Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Educational Standards Debate

Last week, there was a good deal of commentary on educational standards in Australia following the release of the latest NAPLAN results. In a recent article by Dr Kevin Donnelly, senior research fellow at ACU, he noted that stronger-performing education systems have rigorous, evidence-based curriculums focusing on essential learning. That is unlike Australia, especially in primary schools, where the curriculum is “a mile wide and an inch deep”. Teachers must have the time to focus on the basics, especially rote learning of times tables, mental arithmetic, reciting poetry and correct punctuation and grammar. Learning the basics has to be automatic before students can be creative and master higher-order knowledge and skills.

I am in full agreement with this statement. We intend to use the NAPLAN data for the purpose for which it was intended. NAPLAN is a diagnostic tool to alert teachers of each student’s strengths and weaknesses in comparison with their school and national cohorts. At St John’s, we have a firm belief that data helps our teachers to embed the basics in literacy and numeracy. This solid and essential foundation provides the springboard to allow for the important quest for learning, creativity and knowledge. I know our teachers in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will use this data to target our teaching for the benefit of each of our students.

Olympics

As flawed as the Olympic movement can be in terms of corruption, costs and drugs, it remains a sign of hope in our world. The founder of the modern Olympic movement, Pierre de Coubertin, gave up a career in the military and politics to give himself to the enterprise of education which he considered to be so important for the future. He believed passionately in the role of sport in the personal development of young people. He refereed the first ever French championship rugby union final, but his greatest achievement was founding the modern Olympics. I like to think that the strong emphasis he placed on ideals underlying the Olympics stemmed in part from his Catholic education. He argued that the sportsperson had to have a sense of the other.

The day when a sportsperson stops thinking above all else of the happiness in their own effort and the intoxication of the power and physical balance they derive from it, the day when they let considerations of vanity or interest take over, on this day their ideal will die.

It is interesting that the Olympic motto itself, “Citius, Altius, Fortius - Faster, Higher, Stronger”, was formulated by the priest, Henri Didon OP, a Dominican friend of Coubertin and a promoter of sport in education. Insofar as it brings out the best in an individual’s use of their talents and promotes the values of our common humanity, both places where God can be found, then the Olympics are worthy of our respect.
Current NEWS!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Our annual Moonlight Fair is gearing up to be a great night on Friday, 21st October from 5.30pm. Please come along and enjoy a night of entertainment with St John’s has Talent, Busking and roving Choir as well as our legendary rides and stalls guaranteed to be a night of FUN for the whole family. A Bar will be available for adults, EFTPOS and a Courtesy Bus will be available on the night. A second-hand book stall is planned, so if you have an unwanted books, could you please drop these off at the Library.

Jenny Eeles
Moonlight Fair Committee Member

BOOK WEEK UPDATE

Australia Story Country

A reminder that our St John’s Book Week celebrations will commence next week (22th – 26th August). Just to recap on our planned activities:

• The Library is hosting a “Book Restaurant” and students in Prep to Year Six will be served a menu of scrumptious Australian Stories to taste and review;
• Special visit from a local Aboriginal Elder who will recite a traditional dreaming story and musicians will entertain us with the didgeridoo;
• Maranoa Wildlife Caring and Education Centre will visit on Wednesday 24th August, with some special Australian animals that they have in their care; An Aussie-style collage workshop

Yours sincerely,
Nicholas Lynch

Reflection

Time is the only coin of your life.
It is the only coin you have,
and only you can determine how it will be spent.
Carl Sandburg

Yours sincerely,
Nicholas Lynch
One of the greatest benefits for students in listening to Audiobooks is that it promotes reading as a source of pleasure rather than a skill that needs to be learnt. Many of the books contain interesting sound effects and music as well as narrators who embellish their storytelling with silly voices and dramatic enhancements to produce an enjoyable reading/listening experience for students. This is certainly the case with the Treehouse series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton.

Listening to Audiobooks is also beneficial in increasing literacy outcomes for students. In many cases, the Library has a copy of the book, so students can follow along as the narrator reads. This is particularly valuable in providing a model of good interpretive reading, as it assists students in focusing on the sounds of the words in a fluid expressive way.

The Listening Station is available for students of all reading levels. Even gifted readers can benefit by listening to literature with more complex storylines to expand their vocabulary and reading experience. Of course, students are unaware of these learning outcomes...they just love the deep pleasure that listening to Audiobooks provide.

Jenny Eeles
Teacher Librarian
The term is flying by and things in the Year Six classrooms are moving along at a rapid pace! We had a fantastic time exploring and creating circuits in Science and were amazed to learn that even some types of playdough can conduct electricity! We have now moved on to our History and Civics unit, learning all about Federation and how parliament works in preparation for our upcoming trip to Canberra.

In English, we have been putting our skills of persuasion to the test. We will soon be participating in panel discussions about the existence of the Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot and writing feature articles on these topics. These will be compiled as an online magazine.

There has been a lot of discussion in Religion recently as we have been exploring the history of the Church in Australia and looking at how St John’s has changed over the years. We were very fortunate to have Mr Brennan speak to us about what the school was like when he was a student here and share an interview he filmed with his uncle who told stories about his time at St John’s.

Not long now until we depart for a very busy, but fun-filled week in Canberra. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. Their visits will include Parliament House, the Electoral Education Office, The Australian War Memorial and Questacon Science Centre. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of $60.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate Program.

Further information about the Canberra Trip, including medical and permission forms will go home this week. Please complete these and return them as soon as possible. 

**Dads, don’t forget to RSVP for our Father’s Day breakfast on September 2nd. We would love to have you join us!**
NEWS

Uniform Reminder
Please be reminded that tracksuit tops are not to be worn with the Formal Uniform and there are to be no badges on hats unless they are South West or St John's School badges.

Rugby League photos
this Thursday
3:15 – U/8 White
3:20 – U/8 Blue
3:25 – U/8 Maroon
3:30 – U/10 White
3:35 – U/10 Blue
3:40 – U/12 White
3:45 – Development Cup Team
3:50 – U/10 Maroon / Injune
3:55 – U/12 Maroon / Injune
4:00 – U/14 St John's / Injune
All players to wear full playing uniform.
All coaches/managers/trainers to wear 2016 officials' shirt.
Free BBQ and drink afterwards for all.

Potting Mix Donations
Our green-thumbed students have started potting up cuttings from our beautiful school gardens in preparation for the Moonlight Fair's Plant Stall but we need your help. This stall does not have a Pastoral Care class associated with it, just interested and willing students and school community members. We have plenty of pots but to keep our outlay down, we are looking for donations of bags of potting mix. Suggestions of other ideas or donations such as gardening books and ornaments would also be very welcome. These can be donated through the school's front office.
Happy gardening,
Mrs Anne Moloney

Year One Religion
This term, Year One has been learning about what it means to belong to a church community. They have investigated the different groups who belong to All Saints Catholic Church and help Fr Jamie, Fr Salvador and Sister Nora spread the word of God. These groups include the Catholic Women’s League, St Vincent de Paul Society, Liturgy Group, church cleaning and grounds’ groups, Sacramental Program, Finance Committee and the Parish Council to name a few. The students have attended Tuesday Mass and participated in a tour of the church and the grounds.

Mark Brennan, Claire Angus and Toni Densley
Year One Teachers
Focus on Drama

Focus on Drama

Year Eight

This term, the Year Eight Drama students have explored how roles, characters and relationships are interpreted to define motivation and purpose. Using specific vocal and physical techniques, students have been interpreting historical plays showing cultural bias and stereotypes. The students have been reconnecting with folk stories and fairy tales to develop modern day twists for a whole class performance for their teachers and peers. They have manipulated a range of dramatic conventions and explored the elements of drama.

The ability to reflect on learning, apply new understandings and justify future applications are developed individually and as a class at the end of each lesson. Students use drama terminology as they evaluate their own work and that of others.

The class performance of 'Little Red' on Friday 12th August was a hoot! It was exciting, hilarious, and honest adaptation of a classic tale. Well done Year Eight!

Chloe Hutchins
Drama Teacher

Years Nine and Ten

Years Nine and Ten Drama students were fortunate enough to visit Roma’s Cultural Centre to watch a children's theatre production of ‘Little Red in the Hood’ as part of their studies, early last week.

The production was both entertaining and educational. It provided the students with the opportunity to observe, not only the classic conventions of Children’s Theatre in practice but also the reactions and participation of the audience. The high performance standard and overwhelming enjoyment of the audience gave our students many practical techniques and ideas to transfer directly into their own Children’s Theatre performances.

The current Year Ten students are in the final stages of own Children’s Theatre productions and are planning a number of interactive workshops they will run in conjunction with the Year Three students.

Sarah Nerva
Drama Teacher
Over the three terms, students have looked into various roles of scientists and their contributions to earth and space, chemistry and biology. In Earth and Space, students also delved into ideal living conditions on earth and characteristics of celestial bodies. They looked into geological events that shape the Earth’s surface and structure (including volcanoes), rocks and minerals, weathering and soil formation, erosion and deposition, ocean motions and zones, relevance and the use of minerals in industry, stars, galaxies and the universe as well as the solar system and seasons. Students have also studied Biology where they were introduced to body systems (circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems) at a cellular level. Students identified the difference between cells, tissues and organs as well as the difference between plant cells, multicellular organisms and single cell organisms. In Chemistry, students explored the differences between physical and chemical changes, the behaviour of particles, density of substances and the atomic structure. They also know how to distinguish between elements, molecules and compounds in addition to writing chemical equations. Students had various hands-on activities and practicals to strengthen their knowledge on the topics covered throughout the term. They are currently being assessed on their extended experimental investigation which is a student led laboratory report that correlates with the topics covered.

Shalindi Jayasuriya
Science and Mathematics Teacher
Outdoor Education Camp

Last week, the Semester One Outdoor Education class was on camp in Noosa. Arriving at Elander Point on Monday at around three, the students first assignment was to set up their campsite. After completing this, they headed out onto the water for an afternoon of skills in their canoes.

Tuesday saw an early rise and an almost 13km paddle to our campsite, (Harry’s Hut) for the next two nights. Along the way, stops were made at Mill Point, Fig Tree Point and the Kinaba Information Centre.

Wednesday morning and the students awoke and were tasked with quite a full day. A three hour canoe paddle, followed by a 12km return walk to the Cooloola Sandpatch, a 1km crossing made up of a mass of sand, the largest in Queensland.

After an early morning paddle home on Thursday, the students packed up the bus and headed back to Roma. A massive thank you goes to Miss Jones who accompanied the students with me for this trip. The Semester Two class will attend this trip in Term Four.

Thomas Moore
Well, isn’t the term just flying by? It’s already Week Six of Term Three and what a busy six weeks they have been! This term, we hit the ground running, settling into our new Prefect positions quickly and getting straight to work as the Athletics Carnival was quickly approaching in Week Two! After a lovely downpour of rain and cold weather, the Little Athletics grounds were soaked through and, as luck would have it, there was to be no secondary Athletics Carnival that week. However, the primary Athletics Carnival continued as planned with Theresian Tigers keeping spirits high and putting their 110% into each event. The costumes may have made it a challenge for the teachers to keep track of all the Wallys as they kept getting lost in the crowd! The secondary carnival was a success with Wallys reported to be tearing up the track and smashing records all day long. Obviously, all the cheering practice paid off as Theresians’ roars thundered out above Marians’ and Xaverians’ quiet attempts. Overall, every team put in a great effort and the carnivals were enjoyed by all who attended.

In the next few weeks, there are more exciting things ahead for the rocking-red team. Book Week is soon to be on the scene with doors being decorated with exciting themes like ‘Dr Seuss’ and ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. Fun and exciting competitions like ‘Who am I’, ‘Craziest Place to Read a Book’ and ‘Guess the Book Cover’ should be running throughout the week. Everyone is excited for the Book Week Dress-up next Friday, when you can dress up as your favourite character out of a book – the costume parade will be held that morning. The House Prefects have a great costume planned; it’ll knock your socks off! In Eek Eight, there is going to be a special Olympic ceremony, for all the Houses to get involved in, which should be quite exciting.

Remember that it is already over halfway through the year and it has never been more important to get as many points cards signed as possible! You can get them signed for just about anything; Homework Club, all different sports, Social Justice, helping at an event or fundraiser! If you don’t have enough points cards make sure you come and see the Prefects, otherwise we should be coming around in the mornings. Just in case you’ve forgotten who we are or would like to talk to us about anything, feel free to hit us up for a chat or send us an email at:

Joshua Perske – Head Prefect
Email: ROMperskej@twb.catholic.edu.au

Jamie Crawford – Sport Prefect
Email: ROMcrawfoj@twb.catholic.edu.au

Carmen Golder – Cultural Prefect
Email: ROMgolderc@twb.catholic.edu.au

Kristy Jones – Dean of House
Email: Kristy.Jones@twb.catholic.edu.au

See you around,
3J+C
Over the last four weeks a small group of dedicated Year 11 boys has given their time once a week to help elderly people in our community. The program, run by the University of the Third Age, (U3A for short) is a not-for-profit organisation aimed specifically at those in the third age of their lives - retirement years. Activities are provided for members where they might learn a new skill or develop existing skills. The St John’s group made up of Tony Kerr, Thomas McNulty, Gerard Treasure and Ben Upton, has been helping members develop their computer skills. The boys have shown interest, compassion, dedication and patience when helping the members. They have also developed a special rapport with the person with whom they work, building up their confidence on computers and providing the all-important social interactions for the elderly.

This has been a unique opportunity for students to interact with the senior residents of Roma. As part of the vision and mission of our school, being proactive in helping others is an important part of education. I express my thanks to these students who are actively participating in Christian Community Service. Thanks also to Mr Steve Winnett who joins us every Wednesday and ensures all technology runs smoothly!

Rebecca Lynch
Dean of Faith, Life and Culture
As their schooling is coming to an end, I have asked four EALD boys in Year Twelve to reflect on their time at St John’s.

St John’s advanced education system has been effective for all the E.A.L.D students. Coming from a different cultural background, we are challenged as E.A.L.D students to overcome tasks such as assessments, homework and speaking a new language. However, being accepted into a whole new cohort has made it possible to make it this far in life. As for me, Edwin Pavia, having the presence and assistance of Mrs Bernie Ikin and Miss Lisa Kynoch for eight years of my schooling life, has shaped me to become a better person than who I was before. Studying at St John’s has shaped not only me, but also my great friends, Bryan Lie and Jeremiah Briones who both have been at St John’s for four years and Adrianne Gisma for over two years. Mrs Ikin and Miss Kynoch have inspired and aided us to become the best we can be and supported us as we progress into adult life. Though we treasure the opportunities that St John’s has given to us, it is fair to say that the Year Twelve E.A.L.D. students have accepted St John’s school as family. St John’s will forever be regarded as family. As Adrianne said, “How lucky am I to have something that makes goodbyes very difficult.” In conclusion, it is fair to say that the E.A.L.D students of 2016 will forever cherish the motto “Future in Faith” and also possess “The Spirit of St John’s”.

Adrianne Gisma

During my four years at St John’s, I have made a bunch of new friends, some of whom I treat like my own family. I have learnt a lot of new things that I didn’t know. Bryan Lie

I have been at St John’s for five years; I started in Year Eight. St John’s has become a major part of my life, because of all the friends I have. It was one of the first places that taught me what I needed to know about Australia and its people. Jeremiah Briones

I have been here for the past two years, six months, 18 days and counting. My time at St John’s has been great, I have learnt lots of things and made so many memories and friends with the current Year 12s that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Adrianne Gisma

Lisa Kynoch

EALD Teacher
Thank you to all the students and parents who have expressed an interest in taking part in the Roma and district Eisteddfod. I am starting to get sound files organised for the students who have decided to enter. I will tape backing files for students’ songs as they hand in their entry forms, and will try to send home a photocopy of the song they have selected so that they are able to practise at home. I have already recorded a backing track for the Set Songs for each age group.

Below are instructions that will allow you to access a sound file of the song your child has decided to perform.

Type the below link into the address bar of your browser. We recommend you use Chrome if you wish to play the songs in the browser.

tinyurl.com/eisteddfodsoundfiles

1. Follow the link.
2. If you are signed into google (via gmail, googledrive, googelmaps etc) you will be able to rightclick on the song you want, and will then be able to download it to listen to the sound file.
3. Otherwise, you can download files by clicking on the song you want. The screen will change and may start to play your song. If you move your mouse towards the top of the black screen, you will find the download button.
4. Good luck – contact carmel.treasure@twb.catholic.edu.au if you are experiencing difficulties!
Rugby League Season 2016

The 2016 Roma Schools Rugby League competition is now complete. This year St John’s fielded nine teams, across four grades with over 130 students registered to play. I would firstly like to thank all the parents, teachers and volunteers, who contributed to making the season successful. The hard work and dedication you have shown is testament to the outstanding product that is Junior Rugby League in Roma.

Grand Final Day was held last Saturday, 13th August with St John’s fielding teams in each age group. The morning kicked off at 8am with all the U/8 teams playing. It is a credit to the coaching staff and students who played without their coaches on the field for the last couple of weeks. The games flowed and the students showed excellent structure and skills.

The U/10 Elders Shield Grand Final was next. After already claiming the U/10 Coomber Brothers Premiership, the Maroon/Injune team coached by Grant Lorenz, won the title fairly convincingly with a 40-24 win over Mitchell. Congratulations to Noah Rogers who won Best Back, Cooper McFadzen (Injune) Best Forward and Braith Lorenz who won the Player of the Match Award.

Maroon/Injune was once again in the final of the U/12 Sharpe Engineering Shield, after playing three finals games in the space of ten days. The team was well prepared to play a Wallumbilla side they lost to in Week One of the finals. After an inspirational speech from coach Nathan Walsh, the boys prevailed winning a tight contest late in the game 20-16. Congratulations to Logan Walsh and Billy Duff who won Best Back and Best Forward Awards respectively.

The final match of the day was the U/14s who were playing for the Royal Hotel Shield. The Darryn Fechner coached outfit put on a clinical display, defeating the RSC/Mitchell/Surat/Wallumbilla combined side, 52-22. Ryan Kehl was named Best Back, Lucas Crawford Best Forward and Coby Fechner Player of the Match.

After a successful day, St John’s was presented with the U/10, U/12 and U/14 Premierships along with the U/10 Elders Shield. We were announced winners of the Champion School trophy; the last time this trophy will be awarded. This is a great achievement by all! Special mention to Thomas McCoy (U/12) who was awarded the Bruton Family Trophy for best performance of the day.

Shaun Packer and Coby Fechner were also awarded their respective R&D Representative Awards with Shaun winning the U/13 Coomber Bros Player of the Year and Coby the U/14 Coonan/Ferry/Bartley Player of the Year.

The team award winners were presented soon after the major awards with the following players winning awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Best Forward</th>
<th>Best Back</th>
<th>Coach’s Trophy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U10 Maroon / Injune</td>
<td>Cooper McFadzen (INJ)</td>
<td>Braith Lorenz</td>
<td>Noah Rogers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the coming months, there will be a meeting held to discuss how St John’s Rugby League will be structured in Season 2017. The school is still wholly committed to fielding all our teams next year in the RDSRLA Competition; this meeting will be to ensure that interested parents are aware of the direction heading into season 2017.

Once again, a massive thank you needs to be given to all coaches, trainers and managers of our 2016 St John’s Rugby League Teams. Your time and effort is very much appreciated. I look forward to working with you all in season 2017.

Thomas Moore
Rugby League Coordinator
ST JOHN’S 
race day 2016

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST 2016
Gates open at 11.00am - First Race at 1.30pm

ALL PROCEEDS OF THE LUNCHEON
GOING TO ST JOHN’S SCHOOL

$30.00 per ticket / includes gate entry to races

The St John’s Race day Committee
would like to thank all of their sponsors

PLATINUM

GOLD
Kimils Camping World - Matthew Edwards Podiatry - Nancy Transport Pty Ltd
Willmack Pty Ltd - L J Hooker Roma - McDonalds Roma - Tilbury’s of Roma
Crowle’s Tyres - Texfix Australia - Brett Cherry Builders - Cafe 54
Roma Printers and Stationers - Dave Lee Transport Pty Ltd

SILVER
Roma Concrete Products - KHB Constructions - Moorelands Nursery
Ricketts Mechanical Services - MI Helicopters
GJ Gardner Homes Roma

BRONZE
Roma Milk Depot
We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
2016 COME & TRY
MOTORCYCLE SPORT
GIVE IT A GO

If you’ve never had a licence with us before, head to your local Come & Try for a free annual recreational licence or discounted competition licence.

ROMA DISTRICT MOTORCYCLE CLUB
SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST 2016
STARTING 12 30PM

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR RIDERS THAT HAVE NEVER HELD AN ANNUAL MOTORCYCLING LICENCE BEFORE

Come and try out the sport at an accredited track under the guidance of experienced riders and officials.

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME ~ BRING YOUR OWN BIKE
Riders MUST wear Boots, Helmet, Goggles, Gloves
long Pants and Shirt, Body Armour for Juniors.
TO: ALL 2016 CHARLEVILLE PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

FROM: CHARLEVILLE PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES ARE DUE FRIDAY 12TH AUGUST.

ALL RECORDED MUSIC IS REQUIRED BY MONDAY 22ND AUGUST

SWNRNM STORYTELLING SCRIPTS OR PRE-RECORDINGS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY 22ND AUGUST TO swnrn.storytelling@gmial.com

Recorded music and creative writing entries may be left at Wilkinson’s if this is more convenient for you.
Roma Junior Touch Football

Next season starts Term 4, 2016 and concludes the end of Term 1, 2017

Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12

SIGN ON DAY & SKILLS CLINIC (Boys and Girls)

When:  Friday 19th August 2016
Time:   4pm to 6pm
Where:  Roma Touch Fields, Bungil St

Cost:
- $55 for U8’s to U12’s (includes a team shirt which players keep)
- $20 for U6’s

ALSO SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR U14’S TO U18’S

During the season training and games are played Monday afternoons.

Age Groups include:
- U6’s (skills session only from 4:15pm to 5pm)
- U8’s, U10’s, U12’s (skills/training & games from 4:15pm to 5:45pm)

Later in the year nominations will be called for representative teams to play in various Qld Touch Affiliated carnivals from U10’s to U18’s boys and girls.

For further information email: romatouchjnr@gmail.com or phone 0429 071 725

ALL WELCOME
Building Resilience in Families
Learn as a family how to develop strengths and gather supports that build resilience.
2 Hours

Life for any family includes ups and downs, challenges, unexpected twists and turns in the road. A family’s ability to negotiate this journey depends on the skills they are working on along the way.

There are certain skills and strategies that have been identified as important for the development of resilience. Some are internal skills we can build and develop, whilst others are external, which encompass the relationships in children’s lives.

Families can draw upon these skills to build successful strategies to bounce back after challenging times.

Presentation Topics

One of the keystones for me about resilience is that it is very hopeful – that building it is an ongoing process and you’re never too old to learn. This is a hopeful message for any parent.”  
- Parent

Self regulation
Thinking skills
Knowing your strengths
Positive outlook
Understanding emotions
Relationships
Role models
Support people

Expected Outcomes

• Enhance understanding of the importance of interactions, connectedness and relationships in assisting children to develop resilience

• Understand how to talk to children when overwhelmed with emotion to stay connected.

• Being a family with helpful thinking.

Email: community@pathwaystoresilience.org
P: (07) 3169 2400
M: 0447 032 339
Website: www.pathwaystoresilience.org