



## FROM THE HEADMASTER



### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANKS FOR SUPPORT

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS

The frenetic end of the School year is nearly over; and so will begin the frenetic lead up to Christmas – the shopping and the stress of deciding what to buy for whom. The inevitable argument as you decide who to spend Christmas with and whose house to go to on Boxing Day. Then finally, when it is all over, we can breathe again and start to relax. Funny time of year really.

The reality is that we cannot avoid the December rush... but once the 25<sup>th</sup> arrives, we can choose to stop, at least for the day, if not until the New Year, to reflect on our lives and the lives of those whom we love.

In all the rush, pressure and stress it is easy to forget what we are actually celebrating. The real reason is glossed over, covered by metaphorical tinsel. Yet, we all know.

Christmas is a reminder of the gift of a loving God. Freely He chose to dwell among us, taking on our full human nature. He challenged the prevailing culture, laws and ways we treat each other, showing us what genuine love looks like. God's gift, freely given, means that we can enter into a relationship with Him. Through Him the world has hope.

I shuddered earlier this week at some of the comments levelled at Western Australian MP Andrew Hastie: "Who are you to talk? You have an imaginary friend and a book written 2000 years ago."

*"In all the rush, pressure and stress it is easy to forget what we are actually celebrating. The real reason is glossed over, covered by metaphorical tinsel. Yet, we all know."*

## FROM THE HEADMASTER (CONTINUED)

I was saddened by the comments because if the person took the time to check it out, the evidence he/she would find it is compelling: Christmas is about celebrating the birth of a real man, who is the Son of God, who was crucified for us so we might have life to the full, and then rose from the dead so that the promise of eternity is sealed. This life is not all there is.

Why not check this message out on Christmas Day at one of the local churches? North Pine Anglican Church in Petrie is one I can recommend.

My prayer for you is that you are able to take that time, to enjoy what life is all about: family, friendships, relationships, and above all, the saving grace of a God who loves each and every one of us.

### **SINCERE THANKS FOR SUPPORT**

In addition to other support provided throughout the year, the School wishes to acknowledge the support provided by the St Paul's School Supporters' Association in 2017. We give sincere thanks for their support of Year 12 Leadership, Year 11 Safe Driving, the Junior School CoA Guest Speaker, Celebration of Achievement Awards, and the End of Year Volunteers Function.

*I take this opportunity to wish the whole St Paul's School Community a very Merry Christmas and a holy New Year. May God bless each and every one of you.*

**DR PAUL BROWNING  
HEADMASTER**



*create your own story!*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY



### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In my last e-News article for 2017, I thought it appropriate to begin to turn our thoughts towards Christmas, and I want to do that by focussing on a couple of key words.

Tucked away in Isaiah 7 (written around 600 BC) is this prophecy -  
*14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Matthew makes a point of highlighting how this prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, in his account of the Christmas story (1: 22-23) - *22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

Does God seem remote to you? Distant? Unknowable, even? If so, then ponder the mysterious and wonderful truth at the centre of our Christmas celebrations: God has come near, in the person of Jesus. And, of course, since Jesus not only lived and died, but also rose again, He is still with us (in the person of the Holy Spirit). As Jesus told his disciples just after He rose again (Matthew 28:20) – *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The second word I would like you to consider is **"liturgy"** (which we might define as a ritual of worship informed by, for example, a Book of Common Prayer). Coming from a non-liturgical church background, my wife and I have really enjoyed our experience of liturgy this year – both at School and as we have recently begun to worship at North Pine Anglican Church.

JKA Smith (in his book "You are what you love") suggests that humans are "liturgical animals" and that our liturgy is an expression of how we understand what it means to flourish as a human being. He goes on to suggest that if we don't subscribe to a liturgy of worship, we will substitute some other form of liturgy, such as a liturgy of consumerism – which, of course, brings me back to Christmas.

Smith says – "If we are immersed in the liturgy of consumerism we will, over time, learn that the end goal of human life is acquisition and consumption. 'What is the chief end of man?' the consumerist catechism asks. 'To acquire stuff with the illusion that I can enjoy it forever'".

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

I hope that, even if you do not attend church regularly, you will find yourself in church at some stage over the Christmas season. Think of exposure to the ancient traditions of Christmas liturgies as your antidote to the all-pervading consumerist liturgy that is going to surround us over the next five weeks.

It has been a great privilege to be welcomed into the St Paul's community this year. I thank the students, staff and parents who I have come to know for the warm welcome that has been extended to me. I trust that all will enjoy a wonderful holiday, in which you are able to re-charge, reflect and be refreshed, as you spend time with family and friends.

**MR NIGEL GRANT**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY**

# SENIOR SCHOOL

## IMPORTANT DATES

With Term 4 wrapping up, we are looking ahead into next year.

Please see important dates for 2018 to the right.

Activity	Date
Last day of School 2017	Friday 24 November
Start date for Pre-Prep to Year 6, Year 7, Year 12 and NEW International students. All NEW students in Years 8 to 11 to attend until 11.00am.	Monday 22 January
Start date for remainder of students. All students to attend.	Tuesday 23 January
Australia Day Public Holiday	Friday 26 January

## LAPTOPS

Some changes are coming to our laptop program from the beginning of 2018. We will commence rolling out a CYOD program. More information is [available on our website](#).

## YEAR 10 SAILING CAMP

Do you have a Year 10 student next year that is keen to participate in the camp of a lifetime?

Expressions of interest are now being taken for Year 10 Sailing Camp 2018.

Please find [attached FAQ's sheet](#) and links to the South Passage [website](#).

Payment of confirmation deposit will be required at the beginning of February 2018.

Please contact [l.bolger@stpauls.qld.edu.au](mailto:l.bolger@stpauls.qld.edu.au) should you require any further information.



# MIDDLE YEARS

## IMPORTANT DATES

With Term 4 wrapping up, we are looking ahead into next year.

Please see important dates for 2018 to the right.

Activity	Date
Last day of School 2017	Friday 24 November
Start date for Pre-Prep to Year 6, Year 7, Year 12 and NEW International students. All NEW students in Years 8 to 11 to attend until 11.00am.	Monday 22 January
Start date for remainder of students. All students to attend.	Tuesday 23 January
Australia Day Public Holiday	Friday 26 January

## LAPTOPS

Some changes are coming to our laptop program from the beginning of 2018. We will commence rolling out a CYOD program. More information is [available on our website](#).

## YEAR 8 HEALTHY EATING

Earlier this week, Year 8 Health & Lifestyle Technology students were challenged to develop a Tuckshop meal based on the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, to appeal to teenagers.

Some of their delicious creations included burrito bowls, Thai beef salad, gluten free crumbed chicken with a bean salsa and a delicious stir-fry beef with vegies.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## IMPORTANT DATES

With Term 4 wrapping up, we are looking ahead into next year.

Please see important dates for 2018 to the right.

Activity	Date
Last day of School 2017	Friday 24 November
Start date for Pre-Prep to Year 6, Year 7, Year 12 and NEW International students. All NEW students in Years 8 to 11 to attend until 11.00am.	Monday 22 January
Start date for remainder of students. All students to attend.	Tuesday 23 January
Australia Day Public Holiday	Friday 26 January

## HOLIDAY CODING CAMP



Can you believe that school holidays are less than one month away?

St Paul's is hosting a Code Camp these holidays for students in Years 2 to 6. Early bird pricing will end on Sunday. You can find more details and register your child

here: <https://www.stpauls.qld.edu.au/.../Holiday-Code-Club-SPS.pdf>

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Our final Celebration of Achievement for the year was held this week. Well done Junior School students for your fantastic efforts this year!

It was a wonderful celebration for our Year 6 students, who capped off their Junior School journey with a performance of some classic songs: We Will Rock You, TNT, Never Going to Give You Up and Living on a Prayer.

Our Junior School Captains for 2018 were also announced. Congratulations to Captains Nia Doherty and Daniel Melloy and Vice-Captains Iha Agrawal and Lucas Merritt.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## CPL FORUM

Over the summer holidays, Mr Malloch will be working to automatically update all user's subscription preferences on the Forum. We aim to have this completed by the end of week 1, 2018. After this, please double check you are subscribed to your preferred alert categories just to make sure you continue to receive the most timely and relevant information for you and your family.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

With Christmas around the corner, our students are getting into the festive spirit.

Our Pre-Preps sung beautifully in front of their parents and invited guests at their annual Christmas concert. There was even a visit by a very special guest...

The Prep to Year 2 Concert was also a great success, with some of our youngest students singing carols, performing with our Seniors in the band and telling the true story of Christmas.

Well done to all students and staff involved. It was the first time the event was held in the Walker Centre, and all students did a terrific job on the big stage!



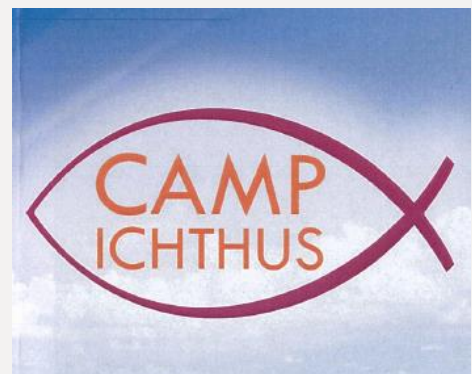
## PRIMARY ICHTHUS (SUMMER CAMP)

YOU'RE INVITED TO..... Camp Ichthus!

Primary Ichthus is a 4-day/3-night camp during the January school holidays for kids in Years 4 to 6. It is an exciting holiday experience that challenges young people to step outside of their comfort zones through participation in group and individual activities.

Registrations close on the 10th December 2017.

More details can be found [HERE](#).





# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## COOKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

This week some of our International school students tried their hands at cooking. With the help of Mrs Svehla, seven students ventured into the kitchen and made kanga sausage rolls and ham and pineapple pizzas.

They used their English skills to ask questions to make sure they were following the recipes correctly.

After the sausage rolls and pizzas were in the oven, they made some rocky road and chocolate snowballs to give as gifts to their homestay parents before they return to their home countries for the summer holidays.

The students had lunch together with some of their teachers and there were enough sausage rolls to take home and share with their homestay families. The experience allowed these students to practise their English in a new and different environment and also required them to work efficiently in groups. The food was delicious!



# SPORT

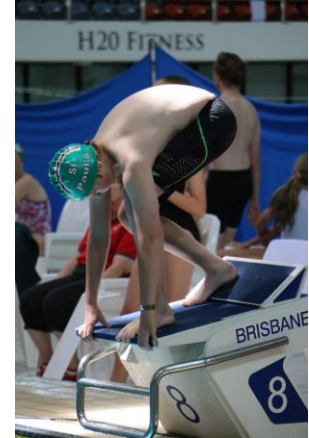
## TAS SWIMMING

St Paul's will be participating once again in the annual TAS Swimming Carnival next year and Swimming Training starts on Monday, January 15th at 8am (Monday – Thursday only).

Once School classes commence, swimming training will tentatively be from 7.00am – 8.00am Tuesdays and Thursdays and 3.30pm – 4.30pm Mondays and Wednesdays. (Junior School will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons).

To be eligible for Team selection, Age Championships, Colours Points and possible Embellishments, swimmers should attend **all of the Friday evening Time trials/Championships**.

More information including training times and Championships can be found [HERE](#).



# MUSIC

## BIG BAND AT PINE RIVERS PARK CHRISTMAS CAROLS – THIS SUNDAY!

Our Big Band have been invited to perform at the Pine Rivers Park Christmas Carols on Sunday November 26. There are a number of our students who will also be performing in the Moreton Bay Symphony Orchestra, which is conducted by our very own Mrs Bronwyn Gibbs. Bring your family down and ring in the Christmas season with us.



## OUR YEAR 12 MUSICIANS ROCK!

Four of our Year 12 Music students have successfully auditioned for the tertiary course of their choice, and were fortunate enough to find out before they graduated.

**Caitlin Alletsee** – Bachelor of Music (French horn) at the University of Queensland

**Andre Van** – Bachelor of Music (Piano) at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University

**Shania Perera** – Bachelor of Music Technology

**Tia Gohil** – Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music) at QUT

Congratulations to all of these students. We are very proud of the efforts and look forward to hearing them perform professionally in the near future.

## YEAR 4 BAND AND CONCERT BAND ROCK THE P-2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our young musicians provided some excellent entertainment at a special Christmas concert on Wednesday afternoon. The P-2 class teachers had prepared their lovely little ones to sing some Christmas carols and our band students played Christmas music between each act. Santa even made a special appearance, helping two of our tuba elves out on a rendition of 'Hark the Herald TUBAS sing'. Thanks to Mr Allen, Ms Chou and Mr Weal for helping the students end the school year in such a fun way.



# MUSIC

## MUSICAL FUTURES INTERNATIONAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Some of our students recently participated in a pilot project that beta tested an online International Battle of the Bands competition format. During the project, the two student-led bands from St Paul's uploaded rehearsal footage for feedback, and were invited to comment on rehearsal footage of students from Shrewsbury International School (Bangkok, Thailand) and Master's College and Academy (Calgary, Canada). The final performances were uploaded this week for student vote and the overall winner was our very own *Full Distortion* with their original song 'No Matter'. You can view this song on the St Paul's Music Facebook page. Congratulations to these talented gents, and also the students from Year 8 band *S.M.A.C.H.* for their hard work over the last few weeks.

## 2018 NOTICES

Students who want to continue their instrumental lessons in 2018 will need to re-enrol. Enrolment forms can be found on the Music website. The 2018 Music Ensemble timetable will also be available on the Music website by the end of next week.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish all our Music families a wonderful and safe Christmas break, and look forward to seeing you again for another amazing year in 2018.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Music staff.



# GENERAL NEWS

## 2017 YEAR BOOKS

2017 Year Books have arrived!

Books were distributed to students in Years 7 to 11 this morning, and will be handed to Junior School students this afternoon. Look out for these in your child's school bag.

Year 12s can sign for and collect their book from Tooth Reception from today.



## 2018 TERM DATES

2018 Term Dates can be found on our website [HERE](#).

## RETAIL SHOP

The Retail Shop will be closed over the holidays and will re-open on **Monday 15 January, 2018**.

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm

For a list of 2018 uniform requirements, see [HERE](#).

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The School will close over the Christmas/New Year break from **Monday 18 December 2017 until Monday 1 January 2018 inclusive**.

For general queries outside this time, please phone Reception on 3261 1388.

# GENERAL NEWS

## RISK AND COMPLIANCE NEWS

### SNAKES

We share our beautiful 150-acre campus with creatures great and small who may like to visit us from time to time. It is the season we tend to see snakes move about.

We educate our students to not touch, not approach, walk away calmly and tell a staff member should they cite a snake. Activities are relocated away from the snake, until the snake is removed.

Reporting of snakes is to be directed to the Facility and Property Manager, Mr Charles Sweeney.

### ROAD RULES

We are privileged to have the space available on our campus allowing cars accessibility around the School and parking. However, our roads need to be respected and road rules abided.

Speed limits must be adhered to, give way at pedestrian crossings and parking only where it is signed to do so.

We love our children and want to continue to provide a safe environment. We are community and this has to be a joint effort.

### STUDENT DETAILS:

We are already planning for 2018. Can I please ask parents/guardians to log in to Parent Lounge over the holidays and update your child's details, importantly their medical details.

**Renaye Ansell**  
Risk & Compliance Officer



## RECYCLE FOR SIGHT

During Term 4, Round Square students from the Middle and Junior School have collected 230 pairs of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand prescription glasses as part of the Recycle for Sight programme in conjunction with the Aspley Lions Club.

Over the 26 years that the Australian programme has operated it has delivered over 7 million pair of refurbished quality spectacles to men, women and children in need and without the financial capacity to purchase even the cheapest pair, to many countries in Africa, Europe, Middle East, Indian Sub- continent, East Asia, and the Far East, China, the countries of the Pacific Rim and Southern Asia and Oceania.

## ONLINE CYBER-SAFETY COURSE

The Anglican Church Southern Queensland is committed to the wellbeing and holistic development of all students attending an Anglican school. All Anglican schools are committed to ensuring the ongoing safety and well-being of students in both the physical world and the cyber environment.

The Anglican Schools Commission has entered into a partnership with *INESS* to develop and provide a valuable on-line training product aimed to educate, empower and support educators and parents to protect children from the increasing risks of on-line usage.

This course is free for Anglican School families **only**, it is designed to provide tools to help create a safe and balanced online experience for your family.

To access this great resource please log in via Parent Lounge.

# WELLBEING CENTRE

## COUNSELLING

### Not just Surviving but Thriving over the School Holidays!



Last week, we welcomed Maggie Dent, Australian parenting expert to our school. It was a fantastic community event with over 750 participants coming from all over South East QLD. Maggie presented her talk “Boys, Boys, Boys” and she brought with her a wealth of information that parents and educators could relate to.

With the school holidays just around the corner, the information and tips Maggie shared around parenting were timely. Most of us have an idea of what we would like the holidays to look like and when reality does not meet expectation, we can be left feeling disappointed. With some thought and planning, the school holidays can be a wonderful time where we can recharge and reconnect with family and friends. But, they can also bring challenges when the children are bored and overtired and the constant arguments between siblings occur.

Kim Abraham and Marney Studaker-Cordner have developed 9 ways to help parents to get through the holidays:

#### 1. **Be Kind to Yourself**

Don't beat yourself up when your expectations aren't met. Instead acknowledge you are doing the best you can.

#### 2. **Don't compare yourself (or your family) to others**

Comparing ourselves to others can often result in us feeling like everyone else has it together but we don't, however this is often not the reality. Instead focus on yourself and your family and try not to worry about what other people are doing.

#### 3. **Don't Blame - Make a Plan**

Put some thought into planning for the holidays. Create a calendar of events with everyone's input and include a variety of activities that everyone will enjoy. This could include baking Christmas treats, family movies at home, walks around the neighbourhood etc.

#### 4. **Create a Plan of Action for Family Gatherings**

Consider what you have control of and make a plan that won't leave you feeling resentful.

#### 5. **When you're judged by others**

If a family member makes a negative comment when your child acts out during the holidays, a good slogan to have in your mind when you're feeling judged or criticized is “Thank you for your concern. We're working on it.”



# WELLBEING CENTRE

## 6. Create Your Holiday

Carefully consider what will work for your family over the holidays. Will it be more peaceful to stay home? Would eliminating some traditions help ease some stress? Make the best choice for your family.

## 7. Don't Cancel Christmas

When our children are misbehaving, we can often dish out consequences in the heat of the moment due to frustration. Many parents threaten to cancel Christmas and this is not recommended. Instead teach your child real life consequences like "I love you, you're my child. This year, I'm going to put the money that I would have spent on you this holiday toward fixing the car you wrecked."

Finally, understanding and accepting that some things will be out of control these holidays, particularly other people behaviour, ask yourself "How am I still going to enjoy my holidays? And what kind of plan can I formulate so that can happen for me?"

*The Counselling Team would like to wish all of our parents and students a wonderful Christmas! Keep safe and we look forward to working with you in 2018.*

**Karen, Ken & Rexina  
Counselling Team**

Beyond Blue            1300 22 4636  
Kids Helpline        1800 55 1800

Lifeline                13 11 14  
Youth Beyond Blue   <http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/>

# WELLBEING CENTRE

## CAREER NEWS

This service provides students, parents and staff members with up to date career information. The information is updated fortnightly and we highly recommend that you scan it regularly for items of interest, especially for students in the Senior School.

Please click on the [attached](#) to access the latest Career News.

## USEFUL CAREERS WEBSITES

My Future [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)

Job Outlook [www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)

Job Guide <http://www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au/>



# SUPPORTERS GROUP

## HOCKEY SUPPORTERS GROUP



The hockey supporters group would like to welcome Stewart Dunbar as the new head of hockey. Stewart is from South Africa and brings with him years of hockey experience. We are looking forward to working with Stewart in the 2018 JTAS and TAS seasons.

The Hockey Supporters Group would like to thank Neil White for his years of dedication to St Paul's hockey. He has grown hockey into a very competitive and fun sport at St Paul's. We hope he enjoys a Saturday morning sleep-in but most of all, time with his family.

The sign on for the JTAS and TAS 2018 is now open. Please check your emails or go to our Facebook page and follow the link.

JTAS Development Day is to be held on Thursday 9 November. Coaching has started for JTAS on a Thursday afternoon. No experience is necessary just come down and give it a try.

Finally, we are running a competition for a new Hockey logo. Go to the Facebook page and check out the details.

On behalf of the Hockey Supporters Group we would like to wish our Year 12 players all the best for the future and hope you have enjoyed your time playing hockey at St Paul's.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 🎄