Newsletter 9

FLAG PRESENTATION—JOANNE RYAN

Mrs Joanne Ryan, Federal Member of Parliament, representing the Division of Lalor, visited our school last Friday. The purpose of her visit was to present our school flags to the community.

After a tour of the school, Mrs Ryan spoke to the children at assembly and handed over the National, Indigenous and Torres Strait Island flags.

Our school in the future will hold regular flag raising ceremony to which the parent community and local residents will be invited to participate.

We do face the challenge of finding the finances to purchase two more flag poles to be erected at the public entrance of the school. A strategic plan will be drafted to raise these funds with the assistance of local community groups and the Wyndham City Council.

NATIONAL SORRY DAY—TUESDAY 26TH MAY

National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance held on May 26 each year and remains a national focus from 27th May—3rd June. These days give people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

As a school the students will gather on during the week for a short prayer time, observing the Australia wide actions which signify a call to reconciliation.

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE OPENING & BLESSING

The date of the official opening and blessing of stage one of our school building has been reviewed. As government representatives were unable to guarantee their attendance, we have now put back the date to Friday, 7th August. The ceremony and blessing will be conducted by Arch Bishop Denise Hart commencing at 2pm and should conclude ready for the dismissal of children at the end of the day. We ask all school families to reserve this date in their diaries and join us for what is a historic event in the development of our new school.

Later that night, the school will host a more informal celebration in the school building. The evening activities will take the form of a games night whereby school families can form tables to test their knowledge and skill in various games including Minute To Win It, The Price Is Right, Deal or No Deal and many more!

The games evening will commence at 7pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

SCHOOL UNIFORM—NEW STOCK NOW IN!

Thank you to all families who have been patiently waiting for the arrival of some winter uniform garments.

We are pleased to say that Rushford’s Schoolwear have informed us that new stock has arrived.

1. All students are expected to arrive each day in full winter uniform. A few clarifying point regarding winter uniform are outlined below:

2. Black school shoes are expected to be worn. Runners can only be worn on sport days (Tuesday & Thursday)

3. Children are not permitted to wear coloured beanies, gloves and scarves. These must be plain navy and cannot be worn inside.

4. For safety reasons, scarves cannot be worn over playtimes.

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5. The navy “Softshell” jacket is now permitted to be worn with the winter uniform providing a jumper, vest or cardigan in worn beneath it.

6. Long sleeve undergarments are not to be worn under the sports tee shirt. Families not in correct uniform will be issued with a notification slip. We expect that families support the uniform policy by returning this to the school the following day.

This allows us to place fair expectations on families and students in the endeavour to maintain a proud and well presented school community.

NAPLAN— YEAR 3 & 5

We were very proud of all our Year 3 and 5 students in the way they approached the recent Naplan nation-wide assessments. All students applied themselves fully over the week and should be very pleased with their achievements. Results of the assessments will be posted to the school mid to late term 3.

Whilst Naplan reports provide valuable information for parents on student progress, they will assist our school in tracking student progress and identifying common trends in assessment across our school. They should be interpreted alongside other forms of assessment including teacher internal assessments, work samples and teacher anecdotal notes. These are communicated to parents using our mid year reports and parent teacher interviews.

CHICKEN UPDATE!

Our chicken will be transferred to their outside quarters later this week. The chicken coop arrived last Friday and will be assembled by Craig Ellis with the assistance of some of our senior students.

The coop will be located at the front of the school in the proposed sustainability area. This location is well protected from the elements and is also accessible by families over weekends and after school. We encourage families to routinely walk to visit this area as it develops. This will build a more connected community and increase passive surveillance of our school building.

In the short term future, we plan to form an orchard of fruit trees which will kindly be donated by CDC Buses. We also hope to add a worm farm and temporary vegetable patches.

Last Wednesday our second batch of chicken eggs were placed in the school incubator. The ten eggs are due to hatch on Wednesday, 10th June. We hope that their arrival stirs the same excitement amongst the community as did our first set of eggs.

HANDY MEN & WOMEN REQUIRED!

Our school has a number of small jobs which require suitable volunteers from within the community to assist us. The jobs are listed below:

- Design and construct a wooden stand which holds our school time capsule
- Construct a large wooden cross with portable stand for display in our community space and use in our school liturgies.
- Covering of reading materials (New supplies of contact have now arrived)
- For further details on these projects, please contact Simon. Estimated costs of materials should be communicated with the school which will then be reimbursed providing a sales docket which includes an ABN is handed to the school office.

HOOPTIME BASKETBALL COMPETITION

St John the Apostle as part of its Sports program has entered 3 teams into the McDonalds Hooptime basketball tournament.

The three teams comprising Years 3-6 students will represent our school against other local schools.

We urge parents to come down to the Recreation Centre and support the children. Once again we thank Mrs White for all her hard work in organising this activity.

We hope all students have a great day.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPACE— ALL WELCOME!

The school community space at the entrance to our school is accessible for all school parents and families.

We welcome people coming in of a morning and afternoon and fixing themselves a hot drink and catching up with other parents. As the weather gets cooler this may be a more comfortable option when waiting to collect your children.

SCHOOL DANCE LESSONS

Our unit on Movement and Dance has commenced for Prep to Year 6 students. The students thoroughly enjoyed their first session and demonstrated an attitude to get involved and make the most of all learning opportunities.

This unit will have a 5 week duration and concludes with a public performance to the parent community.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD

The school principal’s award is given to the student each fortnight who best demonstrates the spirit of St John the Apostle in their approach to school.

This fortnight’s award went to a Year 5 student, Dylan Prosser. We have much we can learn from Dylan’s approach to school life. His welcoming manner and inclusiveness of others makes him a well liked and highly regarded member of our student group. Well one Dylan.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our second opportunity to formally meet with parents to discuss student progress in scheduled for the last week of term.

Parents, as with the first term interviews, will be issued a user log on to the School’s Parent Teachers Online Portal in the coming weeks.

The dates and times of the interviews are:

Tuesday 23rd & Thursday 25th June
Time: 4pm—7:30pm

CALL FOR CULTURAL PERFORMANCE ACTS!

The multicultural nature of our school is one of its greatest assets. It is a characteristic which we should celebrate and make public whenever and opportunity arises.

We are calling on representatives of our many different cultures to communicate their willingness to perform cultural acts at our official school opening and blessing.

If you would like to lead your community in performing at this event, please let us know using the return slips attached.

CARPARK— MOUNTING SAFETY CONCERNS!

Our carpark continues to raise some safety concerns within our staff and frustration amongst parents.

At St John the Apostle, student safety is of paramount importance. We therefore do not apologise for the expectations we place on parents within the carpark and drop off and collection times.

The following expectation will be enforced to ensure the safety of all the school community.

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The yellow line along the walking path shows the morning drop off area. Students cannot be dropped off anywhere else in the carpark.

Please Note:

- Parents cannot leave their car to load children up with bags, etc.
- Student should only vacate the car on the path side, not on the side which has passing traffic.
- Parents should move to the front of the line to allow other cars to unload behind them.
- Students should have their bag with them ready to disembark.
- Cars are not to drive onto the kerp to allow student to step straight onto the path. This path is a pedestrian thoroughfare.

The Drop Off Zone has been incorrectly labelled. It is not to be used in the afternoon to collect children. All parents must choose one of the following options in the afternoon.

- Park in the carpark, leave your car and collect your children from their classroom door.
- Park outside the on the roadside parking areas, leave your car and collect your children from their classroom door.
- Park outside the on the roadside parking areas, and wait for your child to meet you at the car.

All students should be supervised by their carer across the pedestrian crossing within the carpark.

- You are not able to wait in you car within the carpark. You are not able to drop students off from within the car spaces.
- The speed limit of 5km is marked within the carpark. We have noticed that some parents are becoming complacent with their speed.

Cars can only be parked in the spaces provided or under the basketball goals where they are out of the way of traffic flow.

MOOV CHALLENGE UPDATE

Our third MOOV collaborative challenge has been successfully completed.

Congratulations to Priskilla, Adam and Xavier for working together as a team to construct the three wheeled chopper.

They used a valued strategy of calling on an expert to assist them with a problem they could not solve. A great learning tip for us all to use when we encounter something new, rather than just giving up call upon the help of a trusted expert!

SCHOOL POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS—PARK VISIT

As part of our school approach to reinforcing positive school behaviours, we have commenced a reward system which allows students who have earned 10 recognitions from teachers to visit the local park for a play. Our first play at the park was held on Friday afternoon.

Our mantra for creating an optimal learning culture at our school is ...

“At St John the Apostle we respect and cooperate to achieve.”

SCHOOL PHOTO—BOOKLET CALLBACK!

Some have brought to our attention that the photo pack which included the booklet in some cases has incorrect year levels of students.

We apologise for this error. Arthur Reed Photos is looking into the matter and will complete a reprint of incorrect booklets.

If you ordered the pack which comes with a booklet, we ask that you carefully check it and if it has errors please return it to the school as soon as possible.
**Cultural Performance Coordinator**

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am willing to coordinate a cultural performance to be presented to the school community.

Performance Description:

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**Handyman & Women’s Tasks**

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am able to assist in the completion of the following tasks:

- [ ] Design and construct Time Capsule Stand
- [ ] Construct a school wooden cross & stand.

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**Curriculum Support Group**

Name: _____________________  Child’s Name: _____________________

I am willing to join the curriculum support volunteer’s group to hear student reading between 9 –10 am.

I am available on these days free of toddlers.

- [ ] Mon  -  [ ] Tues  -  [ ] Wed  -  [ ] Thurs