



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 2 – 11th February 2016

Dear Parents

What a wonderful week we are having with our celebration of Chinese New Year and Pancake Day, our Ash Wednesday services, District Swimming Carnival and Primary Leaders Badging Ceremony. There is never a dull moment at St John's! While our students have been busily learning and participating in a wide variety of activities, the builders on site have been busily working on our new learning spaces. The project is looking great and is due for completion before the end of this month. I know the teachers and students are very excited about the opportunities these new learning spaces will provide for collaboration, inquiry and connectivity.



External Competitions

This year all Year 5 and 6 students will participate in the ICAS English Competition, ICAS Science Competition and Australian Mathematics Competition. We value such competitions because they provide an opportunity for students to become 'test wise' and to compare their abilities at a national level. The College will cover all entry fees for students in Years 5 and 6 for these competitions.

For students in Years 3 and 4, parents may nominate their children and pay the entry fee for any competitions they would like them to enter. If parents would like their children to participate they are asked to complete the attached permission form and return it to Primary Reception along with the required fees. Entry fees must be paid by Friday 4 March. Please read the attachment for further information.



Presenting Primary

Parent Information Evening

On Tuesday 16 February, commencing at 6.00pm, we will be holding a Parent Information Session. The evening will begin with an important Child Protection presentation, which all parents who wish to assist at the College in a voluntary manner, should attend. The Child Protection Session will be conducted in Living Faith Chapel.

Immediately following this session parents are invited to join their child's teachers in Prep to Year 3 to learn strategies for helping their children with their learning. The teachers will outline the programs that are running at school and what parents can do at home to assist their children with such things as reading, mathematics and inquiry learning.

Parents in Prep to Year Three are encouraged to attend this information evening as it will also be an opportunity to hear about what each year level is doing in their International Baccalaureate PYP units of inquiry.

Year Four to Six teachers will conduct their Parent Information Sessions in March, after the building works have been completed and classes have moved into their new rooms. This will allow parents to experience learning in the new classrooms as well as hear about the innovative programs being taught. We will advise you as soon as this date has been confirmed.

I look forward to seeing parents at their respective information sessions in the coming weeks.

Parking and Kiss and Drive Procedures

Parents are reminded that parking on school grounds is reserved for Staff and Kindergarten families only. Parents delivering their children to early morning clubs and activities, such as Running Club and Tennis, are asked to move their cars from the College grounds by 7.45am to allow staff and Kindergarten parents to park prior to the commencement of school.

The Emergency Parking zone directly in front of the double gates at the far end of the oval must never be blocked by parked vehicles. The Emergency zone, clearly identified with yellow hatched markings, allows easy access for emergency vehicles onto the oval when required.

Alpine Place can become congested at pick-up time, particularly with the builders currently using a significant number of car parks. We recommend that parents refrain from coming to pick-up too early as delaying the collection of your child minimises congestion. Parents who do arrive in the pick-up zone prior to their child may be asked to move on and return again later to allow the traffic to continue to flow.

The Kiss and Drive process was developed after much consultation with Brisbane City Council and Police. The following points should be remembered when using Kiss and Drive:

- The Kiss and Drive zone is a 'two minute pick-up and drop-off area' and drivers should not leave their car whilst in this area.
- Vehicles are not permitted to park in the Kiss and Drive Queuing zone.
- Vehicles should not enter the round-a-bout if it will obstruct the movement of traffic. It is an offence to stop at any point on the round-a-bout and obstruct traffic while waiting to enter the Queuing zone.



Presenting Primary

- Parents are asked to be considerate of those following behind and move to the farthest space in the zone before stopping in the Kiss and Drive area.
- Waiting until 3.20pm avoids the busiest pick up time and minimises congestion.

The Kiss and Drive process works well when parents follow the procedures and assist us by staggering the collection of their children. Children are always supervised in the Kiss and Drive area until 3.30pm each day and so parents do not need to rush to the school at exactly 3.00pm or 3.10pm when classes finish.

I thank you for your support in using Kiss and Drive safely.

Uniform

It was so pleasing to see the children arrive to school at the commencement of the year in their new uniforms, hats and polished shoes. As we become busily involved in various College activities some uniform items can be misplaced, or in the rush to get to school certain uniform items may be forgotten. The following dot points outline some of the St John's uniform expectations:

- Hats should be worn to and from school each day.
- Jewellery should not be worn to school apart from a watch. Girls may wear one small, silver or gold, round stud or sleeper in each ear and ear rings should not contain coloured stones.
- Hair should be of a conservative style. For boys, tracks and very short sides are not appropriate. Girls with hair touching the shoulders or longer must have their hair tied back and wear ribbons/hair bands of the College colours - red, white and blue. Parents are asked to remember our uniform expectations when organising haircuts for their children.
- Sports shoes should be predominately white with white shoe laces.
- Students in Years 3 to 6 should ensure that they wear a College badge on the right of their collar and House badge on the left every day the formal uniform is worn. Students in younger grades may also wear the College badge and House badge although these are not compulsory until Year 3.
- All items of clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's name so they can be returned to their owner if misplaced.

Head Lice

A few cases of head lice have been reported in the last week and parents are encouraged to be vigilant in checking their child's hair. Head Lice is very common and can be minimised with regular checking and following recommended procedures to remove them if they are found. Further information about head lice treatment can be found at:

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/165/351/Head-Lice>

Scarlett Fever

We have been informed today that one of our students has been diagnosed with Scarlett Fever. This is a contagious condition with symptoms including a reddish sore throat, a fever and a red rash with a sandpaper-like texture. Some patients will have whitish coating on the tongue or the throat and may have swollen glands, headache, nausea and vomiting, and/or body aches. The classic description of the rash of scarlet fever has been described as "goose bumps" on a sunburned skin.

The best way to prevent or lessen the chance of contracting scarlet fever is hand washing. In addition, communal use of utensils, towels, or other personal items should be avoided. Transmission of the disease is

person to person, usually by droplets, so direct contact with infected individuals should be avoided. Patients who are treated with antibiotics and have had no fever for about 24 hours are considered to be noncontagious. We encourage parents to monitor the health of their children and keep them home from school if they display any of the symptoms listed above. Please remind them to always wash their hands thoroughly before eating and after going to the bathroom.

Clubs and Extra Curricular Activities

Our Performing Arts and Sporting activities for Term One have all commenced and we are very pleased to see such large numbers of students participating. As well as Art Club for Year One and Chess Club, we are also offering Environmental Club and Science Club.

Environmental Club will be conducted by Miss Hargreaves on Friday lunchtimes and is open to all students in Years One to Six. Students interested in learning about the environment and becoming actively involved in sustainable practices can meet Miss Hargreaves in the Chapel on Fridays at lunchtimes. This club will commence in Week 4, on Friday 19 February.

Science Club will be held in the Science Lab on Thursdays after school from 3.15 to 4.15pm. This Club will be run by Mrs Kime and Mrs McConaghy. Science Club this term is available to students in Years 2 to 4. Parents wishing their children to be involved in Science Club or Environmental Club are asked to complete the appropriate tear off slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to Primary Reception, or email Reception on awright@sjac.qld.edu.au.

We encourage parents to get their children involved in at least one extra-curricular activity as they are a wonderful way of enhancing the education of your children.

Kind Regards
Sandra Hawken
Head of Primary





Presenting Primary

Science Club – Year 2 to 4

I/We allow _____ (child's name) in class _____ to participate in the Science Club.

I/We understand that the club runs from 3.15pm-4.15pm on a Thursday afternoon in the Science Lab.

I/We understand that places may be limited and may be allocated on a termly basis.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return to Primary Reception



Environmental Club - Year 1 to 6

I/We allow _____ (child's name) in class _____ to participate in the Environmental Club.

I/We understand that the club runs during lunchtime on Fridays.

I/We understand that places may be limited and may be allocated on a termly basis.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return to Primary Reception