



Newsletter

March 2017—Term 1 Issue 2

[FROM THE PRINCIPAL](#)
[ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS](#)
[PARENT NOTICES](#)
[LATEST NEWS](#)
[COUNSELLOR'S CORNER](#)
[STAGE 5 UPDATES](#)
[TEACHING & LEARNING](#)
[EARN MERITS FOR NAPLAN](#)

Key Dates

23-24 March: Year 7 Camp at Yarrimundi

24 March: Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations conclude

6 April: Easter Liturgy (8:10am—9am @ Schofields, 1:35pm—2:15pm @ Nirimba)

7 April: Term 1 concludes

24 April: Staff Learning Day (pupil free day)

26 April: Term 2 commences for ALL students

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From the Principal - Mr Fanning

As I write to you the term is rapidly progressing and it is evident that our staff and students are engaged in exciting teaching and learning. Part of this process was the Year 7-12 parent/caregiver/teacher/student interviews which were held at Schofields where there was meaningful feedback for work completed and assisting the work for the rest of the year.

Although the year has really only just commenced we are already looking to the future and so in Catholic Schools Week the Year 6 students of local Catholic primary schools visited our Schofields campus to participate in a number of learning experiences. If you have any questions regarding enrolments please contact Mrs Fay Lovett, Enrolment Secretary, on 92087205.

Our Catholic School Week celebrations concluded with our Open Evening being held at our Schofields Campus from 4-8pm last Monday 13 March. In total we had just over 900 community members on site during the evening. All were impressed with the excellent learning and teaching that is occurring at our college.

To assist with your planning. Our next Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day is Monday 24 April with Tuesday 25 April being ANZAC Day - Public Holiday. Thus all Year 7-12 students will return to classes for the commencement of Term 2 on Wednesday 26 April.

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PRAYER

The 'woman at the well' is one of the best known of the Gospel stories, a story extremely rich in offering us insights into our own daily life. In fact, we have to be careful not to be so overwhelmed by the length and depth of the story that we do not receive its messages. Through this encounter she is transformed. This week we are challenged by the story of some of our First Australians. Pope Francis tells us, "Every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity." Just as the Samaritan woman, encouraged by her encounter with Jesus, moved back into her community, Uncle Richard and the men of KBH walk together with renewed confidence, learning from each other and, with the support of Caritas Australia, sharing the painful stories of their journey of healing.

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

National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence— "It Starts & Stops With You"

St John Paul II is committed to the provision of a safe and caring learning environment. Effective learning cannot occur unless this is the case. Students who tend to bully should be aware that the school will act strongly in response to reported cases of bullying. Students who do not feel comfortable with the actions of other students should report to their Leader of learning or Student Liaison Officer, either in person or via email. The "No Way" site has a range of resources for students, parents and teachers. "It starts and stops with you" is a great motto to use with online issues. Everything can stop when you do not post or add comments to an issue.

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School Uniform Reminder

Thank you for your efforts in ensuring your sons and daughters have the correct school uniform. The college uniform unites us as a community and makes us visible and identifiable in public. Some reminders:

- Students need to be wearing the red woollen school jumper with their school uniforms, not their sports jackets or mufti jumper/hoodie.
- Boys should wear grey socks with their school uniforms, and girls wear white socks. Both boys and girls wear white socks with their sports uniforms.
- Winter uniform is worn during Terms 2 and 3. The school blazer must be worn to and from school.
- Girls dresses and kilts (Term 2 & 3) need to be to the knee.

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NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR 2018

NOTICES

ENROLMENTS & TOURS

The College is currently accepting enrolments for Year 7, 2018! Please contact our Enrolment Secretary, Fay Lovett, on 9208 7205 for any enrolment enquiries or document requests.

The College Open Evening was held on Monday, 13 March. If you missed the opportunity to attend and would like to organise a personal tour of the College, please feel free to contact Rachel Aquilina on 9208 7206 or at raquilina1@parra.catholic.edu.au.

NAPLAN INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

NAPLAN 2017 will be taking place for Year 7 and Year 9 students from Tuesday, 9 May, to Thursday, 11 May, at the Schofields Campus. Friday, 12 May, is a NAPLAN catch up day for those students who were unable to attend any of the testing. Please feel free to contact the College if you have any questions regarding the NAPLAN testing for your child. Below are links to a parent/caregiver letter and information brochure.

[NAPLAN 2017 Letter for Parents/Caregivers](#)

[NAPLAN 2017 Parent/Caregiver Information](#)

WORKING BEE: THANK YOU

A small band of parents, students and staff cleaned aluminium benches, windows, removed dust and cobwebs, painted walls and general cleaning in preparation for our Open Day on Monday, 13 March. Heartfelt thanks to: Joanne, Chelsea and Lucas Oliver, Stephanie Alexander, Ken Hanes, Narelle, Jeremy and Maddison Boatfield, Christian Cipri, Claire Lynch, William and Jackson Manns. Staff members: Joe Vella, Tony Green, Peter Regan, Mary Refalo, Jolanta Wojtowicz, Jim Fanning and Andrew Noney. Thank you also to Isabella and the Williams family for their generous donation of \$50 to purchase supplies for the working bee. A thank you gift was given to those who attended.

2017 SCHOOL FEES

The 2017 Diocesan & College School Fees are now available.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you to all those parents/caregivers who have paid their Term 1 school fees which were payable by Monday, 6 March, 2017. Should you require additional time or financial assistance please contact Mrs Jean Webb, Fee Secretary, on 9208 7239 or Mr Andrew Noney, Business Manager on 9208 7238 during school hours to discuss this matter further.

LATEST NEWS

YEAR 12 GRADUATE TAFE COURSES



Congratulations to our many Year 12 students who recently received certificates for completing a range of TAFE courses! Students either received a Certificate II in Construction Pathways, Business and Kitchen Operations or a Certificate III in Live Production and Services.

[READ MORE >](#)

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM BBQ



On March 9, the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders and the Year 7 cohort spent their final Peer Support rotation enjoying group trivia and a BBQ. Over the last six weeks the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders have used time in Learning Enrichment to build upon their relationships with Year 7 students that began last year at Transition Day.

[READ MORE >](#)

PANCAKE TUESDAY & ASH WEDNESDAY



After selling pancakes on Pancake Tuesday, StJPII held Ash Wednesday liturgies for each Stage, marking the beginning of Lent! Students received the ashes and were called to repent, turn away from selfishness to the love of God and the love of one's neighbour, which is at the heart of this year's Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal.

[READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 6 HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



On Monday, 6 March, over 170 Year 6 students from our local Catholic primary schools visited StJPII for the ultimate high school experience in celebration of Catholic Schools Week! Students got a taste of all the exciting and new opportunities ahead of them in Year 7, 2018 with a range of activities throughout the day.

[READ MORE >](#)

JERSEY DAY RAISES OVER \$900



Students were invited to wear their favourite sporting jersey, t-shirt or scarf to raise money for this year's Caritas Project Compassion. Together the StJPII Jersey Day raised over \$900! Well done and thank you to all those who donated and wore their team colours on the day!

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STJPII OPENING MASS



On February 24, StJPII gathered at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown, for the 2017 College Opening Mass. The Mass was a time for the College to reflect on the big year ahead, be thankful for the strong and special College community that we have as well as welcome the new students and staff that have joined us this year.

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YEAR 10 HOT CROSS BUNS



Year 10 Food Technology students made their own hot cross buns! As part of their "Celebrations" unit, students got busy in the kitchens with their mix masters and kneading skills to make the best, homemade hot cross buns for Easter. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 11 NIRIMBA PILGRIMAGE



On Tuesday, February 28, Year 11 Catholic Studies students undertook a gallery walk as part of their class topic on pilgrimages. Students were given the opportunity to partake in a small religious movement around the Nirimba campus. [READ MORE >](#)

STAR/WISH/WISH STRATEGY



In Year 7, students have been learning about the causes and effects of the atomic bomb on Japan. To show their understanding of the topic, students were asked to write a diary entry from the perspective of a Japanese person at the time and were asked to provide constructive feedback to their peers using the STAR/WISH/WISH model and marking criteria. [READ MORE >](#)

STUDENTS CAN EARN MERITS IN PREP FOR NAPLAN!

Every day for the remainder of the term you will have a chance to increase the number of merits you receive and therefore fast track your way to our merit awards, merit pizza lunches and Wet 'n' Wild. MNAPLAN is fast approaching and is important for both you and the school. One of the ways that you need to prepare is to complete some practice questions.

This is how: Every day a numeracy question will be emailed to you. You must complete that question and submit it on the google form by the end of that day. The answer and the reasoning/working out will be given to you once you have completed the question. So you can check your answer and learn from your mistakes.

For every 5 questions you do (1 per day = 5 days to get a merit) you will receive 1 merit in your homeroom pouch.

There will be other merits and prizes up for grabs throughout the 4 weeks. Keep your eye on your emails every day!!

CSDA PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



The Public Speaking season has begun with a great show from the students at St. John Paul II. On Friday the 3 March 2017 our 10 strong team headed to St Andrews College, Marayong to represent our school in the opening round of the CSDA Public Speaking competition. Whilst some of our team were pipped at the post we congratulate Annotated Erhunmwunse (Year 10) who has progressed through to the FINALS after getting through the zone finals on March 10. We wish Annotated the best of luck!

STAGE 5 UPDATE: ELECTIVES & LEARNING ENRICHMENT



Our Year 9's have commenced their chosen electives, took part in Learning Enrichment workshops that focused on the skills and support needed for their learning and wellbeing, including 'Survival in a Digital Age' and 'Surviving being a Teenager' and also visited our local nursing home where they spend time with the elderly residents. The Year 10 student body, have hit the ground running with the start of the 2017 school year. Blink and it is Thursday Learning Enrichment and Year 10 are all over the school grounds, participating in sports, leading the junior campus peer support program or completing a road safety program in recognition of their growing maturity. [READ MORE >](#)

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

I hope you're reading this on a screen, compulsively! Does your child have a problem with gaming? Spends too many hours? Gets annoyed when it's time to stop? Not getting enough sleep? Falling school performance or attendance? Lacking other interests? Has tried to cut down but can't? You/she/he can see it's bad but it continues anyway?

About 10% of players have problematic use, with 1-2% 'addicted', defined by the answers to the questions above. Why is gaming so attractive? A key reason nominated by researcher Wayne Warburton of Macquarie University is that gaming increases a person's sense of connection and control. It provides a sense of social power, boosts self-esteem (while playing) and requires little effort to be rewarding.

This is really attractive for someone who feels undervalued, isolated, and uninfluential, and many teenagers feel that way from time to time. The same brain reward pathways are involved as those activated when using drugs. What can parents/carers do? [READ MORE >](#)