

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents,

This year we have four parents stepping down from our Advisory Council, Natalie Bradshaw, Lisa Rourke, Nicci Bradley and Amelia Chandler, as their time at St John's comes to an end or they take on different roles within the school community. Each parent has contributed to the council, in some cases over many years. Our Advisory Council (formerly the School Board) provides advice to me and our executive team on school related issues, matters of policy and assist me in looking after the vision and mission of our school. The work of the council is done through discussion and discernment with prayer and our faith life as a central component of its activities. I am inviting expressions of interest from parents interested in joining the council. This can be done through an email to me via sjan@dbb.catholic.edu.au by December 12th. Please write a sentence or about why being part of the council is of interest to you and I will contact you.

Does parent engagement matter? Sometimes it is good to stop and think about what is on offer through the school and how you can take advantage of the many ways we try to connect with our families.

Forming a partnership with parents and carers is an important part of school life. Research continually shows that when parents and the school work together, especially on the educational goals of the school, the benefits for the children are significant.

As a school we reach out to parents in many ways, including through our Advisory Council. Our **P&F** helps to organise social events, coordinate our **Class Parent** efforts, promote and support our parent workshops which are related to what is happening in our school and assist with the organisation of large school events and often with day to day happenings including canteen, uniform shop, banking, Book Club and more. Each class has opportunities for parents to touch base through information nights, student/teacher meetings, excursions, sport and through opportunities to provide classroom support. We have always been blessed with very active and supportive P&F's.

Our Parent Liaison Officer, Mrs McDonnell provides excellent support for families through personal contact, parent education programs and through our transition to school programs (playgroup and school visits). Our teachers provide regular opportunities for parents to meet and talk about student progress or issues.

Busy lives and full agenda often make it difficult for all parents to play an active role with the school. So to help engage everyone, we regularly update our Facebook page and we use our Compass App to send push notifications and messages with our weekly newsletters to share the great things that are happening in our school.

My thanks to our teachers, staff and parents who support us so enthusiastically with our outreach agenda.

This weekend we begin the beautiful season of Advent. This link has a wealth of family friendly information about the season including practical, fun ways to celebrate it with your children. <u>https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent</u>

You are invited to come to mass next Saturday evening at 5:00 pm. This is our final Saturday mass for the year and the focus will be on Advent – preparing for the birth of Jesus.

Have a great weekend,

Principal - Mark Bateman

Tues 17th Dec

Talent Quest – Final - @ St Paul's, Manly

Wed 18th Dec Last Day of Term 4 End of Year Liturgy 11:00

DIARY

Week 8 Term 4	Week 8 Term 4	Week 8 Term 4	Week 8 Term 4	Week 8 Term 4	Week 8 Term 4
Mon 2 Dec	Tues 3 Dec	Wed 4 Dec	Thurs 5 Dec	Fri 6 Dec	Sat/Sun7/8
Kinder Prayer Assembly 8:45 in the Church			Playgroup 9:30am Room 1 Reconciliation 4B & 4W		Whole School Parish Advent Mass 5pm Saturday
Week 9 Term 4	Week 9 Term 4	Week 9 Term 4	Week 9 Term 4	Week 9 Term 4	Week 9 Term 4
Mon 9 Dec	Tues 10 Dec	Wed 11 Dec	Thurs 12 Dec	Fri 13 Dec	Sat/Sun14/15
Core Values Assembly 8:45 in the Church		Year 6 Graduation Liturgy & Celebration 6:30pm	Seasons Liturgy	Year 5/6 Surf Awareness	

AWARDS



Awards are presented on Friday:

K-6 awards will be presented on the softfall at 8:40

(or in classrooms in case of wet weather)

STRENGTH & GENTLENESS will be presented on MONDAY mornings during Prayer Assembly

Strength & Gentleness		5	Monica G (6B)				
КВ	Ashton C Liam C Mark H	3B	Evan C Sophia H Alby R	5W	Cheriese E Alexander J	Sports Oscar S (2W)	
18	Josefina H Benjamin T	3/4W	Lucas C John Paul F Chloe O	6B	Emma B Chloe F Emma S	Max C (5W)	
1W	Gabriella A Jack H	4B	Benjamin F Isabella S	6W	Lucas D Tasman H Antonio K	Creative Arts Matthew H (5W) Olivia O (6B)	
2B	Ilana A Brandon D Noah M	4W	Joshua B Aurelia B Matthew F	5/6F	Leela	Library Malia S (KB)	
2W	Aiden P Oscar S Ellie W	5B	Jonathan B Oscar H			Alexandra J (5W) Aaron R (6W)	

ADVENT BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday we begin our preparations for Christmas with the first Sunday of Advent. The word '**advent**' is Latin for 'a coming or arrival'. It is Jesus we are waiting for. But Advent is more than just waiting, we need to prepare ourselves.

We don't 'wait' for visitors to arrive, we clean and cook and get the junk out of the spare room, we make up beds for them. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts in the same way.

Our Church and our prayer tables will change to the Lenten colour purple! You might have even noticed nature putting on its Advent colours with jacarandas, hydrangeas and agapanthas on display.

What will be "different" in your home this Advent? How will you show you are preparing for the special "arrival"?

Father in heaven, soon the glory of your son, Jesus will make the night bright with light. Prepare our hearts and minds. Amen.

WHOLE SCHOOL ADVENT PARISH MASS

Our final Parish Mass for 2019 will be held next Saturday 7th December.

We will have **Christmas carols** before this Mass at 4:40. Everyone is invited to take part and make this a joyous part of our Advent preparation for Christmas. The link to let us know you are coming was sent home on Compass yesterday. You can also access it here:

https://forms.gle/aPpFHvFhtCQZBJuK6

TALENT QUEST FINALS – TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Our Talent Quest Final will be held at St Paul's College Manly on Tuesday 17th December commencing at 10:30am. Parents and friends are welcome to come and watch us at the finals.

We will be have collection boxes at the Finals for our visitors to contribute a Gold Coin. All money raised through the Talent Quest will go to Catholic Mission.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Yesterday, we sent home an invitation to contribute to a class food hamper for a family who are struggling this Christmas.

You will have been nominated a "staple" item, but are welcome to add extras.

We will have tags for presents on the board in the foyer on Monday if you are able to help buy a simple present for someone in these families.

Shopping to fill a Vinnies hamper is one of my favourite traditions of Christmas. Perhaps taking your children to select items for the hamper could be one of yours!









SEMESTER 2 REPORTS - THIS INFORMATION IS A REPEAT FROM THE WEEK 6 NEWSLETTER

There will be some changes with this year's Semester 2 reports as we have moved to Compass.

The reports will be available via Compass from the end of Week 8. Parents can access the reports via their phone on the Compass app, or via the Compass website on their computers. <u>Please note, if you are leaving the school at the end of the year, you will need to download the pdf to your own computer **before January 2020**.</u>

There has also been a change to some of the wording used in the reports, aligning more closely to the NSW Common Grade Scale from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

ACHIEVEMENT

Key to Achievement Code (NSW Common Grade Scale)				
Elementary	The student has an <i>elementary</i> knowledge and understanding in few areas of content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.			
Basic	The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.			
Sound	The student has a <i>sound</i> knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.			
Thorough	The student has a <i>thorough</i> knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition , the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations .			
Extensive	The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge . In addition , the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations .			

At St John's, we have traditionally used the following language for achievement:

Limited – the student has achieved at a limited level and needs a lot of support in the classroom to engage with the content in this subject area. This is now known as **ELEMENTARY**.

Basic – the student is able to achieve at a basic level and needs support in the classroom to engage with the content in this area. This label has stayed the same.

Sound - the student is able to achieve at a sound/ competent level with the content in this area for their grade. This label has stayed the same.

High – the student is able to achieve at a deeper level and is able to apply their knowledge across the subject or across Key Learning Areas. This is now known as **THOROUGH**.

Outstanding – the student is able to engage with content beyond their grade or stage of learning and show a depth of understanding and ability to apply their knowledge across the subject or across Key Learning Areas. This is now known as **EXTENSIVE.**

EFFORT

At St John's, we have traditionally used the following language for effort:

Commendable – the student displays an extremely consistent effort in the subject. This is now known as OUTSTANDING.

Working Well – the student puts significant effort into achieving a personal best and engaging with the content or subject area. This is now known as **COMMENDABLE.**

Works with Encouragement – the student puts in some effort into achieving a personal best and engaging with the content or subject area but can need reminders and prompts from the teacher. This is now known as **SATISFACTORY**.

Needs Attention – the student is challenged to put effort into achieving a personal best and engaging with the content or subject area and needs significant input, support or reminders and prompts from the teacher. This is now known as **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT.**

DEMONSTRATION OF VALUES/ LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

There has been no change to the language used in this part of the reports. The continuum ranges from **consistently** to **rarely**. The starting point for expectations is '**usually**'. Teachers will move students across the continuum based on their experience and knowledge about the child. 'Consistently' in relation to 'Value/ Learning Behaviours' is regarded as a more challenging level to achieve on our report.

YEAR 5 AND 6 SURF AWARENESS DAY - FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

The senior students are getting very excited about the upcoming Surf Awareness day on Friday 13th December at Freshwater Beach.

Stage 3 parents are asked to complete the permission form ASAP – the link can be found here <u>https://forms.gle/L8fsDWdc3doxWF316</u> and is also on the 5/6 page of the St John's Weebly, and has been sent via Compass. Thank you for your support.

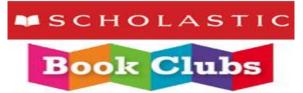
An additional letter has already been sent to the Year 5 families regarding picnic lunch for the day.



LIBRARY PACK UP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are replacing the carpet and painting the walls of our library during the coming holidays. In order to get the library ready for its facelift we need some help with packing books into boxes. It's a 'many hands make light work' job! Please click the sign up link below and pick a time to help us out.

https://signup.com/go/XHHydKC



Every Child Deserves a Good Book

Final Book Club for the year!

Use the following link to browse through the magazine.

https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/BrowseCatalogue.aspx

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

Remember to collect your orders from the office if you request a "gift" order

Book Club orders for Issue 8 are due no later than

Friday 29th November

Summer Holday Camps



16th December 2019 – 29th January 2020

Join our Holiday Camps and play soccer indoors on grass

CLINICS FILL FAST, SO BOOK NOW!

Here at the Football Factory we acknowledge the necessity to focus on the development of an individual's skills. It is important that children have fun whilst they learn new skills, and that's why we've tailor made our school holiday camps to be both fun and engaging!

- Professionally qualified & engaging FFA & AFC coaches
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Half Days 9.00am-12:00pmFull Days 9.00am-3.00pmExtended days 8.30am-5.30pmFor 5-14 year oldsBook from 2 days to 10 days

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