Dear Parents and Caregivers,

School newsletters, by their very nature, celebrate student achievement and what is positive in a school. They reflect something of the culture of a school. Understandably too, they rarely seek to air any dirty linen in public. Yet in any school community there are inevitably moments of disappointment when we feel let down by lapses of judgement or poor decision making by some of our students. These can be moments of conversion and growth – we all make poor choices from time to time, but the real test of character is what we learn from mistakes and how we handle the consequences of our actions. Secondly, a community can always reflect on what it values and communicates by how it deals with misdemeanours – there is always an educational opportunity in such situations.

The most effective response to misdemeanours is not to be found in laws or rules, whether in a school or in the community, though of course these are necessary. The best response is found in what we define amongst ourselves as acceptable and thus tolerate. This creates a culture. Each of us, by our choices to do or not to do, exercises an influence on the community in which. Presuming, as I do, that overwhelmingly people are good, it is often the silence, inaction or going along with a crowd that is most damaging to the creation of an environment in which virtue flourishes.

The action or inaction of each of us has an impact on those around us and shapes our environment, and in doing so, creates its culture. A school's ability to communicate this, to my mind, goes to the heart of the formative role of a school and to the health of its culture. It is both about personal character, responsibility and community, about how we get along with each other. It is about developing our sensitivity to the rights, needs and wellbeing of others through the experience of living with them, in community.

At St John's, I have seen evidence of a culture that is both inclusive and generous in nature. Early this Term, I listened to a couple of impressive Year Eleven students speak to Year Seven students about making choices and the importance of relationships. I have been deeply impressed by the evolution of the House system at St John's and its role in shaping pastoral care and forming identity within the school. School culture is of utmost importance. It goes to something deeper than school spirit, though the latter can stem from it. A school culture refers to how we live and work and many an educational study has established school culture as a key protective factor for young people. It can align closely with a school's official ideals and values or it can grow quite separately, and even stand in opposition to them.

---

**Events in this month**

- **Monday, August 8**
  - R&D Track & Field, 10 - 19 Years

- **Tuesday, August 9**
  - P & F Meeting - 6.15pm
  - School Board Meeting - 7.30pm

- **Tuesday, August 16**
  - ICAS Maths Comp

- **Wednesday, August 17**
  - Bishop’s In-Service Pupil Free Day

- **Saturday, August 27**
  - St John's Race Day
Current NEWS!

Fanfare 2016
Tickets to the Fanfare 2016 Grand Final Concerts will be on sale at 9 am, Friday 29 July 2016.
The Primary Grand Final Concert will be held on 18 August 2016, at 2 pm, Plaza Ballroom, Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre (BCEC), South Brisbane. The Secondary Grand Final Concert will be held on 19 August 2016, at 7 pm, in the Great Hall, BCEC. Tickets can be purchased directly through Ticketek on telephone 132 849 or at www.ticketek.com.au.

Prices:
- Adult - $22.00
- Junior (2 – 14 years) - $15.00
- Student (full time only) - $15.00
- Pensioner - $15.00
- Family - $50.00 (2 adults, 2 children)
- $130.00 – group (of 10 people)

Reflection

“Each small task of everyday life is part of the total harmony of the universe.”
St Therese of Lisieux

Yours sincerely,
Nicholas Lynch

Tucksop News
A huge thank you to all those who helped out at the athletics days over the last two Fridays. It was a huge effort by all and we are very appreciative.
We are still looking for one helper on 30th August if anyone is available? Remember, if you can ever spare half an hour around 8.30am, please drop in; we can always use the help to count the money and sort the bags.
Monday, 8th August I have been asked to cater for the Roma and District Athletics Carnival, so if anyone is available to help out that day, please let me know as we can't do it without the assistance of volunteers.

Anita Crawford

School culture can be influenced by school tradition and mission statements, but it is also shaped by what the school actually does, by what staff do and by the expectations of parents. Students, too, bear a responsibility for the nature of any school community. School spirit can be spoken of all too glibly as if it is only about success and hyping up support for various activities. The full and true measure of school spirit to my mind is the degree to which students feel included, motivated and supported by their fellow students.

Year Three English

This term in Year Three English, we are focusing on persuasive writing. Previously, students have looked at different persuasive techniques and the sorts of emotions these provoke. Throughout this unit in particular, students are exploring literary texts that deal with ethical situations. They are making inferences about characters' feelings and are using comprehension strategies which have been taught to answer questions about the text. The students will complete the unit by writing a persuasive letter about the importance of celebrating the uniqueness of family.

We are continuing to improve on our spelling and now have a great range of spelling strategies and rules to help us. Reading continues to be a focus for all of us and we have transitioned well into the 'reading to learn' phase of our reading development.

Cassie Shields,
Year Three Teacher
Recently, the Year One classes were invited by the Year Eight students to learn about Ozobots. Ozobot is a little toy robot that blends the physical and digital worlds and teaches children programming. It is very basic to program, as you simply ‘train’ the robots to follow patterns on the surfaces over which they roll. Ozobot can identify lines, colours and codes on both digital surfaces, such as a tablet and physical surfaces, such as paper. This is just one example of Year One enjoying technology!

Mark Brennan, Claire Angus and Toni Densley.
Year One Teachers
**Year Six Religion**

For the past six weeks the Year Six class have worked cooperatively to raise awareness of social justice issues. Students have been selling Fair Trade chocolate, organising scavenger hunts for the Senior students and creating videos to provide important information on sweatshops. Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents who generously supported these causes. We are now examining how people and groups of the Catholic Church in Australia have changed since Federation. Our class has created a digital timeline to organise the key events that have shaped Catholics in Australia. This term, the Year Six students will be investigating and communicating their findings about the contributions of key Catholic people and groups to the shaping of Australian society. Later this term, students will choose a recipient and justify why they should be awarded ‘Australian Catholic of the Year’. The recipient should exhibit certain qualities that serve to inspire and motivate others in their pursuit of faith. Can you think of a significant Catholic in Australia?

_Miss Fuller_

_Year Six Maroon_

---

**Youth Mass**

On Saturday night, several students came along to the All Saints Parish Mass and contributed to every aspect of the Mass. Parishioners are always so pleased to see our youth being involved – they did the readings, the welcoming, the offertory, prayers of the faithful, communion ministers and, of course, the music. Special thanks go to Mr Rod Nerva who played guitar and helped support the students. The night ended with pizza, drinks and some socialising in the Justin King Centre. Thanks to everyone involved; you did yourselves proud once again. Your team work and commitment in the lead up to the Mass was commendable and your enthusiasm on the night appreciated by all.

_Rebecca Lynch_

---

**Prep - Year Four**

Prep - Year Four will be attending a Little Red Riding Hood performance hosted by the Maranoa Regional Council at the Cultural Centre next Tuesday 9th August at 9am.

---

**Roma Swim Club**

Roma Swimming Club AGM
Wednesday 17th August 5.30pm
Roma Swimming Club Room.

---

**Year Eight Maths**

In Term Three, students have been learning to apply the distributive law to expand algebraic equations as well as factorising and simplifying these expressions. They have learnt to incorporate rules in adding and subtracting like terms alongside multiplying and dividing like terms. Learners are also covering linear and non-linear relations including how to identify false equations and algebraically solve and evaluate linear equations. Students will look at formulas and relationships in order to graph the equations on a Cartesian plane. All students were given the opportunity to participate in the ‘Fun with Maths’ workshop. This enabled students to apply their problem-solving skills and have hands-on experience in a range of activities.

_Shalindi Jayasuriya_

_Secondary Teacher_
Each Primary Class spends a 50 minute lesson each week focusing on Music, Drama and Dance activities. This semester has a solid performance focus, as classes are preparing their group choral pieces for the Roma and District Eisteddfod.

Prep to Year Four classes are learning two contrasting songs, and will sing them as a choir group on stage at the Roma Cultural Centre in October. Years Five and Six classes have decided to enter the Music Theatre section of the eisteddfod, and will be combining actions, storytelling, costumes and dance with their chosen songs.

Years Four to Six Classes will continue learning to read music as they play their recorders. Our younger students will continue to spend time playing musical games, developing their understanding of beat, rhythm and melody. All classes will be taking part in formal dance lessons as well. Years Five and Six students will be learning many of the classic Old Time Dances – The Gypsy Tap, the Pride of Erin etc. Our younger students will be concentrating on Bush Dances.

Research shows the real value of including music in the lives of our children. It is not only enjoyable and life-giving, but can improve academic attainment and the well-being of communities.

“Giving children good music education from early years onwards is one of the best social investments that can be made in the next generation” (Prof J. Sharkey)

I am very proud of St John’s commitment to the Performing Arts. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me on carmel.treasure@twb.catholic.edu.au

Carmel Treasure
Performing Arts Teacher

Interschool Queensland 2016 Overall

The Rita and Derek Dobson Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the Secondary School whose riders achieve the highest average score over the six disciplines at State Championship level. To be eligible for this trophy, a school must have a minimum of 2 riders from the school competing.

St John’s Catholic College - Roma

BOLAND, Brooke
THOMAS, Madison

Carollin Dragonfly
Glenormiston Redmond
This semester, across Years Seven to Ten classes, students will participate in an exciting new STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) program called the Engineering Fundamentals Project. This program has been kindly funded by Santos and has provided our students with an opportunity to engage in current and relevant engineering advances and practices.

STEM is a new area of education which aims to integrate the four above disciplines into an interconnected program, simulating and supporting real world application. Rather than encouraging students to be ‘consumers’ of technologies, STEM encourages students to build their own way by understanding mechanisms and practicality. Through this program, students learn to problem solve, think critically and be creative in their solutions and development of ideas. Our program looks into hydraulics and how water pressure can be used to exert force. Students have explored what pressure is and how it can be applied to create movement through the use of pistons and pumps. Over the semester, students will be building three kits: an air-water powered system, a hydraulic robotic arm and a personally designed and constructed hydraulic machine.

Students will have one lesson a week dedicated to the Engineering Fundamentals Project, which will be during their normal Mathematics or Science classes.

If you have any questions about this new program please contact bethany.mason@twb.catholic.edu.au or mark.shields@twb.catholic.edu.au

If STEM interests you or your child, we encourage you to come along to the Flying Scientists evening at the Cultural Centre on Thursday 18th August at 6.30pm. A drone specialist will be the key speaker for the evening, with displays set up by St John’s School and other groups. Please see the flyer at the back of the newsletter for more information.

Beth Mason and Mark Shields
Science/Mathematics Teachers

Did you know!
From 2020, 40% of all new jobs will be in coding!

Did you know!
Currently in Australia, university graduates make up only 30% of the STEM workforce. The other 70% is made up of people who are vocationally trained (eg. TAFE or VET).
The Roma and District Schools Rugby League Association (RDSRLA) has had a proud tradition having operated for 54 years. The completion of the 2016 season sees the end of an era, with the State Schools in the district withdrawing from the Saturday morning competition from 2017 and onwards.

The RDSRLA will continue to exist with the current committee committed until the end of 2016. A decision will be made in the coming months on whether the 2017 RDSRLA will become an incorporated stand-alone body or whether it will operate under the umbrella of the Roma and District Senior Rugby League Club.

St John’s School is committed to enter as a school for 2017 and we are hopeful of forming the same (if not more) number of Under 8, Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 teams next year. The State Schools who have withdrawn are looking at forming clubs, with the possibility of a Wallumbilla/Surat/Injune Club and a Roma Club. This is a decision that will need to be made by the members of these communities. Mitchell will enter as a Mitchell Junior Rugby League Club.

The RDSRLA will continue to send representative teams to the Under 10 35 kg Carnival, Under 11 Gold Coast Carnival and the Under 12 Zone 4 Carnival. The Under 13s and Under 14s will still have a path through to the Stockmen and the Crows representative teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the St John’s parents for their support with sponsorship, coaching, managing and refereeing in 2016. I look forward to your continued support in the years to come.

A description of what is happening with netball will be in next week’s newsletter.

Ross Penrose
Celebrate National Science Week and meet a Flying Scientist!

FREE Roma community event – with activities for the whole family!

When: Thursday 18 August 6.30 pm for 7.00pm start

Where: Cultural Centre – Cnr Bungil St & Northern Rd, Roma

- Meet Dr Paul Pounds – a Flying Scientist from The University of Queensland and find out about his passion for Robotics and Drone Technology
- Learn about exciting science career options for your children
- See scientific presentations from Roma State College students as well as robotic displays from St John’s students.
- Robotics displays and workshops plus a science lucky dip for every child attending!

Note: Attendance is FREE and includes a light supper. In addition, the Roma Apex Club will provide Bar Facilities where adults can purchase refreshments – all proceeds benefitting Apex of Roma.

Register to attend: lesie.ryan@uq.edu.au or phone 3443 7981

This event is brought to you by Wonder of Science in partnership with the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist - proudly supporting the Queensland Government’s Advance Queensland Initiative.
We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
Ghostbusters [PG]

Thurs 4 Aug
Drinks & Nibbles
at 5:30pm
Movie Starts
at 6:30pm

Tickets:
$25 Adult
$23 Concession
$18 Child

Pre-buy tickets from:
Kimlin’s Camping World or
Amy York: 0417 630 072

Or from Cinema Roma before or on the night
P: 4622 5666       A: 37 Hawthorne St, Roma

For movie updates and info: Facebook.com/romacinemaroma

Relay For Life Team, Soleful Strutters are fundraising money for the Cancer Council; helping through research, prevention and support.
Koala Joeys Family Program

The Koala Joeys Family Program focuses on empowering parents and carers to use nursery rhymes, songs, dance, movement and stories as a tool to form secure attachments. Early years brain development, emotional and social development, child development knowledge, early literacy and early numeracy information is shared during the program.

Join us weekly to nurture your child’s early childhood education in a safe, supportive and interactive environment, where parents and children learn and have fun together.

To register your interests or enquire for more information, please contact us on 1300 114 397 or visit betterrelationships.com.au

When: Tuesdays
Time: 10:00am – 11:15am
Where: Roma Library, 38-44 Hawthorne Street, Roma
Who: Parents and children (aged 0 – 5)
Cost: Free
Join us weekly for a fun and free program that helps children shake their sillies out! Movin’ Monkey’s will get your children active in a safe, supportive and interactive environment.

We empower kids to become confident, socialise with others and recognise their own skills and strengths. Each session is filled with fun activities that support children’s development, self-esteem, health and wellbeing.

**Movin’ Monkeys program**

Join us weekly for a fun and free program that helps children shake their sillies out! Movin’ Monkey’s will get your children active in a safe, supportive and interactive environment.

We empower kids to become confident, socialise with others and recognise their own skills and strengths. Each session is filled with fun activities that support children’s development, self-esteem, health and wellbeing.

**When:** Every Friday

**Where:** Roma PCYC
34 – 44 George St, Roma

**Time:** 9.30am - 10.30am

To register your interest or enquire for more information, please contact Tracey on (07) 4620 4000.