



Newsletter

May 2017—Term 2 Issue 4

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Key Dates

18 May: Year 12 Semester 1 Awards @ 12.35pm, Nirimba
19 May: Year 11-12 Meningococcal Vaccinations
22 May: StJP II Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown Olympic Park
29 May: Year 7 2018 Offer of Enrolment letters mailed
May 31 -2 June: Year 12 Retreat @ Elanora
8 June: Year 11 Semester 1 Awards @ 12.35pm, Nirimba
9 June: Staff Formation Day (Pupil Free Day)
12 June: Queens Birthday - Public holiday
14 June: Chat Group @ 2.15pm, Schofields, Term 2 Issue 5 newsletter available online

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

CONTACT US

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From the Principal - Mr Fanning

As you are aware we are maintaining the focus on school attendance this year and our efforts are having significant results with student attendance rates improving. We recently held ANZAC Day ceremonies at the Schofields and Nirimba Campuses to pay respect those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us and in addition, on Anzac Day itself, a number of staff and students once again attended the Dawn Ceremony at Riverstone as St John Paul II ambassadors. The students at these assemblies certainly gained a greater understanding of the importance of the creation of a community and a world that supports and encourages everyone.

Another important aspect of school life is the annual enrolment procedures and we continue to have healthy enrolments with large numbers of applications for enrolment into Year 7 in 2018. To continue improvements within our growing community, we'd like to thank the families who have completed the Survey Keep in the Loop with StJP II. Communication between parents/caregivers, teachers and students is crucial to ensuring a student's education and wellbeing is at its best. We look forward to bringing changes and improvements as a result of your feedback. Finally, the Teaching and Support Staff Retreat and Evangelisation Day based upon St John Paul II is being held on Friday 9 June. This day will assist in the ongoing spiritual formation of all staff at St John Paul II Catholic College and will be a pupil free day for students. As always, the College will assist parents/caregivers if there are difficulties in arranging care for their son/daughter on this day.

[READ MORE >](#)

PRAYER

The origin of Mother's Day goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Roman times. In the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated it to the maternal goddesses. Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honour of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Read more for a special blessing and prayer for our mothers.

[READ MORE >](#)

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

"Happy Mothers' Day means more than have a happy day. Within these words lie lots of things we never get to say. It means, I love you, first of all, then thanks for all you do. It means you mean a lot to me and that I honour you."
Nicholas Jordan

Stage 4 messages from Ms Refalo include classwork and assessment expectations/suggestions, reminder for "random acts of kindness" and a congratulations to those awarded at the RISE UP pizza lunch.

Stage 5 messages from Mr Regan include a reminder around assessment responsibilities, strategies for revising classwork and important information around cyber bullying.

Stage 6 messages from Ms Roach include information around the attendance imperative, Year 12 Semester 1 reports and Year 11 progress and post school options.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THESE MESSAGES AND MORE](#)

2018 ENROLMENTS ARE NOW DUE

NOTICES

NEW SPORTS INFORMATION PAGE!

Our website now has a page for current and updated sports information! This includes Representative Sports timetables, draws and permission notes, PACT sports information and other up coming sports opportunities.

Follow the "StJPll Sports Intranet" link found on the "[Sports at StJPll](#)" page.

StJPll Survey—Thank you!

We would like to thank those parents/caregivers who took the time to complete our survey and provide us insight into the world of our StJPll community. With over 420 responses, we now have the opportunity to look into patterns, common themes and issues and bring improvements to the College.

As majority preferred two newsletters a Term, this change has been put into place with the assurance that all current and latest news/notices will be shared on Facebook, Skoolbag and the College website.

ENROLMENTS & TOURS

Enrolment applications for 2018 are now due. Please contact our Enrolment Secretary, Fay Lovett, on 9208 7205 for any enrolment enquiries or document requests. The Year 7 2018 Offer of Enrolment letters will be posted to families on Monday, 29 May.

2017 SCHOOL FEES

Just a reminder that Term 2 fees were posted out on Monday, 1 May 2017 and fall due/payable by Monday, 29 May 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.

YEAR 7, 11 & 12 VACCINATIONS

The College has recently received updated information regarding the student immunisation programs. 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

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE



This ANZAC Day, staff and students including many from our Student Representative Council gathered with others in the community for a special Riverstone/Schofields ANZAC Day march and dawn service.

[READ MORE >](#)

StJPll ANZAC CEREMONIES



Our 3 ANZAC ceremonies included special presentations from Nirimba Naval representatives and a video on the special connection we have with the past of the Nirimba Education Precinct.

[READ MORE >](#)

STUDENTS RAISE & RUN FOR MS



On 30 April, Gabriella, Christian and Daniel Cipri and Claire Lynch took part in the MS Walk & Fun Run at Metacalfe Park, Pyrmont! These dedicated students have been fundraising for the last few months in preparation for the event.

[READ MORE >](#)

UPDATE ON OUR DEBATERS



The first two rounds have seen the students face some tough opposition. Tackling topics such as education and technology the students have worked together to reflect their own understanding on the topic and persuade the audience to their views on the topic.

[READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 12 BIO @ DISEASE MUSEUM



Last week, Year 12 Biology students visited the Museum of Disease! As part of their current unit of study, "Search for a Better Health" students used an app on their devices to discover the effects of diseases on different organs within the museum.

[READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 9 CAMPUS SCIENTISTS



Last week, Year 9 spent the day being scientists in the field! As part of their ecology studies, students are taking part in a range of scientific activities such as analysing the creek water quality and identifying plant species found at the school.

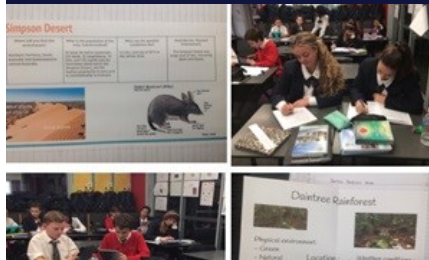
[READ MORE >](#)

RISE UP MERIT PIZZA LUNCHES



On 15 May, Stage 4 and Stage 5 held a celebratory Merit Pizza Lunch for those students who have achieved the highest amount of RISE UP Merits so far this year! Students receive merits for a range of RISE UP qualities throughout the year, both in and out of the classroom. [READ MORE >](#)

YEAR 8 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS



Year 8 Geography are learning about Global Environments. The world is made up of global environments such as rainforests, deserts, oceans, coral reefs, mountains and rivers. One of the activities the students completed in class was a poster on different places located throughout the world. [READ MORE >](#)

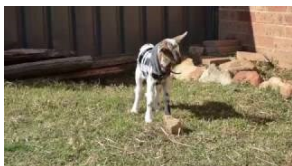
YEAR 10 FOOD TECH COOK OFF!



In Week 2, our Year 10 Food Technology class finished off their "Celebrations" unit with a friendly profiterole and creme puff competition with Stage 5 Assistant Principal, Mr Regan, and Leader of Learning, Mr Green! [READ MORE >](#)

WATCH: LATEST ON THE STJPII YOUTUBE CHANNEL

MEET JAJA THE GOAT



Meet the newest edition to the StJPII Agriculture plot - Jaja the Goat!

[WATCH](#)

ENTVENT: YEAR 10-12 MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT



Years 10-12 Music/Entertainment students held a night full of performances, allowing both areas of study to practice and perfect their skills.

[WATCH](#)

SRC UPDATE

The SRC have been very active the past few weeks. SRC students have been representing the College at a number of community events, including ANZAC day services and the Palm Sunday March and Mass at the Cathedral in Parramatta.

Year 7 elected 5 SRC representatives. Karli Canning, Chloe Cardona, Elias Cousins, Maddison Cauchi and Jayden Kemp are rising up in their new roles, and have been active in representing the student voice in their meetings with the leadership team.

In upcoming weeks, the SRC will be representing the school at an excursion to the Nirimba Education Precinct ATSI reconciliation day on 24th May and our School Leaders, Mitchell and Johanna, will be participating in the Student Leaders Forum with Bishop Vincent.

STAGE 5 UPDATE: ELECTIVES & LEARNING ENRICHMENT

Stage 4 (Years 7 - 8) involves a great amount of new experiences and adventures for students as they progress through their high school journey. Year 8 students have put together a reflection of their new experiences in Year 8, including new learning, activities and community service at the Quakers Hill Nursing Home! [READ MORE >](#)

NIRIMBA EDUCATION PRECINCT—PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



What was once the training grounds for navy apprentices at the HMAS Nirimba Royal Australian Navy Apprentice Training Establishment, is now the 'training grounds' for students undertaking senior high school, university and TAFE education!

[WATCH](#)

CAREERS BLOG

Year 12 students will be attending the Western Sydney Careers Expo on Thursday 22nd June at Sydney Showground Olympic Park (Week 9 of Term 2). In the past this event has proven to be valuable for our students as they have the opportunity to discuss their future plans and ambitions post -school with over a 100 exhibitors. Exhibitors include universities, TAFE and Training Colleges, apprenticeship and employment organisations plus providers of HSC resources. Students also have access to seminars on topics such as tertiary courses, HSC subjects, the UAC application process, employment options, gap years and study advice.

[VIEW OTHER ARTICLES IN OUR CAREERS BLOG](#)

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Many parents/carers say their number one goal for their kids is for them to be happy. But pursuing happiness can be like a dog chasing its tail, and possibly just as successful. As you know, in our wealthy country we have enormously high rates of mental illness and distress despite a lot of pursuing. OK, so maybe what we want is at least to have more happy than sad. How to make that happen? We can pursue fun, excitement, novelty, pleasure. But we know those are temporary, though they can be extended by drug and alcohol use or any number of addictions (which lead back to sad). Is continuous happiness out of reach? A newish psychological therapy called Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) proposes something different: it says accept our experiences, whether emotionally 'good' or 'bad', without fighting against bad feelings or running away from them. It sees suffering as normal, though obviously uncomfortable and difficult, but bearable. [READ MORE >](#)