



# Newsletter

December 2017—Term 4 Issue 9

[FROM THE PRINCIPAL](#)  
[ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS](#)  
[PARENT NOTICES](#)  
[LATEST NEWS](#)  
[COUNSELLOR'S CORNER](#)  
[STAGE 5 & 6 UPDATES](#)  
[TEACHING & LEARNING](#)  
[SRC UPDATE](#)  
[ICT UPDATE](#)

## Key Dates

**Dec 12:** Stage 4 & 5 Semester Two Awards @ Schofields

**Dec 13:** College Christmas Liturgy @ Nirimba Hall

**Dec 14:** HSC results available, last day of classes for all students, school interviews (3.30pm - 6.30pm)

**Dec 15:** School interviews (8am - 10am)

**Dec 18:** Pupil Free Day

**Dec 19:** Pupil Free Day

**Jan 22-24:** Uniform Shop open

**Jan 29:** Pupil Free Day (Uniform Shop open)

**Jan 30:** Years 7, 11 & 12 commence Term 1

**Jan 31:** Years 8, 9 & 10 commence Term 1

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## From the Principal - Mr Fanning

This is the last newsletter for 2017 and once again we have had a very exciting, challenging and rewarding school year. During the year there have been a large number of events showing what a great community we have here at St John Paul II Catholic College. Students and staff have also had the opportunity on a number of occasions to attend mass with their year group or as part of the whole college, plus currently some students and staff are preparing to attend the Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney.

This year we say farewell to the following permanent staff who are taking up positions at other schools as part of their professional development: Natalie Borg, Sam Marshall, Rosemary Nolan, Leah Moyer and Mary Skjellerup. After a distinguished career in teaching the following staff are retiring: Andrew Noney, Ann Leslie and Aneel Kumar. The following staff who have been on temporary contract are also finishing with us at the end of the year: Robert Elliot, Ashley Knight, Leanne Chapman and Karl Carlos. There will also be staff on leave during next year: Joe Evans, Kirsty Bell, Alana Roberstson, and Shiela Fernandez. We welcome the following staff to St John Paul II in 2018: Ben Gilholme – LCF English, Shannon Muscat and Jesse Oscan. We also have a staff returning from leave Jill Brooks, Naomi Preusker, Elizabeth Noney, Michelle Lenihan, Shanice Vella, Rebecca Slaviero, and Nicole Debono. [READ MORE >](#)

## PRAYER

The word Advent in Latin, ad-venio, means “to come to.” This special time is considered to be a period of renewal in the Church year. Advent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the people in our lives. It is a time for increased prayer, fasting and good works. This special time of the liturgical year gives us the chance to reflect on the good works, good deeds and kind words we share with others. Take the time to remember that a small act in kindness towards another can have a significant impact that we are unaware of. What good works, deeds or words will you give towards another today? [READ MORE >](#)

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

As we come to the end of our school year, we are thankful for the many opportunities we have had as a community. For each of us the memories will be different. There have been tough times through which we have supported one another, there have been joyous times when we celebrated the gifts and talents that enrich our community and there have been times of welcome to new families and times of saying goodbye to others. In reflecting on the year, we believe we have continued to grow as a community as we focus on our relationships with one another. We are truly blessed to be part of such an authentic Catholic community.

Read on for some special thanks to the StJPII community and some important notices around the Year 10 RoSa and Student Opal Cards. [READ MORE >](#)

## TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR 2018

## OFFICE NOTICES

### SCHOOL FEES & TRANSACTIONS

Please note that all school fee accounts for 2017 should be finalised by Friday 8 December 2017, unless you have contacted the school office and made other arrangements to extend your payment arrangement. Due to the school's transition to a new Finance System **NO PAYMENTS** can be receipted at either of the School Offices after 12 noon on Wednesday 13 December 2017. [READ MORE >](#)

### REMINDER: DEODORANT AT SCHOOL

We would like to remind students and families that aerosol (spray) deodorant is not permitted at school for student safety and the health of students with asthma. We ask that students use roll-on liquid deodorant when at school.

### UNIFORM SHOP 2018 TRADING

As the Uniform shop will also be going live on the first day of trading, Monday January 22, 2018 with the new Finance System, some delay may be experienced whilst staff are finalising your purchases.

#### January 2018 Extended Trading Hours:

Monday 22 January - 8am to 2.30pm  
Tuesday 23 January - 8.30am to 3.30pm  
Wednesday 24 January - 8.30am to 3.30pm  
Monday 29 January - 8am to 2.15pm

#### Normal Trading Hours resume from 30 January:

Tuesdays - 8am to 2.30pm  
Thursdays - 9am to 3.30pm

The Uniform Shop will be closed on **Thursday, 14 December 2017** as we will be unable to accept any transactions.

#### RISE UP WET N WILD DAY



A lucky group of students from Years 7-11 spent the day at Wet 'n' Wild for their RISE UP Rewards Day! At StJP11, students are recognised for positive RISE UP initiatives with merit awards. This special day out is to congratulate and reward those students who earned the most merit awards throughout the whole year. [READ MORE >](#)

#### YEAR 12 POVERTY SIMULATION



Year 12 Catholic Studies classes experienced a real life 'inequality' simulation! The students were able to experience first hand both the inequality in today's society. It was both a fun and sobering activity, that gave the students an insight into the lives of the different people living in our community! [READ MORE >](#)

#### WRITE-A-BOOK-IN-A-DAY WINNERS



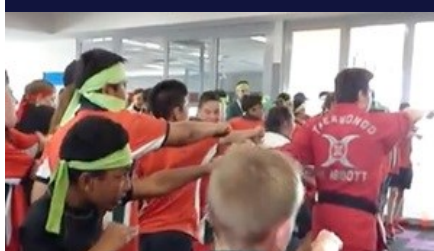
CONGRATULATIONS to our senior Write a Book in a Day team, "Team Patrick" who has been awarded the BEST ILLUSTRATED BOOK in NSW/ACT for 2017! This talented group of students took part in the Write a Book in a Day Competition since Year 7 and have now ended their competition days in glory. [READ MORE >](#)

#### WATCH: YEAR 8 PIRATE DAY



On 17 November, our Year 8 pirates decorated their ships (homerooms), dressed in their colours and costumes and battled it out for the annual Year 8 Pirate Day! The day included a range of numeracy, literacy and physical activities that related to their recent studies in class. [READ MORE >](#)

#### WATCH: YEAR 7 NINJA DAY



On 20 November, Year 7 homerooms became Year 7 "Ninja Clans" as they battled it out in a range of activities related to their Japan unit of study from throughout the Term. Students competed races & obstacle courses before enjoying a show & class with taekwondo professionals! [READ MORE >](#)

#### WATCH: YEAR 9 REFLECTION DAY



On 7 November, Year 9 spent their Reflection Day with motivational speaker/performer - Chris Doyle! Through song, dance, reflection and guest speakers, students took time to reflect on their actions towards others, their values and morals as they reach a more mature stage in their high school life. [READ MORE >](#)



## YEAR 7 PROJECT BASE LEARNING



Year 7 students have recently planned and pitched their own towns for Western Sydney to staff, students and industry professionals as part of their Project Based Learning project called "#nailedit"! This project was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply their group learning, science and mathematics studies to real world situations!

[READ MORE >](#)

## YEAR 10-11 ARTS VISIT NATIONAL ARTS GALLERY



On Wednesday, 1 November, a number of our Year 10-11 Visual Arts, Photography and Visual Design students visited the National Arts Gallery in Canberra where they critically viewed the gallery's renowned permanent and temporary collections!

[READ MORE >](#)

A colorful poster for the Mary Immaculate Parish Fair. The text reads: "MARY IMMACULATE PARISH FAIR Save The Date! SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2017 - 10.00AM ~ 4.00PM MARY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS 125 BARNIER DRIVE, QUAKERS HILL. GREAT FAMILY FUN | RIDES | STALLS | YUMMY FOOD | PERFORMANCES". The poster features a central illustration of a colorful tent with streamers and balloons. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "Major Sponsor: AUSTRALIAN Real Estate".

## UPDATES

### UPDATE FROM THE SRC

This has been a very productive year for the SRC. Changes made early in the year have meant that SRC representatives have been able to have the student voice heard by the stage leadership teams, who have worked closely with the SRC to achieve these goals. The SRC have been involved in a number of fundraising events such as the Shrove Tuesday pancake stall, Mothers' and Fathers' day stalls and are currently working with homerooms to promote the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. These initiatives have raised thousands of dollars for charity this year, helping the vulnerable in our community and overseas. [READ MORE >](#)

### STAGE 5 UPDATE

As the school year approaches its end, the students are on the count down to the last day of school and are looking forward to the holidays and weeks free of assignments, lessons and tests. But what a Term 4 it has been for both Year 9 and 10 there are still two weeks to go! The Stage 5 students; have stayed on task with their school work and applied their work ethic to the classroom, improving and acquiring knowledge in and around their subjects and continuing to develop skills and a positive mental attitude around the work environment. [READ MORE >](#)

### ICT UPDATE

The ICT Team has been busy since the last update with a number of different projects occurring. One of the projects we have undertaken includes the testing all Year 7 to 10 students for the PATR and PATM assessments. These tests are used by the College to determine our students strengths and weaknesses in reading and comprehension (PATR) and mathematics (PAT M). We then use this information to plan our teaching and learning practices to increase student achievement in these areas in the future. Looking forward to next year, we are planning on updating all apple TV's to the latest version as well as developing new contracts for Years 7, 9 and year 11 students for 2018. [READ MORE >](#)

### STAGE 6 UPDATE: RYDA EXPERIENCE

The students have begun their work for the 2018 HSC, they are adjusting to the rigour of HSC study and are learning to prioritise and their work/life balance. The 2018 year 12 class have also met to discuss NESA HSC requirements and have had a gentle reminder that the first bell goes at 7:55am every morning. On Wednesday, 15 November the students travelled to Penrith Regatta Centre to participate in the RYDA driving program. The students attended different sessions on safe driving, driver awareness, they heard the story of a car accident survivor. [READ MORE >](#)