

St John's Parish

Primary School



February 20, 2017 No. 3

COMING UP AT ST JOHN'S

FEBRUARY	22	Wednesday	No School for Prep Students
	23	Thursday	Helen Carboon— Prep Families at St James, Vermont, 4.45pm or 7.00pm
	24	Friday	Early Finish for Students, 1.00pm Feb Feast—Twilight Event
	26	Sunday	Parish Family Mass, 9.45am
	27	Monday	Camp Meeting—Year 5/6 Parents at SJV Community Centre, 7.30pm
MARCH	28	Tuesday	Burning of the Palms, 9.15am Prep 2017 Information Night, 7.00pm
	1	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Mass, 10.00am
	6	Monday	School Assembly, 8.50am

*Twilight sports tonight from 4:45pm at Bill Sewart Athletics Track in Burwood.
Looking forward to seeing you all there!*

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful celebration it was yesterday at St John's Church as we recognised the beginning of the school year, Founders Day, 65th anniversary of the parish, farewell to Fr Mark and welcome to Fr Dispin. It was great to see so many of our families at mass to acknowledge these special occasions. Our students are very fortunate to have the opportunity to hear all about our founding families and their active work in our parish community. We have included Pat Bowen's story further in the newsletter.



This morning we welcomed Fr Dispin and Michael Sukkar MP (Federal Member for Deakin) leaders in our school/parish and wider community to present leadership badges to our year 6 students. It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents in attendance. I know every student will represent St John's with pride and enthusiasm. Dispin, Michael and I spoke to the students about qualities of a good leader. They included the ability to listen, empower, reach out, lead by example, be true to yourself, care for others and have a sense of humour.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open first Monday of each month
8.30 -9.00am Multi Purpose Room

CO-ORDINATOR

Kathleen Spicer

LUNCH ORDERS

Every Tuesday Lunchtime
To order register online:
www.flexischools.com.au

CAMP AUSTRALIA

Before & After School Care 1300 105 343

CO-ORDINATOR

Cherry Manapol

HOURS: 7.00 -8.30 am
3.20 -6.15 pm

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

PARISH CONTACTS:

PH: 9873 1341

PARISH PRIEST

Father Dispin John

PARISH SECRETARIES

Mrs. Elisa Kelesidis
Mrs. Martine Giles

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Mrs. Maree O'Keefe



Early finish this Friday 24 February

An important reminder that school will finish at 1pm this Friday so the school grounds can be set up for Feb Feast. Tickets are still available in the parish office - \$25 per ticket and \$5 for children. Camp Australia will be running from 1-6pm on this day. Bookings can be made online.

New school app

In the next few weeks we will be launching our new school website. There will also be a new school app (Skool bag) which parents can download immediately. We are currently exploring the most valuable information to put on this app and we are open to suggestions on how we can make this a useful tool for our families. Please email bjohnson@sjmitcham.catholic.edu.au. There is a flyer included with the newsletter explaining how to do this. During this time of transition, we will send out messages on both the new and old app. We will advise you when the old app is discontinued.



Parish Family Mass

We have our first parish family mass this coming Sunday at 9:45am. For all our new families these masses are generally held on the last Sunday of each month during the school term. Families are encouraged to attend and the homily is specially designed for children to participate in. Both school choirs lead the singing. It is quite a special mass to be part of.

Year 5/6 parent camp meeting

Just a reminder to our Year 5 and 6 parents that there will be a camp meeting at St James Vermont next Monday 27 February commencing at 7:30pm. Staff will outline some of the activities at both camps and expectations. There will also be a chance to ask questions.

Prep 2017 Information Evening

There will be an Information evening for our current prep parents on Tuesday 28 February commencing at 7pm. This will take place in the Prep classroom and Naomi Curtis along with some of our school leaders are excited to share with you all about the learning and teaching at St John's.

Distribution of enrolment flyers for 2018

We have just finalised our marketing campaign for future enrolments and would appreciate it if some parents could volunteer to do letter box drops around Mitcham and surrounding suburbs. If you can help with distributing these please pop in and see me or email me directly. Our open day tours for prospective enrolments begin on Thursday 2 March at 9:15am. Please let any interested neighbours or friends know.

Have a great week
Jacqui Marshall
Principal

Education in Faith News

This week's Gospel Challenge: To forgive others.

Lord Jesus, you once said,
"I leave you my peace,
My peace I give you."
May our hands reach out
To share your peace with others,
And may our hearts always be filled
With forgiveness and love.
Amen



Yesterday was a wonderful celebration and so good to see so many students and families present. We celebrated our 65th year of parish life and recalled the original founding families of the parish who worked so hard to establish our community. We remembered and celebrated Fr Mark's time here with us and we acknowledged the beginning of the school year. We gave thanks to God and asked that we will go into the future with faith and commitment: building on the firm foundations set for us.

Our school captains, Charlotte and Jeremy interviewed Pat Bowen last Tuesday morning and below is what they shared with us about her.

On Tuesday the 14th we interviewed Pat Bowen, one of our parish founding members to find out a bit more about her. We found out that she had nine children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and that Pat and all of her Children attended St John's Primary School.

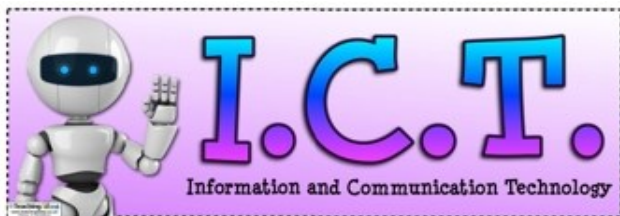
The St John's parish was opened in 1952 by Archbishop Mannix and it has now been 65 years since then. Pat came to St John's in 1942 when the school was in a different location to now. When her children attended St John's the Coghlan centre was used as a classroom. There were many students in each room and they were taught by two Mercy Nuns from Lilydale.



Pat and her husband were married in the Nissan Hut Church at St John's 1954. In 2003 Pat's husband died after 49 years of marriage and last year her oldest son died, both of their ashes are still in the memorial garden that used to be called the rose garden near the church. Pat Bowen has helped run the Chapel at Eastland for 18 years. She was one of the founding members who began the fete with Fr Coghlan who came up with the idea. The fete began as a week long festival then changed to happening over the whole weekend. Today it runs for one full day. During her time at St John's Pat has made many great friends at the parish. Ever since Pat came to St John's she has loved working with the parish and she says that St John's is a wonderful place! As a community Pat believes we have been very fortunate to have been blessed with such great priests.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

FEBRUARY	23	Thursday	Children and God Evening with Helen Carboon - Prep Parents and Child, 4.45pm or 7.00pm
	24	Friday	Feb Feast
	26	Sunday	Parish Family Mass, 9.45am



In Prep

In ICT I did Letter Getter and I did the Letter Tt. I needed to click on next when I finished the page -By **Riley**.

In ICT I played on Letter Getter. I like the games and I like the one where you have to draw the letter with the mouse -By **Lachie**.

In One/Two

This week we started to learn about coding. We brainstormed the word and came up with some things we thought it meant. These are some of our ideas:

You need to give instructions

You command how you move your player

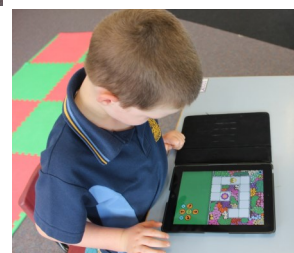
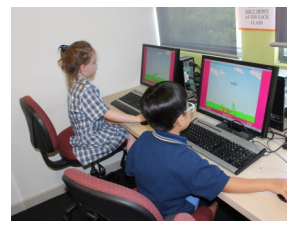
There are different levels of coding

You control a person

It's about puzzles and games and it can get a bit tricky

It's a bit hard and it's fun

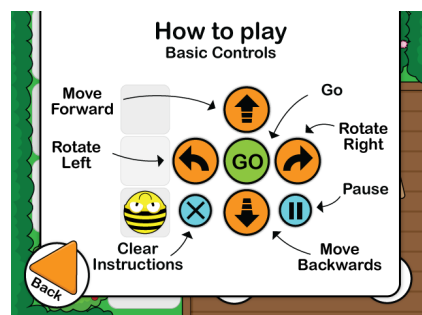
You have to practice to get better at it



We first started by giving ourselves and our partner instructions on how to get to the chair at the front of the classroom. Then we played an app called 'Bee Bot' to help us learn about coding. We had to give the bee instructions on how to get to the flower. Some instructions were move forward, go left and go right.

It started very easy, with only one or two instructions. But then it got really tricky, with sometimes up to seven instructions! To help us we tried to imagine ourselves as the bee and we wrote down the instructions on a piece of paper so we didn't forget them. We liked that it was challenging because if we are doing hard things, we know we are learning. Some skills we needed to use were knowing left from right and working together to problem solve. We can't wait to do some more coding next week!

By **Connor, Abbey, Daniela, Harry, Estelle.**



FEB FEAST

Parish community event on
FRIDAY 24th February 2017
at St. John's

Enjoy foods from Italy, Vietnam, Poland,
Cook Islands, Malta, Sri Lanka UK,
Australia

Time: 6.30 pm start...until the food
runs out!!

Tickets: \$25
on sale after Masses on 4th /5th Feb
Kids \$5 - sausages/drink/icypole



ITALIAN NEWS, Term 1



Benvenuti a tutti!

Welcome to an exciting first term in Italian. All students including the Preps have settled in well and are enthusiastic about their language learning.

This term we are celebrating the unique identity of every student in Italian, “Io sono chi sono”, or I am who I am. As well as adding to their learning from previous years on personal details and descriptions of our physical selves, students will be learning how to express their unique gifts and talents, likes and dislikes in Italian. This knowledge will be displayed on their posters around the school. Our goal is to be able to talk about ourselves with peers and others and learn to respect everybody’s uniqueness.

We are fortunate to have many different cultures among our student body and we will encourage the sharing of other languages and cultural insights during our lessons. We are endeavouring to learn our classroom instructions in Italian at the moment. The first 6 will be found in the “Italian Phrase of the Week” in the Newsletters. We encourage you to practise these phrases with your children. Grazie e buon lavoro.

Thank you and happy working. Saluti da Signora Anne Sciola.



Self Awareness



Our goal in our School Improvement Plan is ‘to further develop a supportive and respectful school environment which fosters positive relationships and empowers every student to be a confident, resilient and successful learner’.

To work towards this goal for our learners is including Social and Emotional Learning as part of our weekly curriculum. Explicitly teaching Social and Emotional Learning as part of our curriculum helps children to further learn about themselves, others and how our emotions and management of these can build positive relationships throughout our lives.

As we continue this term to explore and develop our Self Awareness, we will be focussing on:

Identifying and naming how I feel.

If you would like to make a time with me to chat about your child’s wellbeing please email me.

bjohnson@sjmitcham.catholic.edu.au.

At St John’s we Respect Ourselves, Respect Others and Respect Property

*Have a wonderful week,
Beth Johnson
Student Wellbeing Leader*



See you tomorrow morning for

Marathon Club

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

Years 3-6 students

7.45am

Breakfast supplied afterwards

\$5.00 per term



To view Mathletics - www.mathletics.com.au

Mathletics is a web-based learning program, which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics covers Prep - Year 12 Australian Maths Curriculum and is currently used in over 4000 Australian schools, (8000 schools globally) with more than 800,000 students accessing the site every day. Mathletics at St John's is an integral part of the home learning program across the school. Students at St. John's have access to Mathletics at home and at school through the use of a username and password.

The benefits of Mathletics include:

- Students are engaged and motivated to learn.
- Mathletics is adaptive, it responds to your child's individual strengths and weaknesses.
- Students instantly know if they are on the right track with instant feedback.
- There is a support link (the question mark symbol on the left hand side - ?) which guides students and parents through concepts with images.
- Live Mathletics fosters a stimulating and exciting on-line learning community.
- Creates the perfect link between home and school, where teachers can set tasks in conjunction with current mathematical learnings in the classroom.
- Proven improvement results
- Teachers can view student's progress and adapt their work accordingly.

The Golden rules of Mathletics

- 1) Do each activity (especially set tasks) as Practice=Improvement!
- 2) If you get an answer incorrect - from the response try and figure out your error.
- 3) If you get a question wrong again, go to support to get help (question mark symbol). It will display examples of the concept.
- 4) If you still don't understand the concept send an email or make reference and chat to your teacher. Your teacher will support you.

How to get the most out of Mathletics?

1. Parents need to encourage their child/children to use the program regularly.
2. Parents need to take an active role in their child/children's learning and support them when working on Mathletics.
3. Utilise the links on the right hand side of the screen where there are links to live mathletics, problem solving tasks, concept search, Naplan preparation and rainforest maths games.

PLEASE NOTE – Students gain points by beating their personal best therefore **it is very important for you or other family members NOT to use your child's password**. It is important that Mathletics is seen as a reflection of your child's work, so that the program can adapt accordingly.

Kellie Cumming
Mathematics Leader

FROM YOUR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ---- Do we have news for you? Read on! Do you have news for us? Tell us on yourpa.sjm@gmail.com or like us on Facebook at "St John's Parish Primary Mitcham".

Class Lists and Parents' Association Class Representatives

Thank you to the families who provided their contact details at last week's meet-and-greet sessions. The PA representative for each class will use this info to compile a class list to be distributed to families shortly. This is a handy resource for parents/carers who want to reach out to the families of their children's class mates. The PA class reps will also use this list throughout the year to communicate information regarding upcoming PA activities.

This year, your PA class representatives will be:

Prep: Sarah Longmore

1/2VP: Courtney Laffin

1/2BM: Jackie Harkin

3/4EB: Rhyannon Elliott

3/4 KC: Elizabeth Watkin

3/4RF: Steve Gilbert

5/6TJ: Melissa Greenwood

5/6MO: Suzie Leyden

Please feel free to contact your class rep if you have any questions about PA activities. If you are new to the school, class reps are also a good go-to for any general questions about the school community. If we don't know the answer, we'll be sure to find out!

Parents' Association Calendar 2017

We are very excited about the events and fundraisers planned for 2017. Many of these already have a date attached, so please add to your calendar! For any unconfirmed dates or changes, keep an eye on the weekly school newsletters.

TERM 1

Friday 24 February and Friday 31 March: Special food days

TBA: Bulb fundraiser

Friday 3 March: Dad's dinner

Sunday 26 March: Amazing Race following family mass

Friday 31 March: Easter raffle

Saturday 1 April: Bunnings' BBQ

TERM 2

April, May or June: Family social event (TBD)

May: Entertainment books fundraiser

Friday 12 May: Mother's Day stall and Mother's Day movie night

Friday 26 May: Special food day

June TBA: Chocolate fundraiser

Friday 30 June: Special food day

TERM 3

Saturday 12 August: Major fundraiser night

Friday 1 September: Father's Day breakfast

Friday 22 September: Special footy food day

TERM 4

Friday 20 October: Think Pink afternoon tea

Friday 27 October: Special food day

October/November: Mango fundraiser

Friday 24 November: Special food day

Lunch Orders: Sushi

Tuesday lunch orders will continue this year. The lunch 'special' is now sushi (rather than fried rice)! Orders for sushi must be in by 2pm on Monday and for every sushi order, St John's gets \$1.

Monday 20th January 2017



we make kids smile

St. John's Primary School welcomes Camp Australia



On January 31, 2017, St. John's Primary School Mitcham welcomed the services of Camp Australia for the Before and After School Care program.

This program caters for parents who have limited time to drop and pick up their children during school hours. This will be an exciting time for both St. John's and Camp Australia to be in partnership in the welfare and care of the children.

My name is Cherry Manapol and I am the Camp Australia Coordinator for St John's.
If you have any queries, please contact me on **0418 327 709**.





Happy Valentine's Day

Last Tuesday was Valentine's Day. During the afternoon the children enjoyed doing a craft activity where they painted love heart pictures using pompoms.

The children's participated with excitement and were very creative. Also they recognised that Valentine's Day is about showing love and care to parents, families and friends.



This coming Friday 24th February, we will be having an early school time finish due to Feb Feast at 1pm. Camp Australia will be running After School Care from 1-6pm. Bookings can be made online.



Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or MAC and install. If you need help, go to the following link for instructions: <http://www.skoolbag.com.au/parentinstructions.pdf>



Android Users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or MAC and install. If you need help go to the following link for instructions: <http://www.skoolbag.com.au/parentinstructions.pdf>



SUBWAY SPECIAL FOOD DAY!

Friday 24th February is Subway Special Food Day!
Order forms will be sent home this week.

PLEASE NOTE: Subway has advised of a change on the order forms. Wheat bread has been replaced with wheat grain bread (Includes softened grain).

If you have selected this option and your child would prefer white bread, please call Jackie Harkin on 0411232071.

Italian Phrase of the Week

Week 4: **Tutti in fila**
(too-tee een feelah)
All line up



Please remember to like our Facebook page **St John's Parish Primary School Mitcham** to stay up to date with upcoming events