



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 8 – 26 May 2016

Dear Families

Carnival Congratulations

We had the most amazing time at the College Carnival last Saturday and it was wonderful to see so many families attending. We sincerely thank everyone who assisted with stalls, donating items, helping to set up and pack up, plan, supervise and so on. We also congratulate the members of the Parents and Friends Association and the Carnival



Committee for the outstanding success of the Carnival. Every contribution helped to ensure the great success of the day. The final outcome of the Carnival and how much has been raised will not be known until all accounts have been paid and donations received. We are all excited to see how much was raised and you will be informed as soon as this is finalised.

National Simultaneous Story Time and Book Fair



Reading is a wonderful past-time and yesterday the entire primary school stopped what we usually do straight after morning tea and joined in the National Simultaneous Story Time event. Because the weather has been so delightful, many of us found a quiet spot on the oval to read for a period of time. This national event has become an annual activity and provides us with another opportunity to join the wider community in celebrating books and the enjoyment we can gain from reading.

This week we also welcomed our Monster Book Fair into the library. It has a huge range of books and other items for sale and parents and students are invited to visit the Book Fair before and/or after school each day, until the morning of Wednesday 1 June. Opening hours are: 7.00am to 8.30am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm. The College receives a commission on all sales and the money raised will be used to purchase new items for the library.



Reading Comprehension

We all know that a vital aspect of learning to read involves knowing the letters of the alphabet and understanding the variety of sounds different letters can represent, individually or when placed together. But did you know that there are other important aspects of reading that children need to develop to become strong fluent readers?

Good readers not only decipher the words on a page by sounding them out or remembering sight words, they also gain meaning from the text. They make predictions and inferences, apply the information they are gaining through the words to their own experience and clarify confusing parts of the text. These processes are essential for real comprehension to occur and they do not necessarily develop as quickly as the ability to sound out letters and say the words written on a page.

Reading is a multifaceted process that needs hours of practice for each individual to develop fluency and comprehension. Without fluency and comprehension, we do not gain the full meaning from the text.

Let's compare the difference in reading between a strong reader and one with poor reading skills. Good readers know why they are reading a text, they think about what they are reading and monitor their understanding. They understand the messages the text is conveying. On the other hand, poor readers focus on decoding words and don't see the connections among the parts of the text. They do not understand the concept of reading for meaning.

While some children quickly develop skills in decoding words and appear to be reading fluently and without error, it is important to determine their level of comprehension, because without it, they will not be able to gain the full meaning of the variety of texts they read.



The best ways to encourage the development of comprehension include asking questions, building vocabulary and providing opportunities to practice reading. Teachers weave these activities into their daily teaching plans and regularly check each child's comprehension. Whether a child is a strong reader or one whose reading skills are currently not so strong, parents can help their children at home to improve their comprehension skills by:

- asking their children questions about the books they are reading. This prompts the child to think about their reading and uncover the meaning.
- talking to their children regularly and introducing them to new vocabulary. The more words a child has heard and knows the meaning of, the better their comprehension can become. When they come across a new word in written form, they will have a greater chance of understanding the meaning of that word if they have already heard it during conversation.
- providing plenty of opportunities to read. Limiting reading to school hours can slow the development of comprehension skills. The more a child reads, at school, at home, on the weekend, on holidays, the better their comprehension will become.



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Everyone learns at a different pace and some children require far more reading practice than others. Show your children the value of reading by regularly modelling the past-time and encouraging reading. A great deal of reading takes place in the classroom each day but we also organise special events to further encourage the love of reading. Besides the National Simultaneous Story time and Book Fair we have an Author visit and Readers Cup at the Primary campus this term.

The guest author is Jenni Cargill and she will be speaking to the Kindergarten and Prep children on Tuesday 7 June. Jenni has written a number of well-known children's books including, *The Story Tree*, *Reaching for the Moon* and *The Mermaid's Shoes*.



The Readers Cup Competition will be held in Living Faith Chapel on Monday 13 June. Students from a number of local schools will meet at St John's for this annual competition. Teams have been preparing for the event by reading set books and remembering as much information about them as possible. The winning team is awarded the Readers Cup. We wish our St John's team all the best for this occasion.

Performing Arts

A large number of our Performing Arts students performed admirably at the recent College Carnival and they have further performance opportunities before the end of the term. These include:

- Singing with the Stars on Friday 27 May. Alpine Singers will be performing in the College Auditorium, along with students from the secondary campus.
- Grandparents Day on Tuesday 31 May at 11.45am in Living Faith Chapel.
- Year Six Cultural Showcase to be held in Living Faith Chapel on Friday 3 June at 9.45am.

Other Term Two Special Events

- Chinese Speaking Competition - QUT Saturday 28 May. We wish our St John's participants all the best.
- Taiwanese Dance Troupe - this dance troupe will visit the College and perform for students in Years 3 to 6 on Tuesday 7 June at 1.30pm.
- Primary Athletics Carnival - Wednesday 8 June, commencing at 9.00am with the finals of the 800m races. Parents are most welcome to attend. The P&F Supporters of Sport will be running a canteen on the day and we encourage parents to support this fund raising initiative.
- JTAS Cross Country - Friday 10 June.
- First Holy Communion Service - Friday 10 June at 1.45pm. We will hold another Chapel Service for Baptism and First Holy Communion next term on Friday 15 July at 1.45pm. If you would like your child to be baptised or participate in their first Holy Communion please contact Reverend Susan on SCrothers-Robertson@sjac.qld.edu.au

Care Café

Our Care Café planned for Saturday 4 June has been postponed to a later date. Further information about this event will be provided in the near future.

Kind regards

Sandra Hawken
Head of Primary