



ST JOHN'S NEWS

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

The St John's Parents and Friends group provides important support for our school, especially as we work toward our School Improvement Goals – these are referred to in my report. They contribute significantly to the building of community through the organisation of various events and assist with fundraising. This year, the P&F made a significant contribution toward the cost of air conditioning our classrooms, making the learning environment for our children much more comfortable.

My thanks to the outgoing P&F executive team; they have been a task-focused group which has encouraged parent voice in the life of our school. I appreciate the support they have provided during 2016. We have a new P&F executive following considerable interest in positions during the AGM elections. My thanks to all those who accept nominations. Congratulations to our outgoing executive and to our new 2017 team:

2016 Executive Team	2017 Executive Team
President: Paul Bedford	President: Belinda Haroutonian
Vice-President: Caroline Miller	Vice-President: Caroline Miller
Treasurer: Sonia Vumbaca	Treasurer: Russell Scott
Secretary: Pet Sargent	Secretary: Philippa Toohey
Diocesan Parent Rep: Rony Rahme	Diocesan Parent Rep: Rony Rahme

A reminder that a thank you afternoon tea has been arranged for our Class Parents and Canteen Volunteers next Friday, December 2nd, in the library at 2:00 p.m. We ask that those attending please RSVP to the school office by Monday November 28th via email for catering purposes.

This Friday we will welcome Grandparents and Special Friends to our school for a liturgy followed by afternoon tea and open classrooms. This annual event is always well attended and the children are looking forward to welcoming their guests to St John's. Please note that parking will be in surrounding streets as there is no on-site parking available in the school or Church grounds on Friday. Our Year 5 and 6 families are providing afternoon tea and can drop off a plate to the school hall on arrival Friday morning.

Finally, I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Natalie Ingram as Assistant Principal to St John's. Natalie has been working with us as Acting Religious Education Coordinator (2 Years) and as Acting

Assistant Principal this year. Her contribution to St John's in both of these roles has been outstanding and the staff and I are thrilled that Natalie is no longer Acting but officially in the role of AP.

A reminder that the season of Advent begins this weekend. It is time to bring out the Advent calendars or to slowly build the nativity scenes with the children and while at the same time building a sense of hope as the birth of our saviour approaches.

Sincerely,

Mark Bateman – Principal

STAFFING NEWS:

I am pleased to announce the following teaching appointments for 2017:

- Miss Ashley Blake – 12 months full time teaching position.
- Miss Lara Gorman – extended 12 month teaching position.
- Mrs Gathy Gualtieri – 12 months full time teaching position.

All teacher placements will be notified later in the term.

Mrs Dawson:

I also wish to inform you that Mrs Christine Dawson will be retiring at the end of the year after 40 years of teaching. Christine's care for the children is second to none and her positivity and friendliness as part of this community have helped bring something special to the staff, students and families of St John's. We will still get to see Christine around as she will be available for casual teaching work in 2017. Our love and best wishes to her.

SPIRITUAL NEWS

This Sunday we begin a new Liturgical year with the Season of Advent.

Advent is a season of past, present and future. In terms of the past, it prepares Christians for the commemoration of Christ's historical coming in the feast of Christmas. It reminds us that Christianity is profoundly historical; religion: just as God speaks in the words and events of Jesus' human life, so God speaks in each of our personal histories and in our communal experience. Advent also looks to the future, to the second coming of Christ.



The focus here is on hope that gives meaning to all Christian life and especially to a time when all, especially the poor and hurt will have what they need. Essentially, Christians are people who have hope and who bring hope to others.

This weekend, we light the first purple candle on the wreath. If you have a wreath at home, here is a prayer for the family to say together:

Dear God, help us to be ready to walk in your light. This first week of Advent, help us prepare our minds and our hearts to follow the teachings of your son, Jesus.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week so that we choose to do what honours our creator and what shows our love of others.

Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for the many gifts you have given to our family.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come into our hearts, so that when the time comes, we will be prepared to join you in everlasting joy.

Celebrating Advent in the 21st century...

Have a hunt for a less secular, economical, environmentally friendly and low calorie Advent calendar – check the internet and your iPad. A couple of suggestions:

<http://advent.bustedhalo.com/>



Xt3 Advent Calendar 2016 HD app

By Catholic Communications - Archdiocese of Sydney

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers.

Details for this year’s hampers will be coming home tomorrow!

Start thinking about the delicious things you would like to get for the hamper!

Another great way to live out our Core Values.



DIARY

Week 8 Term 4 Mon 28 Nov	Week 8 Term 4 Tue 29 Nov	Week 8 Term 4 Wed 30 Nov	Week 8 Term 4 Thu 1 Dec	Week 8 Term 4 Fri 2 Dec	Week 8 Term 4 Sat 3/Sun 4
<p>Yr 1 and Yr 2 Excursion Botanical Gardens</p> <p>Parenting workshop 7-9pm School Library</p>	<p>Tween Parenting Workshop 9-11am Parish Meeting Room</p>			<p>Class Parents & Canteen Volunteers Thank you afternoon tea 2-3pm. Meet in the library</p> <p>K-6 Merit assembly 8.45am</p>	
Week 9 Term 4 Mon 5 Dec	Week 9 Term 4 Tue 6 Dec	Week 9 Term 4 Wed 7 Dec	Week 9 Term 4 Thu 8 Dec	Week 9 Term 4 Fri 9 Dec	Week 9 Term 4 Sat 10/Sun 11
		<p>Yr 6 Graduation Liturgy 6.30pm</p>		<p>Surf Awareness Years 5 & 6</p>	<p>Whole School Mass</p>

UPCOMING DATES

Grandparents & Special Friends Day – Friday 25th November. Please note our Grandparents Day & Special Friends day will begin at **1:30pm** with a liturgy in the church followed by afternoon tea and a chance to visit the children's classrooms.

Whole School Parish Mass & Sausage Sizzle – Saturday 10th December @5pm – this will be a whole school Parish Mass and is our Advent and Christmas celebration. Pop it in your diary!

SUN SAFETY:

With the warm weather creeping upon us, it is very important to remind all students to pack their school in their bag each day. We have a few students coming to school each day without their hat and asking the office for spares. Unfortunately, we have NO spares. Students who do not bring their school hats are to play in the designated shaded area.

We are also asking the children to apply their sunscreen before coming to school each morning.



AWARDS

STRENGTH & GENTLENESS: NINA W (60)

MONDAY PRAYER ASSEMBLY

Please note: There will be no Merit awards assembly this week due to Grandparents Day. Please be advised there will be a K-6 Merit assembly in week 8 (Friday 2nd Dec) beginning at 8.45am in the hall.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE OFFICE

Family registration, photography and permission forms were sent home with your children last week. Kindly return **ALL** three forms to the office as they are now overdue. Thank you to those parents who have returned all forms. If you have only sent back one or two we do need all three returned ASAP.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Covering

We have once again a build-up of beautiful new books in the library which need covering. If you are able to help the contact is supplied and you are welcome to take the books home with you or cover them in the library.

Drop into the library to pick up a bag or see the school office.



CANTEEN

Canteen will be CLOSED tomorrow Friday 25th Nov

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Canteen is CLOSED every THURSDAY

W8 Term 4 28 Nov H Byrne J Kipa	W8 Term 4 29 Nov B Haroutonian D Panucci	W8 Term 4 30 Nov D Albanese C Lambert	W8 Term 4 1 Dec CANTEEN CLOSED	W8 Term 4 2 Dec N Leventis T Collins	CANTEEN CLOSED THURSDAYS We require 2 volunteers each day to operate the canteen. If anyone would like to join our group of canteen volunteers, click here or email Fiona on fionacosta3@yahoo.com.au Canteen Coordinator: Fiona Costa (0409 566 640)
W9 Term 4 5 Dec G Curran F Doust	W9 Term 4 6 Dec L Rouke G Ferris	W8 Term 4 7 Dec S Forrester K Thompson	W8 Term 4 8 Dec CANTEEN CLOSED	W8 Term 4 9 Dec M Southan B Baumann C Miller	

SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

We would love to catch up with you all to celebrate. Please join us for our two end-of-year events!

Parents Dinner on Thursday, 1st December, 7pm - Dee Why Hotel

Could you please RSVP to your Class Parents **and/or**

Kids Picnic on Friday 2nd December from 3:15pm - Beverley Job Park

Hope to see you all there!

YEAR 1 END OF YEAR SOCIAL EVENT



We would love to see you all there for our end-of-year social event.

7pm on Wednesday 30th November at the Collaroy. RSVP to class parents by 21st November, 2016.

YEAR 2 PARENTS SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to dinner and drinks in the new Gio restaurant at Harbord Diggers at 7pm on Friday 2nd December. **Please RSVP to Sal Letts by Monday 28th if you can make it.** salletts@gmail.com or 0405 14 33 22

All Welcome!!

YEAR 3 GET TOGETHER, SAVE THE DATES

With the end of the year fast approaching, it is a wonderful time to get together and celebrate, with the following opportunities to catch up, if you are available for either or both of the following:

Parent-only catch up: [Thurs 24th Nov](#), at Dee Why Hotel from [7pm](#) for dinner & drinks. Please RSVP to Class Parents by Mon 21st (to ensure table area booked is sufficient).

Family friendly picnic, [Sun 27th Nov](#), at the Collaroy Beach Park [from 2- 4:30pm](#). All welcome!

Hope to see you there!

YEAR 4 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Dinner / Drinks, Thursday 8th December 2016, @ Dee Why RSL from 7pm.

Hope to see you there!

CASSEROLE CLUB

In term 4 we have many families, both parents and children who are dealing with illnesses. If you have a chance to cook a meal and freeze it for our casseroles club it will be greatly appreciated by our families in need. The office has a supply of plastic containers if you would like to stop by and pick one up.

We wish to thank all those families who have donated meals to the casserole club this year. Our families in need are always very grateful to receive a meal in difficult times.

BOOK CLUB ORDERS FOR ISSUE 8 ARE DUE NO LATER THAN

Friday 25th November

For online ordering please follow the link <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/>

Alternatively you can put your order in at the office. Please ensure it is in an envelope clearly marked **Book Club** and the order has the **name** and **class** clearly marked on the order.

Unfortunately we cannot accept cash.

If you want to purchase Christmas gifts please indicate it on the order AND let the office know that you wish to collect the order.

ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT TO CLAIM YOUR SCHOOL BANKING REWARDS!

Our final School Banking day for 2016 will be **Wednesday 14th December**. If you wish to order a reward item for your child this year please ensure that your redemption slip is filled in and returned by **Wednesday 1st December**. Any tokens that have not been redeemed this year can be used in 2017. Some great 2016 & 2015 rewards are still available!



Outback Pat
Bag Tag



Wriggly Glow
Worm



Jump and
Skip Rope



Outer Space
Savers Money Box



ET DVD

Thanks in advance.

Regards,

Belinda Bedford

School Banking Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

ROADS & MARITIME SERVICES NEWS

St John's Catholic School has been approved to get additional school zone flashing lights. They will be installed on Waratah Parade. The rollout of additional flashing lights will commence later this year, and will be completed by mid-2017. Other information about school zone safety is on the Centre for Road Safety webpage, at <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/schools/index.html>. As always, we remind our families to ensure they are following road rules and our 'Drop Off/Pick Up Zone' rules on Waratah Parade before and after school so all of our children are safe.

PARENTING WORKSHOP FOR TWEENS

Is parenting your tween becoming more and more challenging? Are you prepared for the teenage years ahead?

We are running the popular course **Ages and Stages: Adolescence** to help you to **survive the school holidays** by helping you to understand the developmental stage that your child is at now and where they are heading in years 6, 7 and 8 as they mature. It is only a 2 hour session and will give you practical tips as well as some facts about your child's development at this tricky stage of life.

Please register your interest by emailing: Jeanie.mcdonnell@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Course dates:

Evening – Monday 28th November, 7-9pm in the school library *or*

Morning - Tuesday 29th November, 9-11am in the Parish Meeting Room (back of the school hall).

How to make your child's report card an effective tool for learning

Your child's report card can be a useful tool to help you gauge how they are progressing and show you areas where they might need assistance. Here are some tips to make your child's report card an effective tool for learning:

Talk it through

It's important to talk to your child about their report card. Their report may highlight subjects they have an interest in, as well as areas for development. Listen to their thoughts on the report and see what you can do to help them build on their strengths as well as improve. Focus on the achievements in your child's report and genuinely praise your child on them. For instance, 'I'm really pleased to see you are enjoying science. You are obviously enjoying learning about it.'

Talk to your child's teacher

Talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions about the report or would like to explore ways to provide extra support for your child. They want your child to succeed and they will be only too happy to chat with you about ways you can help your child to learn.

NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE?

Buy yours from Beacon Hill Guides & Scouts this year!



All monies raised goes directly to the Guides & Scouts.

Where: Beacon Hill Reserve Soccer Fields, cnr Warringah & Willandra Rd, opp. McDonalds.

When: Weekend **10 & 11 Dec** from 7.30am.

Drive in – plenty of parking. Get in early, great choice, pick your own.

Hope to see you there!