Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Partnership

Tonight is the Parent and Friends Annual General Meeting. It is an opportunity to become involved in the life of your child’s school. I have seen the St John’s Parent and Friends do many successful things around the school (P and F Building, Moonlight Fair, St John’s Races, School Uniform shop and the purchase of school buses.) All of these events and more are a legacy from the past for the students and families of the present and future.

I encourage all parents to be fervent partners in your child’s education at St John’s. There are consistent research findings that the children of parents who are involved in the school do significantly better than others whose parents are not involved. We also urge you to support the values of the School you have chosen for your children. Teachers really appreciate parents who support the expectations of St John’s, as do other parents. When we all act together in harmony around our values, it is “the village raising the child.”

Pastoral Care

As St John’s grows, we want to ensure that “each student is well known and cared for.” We promise parents that we will endeavour to ensure that no student will slip through the cracks and that the potential in each student will be recognised and encouraged. Homework is a key part of learning that parents can assist us in prioritizing with our students. Our School policy is that, ‘students should form the habit of regular study at home of an appropriate length. This includes working on assessment tasks, specific teacher set tasks and revision. (Also includes reading). As students move through the school these demands can and will increase. The timings listed below are approximate recommendations:

- Years Seven & Eight - 1.5 hours
- Years Nine & Ten - 2.5 hours
- Years Eleven & Twelve - 3.5 hours

My concern has been the lack of effort from some students in drafts and final copies. I don’t know of another system that allows drafts, and as such, our students need to take advantage of this situation to improve. It can be quite alarming when students aren’t aiming for their best possible grade.

Ash Wednesday (10th February)

We are very proud of our School community in the way they embrace Lent, whether it be the reverence shown at our Ash Wednesday Liturgy (10:45am) or the donations for eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday; to the way the students take on the responsibility of helping those less fortunate than themselves through Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion’s work. The students also understand and act out their awareness that their work for Project Compassion is more than simply placing coins in box. The teachable moments for promoting social action during Lent abound in classrooms, and in the schoolyard.
St John’s App - News

You can now select which groups from whom you would like to receive messages. Here’s how:

- Ensure you have updated the St John’s App.
- When you next open the App, go into Messages and on the top right hand corner click the cog icon ☰.
- From here you can choose and save the groups from whom you would like to receive notifications.
- As groups will be added throughout the year it would be wise to check the groups and update your choice every month or so.
- For example, if you have a son in Year Eleven who is in Confraternity but not the Wizard of Oz you would select to receive Year Twelve and Confraternity messages only, leaving Wizard of Oz unchecked so you don’t receive these alerts.
- Please note: You will still receive messages that apply to the whole school.

Equestrian Meeting

We are having an Equestrian meeting for all interested families in the VB room on Thursday 11th February at 5pm to welcome new families and share information for the year.

Reflection

The gospels tell of Jesus journey into the wilderness and the temptations that faced him there. It’s an important story because it reminds us that temptations are part of life, part of growing up. We grapple with them often—in some instances for our lifetime—before we realise that it is not so much the victory as it is the effort to overcome that is holy-making.

Yours sincerely,
Nicholas Lynch

Wizard of Oz

Casting of the speaking roles for the upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz has now been completed. Auditions were held in week two with a large number of students trying to land the main roles in the production. Approximately 60 students attended the auditions and once there had to sing, dance and act in front of members of the production team. The process, which went over three days showcased an amazing array of talent. The production team had the difficult job of placing these extremely talented students in the roles which best suited.

Many smaller roles are yet to be cast, including a large chorus of Munchkins. These will be cast over the next few weeks so if your child wants to be involved it is not too late. Information and permission letters are available at the front office for students from year four upwards.

The production team all agreed that St John’s students are an extremely multi-talented group and the three performances of The Wizard of Oz being held at Roma’s Cultural Centre on April 21st, 22nd and 23rd will be of a very high standard.

The rigorous rehearsal schedule, which consists of singing, dancing and acting rehearsals occur in the students’ morning breaks, afterschool and on numerous weekends. Being part of the production promises to be exhausting but also lots of fun.

This year’s Easter in the Country celebrations will feature a Wizard of Oz float and many colourful Munchkins.

If parents and friends think they may be able to offer assistance in any way please contact the school.

Mrs Nerva
Drama Teacher
Immunisation Forms

Immunisation forms are to be returned this week.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is located at St John's School. It is open from 8.00 - 9.00 am every Monday morning and 2 - 5 pm every Thursday afternoon.

Whooping Cough

There has been a diagnosed case of Whooping Cough in the P - 6 classes.

Symptoms:
Whooping Cough often starts like a cold with a runny nose, sneezing and tiredness over several days, and then the characteristic coughing bouts develop. These bouts can be very severe and frightening and may end with a crowing noise (the whoop) as air is drawn back into the chest. Vaccinated children and adults may not display the typical whoop.

Whooping Cough is highly infectious and a student displaying symptoms will need to be excluded from school until they are not infectious. If you have any further queries please contact the school.

Welcome to a new year within Year Ten English! The team for Year Ten English includes Mr Alex DePetro, Mrs Sarah Nerva, Mrs Kate McAuley and Miss Leah Woodhouse leading the Year Ten English Communications.

Year Ten English
With such a short term to begin 2016, the units have been adapted to ensure there is enough time to fully explore each of the texts which are the focus of Semester One. Term One begins with the novel study of Harper Lee's classic “To Kill A Mockingbird”, followed by the film study of “The Help” in Term Two. Both these pieces explore the living conditions between black and white groups in America during the 1930’s and 1960’s, amongst the historical events of The Great Depression and the civil rights movement. Both texts create memorable characters and insights into a period which teach lifetime lessons of morality, equality and justice.

Year Ten English Communications
The Year Ten English Communications course aims to support students to strengthen their literacy skills while still fostering the development of critical and creative thinking. This term students will engage in a close study of Matthew Reilly’s novel “Hell Island” and in Term Two they will examine the film “Wall-E”. Both texts encourage students to consider the idea of individual agency, particularly decided whether it is best to follow orders or do what you believe to be morally right and just.

Leah Woodhouse
Focus on Religion

This term students will be learning about the nature of Jesus’ Mission and Ministry. They will identify the nature of Jesus’ Mission and Ministry, as well as similarities and differences between Gospel accounts of significant events, places and characters in the life of Jesus.

In Week One, the students considered how they could be the hands and feet of Jesus. They were able to identify how they could help each other and their community through their own hands and feet. They are continuing to develop their relationship with God and their understanding of the person he was and how they can live their lives in God’s footsteps. As teachers we are asking the question ‘What can you do to live like Jesus?’

In Week Two, the students heard the story of Jesus healing the crippled man. They discussed how the crippled man’s friends must have really cared for him to go to such lengths to meet Jesus. The students learnt how Jesus healed the man with his hands.

Mark Brennan

Focus On English

Year Three

This term in Year Three English we will become story writers! We will be listening to a range of narratives and will explore the settings and characters of these, whilst exploring the orientation, complication and resolution of each story. We will then use this knowledge and understanding of story structure to create our very own stories to share with our peers and teacher. As well as narrative writing we will focus strongly on improving our spelling and will have fun exploring a range of spelling strategies to use in our writing.

Reading will continue to be a big part of our daily routine as we transition from ‘learning to read’ to ‘reading to learn’ and we are very excited to have our parents involved in our reading groups throughout the term.

We will also be getting ready for NAPLAN. This week we will begin practising for NAPLAN with the aim that this will help us become familiar with the type of setting we will be in for these tests, give us the opportunity to get used to handling the papers and booklets and allow us to become more comfortable with how to colour the answer circles. We hope by incorporating these practises students will be more confident when it comes time to sitting the real NAPLAN tests.

We are all looking forward to a great year in grade three!

Cassie Shields

Year Three Teacher
Year Five History

This term in History Year Five will be learning about the early colonisation of Australia. We will be building on our knowledge of why people explored and why the Europeans came to Australia. We will be looking at specific colonies and how and why they grew and started to expand. We will also be looking at specific individuals like convicts of governors that made significant impacts on their colonies. We will also be learning about the life of the people who came to first live in Australia.

Danielle King
Year Five Teacher

Secondary school has begun for the Year Seven students! The students have adapted well and have enjoyed the innovative Year Seven classrooms as well as trying out new subjects. This term in our Religion unit, students are looking at sacramental celebrations and the liturgical year. As part of this unit, students will be required to create a banner that shows their knowledge of symbols and colours of a particular liturgical season. The way in which they present their banner is their choice. It could be made from fabric, timber, painted, digital or in any other way that they choose. We are encouraging students to keep an eye out for materials that they might use for this assessment. This assessment piece will be due at the end of Week Six.

Nicole Southee
Year Seven Teacher
Welcome to Tuckshop for 2016. Tuckshop as always will be every Tuesday and Thursday.

Our Tuckshop provides a very large income for the P&F of St John’s and always welcomes new volunteers to ensure its smooth running. Even if you can spare a day a term or a few hours on a Tuesday or Thursday please fill in the form attached and return to the school, or just turn up.

This year we have had a few small changes in the menu to ensure that we are in line with the smart choices program for schools. A new menu has been put up on the school website, and is available at the school. The major changes are below.

**We no longer have:**
- Large Pies
- Sausage Rolls
- Sara Lee Cake
- Iced Tea
- Lamingtons
- 45g Chip

We know these are favourites, however we are looking into alternatives for the cake and we will also have a RED day once a term where a few of these things will be available so watch this space.

**New Items:**
- Sweet Chilli Chicken Wraps
- Chicken Strip Wraps
- Hamburgers
- Flavoured Sparking Water

We also still have Focus Water, Zooper Doopers, sauce and hot chocolates.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to drop in to the tuckshop and talk to us.

**Thanks, Anita Crawford and Deborah Jenkins.**
St John’s School

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Edition
Term 1 Week 3

In the next issue

Prep - Year Six
Prep - A day in Prep
Year Two - Maths
Year Four - Geography
Welfare - Independence

Years Seven - Twelve
Senior - Geography
Senior Chemistry - Science
Canada Trip
Sto John’s Mercy Values

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
REGISTER NOW
2016 SEASON

Come on down and play in the local women’s, men’s or junior’s basketball league and have some fun! Friendly club welcoming new players with all skill levels.

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Matt: 0407 692 445
Katrina: 0427 379 275
Karen: 0457 588 783

Senior Basketball
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Tues 6 – 7 pm
Men’s:
Fri 6 – 7 pm
Game fee: $5 per game

Mixed Junior Basketball
AUSSIE HOOPS Under 10’s:
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Under 13’s:
Fri 4 – 5 pm
Under 17’s:
Fri 5 – 6 pm
Game fee: $5 per game

Maranoa Basketball Association
All games played at the
Maranoa PCYC
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Seniors register for the season online at:
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Or click on the link in the relevant Maranoa Basketball Association Facebook post