



# Newsletter

December 2016—Term 4 Issue 12

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## Key Dates Term 1 2017

**23-25 Jan:** Uniform Shop open  
8.30am—3.30pm

**26 Jan:** Public Holiday

27 Jan: Pupil Free Day

**30 Jan:** Year 7 Reflection Day at Schofields, Year 11 & 12 commence normal classes at Nirimba

**31 Jan:** Years 8-10 commence normal classes, Year 7-11 textbook distribution

**2 Feb:** 2016 High Achievers Assembly at Schofields—9am

**3 Feb:** School photos

**10 Feb:** Year 11 Reflection Day at Schofields

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## From the Principal - Mr Fanning

This is the last newsletter for 2016 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.

Just as importantly three teachers and six students attended World Youth Day in Poland. Pope John Paul II's home was Poland and it is a source of inspiration that these young people were able to experience his native land and bring some of that charisma back to our school thereby helping to deepen our traditions which commenced under the name Terra Sancta and have continued as St John Paul II Catholic College.

We also farewell staff who are taking up positions at other schools as part of their professional development or choosing to retire after a distinguished career and welcoming many new staff. Details are included in this blog article.

[Read more](#)

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Adolescents are dealing with change every day. They are changing physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, psychologically and spiritually. They make decisions and adjustments based on their family, their peers and what they see in the media. To this we add challenges to normal behaviours such as the effects of genetics, rapid technological and social changes and sometimes, trauma. When you throw in the erosion of neighbourhood networks & other traditional support networks, problems are exacerbated. Our children go from predictable in Year 6 to complex & unpredictable in Year 7-8. They seek adult like roles & status. In doing so they try out new behaviours and if they don't work, they may return to earlier childish behaviours. Still they are mostly compliant. [READ MORE >](#)

## PRAYER

Advent is a time for us to stop and reflect on the year, to understand what are the important things in our lives and to let go of the things that hold us back- it is a season that offers us time for hope. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, tells us that "God always waits for us, even when we have left him behind! He is never far from us, and if we return to him, he is ready to embrace us." During Advent, we hear the Prophets calling us to return to God and experience his mercy. We hear John the Baptist call us to repent and experience God's mercy. And we anticipate the celebration of God's greatest act of mercy, the sending of his only Son, Jesus, to be with us.

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**BOOK A PERSONAL TOUR OF OUR CAMPUS!**

## BECOME A MENTOR

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's Post School Options Team is looking for suitable employers who can offer one-on-one mentoring in the workplace for secondary students. We are seeking people employed in small businesses who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program, on a voluntary basis.

The volunteer mentor, hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week for 2 school terms (May to September, excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are provided with complimentary mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment 'Mentoring in the Community' for their participation. Employers can be from any industry, as an individual in a trade area – clerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty or connected to a major employer for example, Bunnings. Or Woolworths etc.

Please consider this call for assistance so that this program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities. If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact Leoni Jevons-Fellows (Leading Teacher Post School Options) on 0424 750 583.

## JOIN THE STJPII COLLEGE COUNCIL

The StJPII College Council is offering parents/caregivers the opportunity join us in bringing new ideas to the StJPII community! The College Council meets four times throughout the year, and consists of representatives from the College leadership, teaching staff, local parish, College SRC and parent/caregiver community. We currently have three available positions for parents/caregivers to join and would love for those interested to complete a nomination form! [READ MORE >](#)

## 2017 SCHOOL FEES

The 2017 Diocesan & College School Fees are now available.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## LATEST NEWS

### STUDENTS GET MOVING



In the last 3 weeks of Term 4 each year, students at StJPII have the opportunity to choose from a range of activities in Learning Enrichment. Some students decided to get a good workout in with Repetitions bootcamp, some got moving with Zumba and other creative in the Dance group! [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 7 NINJA DAY



On 23 November, after weeks of preparation, transforming classrooms to clans, learning Japanese ways, writing haikus and chants and dressing in their colours, the seven Year 7 Ninja Clans gathered for their annual Ninja Day! Ninja Clans battled it out in the "amazing race", capture-the-flag haikus and martial arts presentations based on their Japanese unit. [READ MORE >](#)

### RISEUP AT WET N WILD



On Monday, 5 December, over 40 students had the privilege of spending the day at Wet n Wild in recognition of their merit achievements in 2016! At the end of the year, those who achieved the most merits all round celebrate at Wet n Wild. The students had a blast on the day! They're hard work and efforts definitely paid off. [READ MORE >](#)

### STUDENT RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS



This week, 16 students from Years 10-11 took part in an induction to become Student Religious Educators! Next year, these students will be going to Schofields Public School to assist in 30 minute Religion Lessons for the Catholic students at the school. Well done to these students who have taken this opportunity as a form of community service! [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 8 PIRATE DAY



On Pirate Day the Year 8 students took part in community building activities such as inter class competitions and also try to raise money for charity through the "Weigh you Booty" competition. The homeroom that collects the heaviest amount of coins or booty (food donations) wins points for their class. The final aspect of the day is watching the Pirate Sunrise Video. [READ MORE >](#)

### YEAR 11 SEMESTER 2 AWARDS



On 18 November, Year 11 celebrated the great achievements of many students at the Year 11 Semester Two Awards. The certificates were based on their academic achievements as well as overall effort and extra-curricular achievements including Sports Man and Woman of the year, the Eugene Stockton award, WSU pathways program awards, Victor Chang Science awards and more! [READ MORE >](#)

## SRC UPDATE

### SRC HALOGEN LEADERSHIP DAY



The StJPll Student Representative Council are currently attending the Halogen Youth Leadership Day at Homebush. The inspired theme of the day is empowering young people to lead both themselves and others well. Throughout the day students will hear from guest speakers on how they can have a positive influence on the world and others around them!

[READ MORE >](#)

### SRC VINNIES FUNDRAISING



The SRC has had a busy term with fundraising and leadership. The Schofields SRC has been fundraising during breaks to raise money for St Vincent De Paul. Money raised will be used to create food hampers to assist with the College's Christmas Hamper collection.

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### STAGE 6 UPDATES: TO YEAR 12 2016



The last two weeks of Term 3 were a mix of emotions for both students and staff of the graduating class of 2016. It was wonderful to see the students process into their graduation mass proudly wearing their sash' over impeccable uniforms. Year 12 then had their graduation ceremony and formal where once again they were beautifully dressed and presented with maturity. It has been our absolute pleasure to work with such a wonderful group of young people and we are filled with hope that our world is in good hands. Goodluck Year 12, may your future be bright and your successes many.

[READ MORE >](#)

### CAPA: CHLOE POULSEN WINS DANCE NATIONALS



Year 9 student, Chloe Poulsen, has recently won the 14 Years Australian Physie and Dance Nationals at the Sydney Opera House as well as a \$600 Brent Street Scholarship! Chloe shares with us her amazing achievements and experience in physie and dance...

[READ MORE >](#)

### ICT REPORT: 2017 IPAD AND LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS

As we move forward towards 2017 the ICT team would like to update parents/caregivers and students on the requirements for iPads and MacBooks for 2017. Read more for information on device requirements and ICT contact details. [READ MORE >](#)

### TEACHING & LEARNING: COMPREHENSION FUN



This week, in an integrated learning class of English, History and Religion, 7.01 and 7.03 came together to take a fun, new spin on what can be seen as boring comprehension questions!! The novel was read, the rules were given and it was time for Year Seven EHR to get their amazing race on!

[READ MORE >](#)

### SPORTS: BAILEY HUGHES WINS OZTAG OCEANIA CUP



Year 10 Student, Bailey Hughes, recently returned from New Zealand with the Australian Indigenous ozttag team after winning the Oceania Cup tournament against the Mouri team! Bailey has been playing ozttag since the age of 9, played locally and state for Nepean, nationals for the Western Sydney Tigers, as well as for NSW Ozttag and the under 20's for Penrith.

[READ MORE >](#)

### COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

On reviewing Counsellor's Corner this year (something only I would do), I see themes definitely worth summarising! What are parents/carers dealing with? Your children are going through massive change in a few short years. Your efforts to attend to their emotional health will have a significant impact on their life satisfaction, as even economists recognise. (April). We noted the epic questions that are typical of adolescence: Who am I? Does this behaviour or choice fit with me, or is it not-me? What do I want my life to be? What is my purpose? Is there meaning to life?

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