Dear Parents, Students, Staff, Friends and Carers,

I never cease to be amazed at how each year brings with it renewed passion, excitement and huge expectations. I heard a teacher, not from here thankfully, say that school is like, “Groundhog day; same old, same old”. This is certainly not the case at St John’s.

We welcome 140 Year 8 students and another dozen or more new students across the other year levels. The first few days were energising and exciting as we put into action the “Buddy” system and the new Pastoral Care structure. Year 8, 10 and 12 students are together for Pastoral and Year 9 & 11 students are together in preparation for the arrival of Year 7 next year. It will then become a Year 7,9,11 pastoral which will progress as 8, 10, and 12; then obviously return to a 7,9,11 the following year and so on.

Teachers are very pleased with the new system and have commented favourably as to how the students have adapted extremely well. One of the positive aspects is that the Year 8 & 12 “Buddies” are in the same Pastoral and meet every day.

On that note, this Thursday we celebrate the Opening School Year with Mass at 9am in the GSC and with the Welcome BBQ from 4.30pm. At the Mass we will induct our new Student Leaders and SRC representatives. Prior to the BBQ that afternoon, all Year 12 and Year 8 students will be participating in an afternoon of Buddy activities between 3pm and 4.30pm.

The BBQ is a wonderful occasion and opportunity for Year 8 parents to meet your child’s buddy and his/her parents, and your child’s teachers as well as feel welcomed to the community of St John’s. There is no cost for the BBQ. This Friday is the Student Leaders Planning day at Twin Waters. This is always such a worthwhile and energising day of ideas, passion and authentic “Johnnies” spirit.

An update on our numbers and returning teaching staff: We have 616 students enrolled and we welcome back to St John’s Kerry Doblo and Jo Davey. Kerry and Jo are integral members of our teaching staff and it is great to have them back from their leave arrangements.

During the holidays:

- Most buildings received another fresh coat of paint
- A new deck was built outside rooms 16 A, B, C replacing the old one
- The Water Tower was successfully removed in preparation for further building arrangements associated with Year 7 building program and tuckshop upgrade.
- A new fence and gate were installed at the rear entrance.
- As usual - all carpets were steam cleaned and annual pest control undertaken.
- A proposed shelter for outside the library and old assembly area is awaiting approval.
- Trees have been cleared from the Year 7 Building site and from around the science block.
- Old and damaged shade cloth has been removed and we are still waiting on its replacement.
- Seating has been added to the grounds surrounding the café area and a few more placed down on the MPC terraces.

Our OP Results were excellent again for St John’s students and this has been well documented on our web page, Facebook page and Twitter. I have listed the top OP 1-5 results below as well as the percentages achieved by year 12 OP students. These percentages were a little down on our usual results but the students are happy with their success and are now engaging in the university courses of their choice:

99% received a QCE, VET, SAT or IBD;
18% of students were between OP 1-5; 44% of students rated between OP 1-10; 77% of students rated between 1-15.
32 students completed a Cert II and 19 students completed a Cert III and 5 students completed University subjects.

Overall Position Results:

OP 2: William Haycock and William Murray
OP 3: Xanthia Blundell, Bridget Pierce and Anthony Pobar
OP 4: Thomas Matthews, Caleb McNaught, Kaitlin Pepper
OP 5: Natasha Healy, Krystelle Loader, Amy McGlynn, Samuel Ong, Dhivya Roysmith, Kelci Wilson
OP 6: Amala Martin, Callum Medland, Lucy O’Shea, Georgie Van Panhuis
OP 7: Kiara Miller, Tiana Pukall, Demii-Rae Sherman, Emily West
OP 8: Adam Fletcher, Scarlett Hay, April Jones, Tarni Sanewski, Alexandra Shield, Shayla Warnick
OP 9: Matthew Swan

These are outstanding results again and indicate the positive and dedicated education at St John’s. I know that, like me, you all take great pride in the achievements of our students no matter what result they have achieved and I congratulate all of them on their dedication.
Uniforms have been worn well for the first three days - thank you parents for this insistence on the correct uniform and neat attire. Hats are a compulsory part of the uniform and should be worn with the uniform to and from college and whilst outside, although they are best kept out of the rain. We will be insisting on this aspect of uniform and sun safety again this year and request your support to make sure your children leave home with their hats on.

My big issue this year, as it was also last year, is the length or lack of length with some of the dresses and skirts. Dresses and skirts need to be at the middle of the knee or lower and definitely not above the knee. This issue needs to be resolved a.s.a.p. for a minority of students.

The first P&F Meeting will be held this Tuesday February 4th at 6.30pm. This meeting will devote some of its time to the organisation for the Welcome BBQ. New members to the P&F are required and welcomed. Come along – there are only eight meetings in the year; come along and join this illustrious, supportive and industrious group. The AGM will occur at our second meeting on March 4th.

Please follow our Twitter feed and Facebook page as this is yet another way to keep up to speed on all things happening at St John’s.

2014 has begun with a flurry, as usual, and we would not have it any other way. Good luck to all and as G.K Chesterton writes:

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular person made New Year resolutions, they would make no resolutions. Unless a person starts afresh about things, they will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a person starts on the strange assumption that they never existed before, it is quite certain that they will never exist afterwards. Unless a person be born again, they shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Chris Gold
Principal

St John’s College Opening Mass and Induction of Leaders 2014

Thursday 6thFebruary
Commencing 8.45 am
MPC: Multi Purpose Centre
Celebrant: Father Graham Gatehouse

Unbind and Set Free
From the Assistant Principal

Welcome Back!
Welcome back to what, once again, promises to be a massive year in the life of “Johnnies”. Already many of the staff have been working feverishly in their efforts to put our engaging programs in place and the return of students has occurred with great enthusiasm. It all points to another great year ahead after such a wonderful start!

Year 8 WISE-UP Program
Our new Year 8 students have been involved in our revolutionary WISE-UP Program since their arrival. This program encompasses many of the skills which will be useful for their future lives here at St John’s, as well as welcoming them into this great community in the best way we know how.

WISE-UP is an acronym for “Welcome Into Secondary Education – Unleashing Potential”. It is a program which encompasses all the good things which we have always done at St John’s and builds on these to help students make a successful transition to Secondary Schooling.

As we are trialing this for the first time this year, we would welcome any feedback parents and carers wish to pass on as we fine-tune the program in preparation for the Year 7 arrival in 2015.

Parent Contact from Teachers
We will be working hard this year in trying to enhance the communication avenues between school and home.

This year we have asked every PC Teacher to make contact with the parents and carers of those in the PC Group. This will hopefully have been completed by the Welcome Barbeque on Thursday evening. If you have not heard from your child’s PC teacher at this time, I would encourage you to make contact with them. It may be that the College records for e-mail addresses are not accurate or there has been some other oversight and we would like to correct this as soon as possible.

As always, we encourage all parents and carers to make contact with relevant staff at any time if there is an issue to resolve or information to be passed on. Such contact can be made through e-mails and using the College Diary.

Subject changes.
The window of opportunity for subject changes for Years 9 and 10 closes on Monday, February 3. After this date, students will be in the classes they are in at this time for the remainder of this semester, before elective units are reallocated for Term 3. As most students have had at least two drafts of these choices and plenty of opportunity to undertake changes before these dates, changes after this time will not be able to be accommodated unless there are extraordinary situations.

For Years 11 and 12 students, the final date for movements this semester is Monday, February 10. Any changes will involve an extensive consultation process involving relevant teachers and parents to ensure correct placements of students in options is being undertaken. The QSA requirements are very strict and any changes after this time will be only if there are exceptional circumstances. These instances will be very rare.

Assessment Schedules and Policies
The assessment schedules for this semester will be appearing on the College Website in the very near future under the “School Life” heading. Parents / Carers and students are asked to make themselves aware of when assessment will be due and prepare their work accordingly.

Under the same section you will also find the Assessment Policy documents which we use within the College and also forms which are required to be completed for requests for extensions or changes to exam dates etc.

This year we will be trialling “Interruption Free” times during certain parts of each term in the lead up to the Senior Assessment blocks. The aim is to minimise disruptions and maximise teaching time in every subject. Parents or Senior Students should be aware that there is assessment scheduled right up to the very last day of every term for these students. Students are very aware of this and their attendance until this time is a reasonable expectation.

Date – claimers.
Please be aware of the upcoming events and mark on your home calendars to attend where possible:

- Thursday, February 6 – Opening Mass in Periods 1 and 2 and Year 8 students commence regular classes in Period 3
- Thursday, February 13 – Year 12 Information Evening
- Tuesday, February 25 – Year 11 Information Evening
- Wednesday, March 12 – Year 7 2015 Information Evening
- Parent teacher nights – Tuesday, April 29 (Term 2) and Monday July 21 (Term 3)
- Thursday, May 8 - Subject selection information night for Years 9 and 10 prior to selections for Semester 2
- Wednesday, June 25 - SET Plan Information night for Year 10

We look forward to seeing many of you come along with your students to these sessions.

Mark O’Connor – Assistant Principal
From the Deputy

Uniform

Congratulations to 99% of students and their parents on the wearing of the uniform for the start of the year. Very well done.

Hats, Hats, Hats

As you are aware, every St John’s student must have a hat at school. With the preparation for our building program, the shade sails have been removed temporarily and most of the large trees near the courts have been cut back. Therefore it is more important than ever that all students wear their hats when they are not in classrooms. From next week, sanctions will be applied to those who do not take enough care to protect themselves from the sun.

I would like to see our older students in particular showing the intelligence to wear their hats to and from the buses at both ends of the day and I would ask parents to support us in this regard by encouraging all students to do so.

Could I also urge parents to ensure that their son or daughter writes their name on their hat (and their pullover later in the year). These items are often left behind or go to the wrong person and a name written in liquid paper or the like solves the issue very quickly. At the end of 2013, we had about 20 students reporting they had lost their hat and 30 hats in lost property with no names on and no match ups!

Laptops

On Tuesday evening at 7.00pm the year nine students will have their laptop information program and distribution. This will complete the roll out and every student in the school will have been issued with a machine.

While our laptops have been very robust, there are a small number of students who seem to constantly have problems in caring for them. The biggest issue is not putting them back in their protective cases. The insurance and warranty conditions clearly state that the laptops must be returned to their cases when not in use. Any machine that is damaged during transit is not covered by warranty or insurance if it is not in its case. The cost of repair will have to be borne by the student in this case.

Text Hire

Texts have been issued to each year level. There are still a small number of students who have not returned texts from last year and so have not been able to be issued with the new ones yet. Unfortunately the non return has meant that we are a few copies short in one or two subject areas but that should be rectified when the overdues are returned. Please be aware that the student must return the copy they were issued with, not just any copy. Hence, it is important that students write their names in the texts and take good care of them. Texts now average $80 to $100 per copy and are a major expense if they have to be replaced. Unfortunately publishing companies have made etexts now time dependent and they are comparable in costs so not the alternative we had hoped they would become.

School Photos

School photos will be taken on Tuesday 11th February. All students will need to be in their full academic uniform on that day (including ties for boys). An order package will come home this week. This package must be brought to school on the day and given to the photographer as the barcode on it gives them names and classes etc. So even if you do not want to order any photos please bring it back that day. Order forms for family / group photos are available from the school office.

David Cuskelly
Deputy Principal

Welcome to 2014!

From the Campus Minister

What a wonderful year to look forward to with lots of new things happening around our college.

St John's College is starting thier own Vinnies group. This evolved at the end of last year after helping with our local group. Students and parents are invited to our formation afternoon Friday 21 February 3.30-7.30pm in the GSC. The aim is to elect office bearers and to plan for the year. One of the projects is to get some people interested in the Buddies program where our students mentor young people less fortunate in our community. The commitment is outside of school hours.

We are seeking parent and student support for this group as it involves participation in the wider community. More information in next weeks newsletter!

Look forward to meeting some new faces

Peace and blessings

Tracey Langford
Campus Minister
St John's College
SCHOOL FEES

Welcome to the 2014 School Year.

By now, you should have received your 2014 School Fee Pack. Please contact the office if you have not received your package. Alternatively, they are available on the SJC website, under Enrolment/School Fees. Thank you to those families who have already set up payment plans. If you have not set up a payment plan and need help in doing so, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sibling Discount – If you have children at other Sunshine Coast Catholic Schools (ie St Joseph’s, Siena College, Stella Maris, St Teresa’s or Unity College) you are eligible for a discount on the school fee (only) portion of your account. Please ensure you have completed a Sibling Discount Form and handed it in at the Office. No sibling discounts can be given without the correct paperwork.

Statements of Fees and Levies for Term 1 are being posted this week.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties or need any help or further information regarding setting up a regular payment via Direct Debit, BPAY or Credit Card Payments please do not hesitate to contact me on 5441 5666 or dtwomey@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Danielle Twomey
Finance Secretary

Rugby 2014

The Rugby season will begin earlier this year on March 12th and will finish with Grand Finals on May 28th.

This week we will call for nominations in 13’s, 14’s, 15’s and Opens. At this stage all teams will play during Terms 1 & 2. This will be confirmed later this week after an association meeting discusses the proposal of moving the 14’s back to this regular time.

Boys wishing to play will receive a letter detailing their commitment.

I would encourage all boys to attend the fitness and weights training mornings on Monday and Tuesday at 7.00am.

Chris Gold

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The school swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday 12 February at the Nambour Pool. All students will be dropped off at the pool in the morning and be picked up by their respective buses at the end of the day. Parents who normally drive their students to school are asked to take them straight to the pool. They will also need to pick them up from the pool at 2.45pm

The carnival is an all day event and is compulsory for all students whether they participate or not. Students are asked to wear their sports uniform on the day.

The pool canteen will be operating throughout the day. All parents are most welcome to attend the whole day or part of the day. If any parent would like to assist on the day be acting as an official, they should contact Mr Nankervis on the day of the carnival.

Students who are selected in the school swimming team will be required to attend the North Zone Carnival on Friday 28 February. This carnival will be held at the Nambour Pool. Students will be transported from school to the pool on the day. Once again if any parent can assist as a time keeper on the day, they should contact Mr Nankervis at the College.
Welcome to everyone especially Year 8s from the Arts Department, where the women wear moustaches and the men

Each week, ARTSPACE will keep you informed about the Arts around the school and in the classroom. We look forward to a fantastic 2014. <3
UNIFORM SHOP and TEXT HIRE
OPENING TIMES
TUESDAY 8.00am - 4.00pm and
WEDNESDAY 8.00am - 4.00pm