



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 7 – 12 May 2016

Dear Parents

I recently attended the biennial Anglican Schools ASCENT Conference where I heard a range of interesting presentations. One of the speakers was internationally renowned author, John Marsden, whose long list of books include, 'Tomorrow When the War Began' and 'Rabbits'. John spoke to us about harnessing imagination and suggested that children often lose their creative and imaginative thought as they grow older.

He suggested that when we always laugh at our young children's cute and funny answers to questions this can, over time, have an impact on their imagination. Children use their imagination in response to questions because they don't always know the answers. Not wanting to look silly in front of adults, children may choose to refrain from answering questions and sharing their imaginative thoughts. While I am not sure that this is entirely correct, I do believe we need to encourage curiosity and wonder in children so that they increase their imagination and creativity over time.

In an environment where there is one right answer for most things and the focus is on only 'getting everything correct', creativity can be stifled. Children need a learning environment that provides ample opportunity for asking questions and thinking deeply about concepts and issues. They need to use their imagination to create and solve problems. They need opportunities to explore, experiment and investigate. A PYP classroom allows these things to occur and encourages students to ask questions and then ask more. Inquiry in the PYP doesn't look for the one right answer, but instead generates further avenues for wonder, imagination and the development of deep understanding. It is a great place to learn.



Monster Book Fair

Look out – we have monsters coming to school for our annual Scholastic Book Fair. This will be held in the Primary Library in Weeks 7 and 8, and at the following times:

- **Thurs 26 May, Fri 27 May, Mon 30 May 7am-8:30am and 3pm-4:30pm**
- **Tuesday 31 May – Grandparents Day – ALL DAY!**

Families are most welcome to visit the Library during the Book Fair to see it 'monsterfied' and looking amazing. Parents and students can purchase books for themselves and even donate a book to the school if they wish!

There will also be a guessing competition - 'Guess How Many Eyeballs' in the jar at 50 cents a guess. The money raised from the Book Fair supports the education of our students by contributing more resources to our library. We hope to see you there.





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College Carnival

It's only one week away! We sincerely thank the many members of our College community who have donated items for the stalls, baked cakes, volunteered to set up, help on the day and pack away. Their support has been absolutely marvellous.

We still need some more assistance with cooking for the Cakes and Sweets Stall and the Homewares and Gift Stall would appreciate some more items. Please consider contributing to these stalls.

And don't forget the ride bands on sale for \$35 – a real bargain, when single rides cost between \$5 and \$7 each on the day.

Premier's Reading Challenge

St John's Anglican College will again be participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge, now in its eleventh year, is an initiative of the Queensland Government which is aimed at helping to improve children's literacy by boosting the number of books they read, and encouraging more challenging texts.



The Premier's Reading Challenge recognises the range of student abilities. All students are encouraged to participate because the Challenge is not a competition, but a way to encourage greater involvement and develop a love of reading for life. It is recommended for students generally in **Prep to Grade 4 to read or engage in 20 books**. For our younger students home readers can be used to complete their reading record. Engaging with a book can include at-home activities such as shared reading, listening and reading along with a book, or being read to. **Years 5 - 6 are recommended to read 15 books**, and these can include books read at home or in class.

Each student will be issued with a Reading Record sheet. Each book that they read or engage in should be recorded on this sheet. Once the required number of books has been recorded, the sheet can be handed into your child's teacher straight away.

All children who take up the challenge and read the required number of books will receive a signed certificate from the Premier. The Reading Challenge begins on the **Monday May 16 and runs until the Friday 26 August 2016**.

As reading is a critical part of each student's development it would be a great idea to support your child's involvement in this challenge. It will be a wonderful opportunity to help foster their love of reading. If you are wanting any further information check the Premier's Reading Challenge website, www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge

Thank you for your support and participation, happy reading!

Kind regards
Sandra Hawken
Head of Primary





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CUTE MONSTER STORYTIME



Bring your little one along and enjoy a story or two together, take home an activity to try as well.

Please come dressed up as a cute monster!

There will be an opportunity to browse in the Book Fair afterwards as well – and maybe purchase a new story?

Who: Pre-Kindy children with an adult

When: Monday 30 May

Time: 8:45am till 9:15am

Where: St John's Anglican College Library- Primary Campus



This is an opportunity for you to enjoy time with your child and experience the fun of books – the building blocks to literacy.

See you there!

CARNIVAL 2016

YEAR 2 HOMEWARES & GIFTS STALL

Hello Fellow Parents

Do you have an item in your cupboard that perhaps was gifted to you or you don't use?

Here is the perfect opportunity to 'pay it forward' and donate it to our Year 2 Stall.

Any item that you think someone else would be happy to receive as a gift will be gladly accepted.

If you are able to assist, please drop off your items at Primary Reception or if you are passing the Year 2 classrooms, please place into the two large plastic containers.

**Thank you in advance for your help,
Sharyn – Year 2 Stall Convenor**

Please Note: We are unable to take any electrical items.