Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

Welcome back to the Friday Newsletter. We will continue to write and send the newsletter on a Friday after a number of requests from parents. It seems that more people are likely to read the newsletter over the weekend rather than during the week. It makes perfect sense to me and we have made the necessary office hours arrangements for this to happen. I thank Marie, Robyn and Kim for being able to put this in place.

Today the Year 9 students are back to “normal” after their NAPLAN experience. Dave Cuskelly and Mark O’Connor made the week of tests run very smoothly and the students were excellent in following instructions and keeping to the task at hand. We will wait again a few months before the results are available.

The results from NAPLAN can help us in a number of ways. They are a record in time of this particular cohort’s abilities across literacy and numeracy skills; they help us design programs for this cohort moving forward into Year 10 and beyond; they are somewhat helpful in comparison between year levels; and they help us gauge our relative results in relation to the State, National and BCE results. We must always remember that it’s not about the test, it’s about the learning.

St. John’s has been very consistent in these results being at or above State and National averages and above BCE schools averages across the tested areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy over the last six years. This is no mean feat given that students from 20 different schools feed into St. John’s and all these schools have quite mixed NAPLAN results. Access to NAPLAN results over the past years can be found on the My School website. I caution any other interpretation of results at this early stage of secondary education as the individual and group results will change by the end of Year 12 after physical, emotional and intellectual growth, changes in subject areas and directions for the future, and the effect of QCS assessment and School Assessment.

Our Year 12 students are completing their three day Retreat today and I visited the site on Wednesday and observed a very focussed, energised and happy group of young people. The Retreat is one of the most important events in the final year of their schooling at St. John’s. It is the spiritual highlight of the year and it is also a wonderful opportunity of bonding, sharing and developing stronger friendships. It is also a challenging time for these young people as they assess their relationship with self, family and with God. We pray that great things happen through the work of the Spirit for all our young people in Year 12.

There were some great results on the netball and rugby front this week with highlights being the continued success of the Junior A and B, Open A and Open Thirds netball. These teams are all in contention for a semi-final spot with one round remaining. On Monday there was another good win for the 13’s rugby that will put them well into a semi-final showdown vs Unity College 4pm at Peregian Springs next Wednesday. Good luck to all.

The Drama Theatre Restaurant nights to be held at the College on the nights of May 30th and 31st will soon be upon us. Teachers and students are working hard preparing for this event and I think you might need to purchase a ticket early to confirm a seat. See details in this newsletter.

Next week I will be attending one of the last Year 7 to Secondary Planning meetings, two teams will represent St. Johns at the Catholic Netball day in Brisbane, students will also represent St. John’s at the North Zone X Country that we administer, many thanks to Ian Fenwick for his passion here, and the annual Art camp will take place next weekend.

I have received some great ideas for our 75th anniversary next year and plans are underway for some “big ticket” items and mementos. Please feel free to drop me a line with any further ideas. And…on the building front, the bricks have arrived and are ready to be erected. Check out the recent picture from this morning and lastly please read the Pope Francis quote below, it is quite provocative and thought provoking.

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St. John’s College Newsletter
No. 14  16 May 2014

Chris Gold
Principal

Student Absentee Line: 5444 9299
**eDiary**

St John's College is trialling an electronic Diary (eDiary) for the remainder of this year. This is in addition to our paper diary and is not intended to be a replacement for the paper diary!

As it is a trial, feedback is welcomed throughout the remainder of this year to Mrs Sutton at emutton@bne.catholic.edu.au. Students and parents should have received an email from noreply@myediary.com.au (check your junk folder!) with an activation link. If students or parents have not received this email please email Mrs Sutton to check your details.

The eDiary is web-based and is found at https://stjohnscoll.myediary.com.au/. The eDiary is very simple to use, but for any questions or support, please do not hesitate to ask. For all emails regarding the eDiary please use “eDiary” in the subject line of your emails.

An email with a letter outlining the eDiary was sent on Thursday 8 May and there have been a significant number of email replies with delivery failure notices. If parents did not receive an email invitation (from “myediary”) or the letter from Mrs Sutton, please email Mrs Sutton so your details can be corrected. Thanks.

Elizabeth Sutton

**Year 10 - Work Experience and SET-Plan Preparation Interviews**

Whether your year 10 student has loved or hated their work experiences placement, this is really important information to help them make future career decisions. Interviews will be taking place over the next few weeks to help students think about their next step. In preparation for these interviews and so that the year 10 students get the maximum benefit from them, it is of utmost importance that they complete all activities on the Work Experience Information and Career Planning Book that was emailed to them early last week. An email was sent to students and parents yesterday that details the interview process. If you have not received the email please contact Bernadette Natoli (bnatoli@bne.catholic.edu.au).

A team of teachers have been visiting students on placement this week and we have had very encouraging comments from both students and employers. Congratulations to all year 10's on their positive efforts in representing yourselves, your families and St John’s College.
The students from the year 9-12 Indonesian classes had a great day last Thursday at the annual immersion day run by the SCU. The students were challenged to use their Indonesian from the very beginning of the day when they had to go off and find their Indonesian tutor for the day.

We are lucky that the University organises these days where all the sessions are run by native speakers and our students get the opportunity to interact and learn in small groups with very sympathetic tutors. It also helped that we scooped the pool with the prizes!
ROLL UP ROLL UP ………HELPERS NEEDED.

The P&F have again accepted an invitation to run the two entrance gates at the Sunshine Coast Show, Nambour Showgrounds.

This is a major fundraiser for our school community. If you and your son/daughter are able to help, contact Tracey Langford via email (tlangford@bne.catholic.edu.au) and outline the preferred DAY (Friday, Sat, Sun), PREFERED TIME (AM OR PM) and PARENT/TEACHER WITH A STUDENT NAME (contact details email, phone, and YEAR LEVEL) Other specific requests eg same shift as… should be included in the email.

God Bless and Thanks for your support.
St JOHNS P&F
St John’s College is proud to present an evening at the

Blue Note Club

On Friday 30th May and Saturday 31st May, the Performing Arts block will be transformed into the exclusive Blue Note Club.

The night will include entertaining performances by a variety of students and a delicious four course meal prepared by Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students.

The evening will commence at 6:30pm.

Tickets are $20 each which includes the entertainment, a mocktail or soft drink, a 4 courses meal and tea or coffee.

Only 100 tickets will be available for each night.

Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 13th May and are available from the SJC office only. Have your student pick up an envelope from the office for credit card and cash sales.

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
UNIFORM SHOP  
and  
TEXT HIRE  
OPENING TIMES  
TUESDAY 8.00am - 4.00pm  
and  
WEDNESDAY 8.00am - 4.00pm  

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