



# Newsletter

August 2017—Term 3 Issue 6

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## From Acting Principal - Mr Regan

"Never see a need without doing something about it." - These are the words of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary had a heart for those who were the poorest and most neglected in this world. At 26 she was quoted to have said: "Believe in the whispering of God to your heart. Believe in Him. Believe in the power of the Spirit of love."

As Australians we all should be proud of this remarkable woman who founded the Sisters of St Joseph and is Australia's first saint. She has touched many lives through the work of the order and has set an example for all of us. Her qualities of sheer determination, perseverance in the face of adversity, and plea for justice on behalf of those unfairly treated, were practical examples of holiness and became a source of inspiration for all Australians.

The spirit of Australians is recognised by helping mates in dire circumstances, helping one another in need, as witnessed during times of floods, bushfire and other natural disasters, when help is given. We have many instances of courage and humility running through the social fabric of our nation. These are the qualities that unite us and make a great nation. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop has inspired us to continue to do more. [READ MORE >](#)

### Key Dates

**14-18 Aug:** Year 9 & 10 Exams  
**14 Aug:** Year 12 HSC Trial Exams conclude  
**15 Aug:** Year 12 recommence normal classes  
**15 Aug:** Assumption Mass @ Schofields & Nirimba, 10.45am  
**21-25 Aug:** 2017 Year 8 Religious Literacy Assessment, Book Week 2017  
**22 Aug:** Chat Group @ Schofields, 10am  
**25 Aug:** Staff Development Day, pupil free day for students  
**29 Aug:** College Council Meeting @ Schofields, 10am  
**1 Sept:** Year 11, 2018 final Subject Selections to be submitted  
**4-8 Sept:** Year 11 Prelim Exams @ Nirimba, Year 10 Religious Literacy Assessment  
**5 Sept:** Chat Group @ Schofields (4pm), Year 7 2018 iPad Information Evening @ Schofields (5.30pm - 7pm)  
**8 Sept:** Year 7 Vaccinations (2nd dose), Year 9 2018 Subject Selection to be submitted, College newsletter available

## PRAYER

Tuesday, 15 August the Church celebrates the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady when according to our faith, the Holy Mother, "having completed her course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". Although defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius XII just over half a century ago, the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven has been accepted from back to the earliest of Christian times. Today, attending mass on the Assumption of Mary Feast Day is considered by the church to be a Holy Day of Obligation and as such Catholics around the globe are required to attend mass on this day. Here at St John Paul II College we will be celebrating mass at both campuses on the 15th of August. [READ MORE >](#)

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

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. Dr Seuss Teaching is not so much about filling a child's head with facts, but about teaching them skills that enable them to make decisions and choices that will sustain them in adult life. We hear a lot about 21st Century skills or soft skills and we know that the many of jobs and careers our students will pursue do not yet exist. Thus, developing our students to be confident critical thinkers and decision makers, and lifelong learners is of the utmost importance. At St John Paul II this philosophy underpins our Learning Continuum. The Learning Continuum is designed to move a student from being a dependent learner to an independent and collaborative learner, as this is what will be required of them beyond school, regardless of their chosen career.

Read important messages to each of the stages from their Assistant Principals and more, including information on uniform, effective work habits and Stage 5 examinations. [READ MORE >](#)

## CONTACT US

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## TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR 2018

## NOTICES

### TERM 3 SCHOOL FEES

Term 3 fees were posted out on Monday, 24 July 2017 and fall due/payable by Monday, 21 August 2017.

Please contact Jean Webb on 9208-7239 if you have not received your statement. Should you wish to discuss your account or apply for an extension of time please contact either Mrs Jean Webb on 9208-7239 or Mr Andrew Noney on 9208-7238. Thank you to those parents/caregivers who have paid or are paying off their school fees through an arrangement.

### FROM THE OFFICE: STUDENTS GOING HOME ILL

The StJP11 Office would like to remind parents/caregivers that students must report to the office when sick rather than contact their parents/caregivers while in class. The Office will attend to students and contact parents/caregivers if necessary. Please feel free to call our office on 9208 7200 with any questions or enquiries.

## LATEST IN STJP11 TEACHING & LEARNING

### YEAR 9 EXLPORE STEM



Year 9 are currently engaged in STEM learning. This involves learning to work effectively in teams to solve real-world problems using the skills of engineering, Science, computer coding and maths! Students have been facing challenges such as solving a chemical puzzle, building a machine which will move independently and solve a real-world need. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 9 GET BRAINY IN SCIENCE



Miss Idone's Year 9 Science class dissected lamb brains as part of their "Sickness & Health" unit, where they have been learning how all the important organs of the body work! [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 10 'PICK UP STICKS' TO REVISE



Miss Saad and 10.08 played "Pick Up Sticks" as a religion revision activity! Each group were given 4 question sheets, a set of sticks (each colour coded to represent different topics) and a confidential answer envelope. As students checked their answers at the end of the game, they had to return a stick for each incorrect answer. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 7 SENSES & VIGNETTES



Last week, nature was the classroom for 7.04 as they completed a 'writing vignette', evoking their 5 senses whilst writing freely. Here students write everything they see, hear, smell, feel and taste to help them in creating a short, powerful and imaginative writing piece! [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 8 ITALIAN OPEN RESTAURANT



Year 8 Italian participated in a role play activity as part of their 'Ordering at a Restaurant' unit! The learning environment was set up like an Italian restaurant and students experienced the roles of both the waiter and customer, which enabled them to practise their Italian speaking skills and build confidence in a safe and fun environment. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 11 STUDY STATIONS IN RE



Our Year 11 Studies of Religion students engaged in a stations activity as an introduction to their Judaism unit. Students participated in the traditional Hanukkah dreidel game, viewed a clip on Passover, put together a puzzle on terminology and definitions as well as completed a 'brainstorm' task. [READ MORE >](#)

### WATCH: YEAR 9 MULTICULTURAL DAY



On the last day of Term 2, Year 9 students held their annual Multicultural Day where groups presented their countries in dances, challenges and food stalls - check it out! [WATCH >](#)

### WATCH: STAFF VS STUDENTS SOCCER 2017



On Friday, 21 July, the staff and Year 10 students of StJP11 gathered their best soccer players for the annual StJP11 Strikers vs Student FC soccer match! Staff thought they had it in the bag at half time, score 1 - 0, but the students came through at the end, winning the match, 2 -1. [WATCH >](#)

## SRC UPDATE

Term 3 is a time of growth and rejuvenation for the SRC. As some year groups will be moving to a new stage in 2018, we go through the process of nominations, speeches and elections in order to elect/reelect a group of student representatives who will serve as the voice of that year group for 2018/19. Many students have put their hand up to serve their peers and school community and in the coming weeks will be performing speeches to their year group. We wish all of these students the best of luck!

## STAGE 4 REPORT

**Year 7's St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Mass:** On Tuesday, the Year seven students and teachers travelled to Mary Immaculate Church to celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Of The Cross Mackillop. We heard bible scriptures, passages and the prayers of the faithful. Through Father's reflections, we learnt that Mary MacKillop was an extraordinary woman. She saw a need and did something about it. She started a chain reaction of great events.

**Year 8 Mini-Bites in Preparation for Year 9 Electives:** Over the past 2 weeks, Year 8 2017 have been participating in the world of mini bites/ trial electives for 2018. Year 8 students have over 17 options to choose from ranging from elective technologies, visual arts and music, sport and work ethics. When permanent electives are chosen, year 8 will have 6 classes per fortnight to exploit their interests in other classes.

[READ MORE >](#)

## CAREERS BLOG

Once our Year 12s return to school after their trials the UAC GUIDES will be distributed. The Universities Admission Centre booklet is a comprehensive guide assisting students in understanding the application process. Late August/September is the season for the uni Open Days. I would strongly recommend students take advantage of these occasions and spend a few hours visiting universities. [READ MORE >](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINEESHIP EXPO INFORMATION - 29 AUGUST 2017](#)

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

As a parent/carer it's easy to feel that many social forces are against you, or at least make your parenting more difficult. And you'd be right. Advertising, marketing, peer pressure, and social media are all having an influence on your children. Or you might be concerned that financial troubles or marital separation or other stresses automatically mean bad outcomes for the children in your care. The evidence suggests, however, that you remain the most significant influence, even when your children are in the teenage years.

[READ MORE >](#)

## YEAR 7 MARY MACKILLOP MASS



Year 7 students celebrated the Feast of St Mary Mackillop at Mary Immaculate Parish Church with Fr Ruben. This is a feast day close to the hearts of our Year 7 cohort as they have been learning about and participating in activities centred on "Australia's Saint" since their first moments at St John Paul II! [READ MORE >](#)

## STAGE 4 & 5 SEMESTER AWARDS



Congratulations to all those students recognised at the Stage 4 & Stage 5 Semester One Award Ceremonies held at the Schofields campus last Wednesday! Students were awarded for academic achievement, overall effort and perfect attendance before celebrating their achievements with their families at morning and afternoon tea. [READ MORE >](#)

## RISE UP ASSEMBLY



Congratulations to all of our students recognised at the Years 7-10 RISE UP assembly last Friday! Students were announced for their recognised qualities within RISE UP including as well as achievements in sporting and debating. At StJP II we challenge all students to RISE UP, work hard and do their very best in all that they do. [READ MORE >](#)

## STAFF: PROJECT BASED LEARNING



Four of our teachers are attending a 'Project Based Learning' (PBL) workshop as part of their professional development. PBL is a mode of instruction in which students learn, and experience the content and skills - beginning with a question/challenge and ending with a product to present that shows understanding and mastery of the content and skills. [READ MORE >](#)

## NEP PARTNERS DECORATE CUPCAKES



Staff from the four partners of the Nirimba Education Precinct gathered at the NEP Greenskills Hub for a bit of a cupcake decorating class! Not only did staff get a little messy in their aprons and chef hats, but this was also a great opportunity for staff to meet others within the Nirimba Education Precinct partnership! [READ MORE >](#)

## UPCOMING DIOCESE EVENTS



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE UPCOMING EVENTS WITHIN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA](#)

