



Newsletter

December 2015—Term 4 Issue 12

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9 Dec: Stage 4 & 5 Awards

14 Dec: College Christmas Liturgy @
Nirimba Hall

16 Dec: HSC Results available, Parent/
Caregiver/Student/Teacher
Interviews, Term 4 Concludes

17 Dec: Pupil Free Day - Staff Learning

18 Dec: Pupil Free Day - Staff Learning

26 Jan: AUS Day

27 Jan: Pupil Free Day

28 Jan: Year 7 Reflection Day at
Schofields, Year 11 & 12 Commence
normal classes

29 Jan: Years 8, 9, 10 commence
normal classes

4 Feb: HSC High Achievers Awards

8 Feb: Year 7 Welcome BBQ

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FROM THE PRINCIPALS – MR JIM FANNING & MR PHIL SMITH



This is the last newsletter for 2015 and once again we have had a very exciting, challenging and rewarding school year. During the year there have been a large number of events showing what a great community we have here at St John Paul II. Just as importantly two teachers and six students have commenced preparations to journey to Poland next year as part of World Youth Day. Pope John Paul II's home was Poland and it is a source of inspiration that these young people will be able to experience his native land and bring some of that charisma back to our school thereby helping to deepen our traditions which commenced under the name Terra Sancta and have continued as St John Paul II.

This year we say farewell to some staff who are taking up positions at other schools after a number of years working at our college as part of their professional development ("Read more >" for details). We will also be welcoming some new staff to the College in 2016. We are pleased to announce that our College Council will be strong and vibrant again in 2016. There are 3 vacancies for parent/caregiver representatives on the College Council. If you are interested in joining the College Council a nomination form is available in this article.

[READ MORE >](#)

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

A major learning and pastoral focus of St John Paul II each year is making sure that every student is at school every day possible and in class for every minute possible. New initiatives will be implemented at the College to support "Every Day Counts" including merits and recognition for excellent attendance. Upcoming interviews details for Wednesday, 16 December, are also included in the latest news from the Assistant Principals.

[READ MORE >](#)

PRAYER

"At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's actions in our lives. For this reason, I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church; a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective." Pope Francis (Misericordiae Vultus, 3) 2015. In 2015 the Advent focus at St John Paul II Catholic College is on how God has shown us mercy and how we are called to show mercy to others.

[READ MORE >](#)

We wish you a Merry & Holy Christmas!

News, Updates and Reports

PARENT NOTICES

- The last Student/Parent/Caregiver/Teacher Interviews will be on Wednesday, 16 December at the Schofields. [Click here](#) for more information and booking details.
- We have had a recent breakthrough of Whooping Cough at the College. Please refer to the fact sheet found [HERE](#)
- Captivate Auditions are coming up! [Click here](#) for more details on this opportunity.

SRC Report: Leadership Days



Recently the SRC and Sport leaders for 2016 got together to embrace their roles assigned for 2016 over two days of activities, planning and bonding as a team! [READ MORE >](#)

Lost Property

The College reminds parents/caregivers that there is a collection of lost property at the College Office. If your child has lost either sports jackets, sports pants, school jumpers, school blazers or swimming clothes/towels, their belongings may be at the office ready to collect.

Sell Second Hand Uniform

The College Uniform Shop is calling for anyone who would like to sell old or grown out uniforms back to the College. If you would like to sell any uniform, the Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays (8am—2.30pm) and Thursdays (9am—3.30pm).

School Fees 2016

[Click here](#) to view details on current school fees and the 2016 Annual School Fees.

LATEST NEWS

College Parent Donates AGAIN to StJPll Music



Mr Murray and his family have donated \$2,500 for the second time this year for the College to continue growing our music department and assisting students in 2016!

[READ MORE >](#)

StJPll Rock it at Kool Schools Awards



St John Paul II Catholic College students were involved in recording music projects in conjunction with a state-wide school project entitled "Kool Schools" and were presented with two major awards and many nominations! [READ MORE >](#)

Textiles Students Make iPad Covers



The Year 8 Textiles Technology class created their own "fabric" by felting wool tops, then decorated and hand sewed a cover for their iPads! [READ MORE >](#)

HSC Agriculture Harvest Wheat



Back in September, students from the Year 11 Agriculture class sowed a small plot of wheat in the College Agriculture Plot. Last week it was ready to be harvested!

[READ MORE >](#)

HSC Art "Site-Specific" Displays



For the past week site-specific works have been on display around the school grounds, allowing our staff and students to observe and interpret the works themselves.

[READ MORE >](#)

Year 10 & 11 Music Showcase



This evening was an opportunity for the students to showcase their fantastic work from throughout 2015 to their friends and families. We definitely have some talent at the College! [READ MORE >](#)

Year 8 Pirate Day



On Monday, 15 November, Year 8 put on their eye patches and picked up their swords for their annual Pirate Day! Students battled it out in games and activities as they represented their mascots. [READ MORE >](#)

Year 7 Ninja Day



On Wed, 18 November, Year 7 staff and students came together for their annual Ninja Day! In the lead up students created their clans, decorated their rooms and learnt everything Japan. [READ MORE >](#)

WATCH: Year 9 Step out of Their Comfort Zones - and Dance!



Check out this awesome video from Year 9's day with Chris Doyle, where he ran a program that gave the students an opportunity to bond with their peers and step out of their comfort zone. [WATCH HERE >](#)

Student Concert for Nursing Home



Students joined Miss Vella in visiting the Quakers Hill Nursing Home and gave the residents some great entertainment with a mini concert! [READ MORE >](#)

COUNSELLORS CORNER

Your child's end-of-year report is in your hands. It's not as good as you expected. Maybe not as good as they expected either. How should you respond? If the answer was to be nice rather than nasty, you would not be surprised (especially when the answer is coming from a counsellor). But there is some actual evidence on this. Researchers asked the parents/carers of 500 11-13-year-olds how they would respond, and sorted the answers into broad categories of punitive or proactive. They then looked at those kids' results 5 years later. Guess who did better? [READ MORE >](#)

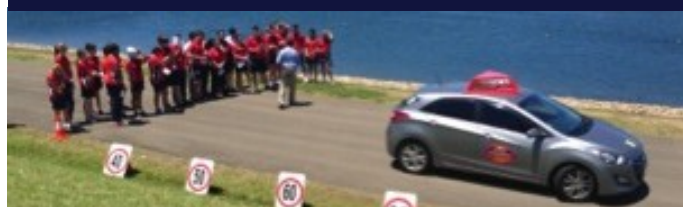
DIOCESAN NOTICES & EVENTS

Check out the latest vacant positions, opportunities and events taking place within the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta including positions within the diocese, a womens retreat, Christmas Carols at the Shrine, Mass of the Holy Innocents and free retirement planning seminar. [READ MORE >](#)

Learning Continuum: Stage 6 Blended Learning

Blended Learning allows students to learn, at least in part, through the delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media and allows students to have more control over the time and pace for learning. Read more for examples of Blended Learning in Years 11 & 12. [READ MORE >](#)

STAGE 6 UPDATES



As Year 11 2015 now become the HSC students of 2016, they have been adapting and preparing for what's ahead of them in these last few weeks! Students also attended the Ryda Driver Safety Day. We also congratulate Year 12 2015 on completing their HSC and look forward to seeing them at the pizza lunch on Wednesday Week 11. [READ MORE >](#)