



Presenting Primary

Regular Primary Newsletter

Edition 9 – 9 June 2016

Dear Families



It was an outstanding day on Wednesday this week when our annual Athletics Carnival was held. The weather could not have been more perfect and the students showed real House spirit and determination to do their best in the variety of athletics events throughout the day. The highlight of the day for me was to see the students genuinely cheering for others and celebrating in their success. It was a shared success and joy for many when a student jumped, ran or threw at a winning level. One example of this was evident in the boys' high jump finals.

Lachlan Cooper prepared to jump a height of 1.35m and the crowd waited in anticipation, encouraging him to succeed. When he did clear the height everyone burst into cheers of surprise and congratulations. Some of the Year 3 boys could not believe the jump was higher than their heads.



What a great day it was for everyone! Thank you to those parents who were able to join us, and particular thanks are extended to the members of our Supporters of Sport group who ran a canteen with drinks and snacks for parents. We also congratulate Mr Murray for his organisation of such a fabulous event.



Recently we have enjoyed visits from a number of guest presenters and our children have learnt a great deal from these sessions. The children in Little Saints and Prep learnt about storytelling when they participated in a visit with our guest author Jenni Cargill, on Tuesday this week.

Storytelling is a social experience which extends beyond conversation and children who develop strong skills in oral communication are more likely to become successful in written communication. In our Early Years we place significant focus on oral language and provide students with numerous opportunities to speak to others. This year we introduced a new writing program across the year levels which includes an oral storytelling component ('Big Write'), prior to putting pencil to paper and writing the story down. We are finding great success with this program and the students are enjoying the writing experience. This is because they do not need to think about the details of their story while they are writing. The story is already known and they have had the opportunity to tell their story orally. The students can then concentrate on spelling, punctuation and grammar, which results in higher quality writing being produced.



Presenting Primary

Developing proficiency in story telling also assists students in the process of collaboration. When students are able to express their ideas succinctly their peers can gain a clearer understanding, which then assists the group in their collaborative learning. In recent years, collaboration has been flagged as an essential skill for young people entering the workforce and at St John's we are actively providing opportunities for our students to develop this ability and to learn through collaboration.

It has been very exciting to witness the students discuss their ideas during inquiry learning and to work together to achieve a shared goal. This practice is greatly enhancing their development.

Parents can assist their children with developing their oral language skills by regularly engaging in conversations with them, talking through and investigating questions children may have, rather than just providing the answers and using words and terminology that helps to extend their vocabulary. We also encourage family members to talk to their children about their 'Big Write' stories and listen to their child's oral story-telling, as this is great preparation for their creative writing.

National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA)



Recently I have received a number of emails from parents applauding the commitment and work of their children's teachers. This is wonderful to hear and I thank these parents for their positive feedback. One way of thanking our inspirational teachers is to acknowledge their work by nominating them for a NEiTA Award. These awards are made each year with the aim of celebrating excellence in teaching and formally recognising and thanking outstanding teachers. Only parents, carers and members of the wider community can nominate. Nominations from staff members working at the same school are not valid. If you would like to recognise one of our teachers, please nominate online at asg.com.au/nominate no later than 31 July 2016. Further information can be found at <https://neita.awardsplatform.com/>.



Chess Club in Term Three

Next term, Gardiner Chess will be running Chess Club on **Monday afternoons from 3.15pm to 4.15pm**. If you would like your son or daughter to participate in Chess Club please contact Gardiner Chess on 0755 227221 or email info@gardinerchess.com.au. Chess Club will be held in the Library next semester. For those students already enrolled in Chess, please note the change of day.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

All clubs and after school activities have now concluded for Term Two, except for Auskick which will continue to run on Friday afternoons until the last day of term. This leaves afternoons free for teachers to meet with parents and carers in the last week of term, to discuss the progress of their children. I encourage you to make a time to talk to your child's teacher. Written reports will be completed at the end of the term and posted during the holidays. However, a discussion with the teacher can provide more information about a child's development and allows parents to receive answers to any questions they might have about their child's learning.

Premier's Reading Challenge

It is pleasing to see the large number of children engaging in reading and working towards reaching the goals of the Premier's Reading Challenge. Please encourage your children to read during the holiday break. When young students do not attend school for several weeks, they can forget their sight words and reading strategies. Regular reading every day, even for only five minutes is incredibly beneficial and helps prevent loss in ability.



Presenting Primary

Term Three – July Dates

At the conclusion of the coming holiday period, the first day of school for Prep to Year 12 students is Tuesday 12 July. Monday will be a pupil free day, however, Little Saints Kindergarten will operate and Kindy children should attend school on Monday 11 July.

Strings Day Camp

Bellissimo Strings students are invited to a holiday camp on Sunday 10 July, when they will be provided with tuition and a morning of fun with expert coaches.

Baptism and First Holy Communion

We invite families to attend a First Holy Communion Service on Friday 15 July in Living Faith Chapel, commencing at 1.50pm.

Alpine Singers Performance

On Sunday 17 July, the Alpine Singers will perform at Ipswich Home Show. Information and permission notes have been sent to families.

Primary Academic Assembly

On Monday 18 July at 9.00am we will hold an Academic Assembly to recognise our students' high academic achievements. Parents are invited to attend this special assembly which will be held in Living Faith Chapel.

Foundation Day

Students in Years 3 to 6 will travel to the secondary campus on Monday 25 July to attend this year's Foundation Day Assembly in the Auditorium.

Foundation Day Presentation and Fancy Dress Ball

A special Foundation Day assembly for the Early Years will held on **Friday 29 July** commencing at 9.00am.

Our annual Fancy Dress Ball will be held in the Auditorium of Forest Lake State High School on the evening of Friday 29 July. The Early Years (Prep – Year 2) section of the evening will commence at 6.00pm and conclude at 7.00pm. 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!

Kind regards

Sandra Hawken

Head of Primary

