



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

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Sinite
Parvulos
Let the
Little
Children

Principal's Notes

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Another week and COVID-19 continues to dominate our thoughts, words and actions. If any parents/carers need to access any school based information that has been sent home in relation to COVID-19 please go the School Website <https://www.sjr.wa.edu.au/coronavirus-covid-19/>. All notifications have been archived on this page.

Pope Francis recently spoke of the pain and sorrow that everyone is experiencing due to COVID-19. He promotes the notion that we must work in community with compassion, hope, forgiveness and humility. These values are witnessed in the St John's School Community on an every day basis, COVID-19 or no COVID-19. May we all be the example for others in our thoughts, words and actions.

I ask all community members to pray and reflect. As Pope Francis has said, prayer helps us to understand our vulnerability. There have been many occasions when the students of St John's School have used prayer as an avenue to express their inner most thoughts to question, communicate and seek comfort. May we all pray in these challenging times.

We all know that people all across the world are suffering. Pope Francis recognises the grief people are experiencing regardless of race, gender, age, ability or location. May we support those who are suffering in our local community.

As we move to a world where more and more regulations are imposed in relation to social distancing and isolation. Pope Francis speaks of those in society who are lonely, those who are dying without their loved ones. May we reach out to others, within the outlined regulations, to provide a friend in times of need.

Please continue to be a community of friends, family and loved ones as we journey through a landscape that poses more questions than answers.

Good News Story

The Kindy students, who were at school on Tuesday, are the stars of this week's 'Good News Story'. I went to the Kindy Classroom to speak with Mrs Henderson and when I arrived, the children were reading a story about Easter and Jesus dying on the cross. Now, I am sure that you are aware that it can be a challenging concept to convey the story of Easter, specifically Jesus dying on the cross and then rising from the dead. Mrs Nicole Henderson was doing a wonderful job, maybe a little too wonderful because this is what transpired.

Mrs Henderson, "Who can tell Mrs Marquis what happened to Jesus at Easter?"

Student A, "Jesus died on the cross but three days later he came back to life."

Student B, "Can I show Mrs Marquis my good work?"

Student A, C, D, E.... "Can I?"

Mrs Marquis, "How about I go back to my Office to get my special stickers?"

Students, "Yes, please."

Mrs Marquis, "Now, I need you to wait while I walk quickly, not run, back to my Office to get the stickers and then I can see your good work."

Mrs Henderson, "Mrs Marquis can't run because she is wearing her high heels and she might fall over."

Student A, "Yes, and she might die but she will come back to life in three days."

Mrs Henderson, Mrs Marquis, Mrs Crocetta and Mrs Peck just smiled from ear to ear! Mrs Henderson, you have taught the Easter Story very well!

GOOD
NEWS
EVERYONE

WHEN I WAKE UP
EVERY MORNING,
I THANK GOD FOR
THE NEW DAY.

Term 1 Week 8
26th March 2020

Dates to Remember

FRIDAY 27th March

P&F Easter Raffle tickets
are due - please return all
unsold tickets.

FRIDAY 3rd April

P&F Easter Raffle draw

WEDNESDAY 8th April

Bendigo Banking -
Cancelled

PLAYGROUP HAS BEEN
CANCELLED FOR THE
REST OF TERM ONE

Specialist Learning Areas – Digital Technologies

At St John's School, we offer a variety of learning areas as part of our mission to educate the whole child. Digital Technologies (DT) is taught by Mr Brett Love as a specialist learning area and the classroom teachers as they integrate DT across all areas of the curriculum. We interact with digital systems in all aspects of our lives, our learning, our work, our play and in our home. Mobile and desktop devices and networks provide platforms to collaborate and communicate as we develop new skills. Through DT, the students have opportunities to practically apply design thinking and innovation in an effort to solve problems and build knowledge. DT learning experiences at St John's School can be plugged, involving a device, or unplugged, completed without a device.

Wishing you opportunities to reflect on the joy you bring to the lives of others.

Mrs Melissa Marquis
Principal

Religious Education News

Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

This week, we again focus on the Fruit of the Spirit, Joy:

*'When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy'.*

Psalm 94:19



The recent events over the last few weeks have brought about a global anxiety level that seems to be 'teetering' on the edge. Rightfully so, adults, children and the elderly are unsure of how to seek comfort and joy in these uncertain times. What was once quite easy to find moments of joy, has now become controlled and more difficult.

This scripture reminds us that Jesus' joy will always be there should we seek it out. Reflective prayer, whatever or however that might look for you, may be the opportunity to find your inner joy. Today and moving forward, I pray the that the Fruit of Joy may touch your heart as often as possible.

Temporary Suspension of the Public Celebration of the Mass & Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

All public Masses and Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at all churches and chapels across the Diocese of Geraldton will be temporarily suspended from receipt of these directives on Thursday 19 March 2020. This temporary suspension of public Masses within the Diocese of Geraldton is in place for an initial period of two weeks between Thursday 19 March 2020 and Wednesday 1 April 2020. Subsequent revisions and advice will be given prior to Wednesday 1 April 2020 in relation to this temporary suspension. The Sunday Obligation for the faithful does not apply during this time of emergency

Prayer Assembly

The Prayer Assembly will be offered by Year Four this week. This Prayer Assembly will once again be broadcasted over the school's PA system. Birthdays will be individually presented by Mrs Marquis in each classroom.

Project Compassion - Caritas Australia - Go Further Together

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Every week, through the season of Lent, I will highlight a Lenten story. These stories will hopefully put a face to who receives some of the donations. This week we hear the story of Tawonga:

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability.

Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

Tawonga, whose name means 'thank you', says her community is blessed with many resources, like rivers, fertile soil and hills. However, with dry spells followed by floods, armyworm infestations and crop failures, her parents struggled to make a living.



Religious Education News

In 2016, Tawonga's parents heard about the A+ program run by Caritas Australia's partner, CADECOM (Catholic Development Commission in Malawi). They learned irrigation farming and were given fertiliser and high-yield seeds. With these new techniques, their production of crops almost tripled.

With your help, this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. Let's Go Further, Together.

"It gives me hope that I will finish my education," Tawonga says. "My community now understands that my living with a disability is not inability. Although I sometimes face discrimination, most of the community has realised my value as a person."

Brett Love
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Administration News

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child is bringing a filled water bottle to school each day and that it is clearly labelled with their name. Until further notice, the water fountains at school will be used for filling water bottles only. We ask that you please refrain from allowing your child/ren to drink directly from the tap before or after school.



Social Distancing Measures

To assist us in keeping students safe whilst at school, St John's School has changed some practices to help us manage the need for social distancing. This includes adding additional eating areas at recess and lunch where students can spread out, as well as creating a roster for students as to which areas they can play in during break times. Teachers are also modifying their classroom setups, where possible, to encourage distance between each student.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to all our Merit Award winners for this week! It is always such a pleasure to read of the many qualities students at S John's School possess and whether it be showing dedication, persistence, resilience, kindness or joy, we love celebrating our students' successes. Please see the back page for a list of all the recipients.

Class News

A regular feature of our School Assemblies is for our classes to share some news with the school community about what has been happening in their classrooms. In the absence of our Assembly this week, we would like to share each class' news:

Year One: A recent highlight for our class was making playdough with our Year Six Buddies. We worked hard on writing our own procedures and sequencing the steps involved.

Year Two: We have enjoyed investigating water for Science and in Maths, have been learning to represent three digit numbers using base ten blocks and writing them in expanded form.

Year Three: We have continued to improve our narrative writing to include descriptive language. We have also practised giving change in Australian coins and notes.

Year Four: We have been learning about the life cycles of plants and animals. We made three dimensional life cycles to display around the classroom.

Year Five: We have enjoyed reading and writing persuasive texts. We have also enjoyed reading online books on Literacy Pro and then taking the quiz.

Year Six: We have begun looking at narrative elements and are looking forward to creating our own version of a 'twisted' fairytale.

Bendigo Student Banking - Cancelled

Please be advised that students will not be able to complete any transactions with Bendigo Bank, at St John's School, until further notice. The Geraldton Branch is still open for customers. Thank you, in anticipation, for your understanding in relation to this matter.



NAPLAN- Cancelled

Parents of students in Year Three and Five should have received a letter home at the end of last week advising them that NAPLAN testing for 2020 has been cancelled. This testing was scheduled to take place from 12th to 22nd of May.

Emma Pollard
Assistant Principal Administration

Congratulations

Merit Certificates – Week Eight Term One

Congratulations to the following students who received a Merit Certificate this week. Keep up the great work!

Year One: Halle, Zavier and Logan

Year Two: Jett, Sienna and Max

Year Three: Vincent, Milia and Darcy

Year Four: Chaney, Tyler and Ruby

Year Five: Oscar, Kally and Tallan

Year Six: Ella N, Hamish Mo and Jayden

Principal Certificates: Kyra (Year One) , Ezmae (Yar Four) and Jayden (Year Six)



Aussie of the Month – March

Congratulations to the following two students who are the recipients of the March Aussie of the Month Award. Wonderful work!

Junior Aussie of the Month: Tommy – Year Two

Senior Aussie of the Month: Ecelini – Year Five

LIBRARY NEWS

Unfortunately, both the St John's School Library and the Geraldton Regional Library are now closed for book borrowing.

If you have a Geraldton Regional Library membership, you are able to access many FREE online resources including children's eBooks, eAudio books, magazines and movies.

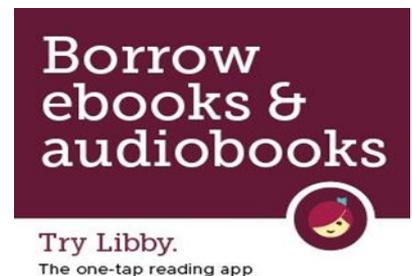
If you are not a member, please visit the Library website to register online www.library.cgg.wa.gov.au Click on 'Join the Library', complete the form details and a temporary card number will be provided.

To access online resources, please visit the Geraldton Regional Library's website - www.library.cgg.wa.gov.au/library-online.aspx

Click on either Borrowbox, Overdrive (for a web browser) and Libby (for a device) for eBooks and eAudiobooks, Kanopy for educational documentaries and movies, and RB Digital for magazines.

Sign in, select Greater Geraldton Regional Library from the list, enter your Membership number (on the back of your Library card (CL505G....D) and enter your PIN. If you do not know your PIN, please ring the Geraldton Regional Library on 9956 6659. Staff are available from 8.30am – 5.30pm week days to answer phone calls.

There are thousands of resources to choose from. With eBooks and eAudiobooks, if an item is already checked out, you can put it on hold and an email will be sent to you when that item is available to. If available, you can download it straight away. If you have any queries, please contact the Geraldton Regional Library.



Story Box Library

A place where the wonderful world of Australian Children's Literature is on permanent exhibit Story Box Library in a beautiful online 'reading room'.

Natalie Riemer - Library Technician