



Newsletter

September 2015—Term 3 Issue 9

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17 Sept: Year 12 Formal @ Oatlands House

18 Sept: Term 3 Concludes

21 Sept—2 Oct: HSC Tutorials @ Nirimba

5 Oct: Public Holiday

6 Oct: Pupil Free Day (Staff Learning Day)

7 Oct: Term 4 Commences (Week A timetable)

12 Oct: HSC Examinations commence @ Nirimba

13-14 Oct: Year 10 Reflection Days

Download the Term 4 Calendar of Events

[HERE](#)

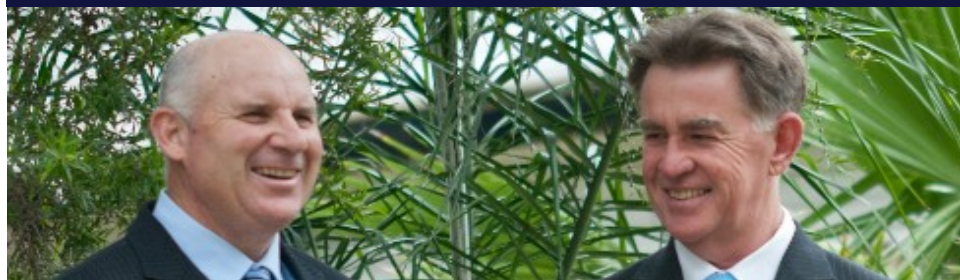
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FROM THE PRINCIPALS – MR JIM FANNING & MR PHIL SMITH



It's that time of year again when we turn our attention to the college motto "the way passes through this land" as it's now when our Year 12 students are coming to the end of their journey with us. Last Friday we celebrated who we are at St John Paul II/Terra Sancta Day and said farewell to these fine young men and women as a whole school through the beauty and spiritual richness of the Mass.

While we look back at the past six years of schooling for the Year 12 students we also look forward to rejoicing in their lives beyond St John Paul II as valued members of a wider community. We trust that they will take with them core values of respect, honesty, integrity and above all, faith into their lives from now onwards.

Finally on September 5th, along with Mr Feeney and student leaders, we attended the blessing and unveiling of the statue of St John Paul II at the cathedral in Parramatta. The college was certainly a focus on the day as we were fortunate to be the only school group to have their photo taken in front of the statue with Archbishop Fisher. Truly our college has a great standing and reputation in the wider community.

[READ MORE >](#)

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

For the past two years we have been recognising the achievements of students through our Semester 1 and 2 awards. We will continue to hold our Year 12 presentation evening at the conclusion of the HSC course, but we now officially recognise student achievement on a semester basis for each Stage. The aim of the Semester Awards is to improve student connectedness which leads to greater student engagement and increased levels of wellbeing. Greater student engagement ultimately leads to higher achievement levels. This public recognition also provides for greater parent involvement.

[READ MORE >](#)

PRAYER

At St John Paul II/Terra Sancta Day our Year 12 members of our indigenous community greeted graduates. Claire Lynch spoke the acknowledgement of Country in language before the usual English translation. As the graduates processed in they were greeted by a subtle smoking ceremony while the aboriginal dancers, who revealed their totem animal, led them to a greeting circle to sing the school song. It is through the spirit of St John Paul II that we continue to value the relationship with our indigenous brothers and sisters and renew his call that "The way to the Father's House Passes through this Land".

[READ MORE >](#)

[ENROLMENTS STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2016!](#)

News, Updates and Reports

PARENT NOTICES

- [Working Bee Update](#): Thank you for the hard work and donations
- Drop-Off/Pick-Up Zone Reminder: Rose Cottage Entrance to be used for dropping off and picking up your children
- [School Fees Reminder](#): outstanding fees to be paid

Reminder to Update Your Details!

The College reminds our parents and caregivers of the importance of keeping the College up to date on matters relating to change of address, mobiles, contacts, emails and any medical conditions. This can be done by either emailing the College at stjohnpaul2@parra.catholic.edu.au or by phone on 9208-7200.

We thank you for your co-operation.

LATEST NEWS

St John Paul II/Terra Sancta Day



Last Friday, 11 September, the whole StJPll College and community gathered for our biggest day of the year - St John Paul II/Terra Sancta Day!

[READ MORE >](#)

Elsy & Courtney



Elsy Elias and Courtney Harper in Year 12 were part of this pilot program with NSW Health and received their Certificate III in Health Services Assistance!

[READ MORE >](#)

RUOK? Day 2015 at StJPll



To celebrate RUOK? Day today, staff and students came together during their breaks for concerts and trivia around the purpose of the special day!

[READ MORE >](#)

Blood Bank Visits Nirimba



Twice a year, St John Paul II Catholic College receives a visit from the Australian Red Cross Blood Bank to give students and staff the opportunity to donate blood.

[READ MORE >](#)

Literacy & Numeracy Week 2015



To celebrate staff created a hype around learning with a range of activities, games and competitions that took place during the week for the students.

[READ MORE >](#)

Students 'Step Up Into Teaching'



The StJPll community would like to congratulate five Year 11 students who have been accepted into the Australian Catholic University "Step Up Into Teaching" Program.

[READ MORE >](#)

Year 7 Mock Trial in English



Last week Miss Sultana's and Miss Fanning's Year 7 classes joined together for the mock trial of "Edmund" from "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".

[READ MORE >](#)

StJPll @ StJPll Statue Blessing



Staff and students from StJPll gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta on September 5 to celebrate the unveiling and blessing of the St John Paul II statue.

[READ MORE >](#)

Book in a Day Competition



Tuesday, 25 August, five teams of students from Years 7-12 at StJPll completed the annual 'Write a Book in a Day' Competition from 8am-8pm.

[READ MORE >](#)

SRC UPDATE



As the face of the community, the SRC were involved with welcoming parents and members of the community to all the various information evenings and events during the year and were instrumental in the running of RUOK? Day and STJP/II/Terra Sancta Day. [READ MORE >](#)

CAREERS REPORT

Mr Evans, College Careers Advisor, puts together a series of Careers Newsletters throughout the year. These newsletters include a fantastic range of opportunities for students including university courses and open days, course and training opportunities, TAFE programs and open days as well as other HSC/university advice and programs. Be sure to take a look at the [September issue of the Careers Newsletter](#)!

WATCH: YEAR 7 MEDIEVAL MADNESS DAY



After five weeks of prep and learning, the students came together on Thursday, 27 August for their Medieval Madness Day where students and teachers were dressed as knights, kings/queens and peasants for a day full of activities!

[WATCH](#)

STAGE 6 UPDATES



Year 11 have been very busy this term. During Weeks 8 and 9 they sat their yearly examinations. Mr Green and Miss Powles were so proud of the way in which the students conducted themselves during this period. It goes without saying that Term 3 has been a whirlwind of activity for Year 12. The reality of the HSC and leaving St John Paul II is mixed up with celebrations and excitement. St John Paul II/Terra Sancta Day was particularly special – the students were able to celebrate their journey. [READ MORE >](#)

COUNSELLORS CORNER

College Counsellor, Mr Martin Graham discusses how to approach and talk about tough topics when talking with your children. Along with his insight is a range of recourses and links to information that assist with handling these tough times. The Counsellor's Corner Blog is constantly updated with information! [READ MORE >](#)

SPORTS REPORT



We have had some great results on the field in the last couple of weeks, including a win for our AFL and Touch Footy Boys teams and close calls for our Girls Soccer teams! We also had our Senior Girls Basketball Team win the finals for the third year in a row! [READ MORE >](#)

WATCH: TEACHING & LEARNING @ NIRIMBA



The Year 11 Multimedia class were given the task of promoting the teaching and learning environment and experiences at the senior campus - check it out!

[WATCH](#)

WATCH: ST JOHN PAUL II/TERRA SANCTA DAY



Experience the amazing day that was shared with the STJP/II community during our STJP/II/TS Day this year! This video includes the Year 12 Graduation Mass, SRC presentation, talent show, rides and more!

[WATCH](#)

DIOCESAN NOTICES & EVENTS

Catch up on all notices and events from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta ! [READ MORE >](#)