



StJPII Newsletter

December 2018 - Issue 8

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Key Dates

Dec 12: College Christmas Mass @ Nirimba, 10am
Dec 13: Semester 2 Award Ceremonies (Stage 4: 8.10am-9.50am, Stage 5: 10.30am- 12pm)
Dec 13: HSC Results available
Dec 18: School Interviews @ Schofields, 3.30pm- 7pm
Dec 19: School Interviews @ Schofields, 8am- 10am
Dec 20-21: College Staff Learning Days (Pupil Free Days)
Jan 22-24: Uniform Shop open 8.30am - 3.30pm
Jan 23: College Office reopens
Jan 25: College closed
Jan 28: Australia Day Public Holiday
Jan 29: Pupil Free Day
Jan 30: Years 7, 11 & 12 commence
Jan 31: Years 8,9,10 commence

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From the Principal - Mr Fanning

This is the last newsletter for 2018 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 StJPII including Year 7 Transition Day, Debating, Science and Mathematics Competitions, Year 12 Retreats, Year 7 Camp, Reflection Days and Terra Sancta/St John Paul II Day.

This article also touches on communication at StJPII. We recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher. As you could appreciate, teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day and are generally not expected to respond to emails from outside of normal working hours. Please keep in mind that if you send an email to a member of our staff outside of normal working hours, a reply may not be received until the following working day.

Communication is crucial to ensuring a student's education and wellbeing is at its best. In response to the ever-increasing digital communications, we have decided to embrace these technologies in a positive and productive manner; using the college website, Facebook, Skoolbag app, intranet, SMS and email as the information is provided closer to the date of the event.

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PRAYER & REFLECTION



Advent is a time to search and appreciate other ways. Fifty years ago the Vatican II document on interfaith dialogue taught that the whole human family carries a spiritual impulse. All that is true and holy in religions and philosophies carries images of God. Mutual learning creates a common vision for the future. Pope Francis recently named dialogue with ecological scientists and campaigners as integral to God's mission and Catholic living.[Columban Missionaries]

[READ MORE >](#)

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

The latest article from our Assistant Principals includes some very important information on preparing for 2019, such as new programs and assessment information, as well as a recap on some very special events, HSC result details and messages of thanks to everyone as we conclude 2018.

- Data Informed - Using Diagnostic Test Results to Inform Learning & Teaching
- HSC Results
- Senior Youth Leadership Encounter at NSW Parliament House
- Elevate Education - Study Skills & Goal Setting program for Stage 6
- Year 11 2019 Welcome to Nirimba Day
- Year 12 2019 Assessment Information
- Creative Arts Spectacular

[READ MORE >](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM StJPII

NOTICES

SCHOOL FEES

Please note that all 2018 school fees should be finalised by Monday 10 December 2018, unless you have made other arrangements to extend your payment arrangement. Should you be experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Jean Webb on 9208-7239 or Mr Kel Haynes on 9208-7238.

Please note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. [READ MORE >](#)

PARENT DATA VALIDATION SURVEY

Having accurate, up-to-date information on our students is an important part of maintaining their safety and wellbeing, and supporting their learning. It also assists schools to make good decisions about how best to support and care for all students. To ensure that the data we currently hold is current and accurate, CEDP is conducting a data validation survey. [READ MORE >](#)

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers 2018

Part of the St John Paul II Catholic College tradition is to help support these families with our Annual Christmas Hamper collection for St Vincent De Paul. Each Homeroom group has been given a hamper basket to fill up with items for Christmas. We invite all our community to bring Christmas decorations, toys, Christmas puddings, books and non-perishable goods that families can use on Christmas Day. Each week students and staff will be asked to bring certain items for their hamper. Starting from Monday 12th November till Tuesday 12th December students are asked to bring items in every school day. [READ MORE >](#)



LATEST NEWS

STJPII YOUTH MINISTRY



On November 29, the College's Youth Ministry Team and Mr Lara conducted a Peer to Peer Ministry lesson with all Year-5 students from Mary Immaculate Primary School. The theme of the lesson was around 'God's Love'. The students led Year-5 students around a range of activities including, warm up games, music and testimonies. [READ MORE >](#)

VICTOR CHANG AWARDS



Congratulations to Isabella Williams and Joshua Phillips who were awarded the Victor Chang Award for outstanding achievement in their Preliminary Science studies. Isabella and Joshua have been invited by the Victor Chang institute to visit their research facility and shadow some of their research scientists, later in the year. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 12 LEGAL GOES TO COURT



On Monday November 12, the Year 12 Legal Studies students visited the Local and District Courts in Parramatta. Students were engaged by the Rule of Law Institute on the day, taking part in a private Q&A session with Magistrate Still of the Local Court both before and following his morning cases. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 7 SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



During term 3 our Year 7 Social Justice Committee have been collecting book donations in the hope of sharing these resources with communities who are in need. Yesterday our committee were busy sorting and counting the books in preparation to make literacy gift packs. [READ MORE >](#)

HEADING TO PARLIMENT



On November 20, we visited the NSW Parliament House; invited alongside other student leaders within the Riverstone community on behalf of the Member for Riverstone; Kevin Conolly. The overall experience was truly inspiring for us as leaders of SJPII. We received much-needed advice on how to be an effective leader in our school community. [READ MORE >](#)

WELCOMING YEAR 7 2019



On November 5, we welcomed the newest members of our community, Year 7 2019. Students engaged in a number of activities which allowed them to build new connections with their peers, teachers and peer support leaders. Students had a fun day learning about their new community and we look forward to working with you! [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 12 RETREAT



Last week with anticipation, 136 Year 12 students embarked on the annual Year 12 Retreat. Not sure what to expect, they were pleasantly surprised by what would unfold over the coming days. The Retreat is generally a time of reflection, personal growth, friendship, and spiritual consideration; at the end of it, all the participants would have experienced something new, challenging and worthwhile. [READ MORE >](#)

TEACHING & LEARNING: STEM-ing



Teachers from Science, Mathematics and Technology have just finished a three day intensive STEM Academy at The University of Sydney. They had the opportunity to work in their specialised disciplines to extend skills, network with industry experts and create purposeful and engaging STEM learning opportunities for students at StJPII. A highlight was seeing an driverless car and meeting Dr Karl! The teachers are very excited about STEM and can't wait to share this with their students! [READ MORE >](#)

CAREERS: EX-STUDENT RECIEVES APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Zac Kayafis on receiving Apprentice of the Year! With the help of our Careers Advisor Mr Evans, Zac chose a Trade Pathway with Loyola Catholic Trade Training Centre at the end of Year 10, 2017. Through his hard work and commitment he was awarded Apprentice Of Year. Mrs Kayafis feels that StJPII has helped Zac in gaining this achievement by instilling great values and discipline from the school and many of his teachers. [READ MORE >](#)

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Do you trust your bank? Do you trust a political party's promise? Do you trust the church to keep children safe? Do you trust employers to pay their workers fairly? Do you trust power companies to give you a good deal? Do you trust property developers to do the right thing by the community? Do you trust your Facebook news feed? As the year comes to a close we have many reasons to doubt the trustworthiness of institutions big and small. We have seen too many instances where the pursuit of power, money, short term success, special interests, and the protection of reputation have outweighed all other considerations, leaving a trail of victims in their wake. [READ MORE >](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SPORTS UPDATE

A busy end to the school sport year with our girls Water Polo and Cricket teams entering their semi final series. Our boys Cricket and Basketball teams are looking to finish the 2018 calendar year strong with their competitions continuing in Term 1. Term 1 representative sport starts back week 2 in the new year. Sign ups and trials for girls sports will commence in week 9 this term for girls Touch Football, Volleyball and senior Water Polo.

Thank you to all the students for their efforts throughout 2018 and to the parents for their ongoing support of our school sports programs. As a College we are looking forward to massive 2019. [READ MORE >](#)

SPORT: BLAKE MATTHEWS RACING CHAMP



Congratulations to Blake Matthews (7.04) who recently travelled to Brisbane to participate in the Formula 500 Sprintcar Championships. Blake finished 1st in the 12-16 year old category. Blake's next event is in Dubbo on December 6, the StJPII community wish him the best of luck! [READ MORE >](#)

StJPII Spectacular - CIRQUE du' night

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students involved in the Creative Arts Spectacular for their dedication and commitment. It was a fabulous showcase of student talent. We thank all the staff involved in producing this event. The students and the night were a credit to their skills and dedication.

