**St John’s College Newsletter**  
No. 2  6th February, 2015

Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

I write to you today from the Student Leadership Planning Day. This is yet another highly motivating and invigorating day working with our leaders.

It is appropriate then that we publish below the following inspirational speech given by Kate Doherty, School Captain, at the Opening Mass yesterday. It was indeed a memorable and special occasion and Kate's speech and delivery was outstanding.

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**Chris Gold**  
Principal

Good morning Father Graham, parents, teachers and students. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone here today to celebrate this opening mass for 2015 in our wonderful St John’s community. But 2015 will be no ordinary year. Already we have welcomed our year 7 students for the first time, and this year will mark the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the College. We are a school that prides ourselves on Catholic tradition. Each year we embrace a chosen theme from the Good Samaritan Benedictine Values, enabling us as a community to treat each other with compassion and kindness in the Catholic faith.

This year’s theme is the value of listening. Upon first being told this, I thought to myself— but listening is natural? We listen every day, whether it is to teachers, friends, music or television. Is that really a special quality? But as our Year 12 coordinator, Miss Ring, cleverly pointed out on our first day: there is a big difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is a gift we are already born with, given to us beyond our control. But actually choosing to listen is a different and unique quality altogether.

How many times have you sat with someone while they are talking, but instead of listening, planning what you will say next? How many times have you been on the phone, and while you are hearing the speaker, your thoughts are miles away? And how many of you have sat in a classroom, only ‘hearing’ the information, to later realize what you missed to take in was on a test. We are often so caught up in our own lives that we forget to connect with those around us.

We profess to be a generation who pride ourselves on our ability to communicate and connect with people at the press of a ‘send’ button or dial of a phone. But are we really living up to what we believe? We are so busy making sure that people hear what we have to say that we forget to listen ourselves. Or in the words of a Native American Proverb, "our tongues are making us deaf".

It is no coincidence that the word ‘listen’ is made of the same letters we find in ‘silent’. One of the major barriers we have to listening is the aversion that many of us have to silence. We live in an age where we are bombarded by constant noise. Our car and bus trips are filled with music, and our dinner often accompanied by the latest TV drama. Silence seems to scare us.

But being comfortable with silence is the first step towards “listening with the ear of the heart”, the opening words of the Rule of St. Benedict. By listening in this way, we hear not just the words; we listen with feeling and meaning from the depths of our inner selves. Not just listening until we have an opinion to voice, but because we really care about the true meaning of what has been said.

This past week, I set a goal for myself. My aim was to truly listen to everything and everyone around me. At work, when asking my customers “how has your day been” I made sure I was genuinely interested in their replies. Many of them truly appreciated that somebody stopped for them to hear how they were and what they had to say. And many of them were surprised that the general customer service they were expecting had changed into an experience where they felt noticed and valued. I challenged myself to leave my headphones out, instead focusing on the people around me. I have also become great friends with my year 8 buddy, simply because we made the effort to listen to what each other had to say.

You may ask: did these things really make a difference? As small as these changes were, the connections with the people around me developed true meaning. I learnt things that I never would have discovered in a world where my life and thoughts are the only ones that matter.

And so, in this year of listening, I ask you all to consider making a change in your own lives. Connect with your family, friends, and colleagues by talking less and listening more. Our community will be a better place when we know how to listen deeply and care for one another, by opening our hearts to receive the true words.

Thank you.
Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful start to 2015. You should have by now received your fee statement. If not please contact the office on 54415666 to have it resent.

Concessions are currently being processed, if you have applied for a concession you will receive a letter in the coming weeks regarding your application. I would like to thank you for your patience with this. We have had larger than normal volume of applications to be processed this year.

Thank you to all of the families who have payment plans in place, your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding payment of fees please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Twomey dtwomey@bne.catholic.edu.au or myself on kim.harrison@bne.catholic.edu.au, please remember, communication is the key.

Regards,

Kim Harrison
Business Manager

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**Fees & Concession Applications**

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I hope you and your family have had a wonderful start to 2015. You should have by now received your fee statement. If not please contact the office on 54415666 to have it resent.

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Regards,

Kim Harrison
Business Manager

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**Year 7 2016 Enrolment Interviews**

for

St John's College, Nambour

**Parent/Carer information:**

Members of the college leadership team will be visiting St Joseph’s primary school and Stella Maris primary school in early March 2015. Year 6 students for Year 7 2016 will be given enrolment packs for St John's College.

Year 6s will be interviewed from Monday 23 March to Friday 3 April for Year 7 2016 enrolment at St John’s College.

- A Parent Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm at St John’s College in the Multi-Purpose Centre.

At St John’s College we provide quality education in an environment that nurtures children in their Catholic faith.

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**PHOTOS**

Individual Photo Forms have been issued to every student.

Family photo forms are available at the student counter. Forms must be completed and handed by the student to the photographer on the day.

Photo day will be Tuesday 10th February.
From the Assistant Principal

Parent Information

For the benefit of all parents, carers and students, but particularly our new members of the St John’s community, it is timely to outline some of the information which is (or very soon will be) available through our website and other areas which we use to communicate. These things will assist in planning and keeping up to date with all that is happening at St John’s:

- Newsletters are e-mailed out every Friday. These are also posted on our website.
- Assessment Schedules for each year level are being finalised as we speak and will be posted on the website by the end of Week 3 of every semester. These show an overview of when all Summative Assessment is due for every subject to enable students to plan ahead.
- PC Teachers should have been in contact with all parents and carers of members of their PC group. If this has not happened, please feel free to make contact with them through the College.
- All going to plan, but the end of February we will have our Parent Portal running. This will provide a place for us to place information which is currently sent by e-mail or hard to find on the public website. We are also working on having a Staff E-mail list added to our website in the very near future.
- Staff have started distributing to students and parents Subject Outlines which cover the topics, assessment and requirements for the current subjects.
- Under the “School Life” section of our website, you can find information such as Subject Handbooks, Applications for Extensions and changes to assessment and information relating to assessment procedures, co-curricular activities and many other areas.

Please remember that a lot of information will be e-mailed to parents. As such, it is crucial that you keep the College informed of any changes to your e-mail address. This can be done by contacting Maree or Teresa in the office.

Subject changes.

The window of opportunity for subject changes for Years 11 and 12 students for this semester closes on Monday, February 9. Any changes do involve an extensive consultation process involving relevant teachers and parents to ensure correct placements of students in options is being undertaken. The QCAA requirements are very strict and any changes after this time will be only if there are exceptional circumstances. These instances will be very rare.

Date – claimers

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

- Wednesday, February 18 – Year 12 Information Evening
- Tuesday, February 24 – Year 11 Information Evening
- Tuesday, March 10 – Year 7 2016 Information Evening
- Parent teacher nights – Thursday, 23 and Tuesday, April 28
- Wednesday, June 24 - 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
Over 100 students have made their way to our College library this week during most lunch times. In particular, our new students in years 7 & 8 are keen to sample new fiction, while others have discovered the chess sets and enjoyed the cool breezes on the verandah. This week we would just like to introduce library staff to all new and continuing members of the school community.

In future weeks, we shall be offering tips and news to assist with finding resources, accessing school subscriptions, using the net more effectively and ways to seek out a good read. During the WISE-UP program students were given a quick orientation in years 7 & 8. Hopefully, this column will give parents and students further assistance in these skills and resources, as the year progresses.

Please don’t hesitate to contact any of us. The emails of the Teacher Librarians are on the final page of this newsletter. The photographs below depict Mrs Anna Corboy, Mrs Jane Corey and Ms Anne Maree O’Brien. Anna and Anne Maree share the Teacher Librarian role. These shots were taken while we were having a lot of fun at last year’s St John’s Day. Pigtails aren’t usually part of our standard attire!

Your library is open before school from 7.45am.
We are open at Morning Tea and Lunchtime.
By arrangement the library is available after 3.30pm
Year 8 Vaccinations

This week all Year 8 students were issued with consent forms for various Year 8 vaccinations. The dates for vaccinations at the school -

23/02/2015: All Year 8’s (HPV dose 1)
06/05/2015: All Year 8’s (HPV dose 2 and dTpa)
09/09/2015 All Year 8’s (HPV dose 3 VZV)

If your child has already had chickenpox, they are immune to the disease and do not need to be vaccinated.

All forms are due back to the office by February 13th.

Year 10 Vaccinations

This week Year 10 students were issued with vaccination forms for dTpa.

All forms are due back to the office by February 13th, 2015

Vaccination will occur on the 23rd February, 2015.

If you have any queries please contact Ozcare on 5413 8460 or email sbvp@ozcare.org.au

Dave Cuskelly
Deputy Principal

Do you want to deepen your spirituality and complete initiation rites to become part of the St John’s faith community?

What a wonderful celebration we witnessed on Thursday morning with the Opening Mass. I felt a presence of spirit and it was comforting to be sitting with you as we shared the love of God. Many of our young people think, breath and live the gospel, being respectful and reverent, and their acts of compassion are an embodiment of their spirituality. St John’s College is offering an opportunity for young people to explore your spirituality and deepen your understanding of God’s presence in your life? You might have been Baptised but are keen to complete the initiation rites of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you are aged between 12 and 18 years, never been Baptised, or received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist then this is for you. I will be hosting an information session at St John’s College at 12.35 pm in the Fig Tree room on Tuesday 10th February 2015. We already have 4 young people from years 9-12 who have registered. The group will be held at school either during lunch or after school depending on numbers and will be over a 6 week period. If you would like to find out more please contact Tracey at St John’s College on 5441566 or 0417071168 or email tlangford @bne.catholic.edu.au. Many thanks Tracey Langford Campus Minister.

‘I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly’ John 10:10
SCHOOL FEES

Term One invoices were posted this week. If you have not received your Term One invoice, please contact dtwomey@bne.catholic.edu.au to arrange a copy to be emailed to you.

Thank you to all the families who have paid their Term One invoices all ready or established Payment Plans. If you have not yet made arrangements to pay the Term One invoice please ensure this is attended to promptly.

Payment Plan – Some families choose to continue their Payment Plans from year to year. If you are ones of these families, please check your Fee Statement to ensure your Payment Plan has actually continued and is still in place for 2015. It’s also a good idea to check the regular payment is sufficient to cover the full amount of the 2015 fees. If you are unsure about any of this, please contact me at dtwomey@bne.catholic.edu.au

Sibling Discount - For those families with 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. You are still able to submit your Form for the Sibling Discount. The Discount will be applied retrospectively and still apply for the whole year. Please download them from the College website, under enrolment/School Fees.

Qkr! Payment Option – A reminder that the Qkr! mobile phone app is a free downloadable app through which parents can make payment for a variety of school items, including Uniforms.

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

BUDDY AFTERNOON
SJC NETBALL 2015

The SJC netball season will commence on Monday 16th February at Fisherman’s Road, Maroochydore. As all SJC teams must be nominated by Tuesday 10th February, it is necessary that we finalise all teams by early next week. **Students MUST attend the following trials/training sessions next week:**

- **Monday 9th February (3-4pm):** All Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students who want to play in a SJC team
- **Wednesday 10th February (7am):** Fitness training for the A squad
- **Wednesday 11th February (3-4pm):** All Year 7 and 8 students who want to play in a SJC team
- **Thursday 12th February (3-4pm):** Training for all Year 9 and 10 teams
- **Friday 13th February (3 – 4.30pm):** A squad training (Intermediate A, SJC 2nds, SJC 1sts)

On a Monday afternoon, players are transported to the courts by the school bus and taken home by parents after the games. Year 7 and 8 games usually commence at 4.15pm, with other games continuing until 8.30pm.

Weekly team training times are as follows:

- Year 7 and 8 teams’ training is on a Wednesday afternoon at the college, from 3pm – 4pm.
- Year 9 and 10 teams’ training is on a Thursday afternoon at the college, from 3pm – 4pm.
- A teams’ (Intermediate A, SJC 1sts and 2nds) training is on a Friday afternoon at the college, from 3pm – 4.30pm. These teams also have fitness training on Wednesday morning at the college, commencing at 7am.

As St John’s has between 15 to 17 netball teams, it is necessary that all students attend the above sessions. With so many girls playing netball, we don’t want to miss someone due to them not attending a particular session.

Please contact Mrs Anning at the school if there are any queries. [manning@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:manning@bne.catholic.edu.au)

Surfing Term 1

The early morning surfing program recommences on **Thursday 12th of February**.

This is a development program for students who are at an intermediate level. Notes have been distributed to students today. Places are limited so students will need to return payment and confirmation by Monday.

A reminder that students requiring transport from school will need to be at the school bus at 5.30am. All other students need to meet at the beach location at Mudjimba (near skate park) by 6am.

During this time of year the program may be altered each week as dictated by surf conditions. It is important that an appropriate mobile number is provided for contact by our coordinators. All other details are identified on the letter.
Football Term 1

Football (soccer) will commence in Term 1 with a boys and girls competition for all grades 8 and 9 students interested in nominating.

A meeting will be held next Monday 9th February in Room 3 for students to collect information and nomination forms.

The competition will take place on Thursday afternoon’s with training being held every Tuesday afternoon at the bottom oval.

Rugby

Rugby training is continuing this term with training every Monday with some teams also training Wednesday afternoon. Training times may vary according to teams and players are encouraged to listen out for morning notifies if changes do arise.

OPENING MASS
The STUFFit Management Team is excited to be hosting workshops being run by QTFF with the generous assistance of a grant from the Sunshine Coast Council. We have spoken at assembly and several students have signed up for the workshops. The informational flyer below has more details. If you are interested in attending, please register asap as places are limited.

**STUFFit Student Film Festival News**

**FILM WORKSHOPS**

**IN THE BIN**
(2 day Short Film Workshop)
**Saturday February 28th and Sunday March 1st**
9am-3pm

- Ages 12 - 17
- Create, shoot and edit your own short films
- Morning tea and sausage sizzle lunch provided
- Bring your own film ideas
- Maximum 24 students

$20

**GREEN SCREEN**
(2 1/2 Hour Workshop)
**Friday February 27th**
4pm-6:30pm

- Ages 8 - 12
- Fun Greenscreen Production Workshop
- Afternoon tea provided
- Maximum 15 students

$5

Email stuffitfilmfestival@gmail.com for more information and payment details.

Location of workshops -
St John’s College
Perwillowen Rd
Nambour
Drama Rooms 41/42 Polding Building

Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's Grants Program.
NEWS FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Year 7, 8 and 9 students
Are you looking for something different to do at lunchtime? Next week (Wk 3A), for the first time ever, we are offering weekly lunchtime DANCE and DRAMA sessions. There is no experience needed just bring your lunch and enthusiasm to Rooms 41/42. There is a large area outside the rooms with a bubbler and a bin to eat your lunch before joining the sessions.

TUESDAY - Dance
THURSDAY - Drama

We are aiming for a core group of students who want to come every week with the view to a performance night. We expect lots of students to come along in the first couple of weeks to try out the sessions and then decide if they would like to continue. See you there!

Alumni News

Past student Lauren Edmonds (‘11), has just received two awards for her artwork in the New Media Art Prize Category of the current exhibition Digital Disruption at the Caloundra Regional Gallery. She has won a $3,000 mentorship for a chosen applicant presented by Earth Base Productions to assist and develop the emerging artists' practice and an opportunity to showcase at Analogue Digital Brisbane 2015 for a selected applicant, valued at $2,500. Our congratulations to Lauren who has just graduated from Art College in Brisbane on winning these two awards. A photo of Lauren and one of her digital artworks is below. The exhibition, Digital Disruption is on at the Caloundra Regional Gallery from the 30th Jan - 15th March, 10am-4pm Sunday-Wednesday.
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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Student Absentee Line: 5444 9299

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

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