Dear Families, Staff and Friends of St Johns

SCHOOL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Last night the school AGM was held to report on the wonderful achievements at St Johns in 2015. At the meeting, reports relating to a number of key areas of our school were detailed allowing the opportunity to share our achievements and view some plans for the 2016 school year. Reports were also presented by the Chairperson of the School Board and staff members responsible for key areas of learning. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the members of both the School Board who have worked so hard to support the school in so many ways in 2015. Their guidance, wisdom and genuine care for our school community is very much appreciated.

Changes to Volunteer Police Checks
At the parent Information Night earlier this year, I foreshadowed changes to some of the arrangements relating to police checks for volunteers. These changes are consistent with moves across South Australia to align the volunteer police checking process more closely with recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. While the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide’s Police Check Unit (PCU) will still manage the police check process, some of the changes, effective from 1 May, include:
- Sourcing a Working With Children Check through the SA Government’s Department for Families and Social Inclusion (DCSI);
- A streamlined and simpler application process;
- The opportunity for volunteers to volunteer on 7 occasions per year without the requirement for a police check (where the volunteering does not include excursions or overnight stays);
- No requirement for children under 18 years of age to hold a check;
- The provision of a convenient wallet-sized clearance card as distinct from a clearance letter.

Today I attended a Principal session outlining the proposed changes and other Office staff will be attending sessions over the next few weeks. As our school transitions to the new arrangements by 1 May it is possible that we may invite you to renew your current check, prior to its usual expiry date, under the current arrangements. If this is the case we will contact you. In the meantime if you have any questions with regards to police checks as a volunteer please contact Lee-Anne Barnard.

Holy Thursday - Next Thursday 24 March school will finish at normal time (3.10pm). If you are going away for Easter and wish to make an early start, please feel free to collect your children via the Front Office following the correct procedures.

Enrolments 2017 / 2018
If you have a child due to commence school in 2017 or 2018 (or you have friends, relatives or acquaintances at Kindy), please ensure an Application for Enrolment form has been completed and lodged at the Front Office. Positions are quickly filling up for 2017 and we may need to go a waiting list. A Principal Tour (individual) is available for families new to St John the Apostle School. This can be made by contacting the School.

The current enrolment policy states that, students must turn 5 years on or before April 30 to start school in that year. Children turning 5 years from 1 May must start school the following year. There are no exceptions to this policy as this brings us into line with the rest of the country.

If you have any questions or wish to make a time for an individual Principal’s Tour, please make contact with our Enrolments Officer, Lee-Anne Bamard by phoning 8382 2064 or emailing her on: lbamard@stjohns.catholic.edu.au

Diary Dates / Important Notes 2016
Fri 18/3 - Palm Sunday Liturgy @ 2.40pm
Sun 20/3 – Palm Sunday Family Mass 9.00am
Mon 21/3 – Class Assembly 6/7M @ 2.20pm

Week 8 is Holy Week

* All Assemblies are held in the St Dominic Centre on alternative Mondays at 2.20pm
** Class Masses are held at 9.00am in the Chapel
Family Mass This Sunday @ St Luke’s Church 9:00am

You are invited to join the Year 2/3 Wheatland/Osborn and Year 3 Marcelline students, their families and teachers on Sunday morning when we join with the parish community to celebrate Palm Sunday at St. Luke’s church. The children will be involved by handing out palms, taking part in the offertory procession and singing. The parish folk group will be playing live music at this mass. Come along and enjoy the community spirit.

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, Cycle C
March 20, 2016

Gospel Reading
From the cross, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness and promises that the good thief will be with him in paradise.

Family Connection
Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus’ passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of salvation Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a “way of the cross.”

Sacrament Group News
On Tuesday 8th March, we had our first meeting for 2016. It was wonderful to see so many families from our local Catholic schools come together to support the children in their faith formation. I will continue to support the children from St. John's between the workshops in preparation for Confirmation on May 13th.

Holy Week Liturgies
We will celebrate Palm Sunday as a whole school on Monday 21st March @12:00pm NOT Friday 18th March @ 2:40 as previously advertised. This will lead us into our Holy week liturgies at 12:00pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and culminate with Stations of the Cross on Thursday 24th March @ 12:00pm.

A group of children have been practicing their acting and musical talents with Mr. D in preparation for Stations of the Cross. They will present this at St. Luke’s church on Good Friday @ 10:00am. The year 6 and 7 students have also been learning about the Stations of the Cross and are creating some beautiful artwork which will be displayed at St. Luke’s church in time for Easter. You can show your support to our students by visiting St. Luke’s over the Easter weekend to participate in these special liturgical celebrations.

Easter Mass
We will have a whole school Easter mass on Thursday 31st March @ 12:00pm in the St. Dominic centre. All families are invited to attend.
Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival
Yesterday a group of sixteen swimmers competed in the Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival at Magill. Whether we win, come last or anywhere in between is not important, it really is about the children having the opportunity to participate and give it their best in a team environment. Some of these children may never compete in another swimming carnival; while others may go on to represent our school district or even our state at high level swimming events. I am most grateful to our PE teacher and Sports Coordinator, Justin Marsh who oversees these events and provides wonderful opportunities such as these to enrich our children’s learning experiences. We have great teacher and parent support as well and I take this chance to thank all involved in making the swimming carnival a positive experience for these sixteen children today. We will have a full swimming carnival report in next week’s newsletter.

Lost Property
All named items are returned on the same day that they are found and any unnamed items will be held by Mrs Peters for a few days before going to the St Vinnies box.

Canteen Info
MUNCHMONITOR
Log on to www.stjohns.catholic.edu.au
And click on the link under School Canteen or use the Schoolstream app and go to the Munchmonitor tab.

When registering for the first time you will need
SCHOOL ID: Cardijn
PASSWORD: munch5168

Canteen Roster for next week (T1 Wk8)

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Friday 18 March is Crazy Hair Day!
Come to school with your craziest hair and a gold coin donation. Come and support Michele Murray-Walpole as she has her hair shaved at 1.45pm.
All monies raised will go to support Tricia Clark’s Mothers Day Classic Walk/Run
Please remember to still wear your uniform

School Uniform - Second Hand Cupboard
The Second Hand cupboard, located in the St Dominic Centre, will be open every Wednesday morning from 8:45 until at least 9:00am. Should you wish to arrange a different time please contact Naomi Ellis on:

0408 118 775

For all new uniform purchases including replacement sun hats (see details below) please contact or visit:
LOWES at Centro Colonnades
Beach Road, Noarlunga
Ph: 8326 2528 Fax: 8382 7473

- PLEASE NOTE: All students are supplied with a sun hat by the school when they commence. However spares/replacements will need to be purchased from Lowes at Colonnades at a cost of:

  Slouch $14.99
  Legionnaire $12.99

Online ordering is also available: www.lowes.com.au
St John’s OSHC

- M: 0409 094 888
- OSHC operates at St John the Apostle Parish School from 6:30am—6:30pm, Monday to Friday during the school term (except staff training days)
- We do not run vacation care but are able to supply you some information.
- We have bookings capacity for a maximum of 35 students per session.
- All OSHC staff have senior first aid qualifications.
- Enrolment forms must be completed in order for your child to attend OSHC.
- Bookings must be made prior to 2pm on the day OSHC is required (subject to availability).
- If you have booked your child into a session and they no longer need to attend, please notify the school as soon as possible.
- The Behaviour Management Policy (BMP) of the St John’s OSHC program follows the same principles and procedures as the school’s.
- Hats must be worn all year except for the months of June, July and August.

Little Johns Play Group

- Wednesdays from 9:00 — 11:00am during school terms.
- Gold coin donation and piece of fruit each visit to share at morning tea.

Year 7 Camp

On the 29th February to the 3rd March it was an exciting time for the year 7’s as they went on camp at the Adare house in Victor Harbour and what a busy few days it was! The students had a fantastic time away exploring the Urimbirra Wildlife Park, overcoming fears on the Flying Kiwi and discovering rooms in the underground tunnel. The students loved the group’s dynamics activities run by Beyond limits. It was great to see all the students having a wonderful time together in their final camp of Primary school. The students loved spending six fun filled hours at Greenhill’s Adventure Park. The weather was perfect and will definitely be a day the students will remember.

Amy Brockman (Year 7 Teacher)

Little Johns Playgroup

Wednesday 23 March - Week 8
Easter crafts and a Easter egg hunt

(please bring some fruit to share and a $2 gold coin donation)