, we are integrating a new approach called Project Based Learning into some of our units. This involves students being given real world issues to investigate relatively independently. The problem that has been posed to the students in Science and Geography for this term is, “How can we drought proof our community?” Students will write a report that will be given to Bruce Scott or local farmers, depending upon the focus they choose.

Students have been given six topics to investigate. These range from looking at Roma’s average rainfall, the water cycle and why we have wet seasons, to the economic and mental effects that drought can have on the community and its members and the possible ways that our community could become drought proof.

Students are working in small groups on this project with a focus on research from secondary sources, completing their own research and conducting experiments to explain theories.

So far, the leadership and responsibility that the students have demonstrated when working independently has been fantastic. They have remained on task and focused over quite long periods of time and for us to hear students discussing their ideas, even as they leave the room or during lunch breaks, is very satisfying.

We cannot wait to see what they come up with – maybe someone will put forward an idea that will change our community!

Miss Southee and Mr Colbert
Year Seven Teachers

Year Five Science

What’s the matter? This term in Year Five, we will be investigating the three different states of matter. So far, the students have developed their own definitions of solids, liquids and gasses. Throughout the term, we will be conducting experiments and discovering a wide range of expert opinions about matter. Our experiments will uncover the process of changing the states of matter. We will also find out about non-Newtonian liquids!

We are set for another huge term in Science and Mr. Herrod and Miss Casey are looking forward to working with many little white coated scientists exploring matter.

Patrick Herrod
Year Five Teacher
St John’s School, Roma Bush Gardens, Maranoa Regional Council, Boobook Ecological Advisors, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, Landcare, Planet Ark and Black Toyota are inviting students, their parents and community members to take part in a local National Tree Day event, marking the 20th anniversary of the much-loved campaign.

This National Tree Day event is taking place in Roma at Roma Bush Gardens, Duke St, on Friday 24 July. Activities start from 10.30am until 12.30pm. St John’s School use the gardens for their annual cross country run as well as activities such as Science field experiences like water quality testing and plant and animal species identification.

“This special anniversary of National Tree Day is a timely opportunity to connect with the community, reflect on what’s been achieved through community plantings in our school and neighbourhood and continue to care for our local environment,” said Mrs Anne Moloney a teacher from St John’s School.

Jock, Rose, Margaret and Anne from Roma Bush Gardens had a working bee on Sunday to prepare the main entrance garden prior to Friday’s planting.

Two St John’s School Year Eight Science classes will be heading to the gardens around 10.30am until 11.30am and a group of Year Nine Science students will be coming down from 11.45am - 12.30pm. The school’s two Biology teachers, Miss Beth Mason and Miss Holly White will accompany these classes and join Mrs Anne Moloney to supervise the digging over of the main entrance garden bed, planting, mulching, adding stakes and grow bags.

The other two feature beds at the entrance closest to the Men’s Shed and Scout hall will also be weeded, the eremophilas trimmed by a third, dead plants removed, the gaps planted in with suitable species and the garden mulched and watered.

The Cyprus pine open forest will receive some sub-canopy plantings of species such as acacias and the recently planted pines will be mulched and all watered.

National Tree Day is Australia’s largest tree-planting and nature care event. Each year over 300,000 people take part in National Tree Day events at 3,000 sites organised by councils, schools, businesses, communities and Toyota Dealers across the country. Since Planet Ark launched National Tree Day in 1996, more than three million participants have planted 21 million native trees, shrubs and grasses.

This year National Tree Day’s theme, “You Can Grow So Much”, focuses on the wealth of opportunities engaging with nature brings to individuals, communities and the environment.

Findings of independent research* commissioned by Planet Ark over the last five years has found that contact with nature provides a range of happiness, health and wellbeing benefits, but our outdoor time is being eroded by increased screen time, longer working hours and shrinking backyards.

“Our research shows that you can grow happier by getting outside and connecting with nature, as outlined in our new report Needing Trees – The Nature of Happiness,” says National Tree Day Manager Debbie Agnew. “Nature has the ability to influence happiness because it has direct and positive effects on the brain, so National Tree Day is a free and easy way to boost these feelings.”

National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota and its Dealer Network, which provides on the ground support at local community tree planting sites Australia-wide.

This tree planting event has become a partnership between groups within our community including St John’s School, Roma Bush Gardens, Maranoa Regional Council, Boobook Ecological Advisors, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, Landcare, Planet Ark and Black Toyota who are all helping with donations of their time and expertise, equipment and plants.

To find out more about National Tree Day or Schools Tree Day, please visit treeday.planetark.org, call the Hotline on 1300 88 5000 or visit your local participating Toyota Dealership.

* A series of independent reports about the value of nature commissioned by Planet Ark can be found at treeday.planetark.org/research.

For interviews, images, logos or information about tree day sites in your area, please contact:

Anne Moloney, Sara McGregor
St Johns School, Roma PR and Media Manager, Planet Ark
07 4622 1842, anne.moloney@twb.catholic.edu.au 02 8484 7205, pr@planetark.org

Digging out a tree stump of a plant that hadn’t survived the dry
In the next issue

Prep - Year Six
Prep - Religion
Year Two - Writing
Year Six - Science
EALD - Learning another language challenge

Year Seven - Twelve
Year Ten - Science
Year Eleven - Maths
Year Twelve - Formal
NAIDOC Week

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