



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 11 – 14 July 2016

Dear Families

Welcome back to Term Three! It has been lovely listening to all the stories the children have been sharing with us about their holiday experiences. It sounds as though everyone has enjoyed a fabulous break away from regular school routine and they are ready for a new term of learning.

During the holidays a number of teachers and I attended a three-day PYP workshop to learn more about the International Baccalaureate and inquiry approach to learning. We networked with people from all over Australia, from Egypt, Canada, Asia and New Zealand. It was pleasing to hear about various educational programs operating around the world and to compare them to what is in place at St John's. I am thrilled to know that what our teachers are providing for your children is world class, and in many ways, such as our focus on STEM, it is a step ahead.

Term Three is a wonderful period of learning and celebration at St John's. There are a number of special events taking place and information about those in July is listed below. We look forward to our families joining us at these events.

JULY

- Monday 18 **Academic Assembly**, 9.00am in Living Faith Chapel. Students in Years 3 to 6 who achieved high academic results in Semester One will be congratulated.
- Monday 25 **Foundation Day Service** for Year 3 to 12, 12.15pm in the Performing Arts Centre of Excellence, College Avenue. All students and staff in Years 3 to 6 will travel to the secondary campus by College bus.
- Friday 29 **Foundation Day Assembly** for P to Year 2, 9.00 am in Living Faith Chapel.

Fancy Dress Ball – to be held in the Auditorium of Forest Lake State High School. The Early Years (Prep – Year 2) section of the evening will commence at 6.00pm and conclude at 7.00pm. **P to 2 students are requested to meet their teachers in FLSHS Auditorium at 5.45pm for roll call.**

Primary students (**Years 3 – 6**) are asked to report to their class teachers at 7.20pm to commence their section at 7.30pm. The evening will conclude at 8.30pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone there dressed in fancy dress costumes that follow an Australiana theme. We encourage families to make use of items of clothing they already have rather than hiring costumes. We have found that some of the best costumes are home-made!



When our College was first established we shared a number of facilities with the State schools immediately next door to both of our campuses. In recognition of the historical connection between the schools we continue to hold our Fancy Dress Ball at the local State High School. We thank them for allowing us to use their auditorium/gymnasium space. We also thank the Tech Crew made up of St John's students and led by Mr Wayne Pascoe, who provide the music for us on the evening. Their expertise ensures that we have an excellent repertoire of music for lots of dancing.

Friendships

Finding friends and maintaining friendships can be difficult at times for some children and they can mistakenly think that friendships will remain constant at all times. In reality friendships regularly shift and change, growing ever stronger or in other cases slipping away. As children grow and develop their own confidence and individual interests they may drift away from friends they had in younger year levels and establish different relationships with peers who share their new interests. This is a perfectly normal occurrence but it can be difficult for those students who feel as though they are losing their friend. They are often unsure of what to do because they lack life experience. At St John's we make a point of talking to students of every year level about friendship and the qualities that make a good friend, through our Personal Development programs and Chapel for example. We want all our children to know how to be a good friend, to have an understanding of how relationships can change and to know some strategies to use in a variety of 'friendship' situations.



We know that every child has his/her own friendship temperament. For example, naturally shy, outgoing, or even bossy. A child may like playing in large groups or playing one-on-one. This temperament will influence the types of friends a child seeks.

We also know that conflicts arise at every age, including with close friends, but the ability to resolve conflicts independently develops as children become older. With guidance and support, we aim to help all our students develop the skills they require to negotiate all sorts of friendship issues.

While most children at primary school prefer to play with friends of the same gender, by the age of eleven or twelve, with the onset of puberty, platonic boy-girl friendships can begin to form. Girls may often spend time talking about boys, and boys often wonder how to relate to girls. It is around this time that it is important for young people to learn about puberty and the right kinds of guidelines for social interaction during the adolescent years.

Let's Chat Puberty Education

Families play an important role in their children's social development and are ultimately responsible for teaching their children about puberty and sex education. To assist parents in this area we have invited a guest speaker from 'Let's Chat Education' to run a family workshop for Year 5 and 6 students and their parents. The workshop provides children with a great introduction to puberty and is a foundation for ongoing discussions.

Topics covered include:

- Names and functions of reproductive body parts
- Physical, social and emotional changes of puberty
- Keeping my body healthy and safe.



If you are not sure how to start the conversation about puberty with your child, coming along to this workshop with your son or daughter is a great way to build confidence to chat about growing up and body changes. The workshop will be held in the evening of Tuesday 13 September, in Living Faith Chapel and will be limited to the first 30 families.

Please contact Primary Reception to register your interest in attending this informative presentation.



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St. John Ambulance

Recently, Eilish Teague was awarded the Commissioner's Badge for her significant involvement with St. John Ambulance. In order to achieve this special badge, Eilish had to earn nine badges first, and volunteered for 100 hours, assisting at weekend sports and other events. We congratulate Eilish on this wonderful achievement.

St. John Junior and Cadet membership allows young people to meet others, attend camps and First Aid competitions, teaches them valuable life skills (including First Aid), builds self confidence and self-esteem, and 'gives back' to the wider community (in the form of attending duties with Adult members providing First Aid services at a variety of events).



Other students in our community may be interested in joining the St. John Ambulance programs: Juniors (8-10yrs inclusive) or Cadets (11-17yrs inclusive). Membership information for those interested in joining Algester Division's Juniors and Cadets can be obtained by contacting Zak Tilbury (algestercadets@stjohnqld.com.au or Phone 0427-023-744).

Head Lice

During the holidays some of our families became aware of head lice in their children's hair. These annoying pests turn up from time to time and parents are encouraged to make a point of regularly checking their children's hair and if necessary applying the necessary treatment to eliminate the problem.

Kind Regards
Sandra Hawken
Head of Primary