



St John the Apostle Primary School

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Term 2, Week 5

26th May, 2017

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear St John the Apostle Community,

The blessing of our community

This time of year is often the hardest in any school. Teachers are finalising assessments and writing reports on top of continuing teaching 9.00 to 3.00 each day (and then planning and preparing for these lessons outside these hours). The Front Office staff are processing enrolments for 2018 on top of assisting every person who walks through the front door or rings to make an enquiry or when sick students need care. Many children play more sport during the winter months and families are doing a lot more running around in the colder hours of the day. It's a busy time for everyone. While we are busy we find it hard to imagine the business of those around us.

I feel very blessed to be part of a community where everyone continues to give their very, very best at all times with a smile and kind words and joyful spirit; where staff, students and parents collaborate for a greater purpose: supporting the development of each student as they grow in skill, understanding, confidence, happiness and love for all those around them.

At present the most joyful moments in my day at St John the Apostle are the Kindergarten enrolment interviews. I love to meet each and every student who will start Kindergarten next year at St John's. I like to learn about their interests and their needs, to watch them draw and listen to them talk about their pre-school experiences. I enjoy a very good laugh with many of them. It is such a joy!

As I meet these new students I see their future at St John's and imagine them one day as a Year 6 student leader, 'paying forward' the mentoring and support they receive to a new group of Kindergarten students. I see a great journey ahead for them and feel very privileged that their parents have chosen St John's to partner with in sharing their child's journey.

During one of the busiest times of the year I find joy at St John the Apostle when I stop and remember the blessing that is our school community and I say a small prayer of thanks that I find myself here at this time and in this place. I hope you continue to find small blessings in your day.

Matthew Garton

Principal (Acting)

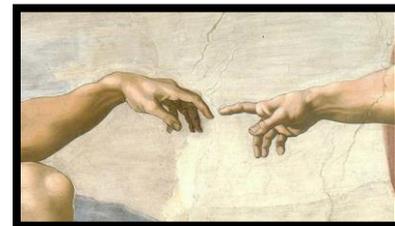


“Rabbi, where are you staying?”

He said to them, “Come and see”. John 1:38-39

Confirmation Celebration

Today our Year 6 students participated in the Confirmation Retreat Day organised collaboratively by St John the Apostle Parish and School. While not every student in Year 6 is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Thursday evening, all students in Year 6 learn about this sacrament and its importance in the Catholic life of faith.



All seven Sacraments are very special moments of grace. Some think of them as moments where one experiences a very tangible connection to the love of God. This reminds me of Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine chapel *The Creation of Adam*.



Artwork by our Confirmation candidates.

Confirmation is also a wonderful moment for our children to take the next step in their life of faith. Most have been baptised early in life when their parents make a statement of belief and commitment on their behalf. Young children often share the faith of their parents. Now, as they become older, they begin to forge a more independent identity and this is an opportunity to make that commitment for themselves. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who lifts and guides them as they journey to 'have life to the full' and grow in understanding of God's love for them and all others.

Please keep our students and families in your thoughts and prayers as they celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming Thursday evening at St John the Apostle Parish.

Matthew Garton (Acting Principal)

God in the every day

God is in the small moments. This week's highlight has got to be when Elise from KM, on her way back to class, came to show me what she had found on the playground.

She said to her teacher that “She found Jesus and the cross on playground”. I am so glad she did. We remember that we model Jesus to our children every day, in every moment.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Stephanie Stewart (REC)



GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool is looking for a new volunteer to join the team. If you have an hour to spare in the morning or afternoon, 1 day a week we would love to hear from you. Please contact Heather on stjohnsclimbingpool@gmail.com

Tuckshop

Winter warmers are now available. Mini sausage rolls and mini meat pies are available for \$1.00 each. Warm milo or hot chocolate with marshmallows \$2.50. These items are available over the counter only.

Weekly Notes & Forms

The following notes have gone home this week and are currently on the [school website](#) or as an e-form on Skoolbag.



- Dance Crew Competition Note
- Year 4 Excursion
- Year 4 Movie Permission
- Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day

Dates to Remember

- May 30 – PSSA Cross Country, Stromlo
- May 31 – ‘Bright and Struggling’ Parent Info Night
- June 1 – Confirmation Celebration, 5pm
- June 7 – ‘Mr Huff’ school performance
- June 12 – Queen’s Birthday holiday
- June 14 – Community Council
- June 20 - Years 2 & 4 Questacon excursion
- June 23 – Feast of the Sacred Heart



Happy Birthday to...

Happy Birthday to Sophie R, Lachlan S, William S and Monica S who all had birthdays during the last week.

Overdue Library Books

There are currently a large number of overdue books from the library. Would you please check under the beds, in the toy chest, on the bookshelf, in the car in bags, wherever you like to read.

Bringing books back on time means that every student has a chance to read them.

Weekly Class Awards

presented at assembly Monday 2pm

K Blue	Jacob N Eva G
K Maroon	Indianna E Aizen D
1 Blue	David O Lee D
1 Maroon	Yusha A Callam S Bailey C
2 Blue	Rebecca C Lachlan S
2 Maroon	Evelina T Karam H
3 Blue	Christopher P Paige W
3 Maroon	Alicia O Natalia G
4 Blue	Sarah B Nicholas C
4 Maroon	Mia G Ethan T
5 Blue	Jed R Andrew D
5 Maroon	Samantha D Dylan W
6 Blue	Jacob D Jessica F
6 Maroon	Ty F Jett M
Performing Arts	Ruby M 5M Sophie N KB

Reading Challenge

Please remember that the St John the Apostle Reading Challenge is currently underway. Read 10 books this term and you could be in the running for a free book of your choice. Entry forms are available at the Library. Come and see us.

Celebrating Student Achievements

If you would like to see your child's achievements on this page, please email to office.sjaps@cg.catholic.edu.au no later than 3:30pm on Wednesday afternoons. If it is received after this time it will be in the following weeks newsletter. We love to share our student's successes with the school community.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Entertainment Book is now available at the front office. \$60.00 and full of amazing deals.





Information Seminar

Bright but Struggling

Bright and gifted students who are underperforming.

Wednesday 31st May, 2017 7pm – 9.30pm

Do you have a child or student who is bright but it seems there is something else going on that is getting in the way of their learning?

If your obviously bright child or student experiences some (or all) of these:

- Struggles with handwriting
- Is very disorganised
- Can be highly sensitive
- Is easily distracted
- Shows keen visual skills and poor listening skills
- Is highly creative, inventive, imaginative
- Reads well but is poor at spelling
- Generates unusual solutions to problems
- Has great ideas but rarely completes task
- Has difficulty following oral directions
- Gets the correct answer in maths but can't explain how
- Is good at maths concepts but struggles with times tables

Then this seminar is for you.

This seminar will explore the main factors underlying these difficulties; the characteristics of a visual spatial system of thinking; consider information on identification; discuss the strengths and weaknesses these students possess and explore strategies for teaching these students.

St John the Apostle Primary School, Florey

[for more information or to book and pay](#)

Online Booking Essential as numbers are limited

PRESENTER: Helen Dudeney (M.Ed, Dip. Couns., COGE,) of The AUSTRALIAN GIFTED SUPPORT CENTRE is a private educational consultant specialising in the needs of gifted children. She has been actively involved in working with gifted children since 1988. Helen has designed and run hundreds of programs for 3 – 16 year old children and their families and conducted seminars, seminars and in service training for parents and teachers about understanding and meeting the needs of gifted children and young people. This work has extended to all parts of New South Wales, metropolitan and regional, as well as other states of Australia. Helen is a regular presenter and attendee at State, National and International Gifted Conferences

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