As the 2016 school year draws to a close I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to our wonderful community throughout the year. We cannot achieve all that we do without the collective input from so many people. I acknowledge our community’s clear strengths – the superb school spirit and positive culture that thrives amongst the student body, the role modelling and professionalism inherent in our staff, the substantial commitment through time, personal and collective effort and from our parent and parish community.

The front office will close at 11:00am on Friday 16 December, and reopen on Monday 23 January 2017.

Staff Announcements
Lesley Campbell is retiring from her role as school chaplain and her replacement will be announced in the New Year. I thank Lesley for her outstanding pastoral care and service. Amy Brockman will be on Parenting Leave in 2017 and we wish her well for the arrival of her baby. In 2017 Ruth Sampson will return from Parenting Leave and Kylie Osborn will also return from Parenting Leave in Term 3.

Class structures 2017
It gives me pleasure to announce the appointment of teaching staff to the following positions for 2017:

R/1 Lisa Martin
R/1 Simone Mashford/ Barbara Reed
Year 1/2 Anthony Egidio
Year 2/3 Loretta Wheatland/ Kylie Osborn
Year 3/4 Anne Marcelline
Year 4/5 Tricia Clark
Year 6/7 Ruth Sampson/ Simon Holmesby
Year 6/7 Rebecca Pittard
Acting Principal: Dee-anne Peters

Religious Education Coordinator (REC) Justin Marsh

Class placements will go home with students on Wednesday 14 December. There will be a transition session on Thursday 15 December for students to meet their new teachers and orientate themselves with their new rooms, expectations and procedures. Composite class structures are commonplace in our education system. Regardless of who is your child’s class teacher, you can be assured that all teaching, assessment and reporting is aligned to the Australian Curriculum. We are fortunate at St. John’s to have such qualified staff across all year levels who are truly dedicated to the education and wellbeing of the children in their care.

St. John’s End of Year Mass and Year 7 Graduation
This special celebration will be held on Wednesday December 14, 2016 at St. Luke’s church, Noarlunga Downs, commencing at 7:00pm. Please note that attendance is required for all students. Students must be dressed in School Summer Uniform. Family and Friends are also welcome to attend. Should you have any queries about any aspect of the evening, please contact the school on info@stjohns.catholic.edu.au. I look forward to sharing with you what will be a wonderful celebration of our School year.

Dee-anne Peters (Acting Principal)
Wow! Can you believe it is already Thursday week 8 of Term 4. What a wonderful year we have had and this year with so many achievements and highlights. On Wednesday 14th December there will be an 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.

**Gospel Reading for this Sunday**
Matthew 11:2-11
Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**
The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week’s Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. In Sunday’s Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

**Family Connection**
It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God’s salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled. Think about John’s question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

**Class Masses**
- Thursday 9am in the Chapel
  - Week 9 – No Class Mass
- **Advent Liturgies** – 12:40pm in the St Dominic Centre
  - Week 8 Friday – Yr 2/3 Wheatland / Marcelline

**Mass dates for St Luke’s over Christmas**
- Christmas Eve 24/12 – 6pm Mass, 11:30pm Carols and Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day 25/12 – 9am
- New Year’s Eve 31/12 – 6pm
- New Year’s Day 1/1/17 – 9am

**Christmas Eve Mass**
Invitation to all families
The Christmas Eve Mass at St Luke’s Parish will be held at 6pm. All St. John’s children who are attending Christmas Eve vigil Mass are invited to dress up in a nativity costume should they wish to do so to get into the spirit of Christmas. Students who are dressed up will be invited to sit around the Altar for the Gospel reading and during the offertory.
Continued from page 1

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.stjohnscatholic.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 9)

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School Leaders 2017

It is with great pleasure that I announce that our SRC Presidents for 2017 are:

Chelsea Viner and Jacob Parker

I congratulate Chelsea and Jacob on their appointment and know that they possess the necessary skills to be outstanding leaders for our school. I would also like to thank Ella Charleston and Ari McGregor on being fantastic SRC Presidents this year.

Our Sports Team Leaders have also been voted by our students. (Due to a tie in the voting St Dominic and St Johns will have co vice captains for 2016)

Congratulations to our Sports Team Leaders for 2017:

St Dominic’s (Blue)
Captain… Bailey Finlay
Co- V/captain … Izzy Jones
Thomas Kirwan

St Luke’s (Green)
Captain … Blake James
V/captain … Mikaylah Sloan

St Catherine’s (Yellow)
Captain… Kyra Quilliam
V/captains… Zane Cook

St John’s (Red)
Captain … Chelsea Viner
Co V/captains … Edward Carroll
Scarlett Bradford

School Disco

Once again last Friday’s Christmas Disco was a great success with over 150 students attending. Congratulations on the work of DJ’s Justin Marsh & Anthony Egidio with Lisa Martin coordinating the activities. I wish to thank all our staff and Parent Network for organizing this event and helping on the night. The Christmas disco is a popular and permanent event on the school calendar and one that is truly enjoyed by all students and staff.

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. Overdue notices will be sent home. 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.
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.

Lesley’s Chatty Corner

'So long farewell'
Christmas is almost upon us, and it is with some regret that I write my last newsletter to say a big thank-you to all parents who have supported me over the past two years here at St Johns. From the moment I started work, I was made to feel at home, by staff and parents in my role as Family/Child support worker. However, in the past two years, I have become Nana Les (three times) and I guess circumstances have changed whereby now I would like to spend more time not only with the ‘grandies’ but also with my Mum, who is now in her 89th year!! I hope that life is kind to you and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.
Lesley Campbell Family/Child Support Worker

Don’t Forget TUESDAY 13/12/16 - Casual Clothes Day for St Vinnies & J Factor (gold coin donation). Please remember to bring a donation of a Christmas Hamper Item.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO CANTEEN (Munch monitor) for the last week of term 4!
Thank you to all the wonderful Volunteers that have collected the school lunches from Cardijn for 2016. This system is reliant on the generosity of our volunteers if you are available to help out for 2017 please fill out the “Lunch order helper form” coming home in the class placement envelope.

Little Johns Playgroup

Wednesday 14 December
A visit from Father Christmas
(Please bring some fruit and a gold coin donation)
We welcome new families to come and join in the fun.