Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A rite of passage marks the passing of a person from one stage of life to another when, for example, a person's status changes from child to adult. Traditional ceremonial rites have lost their importance in modern urban society and the various stages of life are sometimes blurred and confused. Tribal rites of passage involved serious challenges that a young man or woman had to conquer to elevate their status. My experience is that parents and students are crying out for more ritual, more tradition and more challenge in their lives.

“We must always own our failings just as we celebrate our triumphs. In her book, The Gift of Failure, teacher and author, Jessica Lahey, encourages all of us to be autonomy-supportive parents. We should let our children deal with the good or bad logical outcomes of their actions because this will develop the skills they need to succeed.

Lahey outlines the research behind why this approach is important. Referring to studies on motivation, growth mindset and cognitive psychology, the author demonstrates how failure assists the development of independence in children. She also shows how oversupportive teaching and parenting create dependency. Of course, no responsible parent would ever let their son or daughter experience their first ever failure in a life-threatening situation, such as being behind the wheel of a car. Rather, we should guide our children to understand failure, be able to assess risk and make responsible decisions.

“Small failures, when the stakes are relatively low and the potential for emotional and cognitive growth is high, are what psychologists Elizabeth and Robert Bjork call ‘desirable difficulties’. Learning that comes with challenge is stored more effectively and more durably in the brain than learning that comes easily.”

This book is sympathetic to parents who find it difficult to break what she calls the ‘helicopter’ habit. It also proposes ways that teachers and parents can move towards a style that promotes the growth of autonomous, responsible, self-directed adults.

I recall the story of the boy who helped a struggling butterfly as it emerged from its cocoon. Because the butterfly never had to struggle to free itself, its wings never set and the butterfly never flew.

Challenge is good. It allows us to find our best selves. We need to find challenges that are just beyond a child's zone of competence.
Current NEWS!

School Finishing Dates

Twelve - Friday November 18
Clap Out 9.30 am

Tens/Elevens - Friday November 25
Finish at 10.30 am

Preps/Nines - Tuesday November 29
Finish at 3.00 pm

2017

If your child/children is/are not returning to St John’s in 2017 (other than Year 12s), can you please let us know – phone 46221842 or email roma@twb.catholic.edu.au

Red Food Day

This Thursday 17th November is our RED Food Day for the term.

Some of your favourite items will be back for the one day only.

- Large Pies $3.50
- Hot Dogs $3.00
- Iced Tea $3.50
- Sara Lee Cake $2.00
- Assorted Cadbury Chocolate bars $2.00

We have also switched the Pizza Singles back to the McCain brand with which the children are familiar.

Thanks Anita Crawford

If we make growing up too easy for our children by rescuing them before they fail, they will not learn to be independent and self-sufficient. As Lahey puts it, we should allow students to strive and perhaps fail when the stakes are low. That means the earlier we let our kids experience failure, the better off they will be.

Reflection

“The problem with life is not that we find ourselves in one challenging situation after another. The problem comes when we face no challenges at all.”

Joan Chittister

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Lynch

St John’s Highland Dancers

Two St John’s Highland Dancers are to take to the stage in Switzerland.

The OzScot Australia team was finalised this week, with two St John’s students being selected to travel to Switzerland to perform at the Basel Tattoo in July 2017.

Year Twelve student Ellen Kehl, and Year Nine student Hannah Hughes, are two of 36 dancers from all over Australia who will get the opportunity to dance at a fantastic venue on the River Rhine, Basel. On arriving in Basel, the girls will rehearse for six days before performing 14 times over nine days. They will need to be physically and mentally fit to maintain the high level of performance expected of them.

While Ellen was named in the team back in September after applying for a position with 54 other dancers, dance director Cheryl Roach OAM invited Hannah to join the group this weekend, adding some youth to the team.

Do yourself a favour and check out the youtube clip below to see what they will get up to.

https://youtu.be/kAI0Uy0nmY0

What an achievement for girls from regional Queensland! Congratulations.

Glenys Hughes
Position Vacant

2 JUNIORS REQUIRED
COOMBER BROS JEWELLERS
RETAIL POSITIONS
Starting January 2017

Must be able to work Saturday mornings and some school holidays. Please drop your resume into our store. Kate Martyn & Jordie Ellevesen are currently employed in this position. If you would like to know a little more about it, please feel free to ask them.
Applications close 25th November 2016.
Regards
Carol Schefe

Roma Scout Group

Cinema Roma is hosting the Roma Scout Group’s movie premiere of ‘Robinson Crusoe’ (G) this Thursday 17th November. Snacks and nibbles from 5:45pm, movie starts 6:30pm and finishes approx. 8pm. Children and Concession $15, Adults $20. Pre-purchase tickets at the cinema now, or also on the night. 37 Hawthorne St Roma, phone 46225666. For further information regarding the Roma Scout Group, please contact Bryce on 0427 632 or romascouts@yahoo.com.

Prep Geography

Throughout the term, the Prep students have been learning how to identify features of various places and how they can be represented on maps. They have looked at and located Australia, Queensland, Roma as well as various points of interest on maps. Preps tried to imagine just how big Australia must be, compared to Roma. We discussed how different places have different purposes and how the different features could be represented and arranged on a map. The students then looked at the features of a house and designed their dream bedroom as part of their assessment.

Kaylene Keleher
Prep Teacher

Year Nine Business

During Terms Three and Four, our Year Nine Business students have been exploring the risks and rewards associated with trading on the share market. Students participated in a ten week Schools ASX Sharemarket simulation program which required them to make financial trading decisions. Students developed a portfolio of work, tracking and evaluating the success of their investments. The students were required to keep their eyes and ears open to any news items they discovered during the semester that would help them work out the causes of changes in the ASX market, as well as make predictions for their investments.

Students were very engaged in this simulation and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experiment with different share portfolios at ‘no risk’. We also had students from Years Seven - Ten participate in the competition. If you missed out on playing this year, we will be enrolling in this competition again early next year – so listen out for notices during Term One to find out how you can participate!

Ashleigh O’Connell
Year Nine Teacher
Year Two Science

This term in Science, the Year Two students investigated what happens when materials are combined in our unit, ‘All Mixed Up’. We looked at those materials that are mixed together for a purpose such as cooking and where mixtures can be found for example, in the kitchen. We learnt that mixtures can be eaten, they can be used to clean, drink or to build things. We also learnt that when different materials are mixed together they can be runny or sticky. We conducted several experiments to investigate what happens when materials are mixed together and enjoyed finding out what materials combine well together and which ones don’t. We particularly enjoyed our sifting investigation to find out if the size of the sieve holes affects what is separated in a mixture. We examined which materials went through and which ones didn’t when we used three different sized sieves and three different ingredients: coconut, puffed rice and icing sugar. We then used our knowledge about mixtures to explain why people would use a sieve.

Angela Brennan, Jacina van Slobbe
Year Two Teachers

Christmas Concert

St John’s annual Christmas Concert is fast approaching; it will be held on Monday 28th 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. There will be sausages and drinks on sale at the tuck shop. A program with the performance list will be found in next week’s newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone there!
This term, Year Eight students have been investigating the properties and complexities of the program Paint Dot Net. Paint Dot Net is similar in many ways to Photoshop; the program enables the user to manipulate images. Students started the course by creating patterns, abstracting a rectangle from the pattern and creating ‘wallpaper patterns’ from the abstraction. They then moved on to using layers and manipulating pictures of famous people by removing the celebrity's head and replacing it with the student's head. This resulted in some very amusing images.

Students then progressed to tackling their assignment which was to create a digital reading book for a Year One student. Mr Brennan was very kind and invited the Year Eight students to visit his class to talk to his students. The students were ‘paired up’ and the Year Eights gathered the information they required to start designing the reading book for their partner.

The Year Eights have been visiting their partners regularly to receive feedback which is part of the evaluation process. The books are progressing well and should be completed by the end of Week Seven.

Steve Swires  
Secondary Teacher
Farewell Year 12 2016

The three Deans of House would like to acknowledge the graduating class of 2016, for all of your hard work and efforts over the life of your schooling years. It is with great pride that we farewell you and wish you all every success and happiness in the world with your future endeavours. It has been our honour as your Deans of House to work with you in leading our respective Houses. As you approach your graduation and prepare yourselves for what life has to offer, never forget where you came from or the friendships that were built here. We have created such close bonds with you all and can’t wait to see where life takes each and every one of you.

All the best from Deans of House, Miss Jones, Miss Topic and Mr Moore.

Theresian
Wade Anderson
Taylor Byrnes
Thomas Campbell
Jessica Collinson
Hope Ferguson
Janice Golder
Tristan Haddock
Jemma Hawker
Skye Howson
Mitchell Hunter
Brittany Irwin
Camryn Jackson
Kaitlyn Lane
Bryan Lie
Richard Meacle
Brooke Mitchell
Brandan Swan

Marian
Brandan Anderson
Jeremiah Briones
Alex Connell
Jonathan Duff
Patrick Duff
Caila Harrison
Courtney Hassall
Ellen Kehl
Bailey Lambourne
Kate Martyn
Brendan Murray
Edwin Pavia

Xaverian
Nancy Allen
Timothy Brumpton
Kayla Cloherty
Jordon Ellevsen
Adrienne Gisma
Connor Green
Emma Haaijer
Matthew Lambert
Tallis Landers
Hayley Nichol
Ethan O’Rourke
Mikhaela Roldan
Kathleen Smith
Portia Stinson
All systems are go for next year’s production of The Wind in the Willows, on 27th 28th and 29th April, 2017.

Last week, over seventy students attended the information meeting and signed up as being interested. This week, students from Years Four to Twelve are showing their skills in a series of auditions.

It has been the tradition that St John’s only puts on a whole school, full scale production biennially. However, due to the large amount of talent at our school, we have decided to put on a reduced scale production in 2017.

The production next year is on a much smaller size than this year’s The Wizard of Oz. The number of students involved is less than half the cast of The Wizard. The cast will consisting of three narrators, four main characters and a small number of minor speaking roles. Many students, regardless of their amazing talents, will miss out on speaking roles.

It is our intention to involve those students who did not get a role, but still wish to be part of the production and those interested from Prep to Year Three. These students will be able to be part of the opening scene of the production. Here, they will get the opportunity to dress up as woodland animals and sing the opening song before returning to their seats to watch the rest of the show.

Ensemble A: those students involved in the opening scene do not need to audition. More detailed information will be given at the start of next year. Generally, their commitment to the production will involve some break time rehearsals and attendance for short periods closer to the production.

I ask that you stress to your children that many students will miss out on their ideal roles, but it is not a reflection on them or their talent. I thank you for your co-operation and assistance helping students adjust to this smaller scale production.

Sarah Nerva
Drama Teacher
St John’s School, Roma

St John’s School Roma is a Catholic School from P-12.

Applications are sought for the following Position:

**SCHOOL OFFICER (Prep Teacher Aide)**

16/1/17 to 2/12/17
20 Hours per week

**Role Description:** To assist students in classrooms, small groups and individually.

**Requirements:**
- Willingness to support the Catholic Ethos
- Willingness to abide by the St John’s Code of Conduct
- Blue Card
- A sound level of literacy and numeracy and the ability to work independently.
- Completion of online Child Protection modules
- Previous experience would be an advantage.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by email (preferred) or submit to the school office by Friday 18th November, 2016

The Principal - Nicholas Lynch, PO Box 41, Roma 4455
Email: roma@twb.catholic.edu.au
In the next issue

**Prep - Year Six**
Prep - Six:
Four things we learnt in 2016

**Years Seven - Twelve**
Xaverian, Theresian and Marian:
Four things our Form Group achieved in 2016

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
Five things you need to know about the NDIS in Queensland

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised support for people with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is the insurance that gives us all peace of mind. Disability could affect anyone and having the right support makes a big difference.

The NDIS provides eligible people a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

1. What?
The Commonwealth and Queensland governments have agreed on how the NDIS will be rolled out across Queensland. In Queensland, the NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2019. The NDIS already has early transition sites in Townsville and Charters Towers for children and young people (0-17 years) and all eligible participants from Palm Island.

2. When?
The NDIS is a big change and will be progressively rolled out in Queensland over three years from 1 July 2016.

People will move to the NDIS at different times depending on where they live. The NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2019.

3. Where?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 July 2016</th>
<th>30 June 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
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<td>Robina</td>
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4. How?
The National Disability Insurance Agency is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Queensland government departments to ensure a smooth transition to the NDIS for people with disability, their families, carers and providers.

5. What can I do to prepare?
If you currently receive disability services you will be contacted before your area transitions. If you are not currently receiving services you will be able to apply to access the Scheme when the NDIS is available in your area. Check the information and resources available at [www.ndis.gov.au/QLD](http://www.ndis.gov.au/QLD)

Call us on 1800 800 110
Please visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety for a list of gift ideas.
You are invited to the Hodgson Hall
BBQ, Christmas Tree & Dance
(Not Live Music)
Saturday, 10th December 2016
BBQ 6pm, $15.00 per person
BYO Chairs

Christmas Tree 7.30pm, Children to 12 years,
$15.00 per child includes Tree, Meal & Ice Block

Merry Christmas

RSVP for BBQ by
Saturday, 03rd December 2016
Please bring a salad or a sweet
for the BBQ to share
Bar will be operating

Names, Children’s Ages & Money to:
Ang Lorenz: 0428 229 003
By Friday, 25th November 2016