Dear Parents, Carers, Friends

I returned to “normal” duties on Tuesday this week after spending Monday in Brisbane at the Leading Learning Professional development Course Day 5. It seemed that I had become a stranger in my home town. After copping a few jibes such as, “welcome back stranger”, “who are you?”, “what’s your name?” and “glad you could join us” from my wonderful colleagues, it was down to business and catch-ups.

The previous Thursday I had attended the Priest/Principal Forum and heard from Archbishop Coleridge, Pam Betts our Executive Director and was “walked” through a few recent documents from the Archdiocese relating to parish/School relationships and finances. At morning tea break I happened to access email and read our newsletter. I sat there pondering the energy and talent that is fostered and developed at St. John’s and the extraordinary dedication of many staff.

The staff of the college are as we all expect, dedicated and hard working. Further, they more often than not go well beyond the realms of their role descriptions to make life at St. John’s special, memorable and engaging. Apart from all the extra-curricular opportunities such as Art camps, sporting engagements, Theatre productions, music, readers cup, trivia nights, immersion projects and much more, teachers spend, especially at this time of the semester, many hours setting papers, marking and grading papers and reporting. These activities alone take most of home time on weekends and long nights.

We all expect this to happen because it is their professional duty to do so. I wish to draw attention to this time of the semester as it is always busy with many other activities and it is also the worst time for cold and flu. I was discussing marking with a teacher and asked how long it takes to mark just one piece of work in the assignment that they had set. The response was not new to me but you may be interested in that it took this teacher at least 45 mins per paper. Multiply this by 28 students and you have just one class of assignments completed with four classes to go whether it is an exam, assignment, oral or report.

With high expectations on teachers to perform in the classroom, get it right with marking and reporting, engage students all day, coupled with the sometimes belief that they only work short days and have long holidays, it is no wonder that at times they feel undervalued. I am no longer in the classroom but I see first-hand the stress felt by many teachers juggling all aspects of classroom teaching, marking, health and family and extra curricula activities.

For many teachers there is no end to their dedication and they will be marking this holiday, they will take students to events this holiday and the next and they will back up and do it all again next term. We are indeed fortunate at St. John’s to have so many gifted, talented, dedicated and extraordinary professionals teaching your children. Please peruse the “Good Teachers/Good Teaching” document attached that was drawn up eighteen months ago by our teachers. This is what they expect of themselves and gladly most of us accomplish this most of the time.

Did you know that the Principal of a school is talked about by people in the school community on an average of four times the enrolment numbers. WOW! That’s 2400 times a day – that is scary.
Exams have commenced for all students, especially for the seniors, who have the luxury of not attending school if they do not have an exam. Over many years this has been the case and it is used well by our senior cohorts. The length of the exam session does cut into teaching time but if we are to fulfil the expectations of an “exam and mark- oriented” education system we are obliged to allocate such times to exams.

Next week is the last week of the term and semester. Exams will continue for our senior students and reports are being compiled for the middle school students in years 8-10. Despite what your child may tell you at this time, classes will continue till 2.45pm on Friday June 27th. This is not the time to take your children out of school for extra holidays. Make sure you get your money’s worth by sending them in every day. There is learning happening, albeit mostly non assessable learning. There are commitments, such as Year 10 SET Plan preparations and a 15 years rugby fixture on Wednesday 12pm against Xavier College from Ballina.

The building is going up very quickly. We now have roof trusses in place and next week we will have a roof. Check out the attached picture.

Lastly, we are just finalising last minute interviews of Catholic families for Year 7/8 2015 and our numbers are extraordinary. We have 136 in Year 7 and 120 in Year 8. We will be able to finalise our staffing needs soon to compliment the six new staff already employed for next year. It’s all happening.
I mentioned Refugee Week last week and I would like to thank Rod Kriz for sharing a great prayer session with staff on Thursday and I would like to share this last cartoon with you also:

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

EARTH

Chris Gold
Principal
From the Assistant Principal

**Years 11 and 12 Assessment Blocks:**

The schedules for the Year 11 and 12 Assessment Blocks have been finalised and are available on the College Website under the School Life section – Assessments and Exams.

In this section there are also the detailed instructions for all students relating to these blocks. I have also written a very detailed e-mail explaining a number of our processes to students as this is the first block for Year 11 students.

I have re-written to students today reminding them of three things in particular:

a) Students are welcome to attend school when not in assessment, but must wear school uniform and be in an allocated study room (or alternative room) under teacher supervision at all times. Students are free to leave the College after assessment is completed for the day – they do not have to wait until 2:45pm to leave.

b) Any absences during assessment times do require a medical certificate. The College should be contacted BEFORE the allocated time that the assessment was due to commence where possible. Students are expected to complete the missed assessment as soon as possible after that day – this may include coming in on additional days throughout this block to complete that task.

c) Students should have read and be aware of the full instructions for these blocks – in particular, in relation to issues such as lateness, mobile phones and allowable equipment in rooms.

Students are “officially” present at school until Friday, June 27, and we do expect that the minimum requirements are met until this time.

I would remind parents and carers that should an assessment issue arise, the first point of contact should be the Class Teacher. The procedures in place then require this teacher to liaise with the Learning Coordinator before any decisions are made. Should further assistance be required, Learning Coordinators or Parents / Carers can contact Year Coordinators (if relevant), or myself, as the final step in that process to make final decisions and recommendations.

**Years 9 and 10 Elective Subject Choices for Semester 2:**

Draft subject allocations have been distributed to all students. If students are happy with those allocations, they do not have to take any further action.

If a student wishes to request a change from these allocations, they need to follow the instructions on the form and return the form to me as soon as possible. Many classes are already full at this time.

**Year 10 Transition to Senior Schooling:**

Next Wednesday morning the Year 10 students will be given all of the documentation which is relevant to undertaking their Student Education and Training (SET) Planning in preparation for Years 11 and 12.

If you ask your child on Wednesday afternoon to have a look at their yellow folder and they should be able to show you what we have done in these sessions! We will take some time to inform the students of expectations, and have them log in to the SET Plan Online program which they will use for this process. On Wednesday evening, we will be holding an Information Evening, commencing at 7pm in the GSC.

There will be a short group session exploring the expectations and options, before students and parents will be able to move to Rooms 37 – 40 to discuss individual subjects with Learning Coordinators and other staff.

We will also have a number of other providers at this evening for those wanting information on Universities, TAFE, traineeships etc.

Whilst attendance is not compulsory, it is highly recommended and is a valuable night for all concerned in this process.

**Reports and Parent / Teacher interviews:**

Reports for Years 8 – 10 will be finalised in the last week of this term. Year 11 and 12 reports are finalised in the first week back in Term 3.

Parent / Teacher evening is scheduled for Monday, July 21 and there will a separate attachment with this newsletter regarding bookings for this.

We look forward to seeing many of the parents and carers, as well as students, on this evening.

Mark O’Connor – Assistant Principal
From the APRE

Today is World Refugee Day. We have been celebrating Refugee Week 2014 by reflecting on the words of Pope Francis. I have included one of the prayers our community began our day with on Wednesday. It is easy to forget that we are dealing with mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, friends, doctors, dreamers, artists and babies when the rhetoric from our government is a celebration of how the ‘boats’ have been stopped. The focus for World Refugee Day 20th June is “We won’t close the door on refugees.”

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS
FOR THE 100TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2014
"Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World"

Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more. The sheer number of people migrating from one continent to another, or shifting places within their own countries and geographical areas, is striking.

I think of how even the Holy Family of Nazareth experienced initial rejection: Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7). Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew what it meant to leave their own country and become migrants: threatened by Herod’s lust for power, they were forced to take flight and seek refuge in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14). But the maternal heart of Mary and the compassionate heart of Joseph, the Protector of the Holy Family, never doubted that God would always be with them. Through their intercession, may that same firm certainty dwell in the heart of every migrant and refugee.

Let us pray in the words of Pope Francis

Dear migrants and refugees!
Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship! To all of you, and to those who have devoted their lives and their efforts to helping you, I give the assurance of my prayers and I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.
From the Vatican
FRANCIS

Amen
Modern History

This semester, Miss Rings Year 11 modern history class has been interesting and engaging with the focus on the French and Russian Revolution in term one as well as Gallipoli and Kokoda campaigns in term two. Whilst investigating past events, we have become increasingly aware of the importance of history in accordance to the way societies across the world have developed. This has been seen within the classroom, where sparks of curiosity have often ignited into thought-provoking discussions and information which is then used to investigate chain events leading to the diversity of societies across the world. Within this, we've gained a more comprehensive understanding of our own history and society with a current focus on the Australian identity.

Overall, it can be safely said that the class has been enjoying modern history as it gives us an interesting insight into the past and into our modern day societies.

Kerry Doblo

Year 10 Legal Studies

This semester the Year 10 Legal Studies class visited the Maroochydore Magistrates court and performed in Moot court at school. Here we had hands-on-experience in the legal field and learnt some great skills while having fun as well. On the day we visited court we were both nervous and excited. After going through security, we went upstairs and entered the Magistrates court. There, we bowed to the magistrate and sat down. The formal proceedings began and the accused defended themselves or had a lawyer to do so.

We saw everyone from the apologetic to the crazy. Some people were brought in from lockup, and were kept behind a glass wall. After we listened to all the cases and took lots of notes, we left court and headed back to school. In total, we saw 11 cases and it was a really fun and interesting experience.

Just this week, we performed in front of our class in a Moot Court. Here, Mrs Doblo was the judge and Prosecution and Defense teams were formed to prove the guilt or defend the innocence of the accused in a court case. It involved creating documents for court, writing statements and questions and of course, rehearsing. From the evidence presented by both sides, the Jury deliberated a verdict on whether they found the defendant guilty or not guilty. In both Moot Courts, the accused was found guilty and the prosecution won. However we all did well and it was a valuable learning experience.

Overall, this semester of Legal Studies was a fascinating and enjoyable experience where everybody got to be part of practical activities we all enjoyed.

Pemma Bastin
During this semester we have covered the following areas: landscapes and landforms with a main focus on Mt Coolum. We are also learning about urbanisation and its effect on our society and environment.

Peggy Lohman

Year 8 Geography

Three classes of Geography students have nearly completed the final unit of their Year 10 Geography course. They began the year studying the importance of rainforests, and their threats as a result of urbanisation. Students then studied the unique environment of Antarctica, and evaluated economic, social and environmental considerations in order to make recommendations that would ensure its future sustainability. Geography students are currently working on a field report that will analyse visitor demographics, evaluate the impacts of tourism in Mooloolaba, and make proposals for the future needs of the area.

Year 10 Geography

Noosa was our classroom in Term 1, when students visited the area to investigate the importance of Noosa River to the area’s biodiversity. Students investigated longshore drift, the sand-pumping operation and dunal vegetation as part of their investigation into the erosion issues on Noosa Main Beach. Term 2 has focused on the atmospheric and lithospheric processes that result in natural disasters, and the way in which developing and developed countries are impacted differently as a consequence.

Year 11 Geography
“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveller who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack” - Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Good Samaritan Vinnies Youth conference was formed on the 28th February 2014. 40 young people from St Joseph’s Primary school and St John’s College supported by St Joseph’s Parish, had their inaugural meeting to form a Vinnies youth group that would encapsulate both campuses and go beyond the boundaries of the school grounds. The name Good Samaritan was chosen for the group as both schools and Parish have a strong connection with the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and it was only fitting that the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Blessed Fredrick Ozanam had two key focuses: charity and Social Justice which line up beautifully with our Chrasim.

The students had been talking about the need to do “good works” in their local community as it had come to their attention that “in our own backyard” people needed support. The main objective is to support the families in our schools and Parishes through material support and supporting children in need for example food hampers or meals, assist with gardening, homework, transport, school uniforms and providing confidential information in times of crisis.

Our winter appeal this year aims to raise the awareness of homelessness and to give our members an unique experience by having a Sleepout. Young people from our schools and Parish (year 6 upwards) are invited to register for the Sleepout. This will be held at St Joseph’s Community Centre gathering space (between Church and Centre) on Friday 18th July commencing at 6.30 pm and finishing the following morning at 7 am.

Registration will cost $5 and proceeds will go towards the Vinnies Homeless program in Nambour.

Through sleeping rough for one night during winter, the Sleepout hopes to give young people a tangible experience of what it would be like to be homeless, to bring awareness about the realities faced by members of the community with no place to call home. The event will include activities designed to break open the issue of homelessness and give the young people a simulated experience in an environment monitored by staff and parents volunteers.

Please contact tlangford@bne.catholic.edu.au or 0417 071 168 for your permission and registration forms. Registrations close on Monday 13th July and numbers are limited. If you would like to assist in any way on the night, please contact Tracey Langford (St John’s) or Mr William Bemelmans (St Joseph’s).

> There are ‘officially’ more than 105, 000 Australians who are homeless.
> A quarter of these people live in Queensland.
> 7, 500 of them are families.

Date Claimers:

- Wednesday, June 25, 2014 – 7pm Start - Information Evening for Year 10 students and parents / carers about the SET Planning processes for the Transition to Senior Schooling.
- Monday, July 21, 2014 – 3:15pm – 9:00pm – Parent / Teacher Interviews (students are encouraged and welcome to attend)
- Wednesday, July 23, 2014 – Wednesday, August 6, 2014 – Year 10 SET Plan Interviews

Reminders:

(a) Parents are reminded that the term dates for the Academic years of 2014 and 2015 are now available on the Brisbane Catholic Education website at: http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/TermDates.aspx

Please ensure that you have checked these before making any bookings as early departures and late returns can have a negative impact on student workloads and achievement.

Year 11 and 12 students will always have the bulk of their assessment due in the final two weeks of EVERY term.

Mark O’Connor – Assistant Principal
Under 15 Girls Soccer Report

The Under 15 Girls Soccer team finished their season with their fifth straight win last Thursday evening.

The team lost only one match all season, when they faced a full strength side from St Patrick’s College, Gympie, with only nine players. When the girls played St Pat’s later in the season with a full strength team, they scored a resounding 2 – Nil win.

The enthusiasm from all team members was fantastic. Some players were already seasoned soccer veterans who currently play in representative teams, while others played their very first game of soccer this term, but the effort from all was outstanding. The tenacity and fearlessness shown in defence was particularly satisfying to watch.

The girls enjoyed the season so much, and are so confident in their ability, that they are going to continue playing in the Senior Soccer competition next term. Despite the prospect of going up against an older opposition, the girls are determined to carry their good form over, and to prove that skill and determination are more important than size.

While all of the girls played incredibly well, and showed great sportsmanship throughout, special mention must go to the lightning-quick reflexes of goal-keeper Angela Paciocco, the blistering speed of Amy Spence in defence, the gravity-defying throw-ins of Kate Rezes and the power and accuracy of Abbey Baker’s shots on goal. Special thanks must also go to our student coach and manager, Laura Wade.

The Senior Soccer team of St John’s will have to play the Under 15s in next term’s competition, and they should be very, very nervous…
ARTSPACE

Year 9 Drama

Comedy Script Performance Assessment

above
Shaynia & Sophie
L to R
Elliot & Ethan
Erin & Courtney
Joe & Riley
DATE CLAIMER

'Back to School'

Working parents who might like to attend our 'Back to School' experience next term, the dates for this activity are Tuesday 29th and Thursday 31st July.

More information is to follow early next term.

'Back to School' is where parents can come and sit in on their child's lessons or check out other subjects and year levels.

YEAR 8’S AND YEAR 12’S BUDDY NIGHT
FRIDAY 18TH JULY

Please see attachment for more details.
UNIFORM SHOP
and
TEXT HIRE

PLEASE NOTE NEW
OPENING HOURS

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

Contact Details

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http://on.fb.me/12GGNI0

Student Absentee Line:  5444 9299