

St John's Parish

Primary School



December 11, 2017 No. 34

COMING UP AT ST JOHN'S

DECEMBER

12	Tuesday	Education Board and Parent Association Christmas Thank You, 7.00pm
15	Friday	School Reports Go Home
18	Monday	Orientation Morning, Years 1-6 2018 School End of Year Picnic at Halliday Park
19	Tuesday	Last Day of School 2017 for Students Thanksgiving Mass, 7.00pm Year 6 Graduation Supper



Click here to access St John's [Parish Newsletter](#)

Carols Night

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Christmas Carols night last Wednesday. The classroom teachers and students did a fantastic job putting the items together and Penelope coordinated the night beautifully. It is always great to stop and celebrate Christmas time. We congratulate the following students: Anabelle, Bartek and Sienna on their Performing Arts awards for 2017.



Staffing

At this time of year I like to advise you of any changes to staffing for the following year. After being on staff at St John's Mitcham for over 10 years Beth Johnson has decided to accept a teaching position closer to home. We congratulate Beth on her appointment at St Patrick's Lilydale.

Even though this will be a big loss to our community we wish Beth every success. Beth has been a valuable member of staff, always going about her work with pride. As a classroom teacher, she has shown passion in delivering a rich curriculum and engaging students in their learning. As Student Wellbeing Leader Beth has initiated and led programs to support the social and emotional needs of our students. Over the past 3 years I have valued Beth's leadership supporting me in the Deputy Principal role.

Monica O'Shannassy has been appointed Deputy Principal for 2018 and she is very excited about this new opportunity.

A full list of staffing for 2018 will be included in next week's newsletter. We are just in the final stages of appointing a new classroom teacher for 2018.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open first Tuesday 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

Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 4.00pm

PARISH CONTACTS:

PH: 9873 1341

PARISH PRIEST

Father Dispin John

PARISH SECRETARIES

Mrs. Elisa Kelesidis
Mrs. Martine Giles

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Mrs. Maree O'Keefe

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Phone: 03 9874 1575 Fax: 03 9873 2099

Email: principal@sjmitcham.catholic.edu.au Web: www.sjmitcham.catholic.edu.au

Student leadership

Last Thursday many of our current Year 5 students presented their school captain speeches to each other, the Year 4 students and myself. As principal, I was very impressed with the quality of the speeches and how each student presented themselves. It was great to hear many of them refer to how they have grown over their time at St John's, what they believe a good leader does and how the learning disposition have impacted on them as learners. We will announce our 2018 school captains and vice captains at our end of year assembly on Tuesday 19 December at 2:40pm.

School Reports

Formal reports will be sent home with your child's Learning Folio on Friday. These documents capture a snapshot of learning your child has had throughout the second half of the year. This is an opportunity to share together the celebrations and challenges of learning.

Michael Grose (leading childhood and parenting psychologist) reminds us as we undo that sticky envelope to focus on and celebrate your child's strengths and growth over the year, taking into account their effort with their learning and growth in our learning dispositions which support effective learning. Look at their student comment. Children are generally honest and perceptive about themselves and their learning.

We hope you enjoy reading and sharing your child's report and Learning Folios with them this week. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report or want to celebrate their effort and growth more, please make a time with your class teacher to discuss these further.

2018 Transition to new classes

2018 school books for students in year 1-6 will be sent home at the end of this week. The cost of books will be applied to your fees next year. Students should name their books and stationary before returning it on the first day of school next year.

Next Monday morning from 10am to lunchtime, students will meet their new teachers and spend some time with their 2018 class. This is always an exciting time. The Prep – Year 6 learning spaces will remain in the same location as this year.

We will then all walk to Halliday Park for our end of year picnic lunch. Our wonderful Parents' Association will provide a sausage sizzle and icy pole for lunch. Students are welcome to bring their own drink bottle. We will return back to school around 2:30pm.

Thanksgiving Mass

With the Church renovations, Thanksgiving Mass will take place at school in Mackillop Space commencing at 7pm on Tuesday 19 December. We look forward to seeing everyone there. As is tradition, we will acknowledge our leaving families and staff and present the Adamson Cotter award for community service to a student in Year 6. Following mass we invite all Year 6 families to the Coghlan centre for graduation formalities and supper.

Have a great week
Jacqui Marshall
Principal

ST JOHN'S ALUMNI

SOPHIE CHAN

Year Commenced : Prep 2006

Career : Student



On Tuesday the 5th of December, Sophie Chan visited the 5/6's at St John's to talk to us about leadership. Sophie finished school at St John's in 2012 and is going into year 12 at Our Lady of Sion next year. She was the recipient of the annual year 6 Adamson Cotter Award, recognizing outstanding community service in 2012. Earlier this year Sophie was presented with a Leadership Achievement Award by Archbishop Dennis Hart.

Sophie told us that there were two types of leaders, formal leaders and everyday leaders. She told us being a leader is a huge responsibility and no matter where we are and no matter whether or not we are wearing a badge, we are still leaders. She also talked to us about transition from primary school to secondary school. She told us it was important to show leadership and be a good role model. As an example, she showed us pictures of everyday leaders such as Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King and a formal leader, Queen Elizabeth. She told us about what it was like to be in secondary school and the many leadership opportunities that are available. By Sophie and Jude.

Education in Faith News

Our Gospel Challenge this week is to: *stand up for what we think is right!*

In yesterday's Gospel we met John the Baptist who was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of his son.



John the Baptist. Who was this guy?

Do you know someone who stands up for people who are being put down? What about someone who takes a stand on political issues, arguing for peace or pro-life values? Do you know a person who won't laugh at racist jokes?

If you know any of those people, you know John the Baptist. He had the guts to publicly challenge people to follow God's way – a path of compassion, forgiveness, repentance and sacrifice for poor people. He called on ordinary people and the rulers of his day to change their lives. He pointed to Jesus as the example to follow. In the end his courage cost him his life when King Herod imprisoned and murdered him.

Advent is also a time of new beginnings and John the Baptist's 'voice in the wilderness' is a personal invitation to each of us to prepare a way for the Lord into our lives now. What special preparation for Christmas will you undertake this year? How may this be different from what you have done in the past?

Heavenly Father, help each of us
To make a fresh start this Advent,
To put right what is wrong,
And to truly live as Jesus showed us.
Amen

Sincere thanks for your generosity at Carols on the Green. The Social Justice Team will purchase fifteen \$20 Coles/Myer vouchers for St Vincent de Paul to place in Christmas hampers for local families in need. I look forward to seeing you all at the Thanks Giving Mass on Tuesday 19 December at 7.00pm.

Have an enjoyable week,
Monica

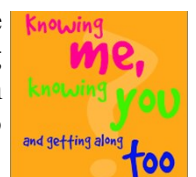
Social Management – Appreciating Diversity



An important element of social awareness in social and emotional learning (SEL) is developing children's ability to take the perspective of, and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Families and schools are valuable places for children to learn about understanding others.

The key areas of learning in SEL for social awareness are: perspective-taking, empathy, appreciating diversity and respect for others.

At St John's we celebrate our diverse community. Through our SEL curriculum, students have had learning opportunities to recognise that our beliefs and values are not the only way of seeing or doing things, opening them up to learning about other perspectives. Students have also been exploring similarities and differences in our cultural expectations, improving their capacity to understand and relate to others, and helping to build a sense of belonging at our school.



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

Have a great week,

Beth Johnson
Student Wellbeing Leader

Christmas Mass Timetable 2017



Parish Advent Penitential Celebration

Thursday 21 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday 24 December

6.00pm
(5.30pm Carols)

St James Family Mass
51 Centre Rd, Vermont

PLEASE NOTE:

No 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day at St James

8.30pm
(7.45pm Carols)

St John's Family Mass
St John's Church

11.00pm
(10.30 Carols)

Evening Mass
St John's Church

PLEASE NOTE:

11.00pm Mass is in place of Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses

Monday 25 December

8.30am
10.30am

St John's Church
St John's Church

PLEASE NOTE:

No 5.00pm Mass on Christmas Day at St John's

MARATHON CLUB NEWS

On Thursday the 14th of December we will be having a special breakfast at the park to celebrate the wonderful year we have had in Marathon Club. Anyone who has participated in Marathon Club this year is welcome to come along. We will be meeting at school and leaving at the normal time, 7:45am, to go to Halliday Park where we will be having a special breakfast and then coming back to school for the rest of the day. Thank you, **Anabelle, Molly and Tahlia.**



BIRTHDAYS

This week we congratulate MJ Clifford and Hayden Dalton as they celebrate their birthday.

We hope you have a "Happy Day!"



ST JOHN'S SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP

Another year approaches its end and time has come to celebrate our progress and learning this year in Scottish dancing.

Scottish Dancers and the St John's School Choir are performing at the Vermont Aged Care Centre on Wednesday 13 December.

After this we will have our final Scottish dance class



We invite parents, grandparents and friends to attend this open class. We would like to share with you some of the new dances that we have learned this year.

We would also like to invite any children who will be in grade three next year, interested in joining the group to come along with their parents.

The presentation will take place in the Mary MacKillop Space and will begin at approximately 3:30 and should finish about 4:15pm.



Italian Phrase of the Week

Week 34: Che bello, e' quasi Natale!
(Kay bay-loh, ay kwarzee nah-tah-lay)
How lovely, it's almost Christmas!

Christmas Carols at St John's 2017

