Dear Families, Staff and Friends of St Johns

End of Year Activities
At our first Advent Prayer Service on Monday I spoke about using this time to prepare for Christmas. With the end of year pressures on us all it is important to take time to pause and think about the meaning of Christmas. Advent gives us a breathing space to slow down and reflect on the true meaning of Jesus in our lives, rather than rushing headlong into Christmas and then give a sigh of relief when ‘it’ is all over.

At St Johns we begin the time of our school year where we recognise and acknowledge the outstanding learning the children have done. As we enter the final two weeks of the school year, there will be a number of events to give thanks for our year and celebrate individual achievements. I invite all parents to attend these celebrations. We have a great school, achieving outstanding results. So we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for.

Advent Prayer Services
Monday 5 December 12.40 (Rec Martin; R/1 Clark & 1/2 Egidio)
Friday 9 December 12.40 (Yr 2/3 Wheatland and Yr 3 Marcelline)

St Johns Students’ Christmas Disco
Friday 2 December 6:30-8:30pm

Premier’s Reading Challenge Award Presentation
Monday 5 December @ 2:00pm

Volunteer Thank You Afternoon Tea
Thursday 8 December 2:00pm

Year 7 Pantomime
Monday 12 December 10:00am

Program Achieve Assembly
Monday 12 December 2.00pm
St John the Apostle Program Achieve Awards are presented to students to recognise the development and successes our students have made in their behaviours and attitude towards learning.

SRC St John’s J Factor
Tuesday 13 December
Time to be confirmed
This is a student orientated event.

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass & Year 7 Graduation
Wednesday 14 December, 7:00pm at St Luke’s Church, Noarlunga Downs
All students and families are expected to be at this whole school celebration to give thanks for the school year and celebrate with our Year 7’s who are graduating.

Students will be sitting in their class groupings, with all classes being involved. At the mass several awards are presented to our Year 7’s as we acknowledge their journey at St John’s.
From the APRIM

Gospel Reading for this Sunday
Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading
In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

Family Connection
We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, and decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season.

The Jesse Tree
The Jesse tree was created to help people link the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus' birth. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse trees—Christmas trees with decorations related to the events of Jesus' birth and the prophecies about him in the Old Testament. Many parishes and families make Jesse trees during Advent to remind them of these events as they prepare for Christmas. The story of Jesse, the father of David, is told in Isaiah 11:1-10.

Class Masses – Thursday 9am in the Chapel
Week 8 – SRC representatives and House Leaders

Advent Liturgies – 12:40pm in the St Dominic Centre
Week 8 Monday – R/1/2 Martin / Clark / Egidio
Week 8 Friday – Yr 2/3 Wheatland / Marcelline

Important Date
Wednesday 14th December - End of Year Mass and Graduation Celebration at St Luke's Church 7pm start. This is a celebration not only to send forth our Year 7 students but also to celebrate and give thanks for the wonderful achievements and successes of our students throughout the 2016 year. We look forward to seeing all families at this celebration.
End of Year Reports
End of Year Reports will be sent home tomorrow Friday 2 December. These reports are compliant with the Australian Government’s legislative requirements. These reports will provide parents with clear and accurate information about their child’s achievements and progress in all learning areas throughout the year.

The report uses the following achievement scale for students in Year 1-7:
A Excellent achievement beyond what is expected at this year level
B Good achievement of what is expected at this year level
C Satisfactory achievement of what is expected at this year level
D Partial achievement of what is expected at this year level
E Minimal achievement of what is expected at this year level

Our school reports contain a section stating the attendance and punctuality for the student. Consistent attendance and punctuality is crucial to successful learning.

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. You can NOW purchase a replacement hat from the FRONT OFFICE at a cost of:

  Slouch $15.00

Online ordering is also available: www.lowes.com.au

Lost Property
All named items are returned on the same day that they are found and any unnamed items will be placed on the lost property table outside the library.

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 (T4 Wk 8)
M: 5/12 NO CANTEEN
T: 6/12 Christine Hadfield
W: 7/12 Kym Jones
Th: 8/12 Stephanie Rand
Fr: 9/12 Renay Kowalewski

Library Books and Readers
We have come to that time of the year where we are asking for all library books and class readers to be returned to school. This is a necessary process to ensure we take stock of our essential school resources. The library will be closed for the remainder of this year and class readers will not be sent home in the final weeks of school. Each class reader costs $10–$12 – if we lose an average of 10 per class this tallies up to $1200 – this is a lot of money just to replace books. Our aim is to broaden our reading stocks not just replace them! Overdue notices will be sent home towards the end of next week. Our school policy is that parents will receive an invoice for lost books. I ask that all parents look around their house and in the children’s bedrooms for all St John the Apostle books & readers to be returned to school. This will allow us to use our budget to purchase new materials, instead of replacing lost books.

2017 Information
Class placement and information for 2017 will be distributed to families on Wednesday 14 December.

Information regarding fees & levies are:

2017 Fee Structure
- Tuition Fee $1450
  (increase of $70)
- Resource Levy $434
  Includes Stationery, Swimming / Aquatics, Excursions, Performances & Library resources
- ICT Levy $200, Building Levy $200 (Family Payment)
- Fundraising Levy $70 (Family payment)

Total $2354
Increase 5% (Tuition Only)

School Break Up
The last day of school for YEAR 7’S will be WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER. The last day for the 2016 school year will be THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER. School will conclude at normal time of 3:10pm.
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) i.e. 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.

2016 School Fees Final Notice

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The third and final school fee statement was sent home with the students on the 26th August 2016. If you had opted to pay your fees Per Term, this payment was due by Friday 16th September 2016 unless prior arrangements had been put in place through the Finance Department.

If your current direct debits are not covering the fees for 2016, you will need to contact Jo Saleeba or Lee-Anne Clark in the Finance Office to amend the current authority.

If your account is in credit and you have a Direct Debit in place, you have one of two options. You can continue on as per normal and your account will be in credit for 2017 or if you would like to have the debits ceased you will need to notify the Finance Office to have the Direct Debit authority cancelled.

Other payment options available are EFT, Cash, Cheque, BPAY or Credit Card. If you wish to discuss your fees or any of the payment plans above, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office and Jo Saleeba or Lee-Anne Clark will be happy to work with you.

Wednesday 7 December

Meet at the end of Gulfview Road, Christies Beach at 9.15am