



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 13 – 11 August 2016

Dear Families

We have reached the halfway point of Term Three which seems to have come around so quickly this year. In the coming weeks we have the Year Three and Five camps, Book Week celebrations and the annual Walk-a-thon.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN reports for individual students in Years 3 and 5 were recently received and have been sent home to parents. These reports show that the College has continued to perform well above the State average in all five assessment areas. Schools can use the data from NAPLAN to identify areas for individual improvement or to initiate school-wide programs targeting specific areas. Last year we focussed on Spelling and this year we introduced a new Writing program across the year levels. These initiatives are proving to be highly effective with NAPLAN data showing a strong upward trend.

One of the results of our new approach to Spelling and Writing is the large percentage of our students now sitting in the top two NAPLAN achievement bands (out of a possible six). For example, in Writing, over 60% of Year 3 students are in the top two bands and in Spelling the percentage of students in the top two bands has increased significantly in both year levels. In Year 5 this figure has increased from 39.6% to 45.2% and in Year 3 it has jumped from 46.3% in 2015 to 74.6% this year.



The students continue to perform well in Grammar (over 60% in the top two bands) and Numeracy (over 50% in the top two bands) in both year levels. This demonstrates excellent outcomes for our students with ongoing improvements each year compared to the State average which has flat-lined. I commend our teachers for the fine work they do in teaching and mentoring your children every school day.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Some people might question why we need to implement the IB Primary Years Program when we already have an outstanding academic curriculum in place. Why do we need more? There are some significant advantages of the PYP that enhance our students' understanding, abilities and attitudes. It is one thing to have a lot of knowledge and the ability to work in English and Mathematics with ease, but it is another thing to know what to do with the knowledge you have.

A key issue that International Baccalaureate programs address. St John's has introduced the PYP in all primary year levels and the MYP (Middle Years Program) in our Middle School because we want our students to develop expertise in more than just memorising facts and figures. We want our students to be able to take the information they have learnt and apply it in new ways to solve problems or design something new. We want them to know how to work and learn collaboratively, to think creatively, to critically investigate information and data, to communicate in effective ways and to reflect on their learning and take action. These skills are so important for the 21st Century and yet regular academic curriculums do not address them effectively.



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This is why our school has made the exciting decision to introduce the International Baccalaureate and provide a far better education for our students. It is interesting to note that hundreds of schools around the world are making a similar decision and introducing one or more of the IB programs. According to the IB website, 'Between February 2011 and February 2016 the number of IB programs offered worldwide grew by 46.4%'. This huge increase has occurred because more and more schools understand the value added to an education with the introduction of the IB.



INTERHOUSE EISTEDDFOD

Our annual Interhouse Eisteddfod is a wonderful event, that encourages students in Years 1 to 6 to participate in the performing arts and in doing so contribute points to their House. This year our Eisteddfod will run from 12 to 14 September and students may enter in up to five sections. **Entries must be received no later than Wednesday 24 August.** Late entries cannot be accepted as the program will be developed according to the entries received by 24 August and there will be no room for additions once the timetable for each section is finalised.

There is a single entry fee of \$1.00 per student and this allows competitors to enter as many sections as they wish, up to a total of five. All monies raised will be donated to our World Vision sponsor child.

The culminating section of the Eisteddfod involves all students in Years 3 to 6 performing with their House in either a dance or choral item. House Captains and Vice Captains will be working with the students in their Houses during House meetings to ensure the performances are well polished and ready for adjudication.

Students wanting to register to compete in the Eisteddfod should see Miss Siren for further information and obtain a registration form. We are very keen to see lots of students participating and earning points for their House. The winning individuals and House will be congratulated at the Performing Arts Eisteddfod Concert to be held in the last week of Term Three.

BOOK WEEK

We are celebrating Book Week from Monday 22 to Friday 26 August this year. Some of the highlights are listed below:



Reading Hour for Years 3 to 6 6.00pm Tuesday 23 August in the Library

Book Week Parade for Prep to Year 6 8.45am Wednesday 24 August in 'The Meadow' or centre courtyard of the primary campus. Students are allowed to wear their costume all day if they wish, as long as the costume has enclosed shoes and sleeves for sun protection. Students wearing costumes that are not appropriate for all-day wear should bring their sports uniform to change into. Please don't forget hats.

Pjama Party for Kindy to Year 2 6.00pm Friday 26 August in the Library

We look forward to seeing lots of our families join us at these special events as we celebrate the joy of reading and the wonder of books.



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ICAS SCIENCE

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with certificates of commendation for their achievement in this year's ICAS Science test:



Year 3

Credit Ryan Waalder, Lucia Luu, Bridie Kennedy, Ishah Gallacher

Distinction Abraham Boudjema

Year 4

Credit William Roberts, Riley Portsmouth, Chanelle Ogilvy, Ryan Nguyen, Alexis Haare, Roderick Albay

Distinction Hemish Dubey, Samuel Adams, Deeptangsu Maitra

Year 5

Credit Reubin Reid, Sophie Redfern, Talia Golding, Mikayla Braithwaite, Kobe Blake, Sarah Absolom, Lara Chard

Distinction Sophie Nicholls, Alexander Dinh, Ella Dewitt

High Distinction Isaac Le

Year 6

Credit Toby Van der Beek, Sahil Singh, Sarah Prasla, Lachlan Patterson, Ryan Nguyen, Sujong Ha, Brodi Fitzgerald

Distinction Luca Wilson, Jason Jiang, Ethan Duy Minh Nguyen

PREP VISION SCREENING

Good vision is important for a child's educational, physical and social development. Vision screening is therefore vital in early childhood, particularly for conditions such as 'lazy eye', which if not detected early can lead to blindness.

A Registered Nurse will be visiting St John's this month to commence vision screening for all Prep Year children. If you wish to have your child participate in this vision screening program, please complete and sign the consent form sent home with your child and return this to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. You will be advised in writing of the outcome of your child's screening.

Please note that if your child has had a vision assessment in the past 12 months it is not necessary for him/her to participate in this screening program. If this is the case, please complete the consent form and indicate that you do not wish for your child to participate, and ensure that you follow the schedule of reviews recommended by your eye health professional.

Kind regards

Sandra Hawken

Head of Primary