Dear Parents, Friends and students

Mr Gold is attending a conference on the mental health aspects of schools this week so is unable to write his usual article.

It was very good to see so many people at the Theatre Restaurant last weekend. Both nights were sell outs and the entertainment and catering certainly justified that. On the Saturday night a number of the more senior members of our community were musing on the fact that there will probably only be one more major function in that space with the Friends of Room 12. If the new buildings keep proceeding at their current rate it may even be possible that the new facility will be available in October! It would certainly be better for my heart if the gymnastics performed last Saturday night were done in a space with a much higher ceiling!

The Year 8 netballers played valiantly last Monday but unfortunately finished in second place in a high quality competition. Special thanks must go to Mrs Anning and her team who have coordinated this competition for many years. There are many hours spent in thankless tasks in running a competition as large as this and the St Johns group has borne the brunt of this. Thanks also to the parents and students who volunteer as coaches and umpires every Monday night.

The regional cross country was organised by Ian Fenwick this year and ran very smoothly on Tuesday. Particular congratulations to Jakarra Brady, Laura Minton, Mitch Kelly and Hamish Horsey who have all qualified for State.

This week I have been working on various aspects of the issue of personal privacy legislation. Our students are members of a digital world and often access it through three or four different devices. Their mobile phones are often very powerful devices for connecting to the Internet. There are often issues that arise because students forget that whatever they publish on line is on the Internet which those of us over 40 used to call the World Wide Web. It is accessible to people all over the world and you cannot take it back and can very really delete it. Someone somewhere will have a copy of it and it is often produced at the time that is least convenient for you. With Mr Gold away I would like to remind everyone of a few cyber safety tips from the ACMA site.

Here are some tips for supervising kids using the internet:

- Never share passwords, no matter how much they trust their friends
- Use strong passwords with a combination of letters and numbers, not something that is easy to guess, like a pet’s name or a favourite singer
- Don’t publish their personal details or those of their friends, such as names, ages, school details, email addresses or phone numbers on social networking sites including on profiles)
- Don’t publish inappropriate photos of themselves or anyone else and ask permission before writing about other people or publishing their photo
- Don’t reply to nasty email messages (but keep a copy of them in case they’re needed if trouble arises)
- Block senders of inappropriate or unpleasant messages or delete the person if they are in their contact list
- Don’t give out their mobile number to people they don’t know or trust
- Save all nasty messages on their email accounts or mobile phones as evidence and show an adult

David Cuskelly
Deputy Principal
Year 12 Modern History Excursion

In week three of term, students from Year 12 Modern History travelled to Immanuel Lutheran College to attend a series of lectures about Nazism and other extremist ideologies. Students were interested and engaged as practising historians examined the reasons why extremist ideologies appeal to people, and the threats that they pose to modern day stability.

The seminars will directly help students in their study of Nazi Germany this term, and also generated some lively and heated discussion in class. Both seminars highlighted the important role that the study of history can play in identifying, responding to, and ultimately preventing extremist ideologies.

The seminars were very interesting, and the Modern History students represented St John’s College admirably, listening attentively, and generating insightful discussion with the answers they provided and questions that they asked. This passion and enthusiasm was commented on by several teachers from other schools.

Fraser Island Field Trip

On the 8th-11th of May, the Year 12 Geography class visited Fraser Island, as part of our semester unit on “Sustaining Biodiversity”.

On this trip, we visited a number of key sites including the famous Lake McKenzie, Eli Creek, Central Station, Indian Head, “Champagne Pools” and Lake Wabby. Academically, this excursion gave us access to a range of primary sources to write an informative report about Fraser Island. Words cannot express in this short paragraph what an amazing experience our Year 12 Geography class had the minute we drove off the barge onto the island.

We have gained so much knowledge about this unique island that is rich and diverse in many flora and fauna species and we were in awe seeing the island’s most famous animal: the dingo. We have seen some extraordinary sites on this short trip and between the whole class, we certainly have many photos! This field trip has strengthened existing friendships and has formed new ones in our class.

It is an excursion that our class will always cherish in our hearts and Fraser Island is definitely a place we are likely to visit again in the future.

Thank you Mrs Pinese for organising this wonderful excursion and thank you also to Mrs Gralike and Mr Pinese who joined us over the three days.

Hayden Venz
Last year our Year 8 team won the local Sunshine Coast Readers’ Cup competition. Next Tuesday night the same team [pictured] of Braden Fritz, Bailey Gray, Tiannah Maltman and Tigi Johnson will be representing St John’s again in the Year 9 regional competition. If they manage to pull off the double and win two years in a row, this team will automatically represent St John’s in the state finals in Brisbane around September.

We wish them every success and know they have shown the same determination and sense of fun mastering the details on a selection of books again this time.

In August, Year 8 students will be asked if they would like to represent St John’s and asked to apply to be part of the team.

Any further enquiries please contact Ms O’Brien in the library.

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St John’s College P&F Fundraiser – Running the Entrance Gates at the Sunshine Coast Show 13, 14 & 15 June.

The amount of help pouring in has been show stopping! Thanks!

Have you two hours to spare on any of these days? We still need adults to assist with taking money, monitoring foot/car traffic and supervising students on all three days. Last year we had great feedback about how this fundraiser was a fantastic school community event where St John’s is visible in the community. Each volunteer will be support to enter the show.

Contact Tracey Langford (tlangford@bne.catholic.edu.au) if you’d like more info or with your availability: DAY, TIME, PARENT/STUDENT NAME, YEAR LEVEL, email, mobile phone.

Roster will be sent out soon with instructions on sign in/out, what to wear and what to expect.

Many thanks.
Catholic Schools Surfing Competition

St Johns was represented by our Year 8 and 9 students, our two leading surfers on the day were Jessie Torok-Williams and Brittany Stark. Unity, Siena and St Teresa's schools were mainly represented by senior students who were there very best surfers.

St Teresa's was represent by two teams and we were able to defeat one of there teams on the day.

Congratulations to all the Junior surfers who did an outstanding effort they have showed an amazing improvement since the start of the yeah with our surfing program.

St Johns will be running the carnival next year which will give us the opportunity to bring our best surfing team so we will be able compete for the title over all.

Rod Kriz

REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

On Tuesday, 14 of our students competed in the Regional Cross Country at Buderim, with four of our students excelling and booking their place at the State Championships, to be held in Toowoomba in July.

15 Girls: Laura Mitton (5th)
18 Girls: Jakarra Brady (2nd)
17 Boys: Mitch Kelly (3rd)
18 Boys: Hamish Horsey (2nd)

Well done to all who competed and who trained for the event.

Training will continue for these athlet4es and for anyone else who wishes to attend –please listen to notices for times and venues.

Ian Fenwick
“Heaven is under our feet, as well as over our heads.”

We were met at Mudjimba Beach yesterday by the sun peeking from the horizon.

Twenty-eight of us set our alarm clocks early, and gathered to symbolise World Environment Day. Donning gloves and a commitment to leave the beach better than we found it, we scoured the beach and park for rubbish left behind by others.

Bags were filled with plastic wrappers, bottles, aluminum cans, Tupperware and bottle tops. After a bite to eat, we returned to school feeling content, and proud that this rubbish was not going to find its home in the ocean. Thank you to Mr Fenwick who drove us to the beach, and to Mr Nan who joined our crew. Great job team!

Michelle Gralike
Thank you to our 2014 Work Experience Employers

The Year 10 students participated in our Work Experience Program from 12 - 16 March 2014.

St John’s College would like to thank all of our Host Employers who took part in our highly valued program.

Congratulations Year 10 Students on your wonderful attitude and professional conduct in the workplace. The 2014 program has been filled with successes where School Based Traineeships, Apprenticeships, and Part-time Employment continue to be offered to students.

A list of Host Employers has been attached and we encourage you to please support our local businesses.

Employers Comments

“has been a pleasure to have her attend our centre. She demonstrated confidence and communicates to all staff appropriately; assisted with the daily routines and the children responded well”

“presented herself well, she was respectful, helpful, positive and willingly took on a variety of tasks as required. She seems to be a keen observer and her conduct was excellent”

“behaved like an apprentice, started to think ahead and was prepared for the next step without being asked. I have confidence he will be a great apprentice and then a great tradesman!”

“promptly picked up the label operating system on the computer. Completed Safety Induction Training with a score of 98%”

“always polite and followed all instructions very well. Her ability to retain information and remember procedures was far beyond her years!!! We hired her “completed the job ahead of the time”

“well-mannered and very well presented. Completed tasks on time and to particular solicitor's standards”

“showed enthusiasm through the entire week”

“struggled to highlight points he could improve on”

“showed enthusiasm when assisting with residents in daily lifestyle activities”

“a pleasure to have in our workplace, he is enthusiastic and ready to help. He clearly has an affinity with animals”

“enthusiastic and eager to learn”

“had a very caring rapport with the children, showed initiative and was a good team member”

“an asset to have on site”

“was a pleasure to have in our workplace. It was great to see her enthusiasm and willingness to learn”

“quickly learned surgical instrument sterilisation techniques and was able to perform this task unsupervised”

“demonstrated a professional attitude to his time with us! He is very personable and enthusiastic”

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Project Compassion Celebration

This week in Pastoral Care class, Casuarina 6 celebrated their success in raising money for Caritas’s Project Compassion. At the beginning of Lent, the students of Casuarina 6 set themselves the goal of raising $350 for Project Compassion. This would be enough money for clean water filters to be installed in two homes in the Philippines.

The enthusiasm and energy shown in supporting this cause was fantastic. Some brought in notes to make one sizeable donation, while others donated small handfuls of coins regularly over the course of Lent.

The motivation for students was two-fold; As well as performing a good deed, students also wanted to force Mr Ashton into baking a ‘world’ cake’, something he agreed to when he was sceptical that they would reach their donation target. The promise of sugar (and the chance to humiliate their PC teacher for his distinct lack of baking skills) provided that little extra incentive, and in the end, the members of Casuarina 6 raised just over $400 for Project Compassion.

Thank you to all of the students and families who supported this great cause. It was particularly impressive to see students continue to donate to such a great cause even after they had achieved their goal.
ARTSPACE

Images from the Blue Note Club Theatre Restaurant
Thank You to Everyone who was involved especially...
Year 12 Hospitality Students
Narelle Persiche
Emma Parer
Jessica Lusk
Patrick Wilson
Kathryn Kiernan-Molloy
Olive Thompson
Jasmine McCaul
Daniel Ashton
John Calvo
Julie Dowling
Dave Cuskelly
Trivia Night  TONIGHT

"Remember the Days in the Old School Yard" get your team organised (10 people to a team at $10 per person; Book a table; If you haven't got a team of 10 no worries we will organise this for you just purchase your tickets then we know who is coming) and ready for a great night of fun, knowledge and entertainment.

June the 6th 6.30pm at the MPC ready for a 7pm start. Lucky Door prize, Guitar raffle, Monster raffle, Silent Auctions (there will be plenty of these) Ok you asked what's a silent Auction? A good or service donated from a local business up for grabs to the highest bidder (write your name on the sheet in front of the item on the night (prior bids if you can't make it will be available) with your bid and hope no-one outbids you before they close) Highest bidder buys Woodford passes, spa treatments, meat vouchers, Art woks, dinner cooked for you, books, beauty treatments, hair packages, brand new surfboard and more items on the night.

There is also 1st, 2nd and 3rd team prizes. Entertainment, mystery questions fun, laughter ............. You'll need a long weekend just to get over the night, lucky we have organised one for you.

Tickets available from the school office, get in early to avoid disappointment as only 40 teams on the night and the last one sold out fast. Parents, students, friends, business teams, sporting teams...... all welcome. No students only tables.

All moneys raised on the night are to be used to purchase goods/build/paint or help in any small way we can for schools and youth groups in Vanuatu.

Bruce King
UNIFORM SHOP and TEXT HIRE

PLEASE NOTE NEW OPENING HOURS

WEDNESDAY 8.00am - 3.45pm and
THURSDAY 8.00am - 3.45pm

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