



Newsletter

October 2015—Term 4 Issue 10

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KEY DATES

26 OCT: Chat Group @
9.15am Schofields Library

3 NOV: International
Teachers Day

4 NOV: HSC Exams Conclude

6 NOV: Twilight Working Bee
@ 3pm Schofields

10 NOV: Year 9 Reflection
Day for 9.01, 9.02, 9.04, 9.06

11 NOV: Year 9 Reflection
Day for 9.03, 9.05, 9.07, 9.08

**Download the Term 4
Calendar of Events
[HERE](#)**

CONTACT US

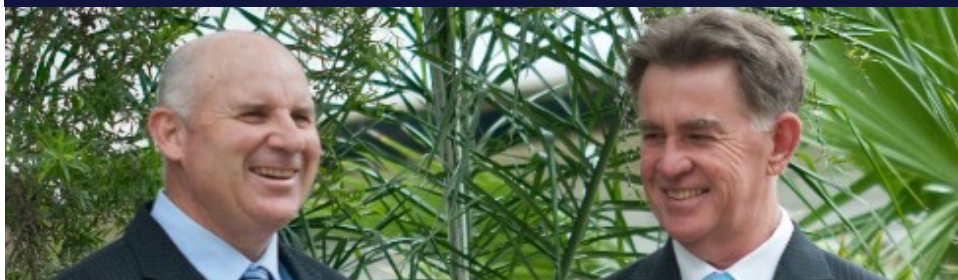
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FROM THE PRINCIPALS – MR JIM FANNING & MR PHIL SMITH



Recently we were speaking with the Presiding Officer for the Higher School Certificate examinations. During our conversation he commented on the behaviour and application of our Year 12s as they went about the business of completing their exams. It is pleasing and reassuring to know that the students in our care are not only developing educationally but are going to be wonderful members of the wider community after school and that they have morals and values to take with them throughout their lives.

We have also recently completed interviews and surveys with our current Year 11 students asking them a series of questions about their classes and their hopes for the upcoming time as Year 12 students.

It is clear from the Year 11 surveys and the Year 12 HSC students that there are wonderful relationships occurring at St John Paul II. We continue to help build a strong community with all students, parents/caregivers and staff.

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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

This is a time of the year where many choices become available to our students. Year 11 are finalising their pattern of study for the HSC, Year 10 and 8 are still finalising their subject choices for 2016... Every day we are faced with choices. What to wear? What to watch on TV? What to eat? Do we understand choices and what motivates us? We can encourage people to make good choices through grouping and ordering decisions in a way that we do not overwhelm them with too many complex choices. Generally, success is improved by presenting the simpler choices first, and promoting sensible options. [READ MORE >](#)

PRAYER

Last week Mary Immaculate Parish prayed for our HSC students prior to the commencing of their examinations. "Heavenly Father, we bring before you our HSC students. Give them the gifts of wisdom, right judgement, knowledge and courage. Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit for their exams. May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are there with them. We pray that they will stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability. May they feel your loving presence in their lives, now and always..."

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Good luck to Year 12 completing their HSC!

News, Updates and Reports

PARENT NOTICES

- [School Fees Reminder](#): outstanding fees to be paid
- Parent Chat Group: Monday 26 October at 9.15am in the Schofields Library—meet new parents for 2016!
- Twilight Working Bee: Friday 6 November at 3pm at the Schofields Campus—pizza after work!

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

Feast Day of St John Paul II



Year 10 staff and students gathered in the to celebrate mass in honour of St John Paul II. This was the very first Feast Day for the Saint to be celebrated at StJP II which was a great honour.

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RISE UP Merit Morning Tea



On Friday, 16 October, students and parents/caregivers gathered at the Nirimba Campus for the first RISE UP Merit Morning Tea for 2016.

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Year 9 Peer Support Training



Last week all Year 9 students participated in Peer Support Training. These two days were designed to give students the chance to make connections with their peers and gain new leadership skills.

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Year 11 WSU Results!



This year, six Year 11 students began university courses at the Western Sydney University. These students completed these courses with flying colours and have received fantastic results!

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Year 10 Reflection Days



Year 10 students took part in Reflection Days that contributed significantly to students' faith and pastoral experience within the College, and provided time for students to step out of the classroom environment.

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ATSI Student Conference



On October 9, the Nirimba Education Precinct held a "Pathways to Success" conference for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from St John Paul II Catholic College as well as other local high schools.

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Sports Presentation BBQ



On Wednesday, 14 October, over 400 students were invited to attend a presentation in recognition of their effort and determination in representing the College in representative sports throughout the past year.

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Year 11 WSU Science Experience



Last Thursday, 8 October, Year 11 Science Students from St John Paul II Catholic College had to opportunity to attend university classes at Western Sydney University.

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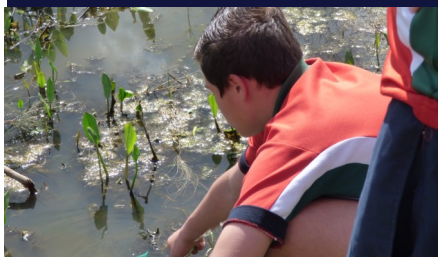
Learning Ins & Outs of First Aid



The 60 students and few staff members learnt the ins and outs of first aid, taking precautions, dealing with difficult situations, safety, treatments and much more! This was part of the Year 11 PDHPE and Entertainment Courses.

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Year 9 Science Incursion



On the last day of Term 3, Year 9 had an exciting day at the Schofields Campus taking part in their Science Incursion where they carried out a range of experiences on Campus ecosystems.

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Theatre Sports Competition



During Learning Enrichment, the drama students took part the StJPII Theatre-Sports Competition. Students formed teams and competed in a range of "theatre-sports" rounds to earn points. The team with the most points won!

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Year 9 Slam Poetry



Last term, class 9.01 participated in a poetry slam as part of their Australian Poetry unit. This made the words jump off paper and make poetry a lot more exciting!

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Year 12 2015 Awards

The College would like to congratulate our graduating class of Year 12 2015! The Graduation Ceremony recognised students' hard work and achievements over the year as well as the great memories created of their last 7 years of schooling at the College.

[Click here](#) to view the list of awardees.

COUNSELLORS CORNER

Does a child's upbringing make a difference to whether they develop an addiction? Yes, of course. But why? Population studies confirm that the degree of addiction people have is clearly related to the degree of trauma experienced in their childhoods. What counts as 'trauma'? Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect), the death of a parent, a parent being addicted, a parent being mentally ill, a parent being jailed, violence in the family, or a divorce...

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STAGE 4 UPDATES



Stage 4 continues to excel. We are experiencing many styles of learning across all subjects and across our everyday lives through great teaching and supportive mentors. Throughout this year there has been a series of terrific events and many more scheduled for the future. Hear from students about:

- Being a New Student—Kirra Bundy (Year 8)
- Being in the SRC—Maddy Cefai (Year 8)
- "My School Experience"—Ritvik Nikhanj (Year 8)
- PACT Sport—Sophia Grech (Year 7)
- Co-Teaching—Michaela Forster (Year 7)

Also hear from Year 8 Student Learning Liaison, Mr Ford.

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Learning Continuum: Stage 4 Cooperative Learning



Cooperative Learning aims to organise classroom activities into academic and social learning experiences. In a Cooperative Learning Environment students must work in groups to complete tasks collectively to achieve learning intentions. In a Cooperative Learning Environment students capitalise on one another's resources and skills. Cooperative Learning requires a teacher's role to change from giving information to facilitating student learning. Successful Cooperative Learning strategies are intellectually demanding, creative, open-ended and involve higher order thinking.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Cooperative Learning Strategies in the classroom.

WATCH: Year 12 Graduation



Watch the great memories and celebrations enjoyed at the Year 12 2015 Graduation Ceremony

[HERE](#)

DIOCESAN NOTICES & EVENTS

Catch up on all notices and events from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta !

[READ MORE >](#)