



**Saint John the Apostle
Primary School Florey**

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Term 4, Week 6 2019

Year 6 End of Year special events

From the Principal



Dear St John the Apostle Primary School Community,

This being Week 6 we enter the last half of the school term and we have our feet firmly sitting in the day to day operations of this year with a view to 2020 and what is coming.

Still to come in 2019!

Semester 2 Reports

Teachers have spent many weeks conducting final assessments of students in their classes and writing Semester 2 student reports. They always take great care preparing these and I thank them for the extra time taken to complete them. These will be distributed mid Week 9 with an opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss them later in that week and early Week 10.

Christmas Concert

Rehearsals for our annual Christmas Concert, being held at SFX on **Monday 16 December** at 6.00pm, are well underway. Mrs MacDonald is working with class teachers to develop a fun night that every child can be a part of. Kindergarten will once again present a version of the Nativity story. Some classes have sent home notes already this week regarding costume requirements. Others will be sending these very soon as the needs are finalised. They will be kept simple and additional special items will be made at school.

Please note that all students will need to be at SFX at 5.30pm on the day.

The **Year 6 Graduation Mass** is a very special evening celebrating the achievements of our young students embarking on high school. Held at the Parish church at Kippax on **Wednesday 11 December**, it is an important opportunity to be thankful for the wonderful journey that our students have all travelled and bless them for their future.

The following **Wednesday 18 December** Year 6 will have a special **Big Splash** day where they get to enjoy each other's company, along with their teachers, one last time.

On **Thursday 19 December** we will hold our **Candle Ceremony** where Year 6 students will say goodbye to the student community and pass on the light of student leadership to our Year 5 students. It is a special moment for everyone.

Year 6 teachers will keep the families informed of these events.

End of Term Awards

With all that is happening, our End of Term Awards ceremony will be held a few days earlier on **Thursday 12 December** at 2.10pm. Teachers are finalising nominations and will receive notice next week if their child is receiving one of these awards.

Please note that the last day of school for 2019 is **Thursday 19 December**.

For those requiring care for their child on **Friday 20 December**, **Camp Australia** have places available.

A view to 2020!

Playground update

The quotes have been accepted, the design finalised and the dates booked. We are looking forward to new basketball and netball courts as well as a lot of other linemarking for games being completed in January. It will be a new beginning for our playground in 2020. Thank you everyone for the wonderful efforts in fundraising to achieve the first big playground improvement project. We get to see our hard work come to fruition and our students benefit.

Budget and School Fees 2020

Thank you to the Community Council Executive who met last night to discuss the draft budget and school fees for 2020. These will be discussed and ratified at the next Community Council Meeting on Wednesday 4 December and then relevant information will be shared with the school community directly afterwards. Our budget priorities next year will remain focused on the playground improvements and increased access to the ICT and Digital Technologies resources to enhance students' learning opportunities.

New student orientations

We finished our Kindergarten 2020 orientations yesterday with a beautiful buddy time between Year 4 and the new Kindergarten students. These two groups will go on to remain buddy groups for the next two years.

Other students who will be new next year from Year 1 to 6 have been invited to spend a day at school with us at one of the next two Thursdays. We look forward to helping them feel welcome in our community.

Teachers and Classes for 2020

Thank you to all the parents who sent me their considerations for their child's class placement in 2020. These have been drawn together and are being referred to as we work through the process of drafting the class lists.

We use a software program to assist us in putting the lists together after a large amount of data input that includes student nominated friends/preferences, input from class teachers around academic, social and well-being requirements of students and then the parent considerations received. Class teachers get to work with the drafts alongside Executive Team members. I then have one last look over them to finalise the lists. Once the groups are formed we then assign the teacher to match the group. As we have done in the past, teachers for each year level will be announced in the Newsletter in Week 9.

On Tuesday of Week 10 students will be told their teacher for 2020 and have a 'one up day' where they spend an afternoon with their teacher in their class group. It's a great opportunity to begin building a relationship between teacher and students.

Where possible we try to have any new teachers to our school attend on 'one-up day'.

Staffing 2020

A few weeks ago I announced a few staffing changes due to maternity leave and transfer opportunities. I would just like to update everyone.

Mrs Melanie Monaghan is going to give high school a go next year with a one year transfer to SFX. While she will miss being among the younger students in 2020 she's looking forward to the professional learning opportunity this will be. We wish her well in 2020 (and yes....we are in talks about the chickens).

Mrs K (Daisy), one of our Classroom Support Assistants who works across the school with many students, will be spending 2020 overseas and we wish her the very best in her endeavours next year.

Some new teachers have been appointed for 2020. These include Ashleigh van Kemenade who will be joining us from St Thomas Aquinas, West Belconnen; Charlie McIver, new to our Catholic Education system; and, Ruth Blackwell, who will be joining us from St Thomas the Apostle in Kambah. We warmly welcome them to our school community and look forward to their contributions to our students' learning and growth.

School is a busy, busy place at this time of year and full of action, excitement and for some, anxiety. The greatest success during such time occurs when we work together, stepping in when needed to support those around us as well as acknowledging the great achievements and successes. Together, we make St John the Apostle Primary School a great place for each other.

Kind regards,

Matthew Garton (*Principal*)

Catholic Life & Reflection



I came across this blog



**To be on earth
the heart of God.**

post and it struck a chord with me as I have just finished the mosaic cross at the front of the school. I love mosaic because of the colours and the process of deciding where pieces go. I also love it when I have been up close for a while and step back to

see the overall effect. I had never thought about it as a reflection of our community. I love it even more now.

"A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in community is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." Community is where humility and glory touch."

https://stjohnflorey.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2472/cross.pdf

1 John 1:7 New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE)

7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

God bless,
Stephanie Stewart
Religious Education Coordinator

Notices from the Parish

If you would like to read items of interest from the latest Parish Newsletter ('Compact') please click on the link below.

Happy Birthday

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/BU4-Bgo27UA?showinfo=1&rel=0>

Happy birthday to Lila W and Georgia S who both celebrated a birthday over the last week.

Celebration of Positive Behaviour

Congratulations to the following students who received an award for the fortnightly Positive Behaviour Focus "we are on time". The awards will be presented at the School Assembly on Monday 11 November at 2:15pm.

Class		
KB	Vincent N	Thomasina N
KM	Alana S	Evelina N
1B	Jack R	Charlotte S
1M	Liam D	Abbey R
2B	Izabella H	Sophie R
2M	Faith L	Celine M
3B	Zachary G	Emily N
3M	Yusha A	Jessica C
4B	Diamond M	Star H
4M	Archie B Athuai A	Harrison R Hayden S
5B	Andy H	Oliver M
5M	Olivia H	Margaret M
6B	Nicolas V	Isabell U
6M	Ava N	Ethan T
Performing Arts	Briony F	Athuai A

Parenting Ideas



10 April 2019

Children's birthday parties – cause for celebration or alienation?

It's funny how the seemingly small things cause the greatest angst for kids – a sneer from a sibling; a curt remark from a teacher or being left off a classmate's birthday party invitation list can leave a child feeling insecure, even sad.

While some issues such as sibling disputes are perennial others such as helping children manage the disappointment of missing a friend's birthday party is a more pressing concern for primary-aged children right now. In fact, according to many teachers and parents I meet many children's birthday parties are creating rifts between children, leading to alienation for those left off the party list.

Issue invitations with sensitivity

It's a good life lesson for a child to learn that they can't be invited to everything. But not being invited to a party shouldn't make a child feel isolated or humiliated. Disappointment is normal; humiliation and alienation are not acceptable. Which means children need to give out invitations while being mindful of the feelings of others. This is where good parenting comes in. We need to remind, and if necessary teach children, how to give out invitations sensitively being mindful of the possible disappointment that some children will experience. Likewise all children who are going to a party should be reminded of their social obligations to all classmates, not just those who are in the "in" crowd. Tolerance and social graces are the foundations of a civil society and these lessons start in primary school.

Helping kids handle disappointment

One of the keys to functioning socially and emotionally is the ability to deal with disappointment and rejection.

So whether it is a case of not receiving an invitation to a classmate's birthday party or a school playground snub, most children experience some type of rejection from their peers throughout childhood. Most children recover from such rejection. They move on and form constructive, worthwhile

relationships but some children need help. They often take rejection personally, blaming themselves. As a parent it is useful to challenge children's unhelpful thinking and encourage them to look for new friendship opportunities. Parents can help children understand that rejection may happen for any number of reasons that are unrelated to them.

In the course of a school day children will meet with a number of challenges and even setbacks. They may struggle with some schoolwork. They may not do well in a test and they may not be picked for a game that they wanted to play. Children grow stronger when they overcome their difficulties. The challenge for parents is to build and maintain children's confidence to help them get through the rough times.

One way to help children deal with rejection and disappointment is to talk through problems or difficulties, recognising and accepting their feelings. Talk about various scenarios, discussing possible outcomes. The age of the child will determine the amount of detail. Keep things simple and avoid burdening a younger child with concepts he or she doesn't understand.

Your attitude can make a huge difference to how a child reacts. If you see rejection or disappointments as problems then your child will be hamstrung by this view. See them as challenges then your child will, in all likelihood, pick up your upbeat view and deal with disappointments easily. After all, confidence is catching!

To help children handle rejection and disappointment try the following four strategies:

1. Model optimism. Watch how you present the world to children, as they will pick up your view.
2. Tell children how you handle disappointment and rejection. Not only is it reassuring for children to know that their parents understand how they feel but they can learn a great deal by how their parents handle situations.
3. Help children recognise times in the past when they bounced back from disappointment. Help them recognise those some strategies can be used again.
4. Laugh together. Humour is a great coping mechanism. It helps put disappointment in perspective. It helps them understand that things will get better. They always do.

Library News



It's hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from the end of the school year. In an effort to get all school library materials back and accounted for before the holidays, all library books need to be back to the school library no later than Wednesday 11 December 2019.

Please check at home for any library books and return them to school.

Overdue notices have been emailed last week. This year we have experienced a large number of books being removed from the Library without first being borrowed on the Library system. If families would kindly check their shelves for books that belong to St John's, we would be most grateful.

Just a few reminders:

- Last orders for Scholastic Book Club, need to be in by 2 December 2019.
- Last week for borrowing Library books will be Week 7.
- Please also return any classroom readers. There are a lot of these books missing and we desperately need them for next year.

Next year we will also be adding book recommendations and reviews to our newsletter column, so stay tuned.

Happy reading!

Georgina Jaram (Teacher/Librarian) and Vanessa Hallaj (Library Assistant).

Did you know?

The library uses 'Oliver', a web-based library system that enables anyone to search the catalogue at school or at home. Students from 3-6 can use their school logins to check loans and search for resources. They also have free access to Sora (to borrow e-books and audiobooks), which can be accessed within Oliver;

<https://oliver5.cg.catholic.edu.au/oliver/login/>

Sibling Discount - 2020

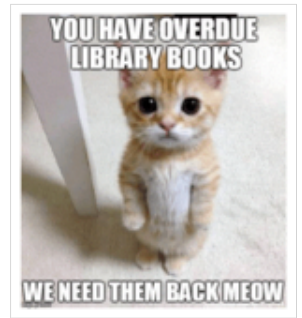
https://stjohnflorey.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2475/sibling_discount_2020.pdf

Fete Update

St John the Apostle Fete

21 FEBRUARY 2020

How are your raffle sales going? All books are due back in two weeks so there is still plenty of time to give your friends and family the chance to win cash prizes!



If you have already finished your book, there are more available from the front office. The more we sell, the more we can put back into our school!

Please remember, all tickets need to be accounted for as part of our compliance requirements and therefore any books not returned (sold or unsold) will require a statutory declaration to be completed.

To sign up for any other stalls, please click [here](#) to visit the link.



Community Notices

https://stjohnforey.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2478/cso_shell_prom_poster_schools.pdf



Available to all families in the ACT.
Offering a free and confidential counselling service.
Assisting & supporting parents with ideas about raising children.

The only telephone counselling service for parents and carers in the ACT.

**PARENTLINE
6287 3833
9AM-5PM**

**FREE TELEPHONE
COUNSELLING**

