



# Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 18 – 3 November 2016

Dear Families

Early last week, three teachers and I attended professional development training with Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ). The guest presenter was Kath Murdoch, a well-known Australian educator and author of 'The Power of Inquiry', a book filled with strategies to encourage inquiry, deep thinking and self-reflection in the learning process. There were numerous schools represented, all keen to keep abreast of the latest research on preparing young people for the future.



Listening to the discussion around the room, it was clearly evident to me that St John's is well ahead of many other schools that are only just embarking on teaching programs, involving inquiry and learning through collaboration and STEM. We have already put in place many of the strategies for effective learning recommended by Kath Murdoch and other education experts. Our unique balance of explicit instruction and student inquiry is helping our students to establish strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy while at the same time growing their creative thinking and problem solving abilities.

There was evidence of this at the College's recent inaugural Innovation Challenge. The Challenge involved teams of students from Years Four to Ten developing their innovative ideas or products and preparing a presentation to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges. At the Innovation Challenge finals held last week, the Master of Ceremonies and one of the guest mentors, Mr Aaron Birkby, who is an entrepreneur in residence at River City Labs, commented that 'St John's is leaps and bounds ahead of other schools in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship'.

We were very fortunate to have the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, the Honourable Leeanne Enoch visit the student displays and address the teams. The Minister was very impressed with the students' ideas and congratulated them on their efforts.



Four primary teams were selected to pitch their ideas in the final section of the Challenge. They included:

- Sahil Singh and Luca Wilson with their 'Nano-net' to stop oil spills in the world's oceans.
- Team 'Sunbay', with Sarah Absolom, Jade Paul and Lianna Pike, with their voice activated window tinting.
- Hemish Dubey and Jeeva Bala Ganesh, with their device to monitor exhaust emissions.
- Team 'Cilidean' made up of Tahlia Fisher and Amber Trieu, with their new medication combining probiotic with antibiotic to prevent antibiotic resistance.



# Presenting Primary

I was so proud of the primary students who participated in this year's Innovation Challenge. Pitching their ideas against students up to Year 10 and speaking to a panel of judges who asked on-the-spot questions, was not an easy task and yet our students rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly.

**innovation  
CHALLENGE**  
Wednesday, 26 October 2016



Three awards were presented at the conclusion of the finals and one of our primary teams 'Team Cilidean' received the Emerging Innovators Award. We congratulate all the students who participated in this prestigious event and look forward to seeing the outcomes of future Innovation Challenges.

Some might ask, 'Why teach innovation and entrepreneurship? What's wrong with just teaching Reading, Writing and Arithmetic?'

Allowing students to identify an area in which they can make a difference in the world is not only beneficial for the child, it can also have a positive impact on the future for all. Benefits for students include, but are certainly not limited to:

- **Building Tenacity** - which helps students develop perseverance and stick with investigations to find solutions. Angela Duckworth refers to this as 'grit' and suggests that grit may be the single most important factor in a person's long-term success in this world.
- **Encouraging Creativity** – students work together to share ideas, ask questions and think in innovative ways.
- **Developing Leadership** – students who participate in activities such as our Innovation Challenge often want to make a difference in the world. They can stand out as leaders who are passionate about the innovation they create.
- **Networking and Collaborating** – working collaboratively with people who have different ideas, helps students to broaden their own perspective and learn from others.

With these extra opportunities young people are far better equipped to live a purposeful and successful life as adults. At St John's we see it as a privilege to contribute to the lives of our students in such a positive way.

## Parents and Friends Raffle

Thank you to all our families who have sold their raffle tickets and returned money and ticket butts. The raffle has many fabulous prizes and we are looking forward to drawing the winning tickets later this month. Please return your ticket books no later than Thursday 17 November. The winning tickets will be drawn and winners announced on Friday 18 November. Thank you for supporting this P & F initiative.

## Brownies for Breast Cancer and Cupcakes for RSPCA

Recently, we had two fundraising events held during morning tea and lunchtime. Last week, students were able to purchase brownies to help raise funds for research into breast cancer. It was wonderful to see the support for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to the Year 5 students and families who helped with this event.



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The Year 4 students organised Cupcake Day for RSPCA this week and nearly \$200 was raised to help the RSPCA. Thank you to the Year 4 students and families for their support by cooking the lovely cupcakes.

## Disability Car Park

Parents are reminded that the car parks reserved for disabled parking should not be used by families unless they carry a valid disability parking permit. At times the reserved car parks on school grounds have been taken by cars that are not displaying a disability parking permit. Please demonstrate respect for the members of our community who require special parking considerations and refrain from using the disability parks without a valid permit.



## Important Dates this Term

We have a number of very special events taking place this term and we look forward to seeing our families join us at these events:

Fri 4 Nov	Primary Awards Assembly, 9.00am Living Faith Chapel Year 5 Cultural Showcase, 10.00am Living Faith Chapel Evening of Jazz, 7.00pm Living Faith Chapel
Sat 5 Nov	Orientation Day for new students 8.00am Kindergarten, 9.00am P - 6
Mon 7 Nov	Night of Celebration, Years Three to Twelve, 7.00pm City Hall
Wed 9 Nov	Primary Swimming Carnival, Waterworx Aquatic Centre, Springfield
Tues 15 Nov	Drama Club performance of Matilda, 6.00pm College Auditorium
Thur 17 Nov	Little Saints Kindergarten Graduation, 6.00pm Living Faith Chapel
Thur 24 Nov	Science Club, Geology Presentation, 3.15pm Year 3M classroom
Fri 25 Nov	Early Years Night of Celebration, 6.30pm College Auditorium
Fri 2 Dec	Christmas Concert, 9.00am Living Faith Chapel

Kind regards

**Sandra Hawken**

**Head of Primary**

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**Science Club**  
**Geology Presentation**  
**Thursday 24 November 3.15-4.30pm**



Dear Parents,

To end an exciting year of Science Club, we would like to invite children in Years 3 to 6 to a geology presentation on **Thursday, November 24** from **3.15 to 4.30** in the **3M classroom**. Tim Scholefield, renowned geologist, will explore the Earth's geological time clock, plate tectonics, natural disasters and energy sources with children.

If your child would like to participate in this presentation, please complete the form overleaf and return it via email to [mmconaghy@sjac.qld.edu.au](mailto:mmconaghy@sjac.qld.edu.au) by **Tuesday, November 22**.

Kind Regards,

Melissa McConaghy and Emma Kime



# Presenting Primary

## Science Club Geology Presentation Permission

Thursday, November 24, 3:15-4:30

I/We allow \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) in class \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Geology Presentation.

I/We understand that the presentation runs from 3.15pm-4.30pm on a Thursday, November 24 in the 3M classroom.

I/We understand that places are limited and RSVP is required by Tuesday, November 22.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return to Mrs McConaghy – Year Three***

[MMcConaghy@sjac.qld.edu.au](mailto:MMcConaghy@sjac.qld.edu.au)