



Newsletter

May 2015—Term 2 Issue 4

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KEY DATES

**7 May: Year 7 2016
Enrolment Interviews**

**11 May: Parent Chat Group
at Schofields—10am**

**11-12 May: Year 12 Retreat
at Collaroy**

**12 May: Year 7 and Year 9
NAPLAN**

**12 May: WYD Pilgrim Info
Night at Blacktown—7pm**

**THE TERM 2, 2015
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
CAN BE DOWNLOADED
[HERE](#)**

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FROM THE PRINCIPALS – MR JIM FANNING & MR PHIL SMITH



There was certainly a lot of disruption and chaos in our communities and we are grateful that there were no serious injuries to members of the St John Paul II community. The disruption to both campuses meant that there had to be considerable changes to school routines and student travel arrangements. But every cloud has a silver lining and one silver lining during this time was the teaching and learning that occurred when the senior students spent a day at Schofields in the newly constructed Co-operative Learning Space.

Recently ANZAC Day ceremonies were held at the Schofields Campus to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli landing and pay respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. To see the students participate in the services with such dignity served as an example for all of us in the wider community.

Another mark of the way the school is valued by the community is evidenced in our continued healthy enrolments with in excess of 160 applications for enrolment into Year 7 in 2016 having been received at the time this newsletter was printed. Our first interview sessions were held in week three for all those students who applied from outside our three feeder schools.

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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

For those with high expectations for themselves and that can be everyone, there are a number of things to consider. Students who develop the habits in this article and utilise the help and support of their teachers and parents/caregivers along the way will be much more likely to meet the high expectations to achieve and be proud of their time as they “pass through this land”.

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PRAYER

May 11 to May 13, Year 12 will embark on a spiritual journey to find the treasure that lies within themselves. Throughout the three day experience at Collaroy they will be led through games, prayer and song. I would like to share with you what is at the heart of their retreat – God’s unconditional love for us! Joshua Stephens and Daniel Habtebold, sung by Year 12 on retreat, express this sentiment beautifully through song: When I was down - You helped me up, When I was weak - You gave me strength ...

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ENROLMENTS STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2016!

News, Updates and Reports

PARENT NOTICES

- [TERM 2, 2015 SCHOOL FEES](#)
- [MATHS/ASSESSMENT ASSISTANCE CLUBS](#)
- [DROP OFF ZONES](#)
- [LONG & SHORT TERM STUDENT LEAVE REQUEST PROCESSES](#)
- [CANCELLING CANTEEN ORDERS WHEN GOING HOME EARLY](#)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

We invite you, your family and friends to LIKE the page for all news stories, updates and notices about all the great learning experiences, events and opportunities at the College.

Facebook is a way for you to easily access information through a different form of communication!

[LIKE THE FACEBOOK PAGE HERE](#)

LATEST NEWS

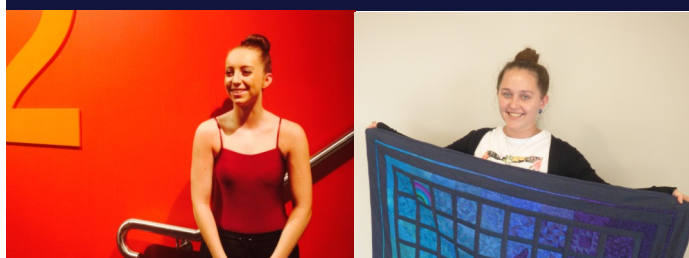
MR MURRAY DONATES TO MUSIC!



Recently a random act of kindness by Mr Michael Murray, a student's father in the St John Paul II community, donated \$2,500 to the Instrument Program at the College! "Sometimes it's better to give than receive," said Mr Murray.

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HSC STARS IN TEXTILES & DANCE MAJOR WORKS!



Erin Jones and Rebecca Walden have been recognised state wide for their 2014 HSC Major Works and have exhibited their works at shows and events this year. This is such a spectacular achievement for the girls and for the College!

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YEAR 12 MID COURSE AWARDS



On Thursday, 30 April, students in Year 12 were recognised for their effort and hard work in the HSC so far at an Award Ceremony with Year 11 and 12.

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ATSI RECONCILIATION CEREMONY



On 29 April, students from StJP II joined students from the Nirimba Education Precinct for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Program Reconciliation Ceremony.

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ANZAC CEREMONIES @ STJP II



On 23 April, StJP II held three ANZAC ceremonies to commemorate the 100 Year Anniversary of the ANZACs. SRC members also attended the Riverstone Dawn Service to represent the College.

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YEAR 12 BIOLOGY—DISEASES!



On Wednesday, 28 April, Year 12 Biology students visited the University of NSW Museum of Diseases, learning from real diseased specimens!

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STUDENTS SAVING LIVES @ NIRIMBA



Brave students and teachers at StJP II Nirimba donate blood to save lives with the Red Cross Blood Bank Service.

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A FIRST. YEAR 11-12 @ SCHOFIELDS!



Due to the recent weather and floods, Year 11-12 joined Schofields for a day of school—a first ever in the College!

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COUNSELLORS CORNER

One of the challenges of raising teenagers is about helping them deal with their emerging sexuality. If having 'the talk' was ever enough in the past, it certainly isn't enough today. What sort of person do you want your child to be? What values do you hope will mark their close relationships? What can you do to help them develop in that direction? Help them by reducing their exposure; give them the confidence and skills to ...

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DIOCESAN NOTICES & EVENTS

Catch up on all notices and events from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta including CAPTIVATE performance dates and opportunities!

[READ MORE >](#)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Check out the 'App of the Month' and updates on the upcoming NAPLAN assessments and 2014 HSC Analysis.

[READ MORE >](#)

INTRODUCING 'RISE UP' TO STJPII!



[READ MORE >](#)

OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO PARENTS TO GO TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CONFERENCE IN COFFS HARBOUR

The College is offering two parents to attend the 11th Catholic Schools Parent Conference this year, 16-17 May 2015 at the Opal Cove Resort in Coffs Harbour. Hosted by the Lismore Catholic Schools Parent Assembly & the Council of Catholic Schools Parents NSW/ACT, the 2015 Catholic Schools Parent Conference is an opportunity to acknowledge, support and celebrate parent involvement in education. It provides a wonderful opportunity to talk with other parents and educators, to share stories, gain new skills and understand what is happening in our Catholic schools and education today. The conference runs over two days, full of keynote sessions and a range of workshops/interactive networking sessions.

If you are interested in representing the College at the conference, please contact either of the Co-operating Principals, Phil Smith or Jim Fanning. [READ MORE](#) for further information, event brochure and conference program.

STAGE 4 UPDATES



Welcome back to term 2. Whilst a lot has happened for the students already in the first few weeks the students have settled in well and are building on the good habits established in Term 1. Check out the stories!

[READ MORE HERE>](#)

- After the students had the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and develop leadership skills on the Year 7 Camp, the students elected their Student Representatives!
- NAPLAN will be held during week 4 and will run from Tuesday through to Thursday inclusive. The examinations will be held on the Schofields campus. If your student is away please contact the college on the morning of each examination day.
- Last term Mr. Wolffe gave Year 7 a presentation on Restorative Justice. This talk was to help with life and choices. During the learning Mr. Wolffe gave problems and students had to make solutions.
- This year about 200 year seven students have walked through the gates of StJPII and use the new learning space. We have lots of fun and the new learning space has taught us an amazing skill - working together as a group.
- Class 8.07 performed one of the important ceremonies in the Catholic calendar, the Stations Of The Cross prior to Easter at the conclusion of term one.
- On 23 April, Stage 4 staff and students participated in an ANZAC ceremony in the new learning space. Students paused, stopped and took a moment to remember Australia's contribution and the one hundred year anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.