

Head of St John's

Shannon Rosewood



ST JOHN'S

Term Dates to Remember

Tuesday 25 November

Transition Celebration of Learning: 4pm

Thursday 27 November

K - 6 Celebration of Learning and
Concert Evening: 6pm

Monday 1 December

Activities Day

Tuesday 2 December

Last day of Term 4

NEGS Calendar Link

<http://negs.nsw.edu.au/calendar/>

St John's Bike Track

What a week! The students have embraced our new bike track and, except for some teething problems with swooping magpies and flat tyres, all is going exceptionally well. Sunscreen and regular water breaks are recommended. They ride hard and fast!!

I was surprised recently to hear that the pendulum is swinging in terms of regulations surrounding play equipment. Sensibly, I believe, Australia is adopting the safety standards recognised as suitable and appropriate in Europe. The thrill of being able to climb higher is now a reality as we adopt this well recognised and accepted standard in Australia.



I was also greatly interested in the research coming out of New Zealand where a different approach to playground activities has been adopted. Children are being actively encouraged to explore their environment and take calculated risks by building cubbies and riding bikes, scooters and skateboards during break times in the school day. Safety equipment is mandatory and while an increase in small scrapes has been evident, there has not been an increase in serious injury. However, what has grown is the children's level of engagement in physical activities and ability to judge successfully how to take calculated risks to increase enjoyment but maintain safe practices. These are all great lessons to learn in the safety of the schoolyard.

To see boys and girls doing circuits of our pathways on their bikes has been wonderful to witness. I commend the St John's students on the good sense they have shown in ensuring all remain safe. The sense of joy evident on their faces as they have negotiated the paths with determination and exhilaration is truly delightful. Increased fitness, coordination and peer interaction have been wonderful outcomes that we wish to continue.

The bikes were stored in the building over the weekend and we are sourcing a chain to ensure the bikes are locked throughout the week if left in the playground. We are keen to seek assistance with maintenance of the school bikes and are looking for volunteer parents to help us to run a workshop for our older students. We will have a Bike Safety Day this term and will be asking our local constabulary to help us with this.

We have received a wonderful donation of two bikes and a helmet from the Loudon family and warmly thank them for this contribution. I would reiterate that bikes coming into school need to be in good working order and all students are required to wear a safety accredited helmet.

Literacy information evening

Our young learners are having an amazing start to the Term. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 are learning about this strange thing called THRASS. What is it??? THRASS stands for Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Skills. What is MultiLit? Transition use Pre-Lit. What does this mean? There are so many things to learn about early literacy programs.

Miss O'Connell and Mrs McCann are keen to help parents understand the importance of early literacy skills. An afternoon workshop will be held on Wednesday the 29th October in the Kindergarten classroom from 5:30 to 6:30. All parents are invited to come and ask questions and learn.

Please RSVP to Mrs Smith at St John's Reception by Tuesday, 28th October if you would like to attend.

PACER

Students from our school have recently undertaken, an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributed funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards minimising the cost for families.

STEM

St John's have been lucky enough to be approached by the University of New England to collaborate on an exciting pre-service teachers' project called It's part of my life: engaging in university and community to enhance Science and Mathematics education. The students will be participating in research about their confidence and enthusiasm for teaching these subjects and will work with our Primary students in Weeks 4 and 5 of this term. We are very excited to be working alongside UNE and are committed to the school's role in the support and development of teachers who are confident and passionate about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

Congratulations to Caitlin Croft for her performance in the Glen Innes High School Sports Day Competition. Her results were amazing! She received four first places, one second and a third!! Well done.

Well done to **Isabella Gooch** (Yr 5) winning overall Cross Country winner for Armidale Athletics club.

St John's loves to hear about what our incredibly talented students are doing out in the community.



Assembly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in the Week 1 Assembly:

Personal Best Awards

K - Zara Harvey-Grace
1/2 - Aleisha Handebo
3/4 - Calan Loudon
5 - Daniel Jamali
6 - Priscilla Clonan

Book Work Award

K - Amanda Knight
1/2 - William Knox
3/4 - Alexandra Reed
5 - Hayley Whitehill
6 - Elijah Layton

St John's Star Award

K - Brodie Meredith
1/2 - Charlie McCulloch
3/4 - Lydia Farrar
5 - Timothy Lindeman
6 - Hannah Stewart

St John's Sport

Miss Jessica O'Connell

SUMMER SPORT

Sport has started for Term 4. Students will play their first game of Touch Football and Basketball this week and we wish them all the best for the upcoming season.

CIS ATHLETICS

We would like to wish Eva all the very best at CIS Athletics in Sydney this week. Eva will be competing in the 800m. Good luck Eva!

SUNSAFE SCHOOL

St John's has achieved it's SunSafe School certificate. Now that it is heating up, please make sure your child has sunscreen everyday and a water bottle. Students will not be able to play out in the sun without a hat on their heads.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Term 4 Swimming starts this week. Students in Year 3-6 will be travelling over to TAS to begin their Swim and Survive Program. Please find below a permission note with all of the information provided. Your child needs to return this note to their classroom teacher by this Friday in order to attend. Students will need to bring a separate swimming bag with swimmers, goggles and a towel. School swimmers must be worn by all students.



ST JOHN'S

St John's Junior School
SWIM AND SURVIVE PROGRAM
TERM 4, 2014

PERMISSION NOTE

DESTINATION: TAS Pool
COST: Covered by Activity Fee
DATE: Term 4
TRAVEL: Edwards Bus

St John's Swimming Program will take place throughout Term 4. This year there will be two separate groups for the program. These groups will be determined from last years certificate results and previous water experience for those students in Kindergarten. The two groups are Learn to Swim and Swim and Survive. The Learn the Swim group will attend sessions run by Harwood Swim School throughout Week 6 and Week 7. The Swim and Survive group will attend during their Sport time each fortnight. Please find information below. You will be notified of the group your child is in next week.

Learn to Swim Group

Week 6: Wednesday and Thursday 2-3pm
Week 7: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2-3pm

Swim and Survive Group

Week 2: Friday 2-3pm
Week 4: Friday 2-3pm
Week 6: Friday 2-3pm
Week 8: Friday 2-3pm

Please fill in the permission slip below and return to your child's teacher. The first session is in Week 2 and all students must have permission in order to participate.

Please feel free to email stjohns.sport@negs.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions.

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Term 4 Swimming Program 2014

I give permission for my child _____ in Year _____
to travel and participate in the Term 4 Swimming Program at the TAS Pool.

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Date: _____



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YEAR 5 **LIGHT IT UP!**

Year 5 have had great fun learning about electrical circuits in Science. They worked in teams to make their own simple circuits which incorporated a switch to make a light bulb glow and tested a variety of materials to see if they were conductors or insulators of electricity. Finally, they rose to the challenge of who could create a circuit using multiple features such as motors and buzzers. They were all champions!



Science News

Miss Stone

Science Success

Last term was very busy for the NEGS Science faculty and we have had a number of successes in national and global competitions.

50 students from Years 4-10 competed in Education Perfect's World Science Series Championships. NEGS placed 3rd in the world and 2nd in Australia in our category of 'schools with 1-50 students'.

The following students achieved outstanding individual results:

Credit (placing them in the top 20% of 20 000 competitors)

Alex Patten Year 9
Victoria Bennet Year 9

Bronze (placing them in the top 10% of 20 000 competitors)

Sophia Gibby-Loughrey Year 7
Megan Galbraith Year 7
Isabella Collison Year 5

Silver (placing them in the top 5% of 20 000 competitors)

Zara Blackmore Year 7

Gold (placing them in the top 2% of 20 000 competitors)

Charlotte S Year 6

Charlotte was also awarded a 2GB iPod shuffle for her efforts.

The following students also received certificates for achieving the highest point score in their respective NEGS classes.

Lydia F	Year 4	Eloise Redhead	Year 8
Isabella C	Year 5	Victoria Bennet	Year 9
Charlotte S	Year 6	Emily Farrar	Year 10
Zara Blackmore	Year 7		

The Science Club girls have been busy learning how to program using Tynker. Hopefully they will be ready to design their own apps soon! The Year 6 partnership of Francisca D and Charlotte S in Year 6 competed in the Science iQ competition run by the Western Australian Science Teachers' Association and came 2nd in Australia!. They were each awarded with a certificate and \$30 worth of Coles Myer vouchers. Well done girls!

Towards the end of last term, some students from Years 3/4, 5 and 6 also competed in the Bebras computational thinking challenge. This is an international initiative whose goal is to promote computational thinking for students. Bebras is aligned with and supports the new Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum. It is run by NICTA under the Digital Careers program, funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Communications. The students enjoyed the challenge and we look forward to participating again next year.

Scholastic Book Club

Mrs Layton

Dear Families,

The latest Scholastic Book Club orders are due back by Friday 24th October. Books are almost always returned well within 2 weeks of the order date. Your child can return the order form to their Teacher, Reception at St John's or Akaroa. Please notify me if you prefer to collect an order from Reception at Akaroa (e.g. gifts) otherwise orders will be sent home with your child via Junior School as normal.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Book Club, on behalf of the Junior School students and Staff.

Amy Layton
Scholastic Book Club Coordinator



Contact me as listed on the brochures or alternatively you can SMS 0429 029 162 or email amy.layton4@bigpond.com