Newsletter 20

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE ENTERTAINMENT TAKES THE PARISH FAIR BY STORM!

I would like to extend my gratitude to all families who attended Saturdays St Andrew’s Parish Fair. This fund raiser was extremely well supported by our school community and proved to be an highly successful fundraiser. All money raised by the fair is directly put back into the parish schools. Next year, now that we are settled, the school will man a stall so your ongoing commitment to the fair success is required.

The entertainment provided by our school on centre stage was another time where I have experienced great pride in our new school. Firstly, the encouragement of our students from the parent group was a demonstration of our vision of a community which celebrates learning together and one which strives to bring about the success of others.

The celebration of our cultural diversity was demonstrated in the first dance performed by Sona Janga and Laasya Chunduri. These two students prepared this dance totally out of school time and provided the parish an insight into the multicultural nature of our school.

The Breakdance performance which followed was spectacular! Kalani, Sarah, Abu, Grace, Piath and Aaliyah ripped the dance floor apart with their amazing moves. Not only was I impressed with their dance skills, I was proud of the fact that this act was totally prepared by a school parents Danny and Kelly Mosogau. This was a powerful demonstration of how schools with best practise partner with their community to educate students. Thankyou Danny and Kelly for your time in preparing this performance.

The “Whip It Nae Nae” dancers continued the upbeat nature of our entertainment schedule. This act grew out of our students dancing to this song during playground time using the audio system which is taken out each recess and lunch. It showed all of us that learning is not only confined to “class time”. The social connections made on the playground are vital to success in interpersonal learning.

What can we learn from this experience? Every child involved in the dance performances at the fair experienced the energy rush that being involved in activities such as the performing arts and sport provides. In these situations, we make ourselves vulnerable and place trust in our co performers or team mates as the group success is based on everyone fulfilling their role. When it comes off we experience an adrenaline rush and a sense of belonging that is unforgettable. Hence I was so pleased to see our students “Hi Fiving” each other after the performances and telling me later this week that they wished they had a time machine that they could use to go back and relive the dance experience.

It is these experiences which all children need especially as they approach adolescence. All children should be able to name and develop two areas of mastery which they believe they are better at than most. This mastery cannot include Playstation, xBox, or Nintendo! If we can successfully provide our students with areas of mastery as a community, we are well on the way to producing positive, resilient and healthy adults from our students.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE - REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO CONFIRM ITS VIABILITY!

As communicated in a letter last week, the after school care service provided by Quantin Bin-nah Community Centre has been running at a loss over 2015. In order to provide this service in 2016 we require any families needing the service to register with Quantin Binnah by calling 9742 5040 by Friday, 30th November. Should numbers remain low, the care of students after school will cease in 2016. Parents will be notified of the outcome of this situation in early December.

END OF YEAR DATES

A reminder that end of term dates have been finalised. Please consult the guide below and make any arrangements regarding the care of your children over these days.
Wednesday, 16th December: Last day of school for students Year Prep—6 (3:15 Dismissal)

Thursday & Friday, 17th & 18th December: Staff Professional Development Days

Care is available through Quantin Binnah community centre on these days. Please call to book your place if required.

SCHOOL FEES—DIRECT DEBIT

Direct debit setup for the 2016 school fees can now commence. This will enable families to take advantage of regular deductions towards their school fees over the year.

The form required to register for this service can be collected from the office or simply contact the office and we will arrange the forms to be sent home via your child.

Direct debit arrangements must be finalised prior to December.

ADVENT PRAYERTIMES

The students have commenced their Religious Education Units on the Church Season of Advent this week.

Each morning the students will gather in the Community Space to light the candles of the advent wreath as we prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

Parents are welcome to join each morning to pray. The prayertimes will commence at around 9am each day.

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

Families with outstanding school fees will be issued with a statement outlining the balance of their fee account this week.

Please finalise these payments as soon as possible and communicate with the school if this is causing a problem. In these situation payment plans can be arranged with the school.

YEAR 1—6 (2016)

TRANSITION DAY

Students from year 1—6 will be involved in a transition day on Tuesday, 1st December.

On this day they will meet their new teacher (if available) and find out their class groupings for 2016.

Newly enrolled students from Year 1 to 6 will also join us on this day between 9:30am—12:30pm.

We look forward to seeing the students grouped as they will be next year!

PREP 2016 ORIENTATION

We have been very pleased with the running of our prep transition program this year. Our 2016 Prep students have now visited with school several times, culminating in as final session last Wednesday which saw them working in the class groupings for next year.

We currently have two classes of preps each containing 19 students.

STAFFING & SCHOOL STRUCTURE 2016

Over the school holidays and during the first week of term 4, St John the Apostle commenced interviewing for staff to join our teaching team for the 2016 school year.

We are very pleased that all out current staff have informed us that that wish to continue on the exciting journey of establishing a new school.

With growing enrolments our school will expand from the current 109 students to approximately 160.

The school is very pleased to announce that joining the teaching team next year are Mrs Nicole Tottle, Mrs Cinzia De Luca and Miss Ann Raj.

The proposed school structure is as follows, however this is open to change if enrolments between now and January grow beyond expectations.

Year Prep - Miss Alisha Keogh
Year Prep - Mrs Jenny Fenech
Year 1 - Miss Kathleen Warr

END OF TERM CLEAN UP—TERM 4

The end of term 4 clean up is scheduled for the last day of school, Wednesday, 16th December at 3:15pm.

The support that families have given this initiative each term has been greatly appreciated by the staff.

It prepares our building for learning day one of the following term, saves the school spending money on contract cleaners, and sends a valuable message to our students about having pride in our learning spaces.

If your are able to volunteer your time to the clean up please complete the return slip on the newsletters.

YEAR 6 THOMAS CARR INDUCTION SCHEDULE

Year 6’s who have enrolled at Thomas Carr College for 2016 should be aware of the following important dates:

Orientation Day: Tuesday, 1st December at 9am
First Day of Year 7: Friday, 29th January at 8:40am

YEAR 4/5/6 SLEEPOVER

To celebrate and acknowledge the fantastic contributions of our inaugural school leaders the school has planned a school sleepover for these students this Friday, 27th November.
The aim of the sleepover is to provide students with a bonding experience which also gives insights into their local area. During the day the students will hike up to the summit of the You Yangs National Park, they will also tour Werribee South and Wyndham Harbour.

Further details regarding this will be given to parents of our Year 4/5/6 students in the coming weeks.

**VOLUNTEER’S RECOGNITION EVENING**

Invitations have now been sent out to all volunteers inviting them to attend a formal recognition evening hosted by the school staff. This evening will be for parents only and is scheduled for Tuesday, 8th December at 7pm.

If you have assisted with any of the following tasks and have not received your invitation, please let the office know immediately!

- End of Term Clean Ups
- Book Covering
- Parent Reading Program
- School Religious Displays
- Chicken Coop Construction
- Working Bee Attendance
- Mother’s & Father’s Day Stall
- Ipad & Computer Set Up
- Hooptime Supervision
- Teacher Resource Construction
- School Sports Assistance
- School Opening Catering

We look forward to chatting with you on this night celebrating together the wonderful achievements we have made together.

**LONG SLEEVE SPORTS TOP FINALISED**

From the commencement of school next year, a long sleeved version of the sports T-Shirt will be available from Rushford’s Schoolwear.

Some parents have advised us of a need for a long sleeved option for protection from the sun during summer and the cold during winter.

Now that this is available, no children should be wearing long sleeved undergarments under the short sleeved shirts.

**SCHOOL NATIVITY SCENE**

Later this week you may notice a large nativity scene displayed in the windows of the front community space. This scene celebrate our Catholic identity and aims to promote the season of Advent which prepares us for the coming of Jesus each Christmas.

The scene will be viewable from the front of the school and will be lit up from 8:30—10:30pm each night between now and Christmas day. We encourage all school families to visit this scene as they prepare for Christmas. Please take a photo of your family by the windows and email it to the office at office@stjatarneit.catholic.edu.au.

We will add these images as they compile to our school website.

**WEBSITE UPDATE**

Some of our teachers have recently received professional development of managing our school website.

Please visit this regularly as it has many additions including pages on our recent athletics carnival and school excursions.

**EARLY ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL**

Parents are reminded that the school carpark and yard is not supervised each morning until 8:30am. Children should not arrive at school before that time.

A number of students have been arriving extremely early in recent weeks. We ask that parents hold them walking to school until later or if this is not possible register for the onsite before school care with Quantin Bin-nah.

**UN-NAMED UNIFORMS**

We have a number of un-named uniform items in the office. Named items handed into the office are immediately returned to their owner.

Unfortunately, unnamed items places us in a very difficult position as we are reluctant to give items to just anyone who claims them. If you have lost a cardigan, long sleeved jumper or school logo raincoat please contact the office to try and identify them.

We have very few issues with lost uniforms this year, we ask that parents however please check that clothing items are named and renamed if the original has faded.

**GRADUATION MASS & LUNCH**

We encourage all our school families to come and celebrate the graduation of our year six students with a mass on Friday, 11th December at 9am.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of our Year 6 students in our inaugural year taking them to lunch after the mass at De Caprio’s Family Restaurant in Hopper Cross-ing.

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**End of Term Clean Up**

Name: _____________________

Child’s Name: _____________________

I am willing to assist with end of term clean up on Wednesday, 16th December

Signed: _____________________

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