



Newsletter

April 2017—Term 1 Issue 3

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Key Dates

24 April: Staff Learning/Pupil Free Day

25 April: ANZAC Day Dawn Service @ Riverstone (Public Holiday)

26 April: Term 2 commences for ALL students (Week A)

27 April: ANZAC Day Ceremonies @ Schofields & Nirimba—12.35pm

3 May: Year 7 2018 Non-Feeder School Interviews @ Schofields

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the Term 2 Calendar of Events

CONTACT US

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From the Principal - Mr Fanning

This term we have witnessed a number of exciting and energizing college events which have included our 2016 HSC High Achievers Assembly, the Year 7 Welcome BBQ, the Opening School Mass and our recent Open Evening. Each event has helped develop our great community at St John Paul II and each one has enhanced our community faith formation and educational endeavours.

Onto matters of practical importance to current families it must be noted that the changeover from summer to winter uniform for Term 2 is always difficult to determine with our changing weather patterns. However, we have decided that Week 1 being the changeover period when students can choose to wear winter or summer uniform — not a mixture of them — depending on the weather, with the beginning of Week 2 being the time all students should be in their Winter Uniform.

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.

[READ MORE >](#)

PRAYER

On Sunday we process into the Church accompanied by shouts of 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!', only to hear, in the second Gospel of the day: 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' What do we do with this? How can we go forward and not be manipulated by the crowd that shouts 'Hosanna' one moment, and a week later calls for Jesus' death? Perhaps the best way to travel this last week — the only week in the Church's year that we call Holy — is to do so in the company of the poor and the broken, the marginalised, the innocent, the abused.

[READ MORE >](#)

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

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

Throughout Lent we have supported Caritas Australia through alms giving. Alms is an antiquated term that means giving to others as an act of virtue. Alms giving is considered an act of mercy because we are giving to those who are less fortunate than ourselves and in doing so, we make a sacrifice of the self. As a Catholic school our mission is to educate the heart and the mind. This Easter we encourage our students to give generously (this may not be financially), and to remember it is a Holy and Blessed occasion - the death and resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith; it is what makes us Christian and Catholic.

Our Assistant Principals have some very special and important messages for each of their Stage groups around learning, pastoral care and this special time of year.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read important messages for Stages 4, 5 and 6

2018 ENROLMENTS DUE BY MONDAY, 24 APRIL

NOTICES

ENROLMENTS & TOURS

Enrolment applications for 2018 are due by Monday, 24 April. Please contact our Enrolment Secretary, Fay Lovett, on 9208 7205 for any enrolment enquiries or document requests.

If you missed the opportunity to attend our Open Evening 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.

JOIN US - ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

We all students and families to join us at the Riverstone-Schofields ANZAC Day March and Dawn Service! We encourage everyone to take the time to attend the event with some of our staff & other students.

Where: Riverstone-Schofields RSL sub-Branch, 18 Market Street, Riverstone

When: Gather at 5.30am for 5.45am march, 6am service

What: Students are asked to meet StJPII staff at the RSL sub-branch hall at 5.30am, wearing full winter uniform. The march will begin from 5.45am, service at 6am, followed by the opportunity to go for a sausage sizzle breakfast (location will be advised after the service).

WHS NOTICE: PICK UP/DROP OFF ZONE

The student drop off zone for our Schofields Campus is located next to the College at Rose Cottage and has a separate entry drive way and exit driveway. We ask that all parents/caregivers use this area to pick up/drop off their children.

2017 SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to those Parents/Caregivers that Term 1 fees are now overdue. Should Parents/Caregivers require an extension of time please contact either Mrs Webb on 9208-7239 or Mr Andrew Noney on 9208-7238, urgently to make arrangements and therefore prevent receiving further reminder letters in the mail.

YEAR 7, 11 & 12 VACCINATIONS

The College has recently received updated information for parents/caregivers regarding the student immunisation programs for Year 7 and Year 11-12. Dates for the immunisation program:

Year 7 2nd dose HPV & Varicella - 8 September 2017

Year 11-12 Meningococcal ACWY - 19 May 2017

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the parent/caregiver information letter.

LATEST NEWS

EASTER LITURGY WITH A TWIST



This year's Easter Liturgy focuses on the 'Washing of the Feet', the act of service & how we are all called by Jesus to wash the feet of our neighbours. The liturgy was centred around a boat that symbolises journey and hope, representing those people in our world that are marginalised, challenging us to love our neighbours and serve others. [READ MORE >](#)

ONE SPECIAL TREE AT NIRIMBA



Last week, one special tree at our Nirimba Campus was decorated with fairy lights and many paper cranes for one very romantic proposal between two ex students! Ex Terra Sancta student, Aaron Felizardo met his (now) fiancée and ex Wyndham student, Emma back in 2008. Nine years later, Aaron met Emma at the same tree and asked her to marry him! [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 7- 8 TALK CYBER SAFETY



Over the last two weeks, the College's Police Liaison Officer, Senior Constable Amanda Jones has visited the College to speak with students about cyber safety. The presentation called 'Think U Know,' educates young people on how to use the internet and communication technologies in both a positive and safe way. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 8 TEXTILES LEARN TECHNIQUES



Students are also learning a number of different techniques including tie dye, quilting, printing and how to hand appliqué using a blanket stitch to then sew pieces together using a sewing machine and create an iPad cover! Year 8 are really enjoying the creative and hands on opportunities. [READ MORE >](#)

LEARNING: NAPLAN PREPARATION



To prepare for NAPLAN the year 7 and year 9 students have been completing several different activities. To get students engaged in the preparation for NAPLAN Miss Idone has been running a NAPLAN question of the day. The students are emailed one NAPLAN based numeracy question per day and have the chance to earn themselves merits. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 11 ARE INDUCTED & PREPARED



Last week our Year 11 Construction and Entertainment students completed their construction induction cards! These students are now ready for their work experience in their subjects, working towards a range of pathways and future careers. [READ MORE >](#)

WATCH: LATEST ON THE STJPII YOUTUBE CHANNEL

STJPII OPEN EVENING 2017



Check out all the action and activities from our 2017 Open Evening! Miss out on exploring the campus? Contact our College Office on 9208 7200 for enrolment information or to book a College tour.

[WATCH >](#)

COLLEGE OPENING MASS 2017



The Opening 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.

[WATCH >](#)

STJPII SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2017



On 20 February, students gathered at the Nirimba Pool for their annual Swimming Carnival! The sunny day was full of fun, determination and team spirit as students cheered on their peers and worked towards their personal best.

[WATCH >](#)

YEAR 11 REFLECTION DAY 2017



In Term 1, Year 11 students spent the day with "Iron & Clay", a ministry/motivational band impacting young lives all over Australia, sharing messages around issues such as bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, drink driving and self esteem through music and testimony.

[WATCH >](#)

SPORTS UPDATE

STJPII would like to congratulate the following students on their great sporting achievements. We definitely have some sports stars at the College! **Ariane Swift** (Obstacle Racing Championships), **Patrick Bayliss** (Special Olympics for swimming), **Riley Watson** (NSWCCC Baseball team), **Clayton Campbell** (NSWCCC Softball team), **Cody Brewczynski** (Go Karting Championships), **Temorshah Zikria** (Australian Boxing Championships). [READ MORE >](#)

Last week we had three students represent the College in the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Swimming Carnival! Students Jayden Weymark, Emily Plummer and Patrick Cusack each left the event with 1st, 2nd or 3rd achievements and medals! It is great to see we have so many students talented in a range of different sports and other areas. (Results included in article) [READ MORE >](#)

CAREERS BLOG

- Combine your business study and paid work with big companies like UBS on a BUSINESS CADETSHIP. For more information go to www.businesscadetships.com.au. Applications have now opened and close 10 May, 2017.
- Year 12 students should have a look at the various university open days/information sessions coming up later in the year .
- University of Sydney Scholarship Information Evening is being held on Tuesday, 20 June, 6-8pm. [Click here](#) for detailed information.
- The Western Sydney TAFE taster course is a great opportunity to experience working and studying in a chosen field. [Click here](#) for details.
- The Year 12 visit to Western Sydney Careers Market will take place in Term 2 on Thursday, 22 June.

STAGE 5 UPDATE: ELECTIVES & LEARNING ENRICHMENT



Year 11 have quickly settled into life at Nirimba. In their first term they have participated in liturgies, attended excursions and have undertaken a six week program on developing their study skills and understanding how their preliminary and HSC years will work. It has been a frantic term for the year 12 cohort. Amazingly, the year 12 students are half way through their final year of school. Term 1 has included significant events, such as receiving their jerseys, a special BBQ breakfast and half yearly examinations.

[READ MORE >](#)

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Research tells us that 70-80% of people who go to counselling about relationships and life's problems benefit from it, an improvement is that double the rate of those in control groups. But there are many types of counselling available from people trained with varying qualifications.

So how do you choose? Counsellor? Family therapist? Psychologist? Psychiatrist? Social Worker? Psychotherapist? Research suggests that there is very little difference in effectiveness, if any, between mainstream types of treatment. They all have good evidence to show they work with similar impact. (Note, this is true of mainstream treatments and may not be true of others.) What makes a bigger difference are factors that are common across types of therapy and therapists.

In summary: counselling works best when you (the client) believe it can actually help, and your counsellor can form a positive relationship with you where you both work together to make things better using an evidence-supported therapy. [READ MORE >](#)

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

every learner every day

ABSENCES ADD UP!



DID YOU KNOW



1 IN 4

SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

- Going to school more often can make a difference.
- Attendance habits will follow your child into work and life



SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner
every day 

