ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 3
29 October 2026

Dates to Remember

Friday 30 October
Spiritual Ministry Prayer Assembly 8:45am

Socktober - Free Dress Day

World Teachers' Day

Monday 2 November
Kindy Orientation 9:00am - 10:30am

Thursday 5 November
First Nations Cuppa & Chat 8:30am - 9:30am

Friday 6 November
Teachers Prayer Assembly 8:45am

Nagle Catholic College 2027 Year 7 Orientation Day

Monday 9 November
Kindy Transition Visit 9:15am - 10:15am

P&F Meeting 6:00pm

Wednesday 11 November
Remembrance Day Service (Led by Year 4) 11:00am

CBSHS - SN Transition

Thursday 12 November
Interschool Swimming Carnival

Principal's Notes

Year Six Camp
Our Year Six students enjoyed a fantastic camp experience last week, creating wonderful memories and embracing every opportunity on offer. The success of the week was largely due to the exceptional planning and organisation of Miss Hayley Gronow, whose hard work and dedication ensured that every detail was thoughtfully considered. We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort and care she invested to make the camp such a memorable experience for our students.

We would also like to sincerely thank Mrs Kath Qumivuita, Mr Caleb Antonovich, Miss Eloise Drew, Miss Bridie Teakle, Mrs Laura Lang and Mrs Sarah D'Mello for their invaluable support throughout the five days. Their willingness to assist in a variety of ways helped make the camp a tremendous success.

As families are aware, this year's camp was held locally rather than in Perth. Miss Gronow worked tirelessly to provide an experience that closely mirrored the traditional Perth camp, and she achieved this remarkably well. Students enjoyed many of the same opportunities and experiences, with the only difference being the overnight component. The feedback received from students and families has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting what a rewarding and enjoyable week it was for everyone involved.

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admin@sjr.wa.edu.au

Principal's Notes - Mrs Melissa Marquis

World Teachers Day
The 2026 theme, Shining a Light, reminds us to recognise and celebrate those who make a positive difference in the lives of the students each day. World Teachers' Day provided the perfect opportunity to shine a light on the dedicated staff of St John's School and acknowledge the impact they have on our students, families, and wider community.

To mark the occasion, our wonderful P&F treated staff to a coffee van on Thursday morning, providing a special start to the day. Staff also enjoyed a delicious morning tea, lovingly prepared by our P&F volunteers. These thoughtful gestures were a small but meaningful way of saying thank you to a team that consistently goes above and beyond in support of our students.

Whether in the classroom, on the playground, in the office, or behind the scenes, every member of staff plays an important role in helping our students learn, grow, and flourish. Their dedication, care, and commitment truly shine through in all that they do.

We extend our sincere thanks to the St John's School P&F for helping us celebrate our staff and for continually shining a light on the wonderful work happening in our school community. Together, we recognise and celebrate the people who make St John's School such a special place.

Annual Community Meeting
I wish to inform you of a change to the operation of Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSACs) and Parents and Friends Groups (P&Fs), following recent updates from Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA). Please see page three for all the details.

School Road and Carpark Safety
The safety of our students remains a priority at St John's School. We would like to remind all parents and carers to observe the 40 km/h school zone during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. Your co-operation in adhering to speed limits helps create a safer environment for everyone in our school community.

We also ask families to take extra care when using the school car park. Please follow all signage, use designated parking bays, and be mindful of pedestrians, particularly during busy times. Taking a little extra time and exercising patience can make a significant difference in ensuring the safety of our students, staff and families.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep our school community safe.

Good News Story
Our Year Six students represented St John's School with pride during their recent camp, and we have received some wonderful feedback from members of the community.

Staff at the Ocean Centre Hotel complimented our students on their excellent manners and respectful behaviour during breakfast, while the abseiling instructors praised their positive attitudes, resilience and willingness to challenge themselves. The abseiling instructors also spoke highly of our staff, acknowledging the encouragement, support and care they showed students throughout the activity.

These compliments are a credit to our Year Six students, who were outstanding ambassadors for St John's School throughout the week. We are incredibly proud of the way they lived out our school values and represented our community.

Principal's Notes - Mrs Melissa Marquis

Changes to Annual Community Meetings and Membership Appointment Processes
Dear Parents and Carers

We wish to inform you of a change to the operation of Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSACs) and Parents and Friends Groups (P&Fs), following recent updates from Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA).

As part of CEWA's commitment to streamline practices, it has been determined that from 2026, Annual Community Meetings (ACMs) for CSACs and P&Fs will no longer be held. This change follows feedback regarding low attendance and participation throughout Western Australia, and stronger practices to promote community engagement, transparency and collaboration in Catholic schools.

What does this mean for our school community?

Rather than an ACM, the School will provide an Annual Community Report (ACR) to all families. This will include:

- Key updates on school strategies and activities
- The annual budget, including fee increases (for CSAC) and (if practicable) a summary of P&F financial activity
- Summary of the year's events by the Principal, CSAC Chair and (if practicable) P&F President, and
- Announcement of election results for CSAC and P&F positions.

Information about the nomination and election or appointment process for CSAC and P&F Committee members will be delivered at the start of Term 4 each year. The process is outlined below:

- These elections or appointments for CSAC and P&F Committee members will be conducted by either:

1) Election at a School Meeting (P&F only). This option may only be used for P&F Committees, as all members of the school community are eligible to attend. This is to either take place at last meeting of 2026 or the first meeting of 2027.
2) Conducted via an electronic ballot (For CSAC and where appropriate for P&F)

- With clear nomination and voting periods.
- By principal appointment, if no nominations are received (with rationale provided).
- All vacancies, outcomes and the final composition of the CSAC and P&F Committee will be communicated to the school community.

At St John's School, the decision has been made to run with Option Two with further details being provided soon.

Catholic school parents and community members have a significant role in our community. It is intended for these approaches to enhance participation and move to more contemporary practices to assure that we communicate core school information more broadly.

Should you have any queries, please contact feedback@cewa.edu.au

Yours sincerely
Mrs Melissa Marquis
St John's School

Religious Education News - Mrs Laura Lang

Prayer Assembly
Tomorrow morning, Friday 30 October, at 8.45am in the Hall, our Spiritual Ministry students will lead the school community in a special Prayer Assembly celebrating All Saints' Day.
Our Week Four Prayer Assembly will be held on Friday 6 November at 8.45am in the Hall and will be led by our teachers.
All families are warmly invited to join us as we gather in prayer as a school community.

All Saints' Day – Sunday 1 November
On Sunday 1 November, the Catholic Church celebrates All Saints' Day, honouring all those who have lived holy lives and are now with God in Heaven.
Did you know that Halloween comes from All Hallows' Eve, the evening before All Saints' Day? The word hallow means holy, reminding us of the connection between these celebrations.
All Saints' Day encourages us to follow the example of the saints by showing love, kindness and service to others.

All Souls' Day – Monday 2 November
On All Souls' Day, Catholics remember and pray for those who have died. We invite families to take a moment to remember their loved ones and pray that they may rest in God's eternal peace.

Socktober – Friday 30 October
Socktober is a Catholic Mission initiative that encourages students to learn about the challenges faced by communities around the world and how we can make a difference through prayer, awareness and generosity.
Tomorrow, Friday 30 October, students are invited to wear crazy socks and free dress to school in exchange for a gold coin donation to support Catholic Mission.
Students must wear enclosed footwear and sun-smart clothing.

We thank our school community for supporting this important initiative and helping our students put their faith into action.

Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11 November
On Wednesday 11 November, our school community will gather in prayer to commemorate Remembrance Day at 10.45am in the School Hall.
Our Year Four students will lead this special prayer service as we pause to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed their lives in times of war and conflict.
Families are warmly invited to join us for this time of reflection and remembrance. Lest we forget.

Administration News - Mrs Sarah D'Mello

Assembly
Congratulations to our Year Three class on a fantastic assembly this week! Our final assembly for Term Four will be held on 19th November at 2:20pm, with our Choir students presenting an item. We invite all parents and carers to attend the assembly in the School Hall.

The End of Year Concert for students in Pre-Primary to Year Six will be held on Friday 4th December at the School, commencing at 6pm. Further information regarding this will be sent to parents soon.

World Teacher's Day
World Teachers' Day is a nationally recognised occasion, held on Friday 30th October, that celebrates the dedication and impact of educators across Australia. It's a time to acknowledge the vital role teachers play in shaping young minds and building strong communities. We thank all teachers for their continued commitment to education and the difference they make every day.

2027 Kindy Orientation Day & Transition Visits
We are excited to meet our newest St John's students for 2027 when they attend their Kindy Orientation Day on Monday 2nd November. We can't wait to see them over the following weeks as they come back to St John's for the follow up Transition Visits. Please see the dates below which have been scheduled to support the transition of students as they commence Kindy next year.

Monday 9th November: Kindy Transition Visit, 9:15-10:15am.
Monday 16th November: Kindy Transition Visit, 9:15-10:15am.
Monday 23rd November: Kindy Transition Visit, 9:15-10:15am.

First Nations Cuppa & Chat
We invite all First Nations Families to attend our next Cuppa & Chat morning on Thursday 5th November from 8:30am to 9:30am. Drop the children off to class and come and share a cuppa and get to know our St John's First Nations Education Assistants, along with our First Nations CEWA Consultants. Meet us in the Staffroom, in the Office, for this informal catch up.

Administration News - Mrs Sarah D'Mello

Interschool Swimming Carnival
On Thursday 12th November, selected students will be heading to the Geraldton Aquarena to compete in the Interschool Swimming Carnival. Further information regarding this will be sent home by Mr A in the coming weeks.

Hats & Water Bottles
As we are heading into warmer weather, please be reminded that all students require a hat and water bottle at school each day. Water bottles can be refilled from the water fountains throughout the day as needed.

2027 Student Booklists
The process for ordering student booklists changed moving into the 2025 school year and will continue in the new format for the 2027 school year. The decision was made that as a school we would go with a bulk ordering approach, rather than families having to order and supply individual booklists for students and bring them to school on the first day of the new school year. This decision was made for multiple reasons and includes but is not limited to:

- reduce costs for families.
- to ensure that all students have the required materials.
- a long term approach toward improving our school sustainability.
- to allow resources to arrive and be organised prior to the start of the school year, allowing a smoother start to the first day for students, families and teachers.

Parents will continue to pay for student booklist requirements through the amenities fee, included in each child's school fees. If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Library News

Library books are kept for one week and then returned to school. A school Library Bag is required to borrow books.

It's already Week 3 in our final term, and how quickly its flown. We will be borrowing up to Week 5, with all books returned by Week 6. Thankyou to all who have remembered to return their books, an overall great effort!

Thankyou to all the students who continue to be respectful and tidy within our library.

Please remind students to return their books and always carry their library books in an appropriate, protective book bag. We have St John's School book bags for sale in the school uniform shop. If you are not using a St John's library bag, can you please ensure the bag used can protect the book from damage, as we have seen lots of books coming back to school with water damage, spines broken or pages torn. Also if we can please ensure that little siblings are not drawing on the pages.

The Borrowing and Return day is WEDNESDAY each week for all students in Pre-Primary to Year 6.

The library will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime until the end of term, and students are welcome to return books or read quietly during this time.

Thank you

Ms Emma Johnston

(emma.johnston-clark@cewa.edu.au)

Library Officer

P&F News

Term Four Meeting Dates
Week Four - Monday 2 November @ 6:00pm
Week Five - Monday 9 November @ 6:00pm

Term Four P&F Events

- End of Year Raffle - tickets sent home early Term Four
- Feast Day Celebration - Thursday 26 November
- End of Year Raffle Draw - Friday 4 December at End of Year Concert
- P&F Canteen Day (Ice Creams) - Tuesday 1 December

P&F Fundraising Events
As a P&F, we are aware that everyone has different circumstances. We would like the members of the school community to remember that participation in any P&F fundraiser is voluntary. We are extremely grateful for the support you can provide.

My name is Chantelle, and I'm a local mum in the Geraldton area currently researching an idea for a wearable safety product for children.

The idea came from my own experience with my little boy, who sometimes wanders off and ends up out of earshot. I've been looking for something that could offer extra peace of mind when we're out in busy places like shops and crowds, but haven't been able to find something that quite meets what I was looking for.

This has inspired me to explore the possibility of developing a wearable safety device to provide extra reassurance for parents and carers, particularly when supporting children who may wander or bolt.

I'm still in the early research stages and would really value fee
dback from families and people who work with children. I've created a short poll to better understand what parents and carers need and what features they feel would be helpful.

Would your school be willing to share the survey with your parent and carer community, if appropriate? Participation is completely voluntary, and the feedback will help me understand whether this is something worth pursuing.

Survey Link: https://tinyurl.com/39yafpnv

Platinum
DANCE COMPANY
EST 2022
Saturday
acro program
5 week program - every
Saturday from 31st October
9am-9:45am
$60 per student
Registration fee applies for new families

Child and Parent Centre
Rangeway

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Starting Kindy in 2027?

Prepare for a smooth start to Kindergarten with a range of sessions on offer in Term 4, to support families in this transition:

Toileting Support

For support getting your child toileting independently contact your local Child Health Nurse. **9956 1980**

Speech Support

For support with your child's speech, contact WA Country Health Services.
Child Development Services: 9956 2204

Protective Behaviours

Learn how to support and empower children with strategies to promote safety through fun, age appropriate activities. **Thursday 3 December 9.30am to 11.30am. Creche available.**

Attention, Regulation & Concentration

Explore what factors impact on attention, regulation and concentration. Providing you with strategies to support your child's attention and regulation. Help you determine where to go next if concerns persist. **Thursday 17 December, 9.30am to 11.30am. Creche available.**

Sensory Processing

Difficulties interpreting information from senses and movement can affect our daily activities, learning, relationships, emotions and behaviours. Explore what sensory processing is, what it looks like in children, and what we can do to help. **Friday 16 December, 9.30am to 11.30am. Creche available.**

Separation, Independence, Sleep & Routines

For any further concerns about your child starting Kindergarten, please book in for a free, parenting chat with Parenting Connection available on **Thursday afternoons in Term 4.**

Book now

0438 860 669
9921 6814
Rangeway@ngala.com.au

in partnership with ngala

FREE EVENT

Desert Blue Connect

MUM'S WELLBEING EXPO 2026

19TH NOVEMBER | 9AM-12.30 PM | QEII CENTRE, GERALDTON

ABOUT THE EXPO

A dedicated day to raise awareness of perinatal anxiety and depression, connecting mothers with community services and providing valuable wellbeing information. This years theme is "what you need when you need it".

- Wellbeing activities for mothers
- Children's activities
- Community organisations and local business stalls
- Health representatives
- Playgroup and childcare representatives
- Mother's wellbeing stalls
- Free morning tea

St Lawrence's Church

Fundraiser

ITALIAN DINNER

At the Catholic Centre of Geraldton

20th November 2026 | Starts at 6pm

11 Maitland St, 6530 Geraldton

Entrée

- Selection of meats, cheeses, olives and biscuits
- Arancini
- Bruschetta

Main

- Crumbed beef or chicken schnitzel
- Spaghetti bolognese
- Fettuccine
- Lasagna
- Pasta puttanesca
- Pizzas
- Fish
- Garden salads

Dessert

- Fresh fruit
- Tiramisu
- Italian biscuits

Soft drinks for sale

Bring your own alcohol

Price

Kids under five	5 – 12	13 and above
Free	$25 each	$50 each

Pre purchase tickets for catering numbers by **15th November**

Contact Jane 0427 273 729