Dear Parents & Carers

This is the final newsletter of the year and I can’t believe that it’s the last newsletter that I will ever write for St John Vianney’s School! I have been truly blessed, in the eight years that I have been Principal here, to have come to know the people who make up this wonderful community. It has been a privilege and an honour to be a colleague of such dedicated staff members, to work with parents and alongside parishioners for the best outcomes for the students and, most of all, it has been a great pleasure to be part of the lives of all the children who have been enrolled over the years. I will miss everyone dearly. I know that the school will continue to be a wonderful place because it is the people of this community who make it so. Thank you for the richness you have added to my life both professionally and personally. I wish you all God’s blessings into the future and hope that our paths will cross again.

Staffing News
Following a panel selection process, I am pleased to welcome Mr Tim Stephens to the staff of St John Vianney’s as the new Coordinator for 2017. I’m sure that the community will embrace Mr Stephens from the outset and that he will feel part of the St John Vianney’s family in no time at all.

Reports
On the Semester Reports that were sent home this week, the Language (Italian) grade did not print for all 1/2 classes, 3/4 St Catherine and both 5/6 classes. These reports have been amended and re-printed. Once they have been signed by the respective teachers, they will be sent home via the children on Monday afternoon of next week. Alternatively, they can be collected from the front office by parents at the end of the school day. I express my sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Parent / Teacher Interviews
Following receipt of the report, parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers. These interviews are not compulsory but provide an opportunity for discussion should there be a need regarding any aspects of the report or the child’s development. Should you wish to make an appointment with your child’s teacher, please phone the front office.

Fundraising for Charities
Thank you to the whole community for your generosity in supporting charities through school events this year. Today’s Christmas T-shirt charity event raised $205.25. Thank you also for the many donations of goods made to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We can be glad that, as a Christian community, we are actively partaking in the mission of Jesus to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. I am sure that we have made some difference for the better to the life of another through our efforts and we have set a wonderful example for our children. Thank you.

Farewell
We will say ‘goodbye’ and ‘farewell’ to all the children who will be leaving Saint John Vianney’s at the end of this year at the morning assembly on Monday 12th December. We will miss them all but wish them every success in both life and learning at their new schools and thank them for the wonderful contribution they have made to our school community.

Goodbye to:
The Year Six Graduates:

Sarah Adam                Peter Hodges                Arrami Pearson
Alphonsa Anil            Kirthana Jimmy              Isabella Perrem
Dannae Henriquez Campos  Melanie Johnson             Emma Stackpoole
Lara Cristofani          Bethany Kelly               Isobel Stibbard
Tallis Flowers           Vin Martiniello             Patrick Thygesen
Whitney Gill             Livia Mastrocinque          Kai Viljakainen
Katie Goodwin            Harriet Palmer              
Mollie Hill              Haley Parker

89 Namatjira Drive, Waramanga 2611
Email: office.svj@cg.catholic.edu.au    Phone: 6288 2383
Fax: 6288 8578    Community Council: sjvcommunitycouncil@gmail.com
The Graduation Mass and Dinner were two very special occasions for the Year 6 students, their families, the staff and special guests. I would like to thank Mrs De Rosa and Mrs Thomas, Mr Konik and Miss Ingram for all the work they put into ensuring these were meaningful and memorable occasions for the students. I cannot thank the committee of parents from Yr 5 enough for their tireless and generous efforts. They worked so very hard to make the Graduation Dinner a truly special occasion for our leaving cohort of Yr 6 students.

Thank you to Steph Myers, Sandy Urbaniak, Nicole Wellington, Brioni Bale, Karen Wilder, Susannah Luck, Louise Carey, Nicole Temple, Lucy Vincent and Kym Dickens who were on the organising committee and thanks so much to the other Yr 5 parents who came to assist on the night. The efforts of these hard-working people have been much appreciated by one and all.

The Yr 6 children were so very excited to see the hall so beautifully decorated in a Hollywood theme and felt like true stars when they took a walk down the red carpet whilst the paparazzi flashed their cameras! Thank you to all our Yr 5 parents for baking goodies for the Yr 6 parents to enjoy whilst their children danced the night away at their mini-disco.

Year 6 students: We wish you every blessing as you take the next step of your life journey and thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to St John Vianney's over the time you have been at the school.

2016 Year 6 Awards

At the Graduation Mass, the following students were presented with the Year 6 Awards:

- Claire Bentley Shield: Alphonsa Anil
- St John Vianney Vision Award: Sarah Adam
- Sr Margaret Watson Community Service Award: Mollie Hill
- Sports Girl of the Year: Haley Parker
- Sports Boy of the Year: Kai Viljakainen
- Rostrum Public Speaking: Katie Goodwin

Congratulations to these students on their outstanding achievements. We are all very proud of you and know you will go on to do wonderful things in the future.

NAPLAN Online Update

Following the successful trial and readiness test of NAPLAN Online, a demonstration site has been set up for schools across Australia to continue their familiarization activities in all NAPLAN test domains. The demonstration site provides students, teachers and parents with the opportunity to take demonstration tests using the NAPLAN assessment platform. Supporting use of the site is a user guide which explains the overall test layout, available tools, different question types and question functionality. Access to the demonstration site is available at: http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site

Class Lists

Class lists for 2017 will be displayed at the end of the school day on Thursday 15th December. Please be aware that not all considerations from parents may have been met as a number of factors have to be taken into account when placing children into groups. I encourage parents and children to look at these groupings in a positive light as an opportunity to get to know different people and experience new things.
**Grounds Working Bee**

We would like to get the school grounds looking ‘ship shape’ in time for the start of the new school year. If you are able to come along to a working bee on Saturday 28th January from 9am to midday, even for an hour or two, your help will be very much appreciated. The focus will be on rubbish pick up, weeding, sand pit tidy-up, pruning if necessary, plus anything else that needs repairing/cleaning up. Please bring rakes and spades to tidy the sandpit, weeding tools, buckets, barrows, brooms and blowers, cobweb brooms, pruners etc. if you have them available. Please mark the date in your diaries and feel free to bring the children with you!

Finally, I wish every family in our school community a happy and holy Christmas. I pray that the New Year will bring the Lord’s blessings to you and your loved ones and that His love will sustain you throughout the coming year. God bless.

**Thought for the Week:**

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Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened. Dr. Seuss
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Vicky van der Sanden
Principal

**REPEAT NOTICES:**

**Candle Ceremony**

On Monday 12th December, the Candle Ceremony will take place at 9.30am in the hall. At this ceremony, the Year 6 students hand over responsibility for student leadership to the current Year 5 students. The Year 5 students also hand over responsibility for the leadership of Heart Space to the current Year 4 students. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

**Giving Mass and Thank You Morning Tea**

The Giving Mass, for the whole school, will be celebrated at 9.30am on Wednesday 14th December in the church. This is an opportunity for the school to give thanks for the year that has passed and to give to others through the presentation of donations of goods to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Following the Mass, a ‘Thank you’ morning tea will be held at the school, in the staffroom, for all who have assisted the school in any way during the course of the year – everyone is most welcome and we would love to see you there. To allow staff members to attend the morning tea, the timetable for the day will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Giving Mass in the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Thank you morning tea at school. At this time, the children will enjoy a recess break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch break (canteen lunch orders will be served at this break)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will resume classes at 1.10pm and will have another short break mid afternoon.
To tinsel or not to tinsel?
There are many stories about how the decorated Christmas tree became a tradition still used today. The story I like to share is one that began in Germany over 1,000 years ago when St Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, was said to have come across a group of people worshipping an oak tree. In anger, St Boniface is said to have cut the oak tree down and to his amazement a young fir tree sprung up from the roots of the oak tree. St Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith and his followers decorated the tree with candles so that St Boniface could preach at night time. It wasn’t until the 16th Century that fir trees were brought indoors at Christmas time.

Thank you to the SJV community for another successful year. Every year we comment on how quickly the year has passed. If we STOP and think about just how busy school life was, then add work, family, sporting commitments, not to mention the children’s social life, it’s no wonder the year goes quickly.

We can’t change our fast paced world but we can ensure that we take time to appreciate all that God has given us and truly appreciate the life we have been given, even though there never seems to be enough time in a day.

I wish everyone a truly Holy Christmas season and a safe start to 2017. Please look after each other and be safe in travels and festivities. To families and children who are moving on, may the memories of SJV be with you always.

Happy holidays!

Mrs D’s ‘Thought of the Week….’

“The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.”

— Burton Hillis

Nina De Rosa
nina.derosa@cg.catholic.edu.au

CO-ORDINATOR NEWS by Mark Konik

BYOD

Parents were surveyed earlier this term with regard to what device their child would be most likely use in the BYOD program next year. The results of the survey are below:

Ipad – 52%
Laptop – 29%
Undecided – 14%
Chrome Book – 5%
This week’s Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus.

This week, we hear Jesus’ message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus’ ministry and Jesus’ assessment of John’s role in the Kingdom of God. In the 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.

This term has been so busy and we are not yet at the end of the year! While we spend time spinning from task to task and trying to get everything done, while still making time for our families, we need to remember that we are in the season of Advent and Advent is the time when we stop, we wait, we prepare.

Jesus came to teach us how to live God’s dream. Jesus is our gift from God. This week we are living that dream by listening to what God wants us to do. Can your family spend some time in silence this week? Go for a walk without iPods. Have a screen free evening. Meditate. Lie outside to watch the stars or clouds. Read a Bible story. Pray together.

**ADVENT PRAYER**

God of Hope,

It is time to get ready so that I can really see your presence in my life.

Help me to open my eyes to see you.

Help me to open my ears to hear your voice.

Help me to open my heart to your love.

Help me to open my whole self to know you.

Amen

**THANKSGIVING MASS**

Wednesday 14th December (Week 10) we will celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the year and all we have. It is also a time of reflection and giving. During Mass we will bring forward gifts that will be collected by our local St Vincent de Paul to be shared amongst families in our community who are in need. We ask that each grade bring celebratory items to help make Christmas better for these families. Items can be brought into school from Monday and placed under the Christmas Tree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bon-Bons</td>
<td>Lollies</td>
<td>Chips</td>
<td>Soft drink</td>
<td>Shortbread</td>
<td>Mince Pies</td>
<td>Chocolates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the year and I am looking forward to working with you all again in 2017.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

sharee.thomas@cg.catholic.edu.au

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS CHILDREN’S LITURGY**

Help is requested from parents, grandparents or parishioners who are interested in organising the Children’s liturgy (both churches) and music (St John Vianney Church).

The children love to be involved but unless we have volunteers we will not be able to offer this liturgy.

If you are interested contact the parish office, 6288 1979, where they have a programme you can follow.
It’s been an enjoyable week at the ELC. The Joeys enjoyed a face-painting day with Miss Shanahan transforming them into their favourite animals or characters. The Wombats met ‘Jingles the Bear’ who plays at the preschool during the day and reports back to Santa at night. Jingles also writes letters for the Wombats to read. The Echidnas went on a special picnic in the park today with their buddies from 5/6SC.

We are enjoying a wonderful ELC celebration with the children from all three classes joining together to perform their Christmas concert in the school hall followed by a party at the ELC. We warmly welcome all of the 2017 ELC families who were able to join us and we look forward to getting to know you better next year.

Final ELC Fees – Thank you to those families who have finalised their ELC accounts for the year. Final ELC fees are now due. Please ensure that you check your final balance and cancel any automatic payments to ensure you do not overpay.

The Canteen is open each Wednesday and Friday

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT WEEK:
Wednesday 14 December
June Smith

Friday 16 December
Sonia Dutkiewicz
Kelly Hill
Nicole Wellington

If you would like to volunteer to assist at the canteen in 2017, please contact Trish in the canteen.

Please make sure you have your WWVP card with you.

Thank you!

The Family Portrait Fundraiser raised over $500!!

A big thank you to those who supported this initiative and we hope you are enjoying your beautiful family photos!!

With the funds raised we will purchase new ‘Teardrop’ banners for the SJV House groups for 2017!

Thanks! ☺

SJV Events and Fundraising Focus Group
## SJV Fortnightly Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 10</td>
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<td>12 Dec</td>
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<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>17 Dec</td>
<td>18 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Holidays Commence</strong></td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 3/4 Open Classroom</td>
<td>Yr 6 Fun Day Excursion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>31 Jan</td>
<td>1 Feb</td>
<td>2 Feb</td>
<td>3 Feb</td>
<td>4 Feb</td>
<td>5 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Term Commences</td>
<td>Kinder Rest Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Tea &amp; Tissues’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder Parents 9-10am</td>
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## Merit Awards

Certificates will be awarded at next Friday’s Assembly.

- Kinder St Anthony: Kira Lopez
- Year 1/2 St Brigid: Thomas Smith
- Year 1/2 St John the Baptist: William Johnston
- Year 1/2 St Nicholas: Olivia Wellington
- Year 3/4 St Patrick: Nathan Georges
- Year 3/4 St Catherine: Daniel Loughlin
- Year 3/4 St Clare of Assisi: Mollie Kennedy
- Year 5/6 St Joseph: Harriet Palmer
- Year 5/6 St Paul: Thomas Rodgers
- The Arts: The six Year 6 boys
- Library: Hayden Gommers
- Assistant Principal: Sarah Adam
- Principal: Jacob Hardy
LOST PROPERTY

Expressions are sought from local businesses within our school community for the position of Grounds & Gardens Maintenance.

Duties will include:
- Regular lawn mowing
- Gardening
- Grounds maintenance
- & other duties as required.

For further information or to submit your Expression of Interest, please contact Sandra Urbaniak in the Front Office or email sandra.urbaniak@cg.catholic.edu.au.

SJV CLOTHING POOL

The Clothing Pool will be open for the last time this year on Friday 16th December.

Our lovely volunteers will have the Clothing Pool shop set up outside, near Assembly, from 8.45am.

All items in the LOST PROPERTY tubs will be either disposed of or donated to Clothing Pool or charity on Tuesday 13th December. The tubs are full of school uniforms, lunch boxes, drink bottles and miscellaneous items. Please take the time to check through them for any items your child/children may have lost.

DRESSING GOWNS

Two dressing gowns have been handed in to the front office. One has pink stripes and the other is black and grey. Please collect if they belong to you.

GAP Hoodies

Two GAP Kids hoodies were handed in to the front office. They may have been left behind after the Fete.

One is pale blue with white sequins (Size S) and the other is grey with pink & white GAP logo (Size XL).

Please collect from the Front Office.