



ST JOHN'S

There's no
place
like St John's

St John's Newsletter

Term 2 Week 2 - Wednesday 29th April 2015

Head of St John's

Ms Shannon Rosewood

I would like to thank the Year 6 girls and Mrs Dent for the quality of the Anzac Service that was delivered on Friday morning. Mr Foregeard's address explored how courage, loyalty, friendship and sacrifice were the qualities of ordinary Australian's at war. He asked our students to consider their own courage and principles that guide their decision making. Accompanied by our Wellbeing Breakfast, the day was one of reflection and pride; pride in our country and the legacy of the Anzacs, but also our school and the leadership of our senior students.



The addition of the flag pole to our playground has added to the quality of our students' understanding of their place in our nation. I would like to thank Mr John Cassidy for his generous donation that ensures we have a daily reminder of our role as citizens of Australia. Our Year 6 students will ensure that the Australian flag is flying each day at our school.

At St John's we are developing a culture of giving, of being outwardly focused and contributing to a fully functioning community. This is especially so when we consider just how fortunate our families are in the main. It is with this philosophy of service that we will be asking families to donate to World Bicycle Relief later in the term. Whilst developing fitness, working with constable McCormack on bike safety, the students will enable a child or adult in a third world country to access work or education. We also hope to work with Autumn Lodge this term to support the elderly in our community.

I thank all the parents who were able to attend our breakfast and Anzac Service. It was a special morning.



The St John's Anzac Service on Friday was enriched by the addition of the Australian flag flying in front of our classrooms. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of our Chairman, Mr John Cassidy. Our Year 6 leaders have accepted the responsibility of raising and lowering the flag each day.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Marcia Bell to the Junior School teaching team. St John's and NEGS are supporters of inclusive education and the richness that students of all abilities can bring to our school. Marcia will work in a team teaching role with Jess Oehlers as a special education support worker in Kindergarten and also in the capacity of a learning support teacher (K-6).

Marcia was most recently employed in Canada as a teacher of Mathematics, Science, Drama and Dance. She is a professionally trained actor who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama as well as a Bachelor of Elementary Education from the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta). Marcia has recently moved to Armidale with her husband and young son.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented teacher joining the St John's staff in Term 2.

Anzac Address from Mr Tim Forgeard

100 years have gone by since the Anzac spirit and tradition was born during the Gallipoli campaign. Over that time we have retold the events, immortalised our soldiers in songs and poems, and made every attempt to build what was then our very young nation into a country that values the qualities of the Anzac legend. Courage, endurance, self sacrifice, good humour, loyalty, friendship and giving everyone a fair go.

Every year we speak of the immense sacrifice that was made by our soldiers at Gallipoli and has since been made in every instance of conflict that followed.

It is right to be inspired by the memory and example of our soldiers; it is right that we pay our respects to those who have believed their country to be worth risking their life for. We should be very thankful towards those whose actions are aimed at defending the incredibly fortunate lives that we in Australia enjoy.

But I think, 100 years on, it is time to start to look closely at our Anzac tradition, and the various times of warfare our soldiers have been forced to endure. For when we look back we see that Gallipoli and WW1 were only the very early stages of what was the most horrifically violent century in the history of mankind. More people were killed and wounded in war over the last 100 years than at any other time. And so while our soldiers have done us proud in each time of war that they have been called to fight in, we must ask the question, why do we keep making the mistakes that lead to them being called to fight? It seems that a peaceful world is hard to build, and yet I think that the very qualities it takes to bring peace, are those that were, for Australia, born in war. Those that we call the Anzac Spirit: courage, endurance, self sacrifice, good humour, loyalty, friendship and giving everyone a fair go.

The world is a very big place, and it is constantly stained by violence and war, and in the face of it we can feel very little. But that does not mean that each of us cannot live our lives in such a way as to work for peace. The soldiers that we remember and honour today were not, and are not, towering examples of shining strength and perfection. They were and are, ordinary people, but their ordinariness makes their actions, their sacrifices and their heroism all the more inspiring. By living by a code of decent behaviour they put the good of others before themselves, and though ordinary they made a very real difference. We can do that too.

Where they used and still use courage in conflict, endurance in battle, selflessness, loyalty, and friendship towards their comrades, we can use those qualities here and now to work for peace, a fair go and the good of our nation. Courage for us, will be to stand up against unfairness, or bullying, to choose to do the right thing even if it's not the popular thing. Selflessness, or unselfishness for us, will be to choose to help others before looking after ourselves, to work as a team, to teach, to lead, to learn. Good humour for us will mean to not take ourselves so seriously that we cannot face being wrong, making a mistake, or failing. But instead to try again and again, and to enjoy ourselves along the way. Friendship for us means seeking to truly connect with the people around us in a positive way, and so enrich their lives and our lives. These are the

kind of benefits that the hard fought for Anzac Spirit can still give to our nation today.

And so 100 years on, no matter the horrors that it came from, I am convinced of the lasting value of the Anzac Spirit. Of putting other people first, standing up for what is right, and accepting and cherishing everyone despite petty differences. As your chaplain I see this Anzac Spirit to have sprung from Jesus Christ's command to love your neighbour as yourself, and modeled on his own sacrifice in dying for the sins of the world. As a history teacher I see it as a lesson hard won in the past that we must learn if we are to improve on our future.

So let me encourage you not to simply mark this years memorial and move on, but to make an effort to revisit the spirit of Anzac, the call to love your neighbour, everyday, and make the world you live in a better place.

The century past was one of the darkest and bloodiest we have known, the century to come is up to us. We are not too small to live lives that make things better.

Tim Forgeard 2015

Important Dates for the coming weeks

TERM 2	9 weeks
Assembly (Kinder)	Friday 1 May
Bike Day – Tour de St John's	Friday 8 May
NAPLAN	12 – 14 May
Armidale Eisteddfod	19- 20 May and 25-26 May
<i>(waiting on program details)</i>	
Assembly (Yr 3/4)	Friday 29
Athletics Carnival	Thursday 4 June
June Long Weekend	No students 5th & 8th June

St John's Sport News Mrs Jess Oehlers

Winter Sport has commenced with Hockey and Soccer training starting this week. Students who cannot attend training or, more importantly their game, must contact Mrs Oehlers.

Please take note of both hockey and soccer association's wet weather procedures. Most associations let the local radio station know if games have been cancelled or not due to poor weather conditions.

The Parent Handbook contains the St John's Sport Code of Conduct. At St John's we value sportsmanship towards other teams highly and encourage parents to read it before the season commences.

We wish all students the very best for the Winter Sport season.

Tour de St John's

On Friday 8th May St John's will be holding their inaugural Tour de St John's to raise money for World Bicycle Relief. Children will attend a bike safety session with Senior Constable McCormack and then participate in the Tour de St John's cycling event. Students will be asking for sponsorship from parents and friends.



Empowering People Two Wheels at a Time

- * Healthcare – Bicycles help volunteer healthcare workers in rural Africa see **40%** more patients, more often.
- * Education – With a bike, school attendance increases up to **28%** and grades improve up to **59%**, allowing students to pursue their dreams.
- * Microfinance – On a bike, entrepreneurs travel further and faster and are able to carry more goods, multiplying profits by up to **50%**.
- * Field Mechanics – Skilled workers in rural Africa receive a bike, spare parts, tools and training to launch their own local bike business.
- * Environment – South African families earn bikes in exchange for nurturing native saplings and collecting recycling trash.



<http://www.worldbicyclerelief.org>

SPROUTS 2015

School holiday fun hit an all time high these past Easter holidays, when students from across the region in Years 4,5 and 6 converged on the New England Girls' School Science laboratories for a day of 'explosive' activities. From the construction of 'Clifford the Cricket' using electrical components, making lip balm, screen printing t-shirts, learning about canine senses to the Chemistry show, students were engaged and enthralled by Science.

Traditionally students start to change their opinion of Science from the age of about 10 and unfortunately, by the time they reach high school, the verdict is that it's 'too hard' or 'boring'. The SPROUTS program has been designed to combat this attitude, reminding kids that Science is relevant in their everyday lives and encouraging them to study Science subjects in the future.

New figures out of the US with regards to STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) are startling. Only 33% of Year 8 students consider a future in one of these fields and only 6% of high school graduates actually end up studying a STEM undergraduate degree and yet, over the next 5 years STEM occupations are predicted to grow twice as quickly as other job fields.

The hope is that if we can foster a passion for Science in Primary School, these statistics will improve.



Meet Year Six - Who Are WE?

I am *Hannah Janelle Rahim*, an eleven year old girl.
 I consider myself creative and artistic as I spend 65 percent of my day drawing.
 My life started in England, 2003.
 I am an artist.
 I am DIFFERENT.
 I'm NOT what the world has seen already.

I am a girl who is 11 years old. I was born in 2004 in Armidale. My name is *Hollie O'Halloran*. People don't really spell their first name like I do because I spell it with a 'ie' and stead of a 'y'. I am a horse rider that spends most of my time on a horse on the weekends. I am English like many in my country.
 I go to St John's Junior school. I'm an athlete that likes to sprint and high jump, like Olympians.
 I am a friend to friends, a sister to a great friend in my family .I am not a perfect person.

I am 12 years old and my name is *Isabelle Beth Chandler*.
 I'm sporty, which means I like to run, ride my bike and do gymnastics.
 I am a handy builder and enjoy doing the things that society tells me a boy should do.
 I like to ride my motor bike, on the farm where I help my dad out with moving our sheep and one day, when I am ready, I will race my bike at the Tumbledowns Races.
 I enjoy spending time with my 7 dogs at home, because unlike people, they don't continuously talk.
 I am not a mean person, but I do stand up for myself and others.

I am *Keeley Alana O'Connor*.
 I am eleven years and born in 2003. I live in Armidale although I was born in Perth.
 My parents are from England but I'm Australian.
 I love reading books. I am also quite musical except for when it comes to singing. I am Myself. I am not like anyone else.

Do you know me? No, I suppose you don't.
 Well, I am a human like anyone else. I am confident and bubbly, happy and brave. I am always into giving things a go and consistently trying to succeed. I love being around my pets both big and small. I spend most of my time doing sport especially riding my horse but sometimes I just like to sit down and have a break. I am a person who is part of many groups and enjoy being out and about.
 My days are always filled with laughter and happiness.
 I dream that I will once become great basketball player and take after my Dad. I am an 11 years old girl.
 I am *Isabella Louise Johnson* and though my life might seem great I am not a perfect person.

Do you know who I am? No, I suppose not. Well, I am a BFF, a daughter, a sister and a student. I might not be good at everything, but I am a good Minecraft player but sometimes I spend a little long on it.
 I am *Nichola E Clarkson*, I am eleven years old and I am a girl.
 I am said to be fun, creative and sporty but sometimes a little silly. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE technology. My sister says, that every time you see me I am most likely on a computer, iPad etc... I am not a lover of school, but I learn something everyday.
 I do know that I am not a neat freak or anything. I follow my own heart and my own mind to step forward.
 Someday I will pop out of my bubble and be the person I was born to be!

Do you know who I am? No! I suppose you don't.

I am a sporty but loyal person who is always willing to help. I am also a friend who shows dignity and pride throughout school life.

I am **Bronte Rose Dagg** an eleven year old girl who is an Australian and UK citizen. I am a kind and helpful friend who gives great support to younger students. I am a competitive horse rider and have been to Grand Nationals once and have qualified to go again soon. I have great sportsmanship when it comes to athletics and other sports. I am an enthusiastic student who creates a good example for other students. I am part of an extended family and am a mum's girl through and through. I am a mathematical and intelligent student, though, I am not a swimmer or much of an artist.

Do you know who I am ? No, I suppose you don't.

I love having lots of friends to keep me company.

I want people to accept me for who I am and to try not to change me.

I am a lover of things and I am creative.

I enjoy school while other people don't.

I love freedom and I am lucky to have it.

I am a granddaughter of a Vietnam veteran.

I am not a person who will be pushed around.

This is me.

IZ COLLISON

My name is **Kyra-May Rose Buchanan** and I board at NEGS.

I am a proud Gumbangir and Dungutti Aboriginal person. My totem is a carpet snake and a praying mantis; if I hurt them something very bad will happen, for I am meant to protect them.

I am the oldest in my family and my mum is pregnant with her first baby boy Jamirriki. I have 2 sisters Jalarna and Linsiarna.

I am a NIKE girl (just do it). I am NOT AN ARTIST even though my mum and dad are great at drawings.

I was born in 2003, and I am 11 now.

I live with my hard-working family, in Armidale. I have many caring friends, but some will move schools next year.

I also have many hopes and dreams, and someday I will accomplish them. I live in a safe and caring society, and I am loved and cared for.

And I am an athlete. I am not pushed around.

I am **Isabella Gooch**.

Do you know who I am? No, I suppose you don't.

I am an individual in a world which tells me I have to conform and fit in.

I am a person who, even though I try my hardest, is still pressured by my society's many unrealistic rules and regulations.

I am just a girl and I am eleven years old.

My ancestors grew up on the other side of the world, in England, Ireland and Wales, but I live in Australia.

I belong to no one but myself, and I am the sole controller of my life and how I live it.

I am an adolescent who knows that whatever path I decide to follow, I am lucky enough to have a family that loves me, and will keep me safe from the depraved and constricting world around me.

Even with the weight of society's expectations weighing down on my shoulders, pressuring me to be something I am not, I follow my heart, and control my body and mind.

I am not going to be what somebody else wants me to be.

My name is **Sydney Rice**.