



# Newsletter

February 2017—Term 1 Issue 1

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## Key Dates

**20 FEB:** Swimming Carnival @ Nirimba

**23 FEB:** Year 7 Vaccinations

**24 FEB:** College Opening Mass

**27-28 FEB:** School Interviews (3.30pm—7pm)

**1 MAR:** Ash Wednesday Liturgies

**6 MAR:** Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations commence

**10 MAR:** Working Bee (3pm—6pm)

**13 MAR:** College Open Evening (4pm—8pm)

## CONTACT US

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## From the Principal - Mr Fanning

Welcome to 2017. I trust everyone in the community had a refreshing and relaxing Christmas and New Year. The students, both old and new, have arrived with vigour and enthusiasm for the year and are progressing well already. In particular we welcome the Year 7 students to St John Paul II, all 205 of them, as well as the large number of new students in Years 8 -12. We have seen all the new students settling in well and being supported by their peers and teachers who care for them. As we progress through 2017 we will continue to emphasise to all students the need to do their best, care for one another and concentrate on their learning making the College a place which has a unique and dynamic learning experience.

I am always happy to speak to you about your child's education or issues that affect their education. If I cannot help you directly, I will ensure you are put in contact with the person/s that can assist you. I look forward to 2017, knowing that our faith in God will strengthen all . [READ MORE >](#)

## PRAYER

Each year our school identifies a goal that will inspire our prayer and commitment to the evangelising mission of our church. This year our Mission Goal is to increase the understanding of the charism of St John Paul II focusing on our Catholic values around the common good and reconciliation. Catholic Church teaches clearly that all people have a right to participate in society and all people have the right to things, which allow them 'human decency', which can be named as the 'common good'.

[Read more including details for the College Opening Mass & Ash Wednesday](#)

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: Ms Refalo, Mr Regan & Ms Roach

### Focus on Attendance

Student academic and social achievement and attendance at school are key priorities for us at St John Paul II Catholic College. With this in mind, we would like to assert the connection between the two. We know that students who attend almost every day of school do well in all aspects of their education. Research tells us that students who do not attend school regularly do not achieve academically or socially as well as their peers whose attendance at school is regular. In fact, a student who misses 10% of school days between kindergarten and the end of Year 10 effectively misses a total of one whole year of their education.

[READ MORE >](#)

### A message to each Stage 4, 5 & 6

*"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in society, in every family."* Kofi Anan This famous quote from the former Secretary-General of the United Nations epitomises why we are passionate about education; why we have dedicated our lives to the vocation of teaching. It is passion we work to emulate in our daily interactions with the students and staff with whom we are blessed to work. Thank you to the students and staff of St John Paul II for their warm welcome.

[Click here to read a specific message to each Stage from their Assistant Principal](#)

**OPEN EVENING—13 MARCH, 4PM TO 8PM!**

## NOTICES

### BOOKING INTERVIEWS FOR 27-28 FEB

Bookings for Parent/Caregiver/Student/Teacher interviews opened on 9am on Monday, 13 February, and close on Thursday, 23 February, at 2pm. The College advises parents/caregivers to have their children with them while making these bookings to ensure that the correct subject teachers are being booked in. The information letter can be found [here](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to make bookings using code "wmj5b"  
Please contact the College Office if you have any enquiries.

### UNIFORM SHOP: BLAZER ORDERS

Could all Parents/Caregivers please note that 2017 Blazer Orders need to be completed no later than Thursday 23 February 2017 to enable them to be available to the students in Term 2. This is applicable to all students (new & existing). A \$50.00 deposit is required at the time of placing orders. The Uniform Shop is open Tuesdays & Thursdays—Call 9208 7247.

### DONATE PLANTS TO STJPII

Each year Blacktown City Council provide two free plants per household to be collected. If you have not yet collected your free plants and don't think you will use them, why not consider donating the plants to the College? To donate your two plants to the College, please complete the brief form and return it to the College Office. We thank you for your generosity and appreciate your contribution to the College environment!

[Click here to download the donation form](#)

### 2017 SCHOOL FEES

The 2017 Diocesan & College School Fees are now available.

[CLICK HERE](#)

School Fee Statements were posted to parents and caregivers on 7 February 2017. Term 1 fees are due by Monday 6 March 2017. Enclosed with your statement is a Flexible Payment Plan, should you wish to take this offer up please complete the forms and return them in the self-addressed envelope provided by Friday, 24 February 2017. [READ MORE >](#)

## LATEST NEWS

### YEAR 7'S FIRST DAY AT STJPII



On January 30, StJPII welcomed our Year 7 2017 students on their first day of high school! The students had a great day learning the ropes of everyday life at StJPII, made new friends and took part in many activities including the traditional Starfish Ceremony. [WATCH HERE>](#)

### 2016 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS



On 9 February, over 1000 students and staff gathered to celebrate our HSC High Achievers of 2016! This year 65 students were recognised at the assembly for their astonishing achievements in the HSC, all receiving bands 5 and 6 in a range of subjects. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 11 SCIENCE AT PENRITH



This week our Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students had the opportunity to explore Penrith Lakes as part of their Local Ecosystem and Local Environment units. Students were asked to test the health of the Lake's ecosystem using a variety of Biological tests. [READ MORE >](#)

### STJPII STUDENTS BEGIN TAFE



A large number of Year 10 - 12 StJPII students have begun TAFE courses over at the Nirimba Campus! Students began their TAFE courses in either Early Childhood Education and Care, Beauty Therapy, Primary Industries - Horticulture, Animal Studies, Design Fundamentals or Events. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 11 SHELL LITURGY



Year 11 students began senior high school at Nirimba with a special liturgy. Students received a shell that is a metaphor for their HSC journey, the different curves in the shell representing all the different paths during the HSC, that all come together at the end at their Graduation Mass. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 7 WELCOME BBQ



On 6 February, StJPII welcomed all Year 7 families to the College with the opportunity to meet their children's teachers and learn all about the many new ways of high school life. A BBQ and ice blocks ended a very hot, but great day for families! [READ MORE >](#)



## YEAR 10 CREATIVE CUPCAKES



Year 10 Food Technology students got creative with cupcakes as part of their Celebrations unit! This unit focuses on food presentation and service, where students learn how to present and garnish foods appropriate to a special occasion.

[READ MORE >](#)

## YEAR 7 HIT THE SCIENCE LABS



Year 7 have been introduced to a whole new world of, learning about science labs and all the equipment. Miss Morgan's class had fun creating colourful posters with the rules for their science lab and have now received their Bunsen burner license.

[READ MORE >](#)

## YEAR 8 ITALIAN VALENTINES DAY



Students researched the origins of St Valentine's Day before learning to write a love letter in Italian! Students also tried an Italian chocolate called "Baci" with a little love note inside each piece and make use of the Valentine's Day photo-booth set.

[READ MORE >](#)

## TEACHING & LEARNING: IPAD/MAC DAYS



Last week, Year 7 and Year 9 spent some quality time learning all about their devices and how to use them within their studies. This included a range of applications and Google programs as well as learning all the protocols of technology at school. Feedback from the day was very positive and students have started the year exceptionally well with the overall use of their iPads.

[Click here to read more & learn about the apps being used](#)

## TEACHING & LEARNING: THE LEARNING CONTINUUM

The Learning Continuum focuses on implementing stage based ways of learning that allow students to develop learning skills and knowledge that can be utilised and extended as they continue through their stages of high school. The skills and knowledge students learn in **Stage 4 Cooperative Learning** is necessary for the students to continue to **Stage 5 Active Learning**, where they further develop skills and knowledge. In **Stage 6 Blended Learning**, students use the skills developed in earlier stages, supported by online learning, to allow for time in class to be skills focused.

[READ MORE >](#)

## STAGE 4: YEAR 7 BEGIN & YEAR 8 BRAINSTORM



It has been a very busy and exciting first few weeks for our Stage 4 students! Year 7 have learnt the ropes of high school, placed their starfish in the prayer room, attending their Welcome BBQ and much more. Year 8 recently had the opportunity to experience the "Sticks and Stones" Brainstorm production during Learning Enrichment. Read about their experience written by the students themselves! [READ MORE >](#)

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Welcome to parents/carers new to St John Paul II Catholic College, and welcome back to regular readers from previous years (both of you!). For those who don't know, free confidential counselling is available here at school 5 days a week for students to assist them with a whole range of issues related to learning, friendships, peer relationships, family matters, handling strong feelings, risky behaviours – in fact, anything that's concerning them. Feel free to phone or come up for a confidential chat if something is bothering you about your child's wellbeing. I look forward to hearing from you during the year. You will also find helpful information on the school website.

[READ MORE >](#)

## DIOCESAN EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Check out all the upcoming events and opportunities within the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, including many events and retreats for the Lenten period of 2017.

[Click here to view](#)

## CAREERS REPORT—NOW AN ONLINE BLOG!

Welcome back to all students and families in 2017. If I can begin with any advice, it would be to remember to try your best whatever year group your in. A special mention must also be made of our Year 12 students who have an important year ahead of them! My advice to this group is to settle back into your study patterns as soon as possible, as this year will go very quickly.

[Click here to view the CAREERS BLOG](#)