



ST JOHN'S

There's no
place
like St John's

St John's Newsletter

Term 2 Week 6 - Wednesday 27th May 2015

Head of St John's Ms Shannon Rosewood

What an amazing couple of weeks at St John's!

Bike Day and World Bicycle Relief fundraiser

The amazing efforts of St John's have resulted in a substantial donation to this incredible organisation. A transfer of \$1500 will be made towards the purchase of bikes and support programs for children and families living in disadvantaged communities around the world. The remaining sponsorship monies will be directed towards academic resources, our livelifewell @ school program and wellbeing initiatives, such as the bike track and playground equipment. Thank you to all the families that supported our students. Our community is very generous indeed!

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 5 undertook the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide information to the School about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement at the end of Term 3. Each child's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.



Chess Competition

Congratulations to our fantastic chess club players. They had a terrific day stretching their brains and learning new skills at the Primary Schools' Chess tournament held in Armidale. St John's are so proud of everyone's efforts. The addition of our Chess board to the playground and Tuesday afternoon Chess Club have definitely improved our skills from last year. Well done to all our competitors and Mrs Ward.

Primary Schools Chess Teams Competition

On Friday 15th May students from Years Four and Five participated in the 2015 Primary Schools Chess Teams Competition, held at Armidale City Public School.

Students competed in teams of four through eight, half hour rounds of competitive and challenging chess. St John's A Team came 7th, Team B, 11th and Team C, 12th.

Congratulations to all participants. The children's skills are improving and they were wonderful ambassadors for St John's Junior School.



Armidale Eisteddfod

Congratulations St John's! Two first places at the Armidale Eisteddfod. Years 3 to 6 won the Primary Choir – two-part division and Primary Choir – unison. The students sang 'Stand up and be counted' and 'Naughty' from Matilda the Musical. They wowed the audience with their annunciation when singing 'The bear necessities' and 'Christopher Robin is saying his prayers.' Our Infants students were incredibly cute and impressed the judges with their animation and the additional percussion from our senior girls. The students were also very excited to hear about the announcement of the Term 3 Junior School Musical - Roald Dahl's 'The Three Little Pigs'. Congratulations to Eloise Gooch for her second place in Composition. Well done Mrs Tall and Ms Williams. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing Music Department.



Eloise Gooch



Jade Watkins

Our amazing student Jade Watkins was thrilled to receive a letter from the Premier, Mr Mike Baird MP. The gold embossed stationery contained a letter of congratulations and an Award of Excellence for her incredible artwork promoting NSW. Jade wrote to the Premier about her disappointment with the border sign between Queensland and NSW. She offered some more artistic options. Premier Baird particularly liked her drawing of a Waratah, which he noted is the emblem of our great state. The Hon. Duncan Gay (MLC Minister for Roads) tabled Jade's letter in Parliament and said a big hello to all the students of St John's in Armidale. Congratulations Jade!

National Simultaneous Storytime

A highlight of the week was the dramatic performances of Mrs Bell, Mrs McCann and the rest of the Infants and Transition staff. The memorable 'I love you Spalding' cry will be a memory that lasts forever. We hope that the event inspires children to enjoy literature and great authors like Aaron Blabey with their families.

Mathematical Olympiad

Congratulations to our Mathematical Olympiad team. St John's participated in our first Olympiad last week and the students achieved amazing results. Students from Years 4, 5 and 6 competed. The questions were particularly challenging but all students managed to get at least 2 out of 5 correct. One student achieved full marks! Year 5 and 6 students also completed the Olympiad and worked in small teams to discuss and collaborate on the solutions

for these very tricky problems. Here is a sample to get your brain ticking – Find the smallest possible integer that is a multiple of: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

UNE Research study

Years 1/2, 3 and 5 have been working with UNE to assist the development of Pre-service teachers. The study of practicum students' attitudes towards Mathematics and Science is a very worthwhile investment of our time and effort. The future teachers of our children will be visiting our classrooms to work on their teaching skills and gain valuable feedback from our staff and students.



Shave for Sara and Crazy Hair Day

On Friday evening I hope you will join Jess and all Sara's friends at the Armidale Golf Course to celebrate the community support for this special girl.



Dates for the calendar

Science ICAS – 3 June

Athletics Carnival – 4 June

No students – 5 June. Please contact Mrs Smith if you would like to access Child Care at St John's.

Public Holiday – 8 June

Maths Olympiad #2 - 9 June

French Day – 10 June

St John's Public Speaking Competition – 12 June

Final Assembly – 18 June. Year 5 to present.

No students – 19 June. Please contact Mrs Smith if you would like to access Child Care at St John's.

Assembly Awards @ St John's

Congratulations to the following children who received awards in the Week 4 Assembly:

Personal Best Awards

K - Naif Almalki

1/2 - Amanda Knight

3/4 - Archibald O'Neill

5 - Alexandra Reed

6 - Hannah Rahim

St John's Star

K - Ruby Harvey-Lynn

1/2 - Liam Sanson

3/4 - Jade Watkins

5 - Jack Cassidy

6 - Hayley Whitehill

Armidale Athletics and Armidale Little Athletics

hold field event training every Sunday at 3pm, Harris Park.

It is free and open to all school students in preparation for upcoming school athletic carnivals.

Should anyone have any questions, please contact Collette Gooch 0427 752 022, or check out the clubs' facebook pages

Scholastic Book Club Mrs Amy Layton

Dear Families,

The latest Scholastic Book Club orders are due back by 4th June to ensure delivery before end of term. Your child can return the order form to their Class Teacher, Reception at St John's or NEGS. You may also use the online order and payment system 'LOOP' at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP.



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, our last order earned St John's another \$111 in book reward dollars which puts us up over \$300 already so far this year! Thank you to all those book-loving families, the clever parents who have worked out the new LOOP ordering system and our Librarian who is one of our biggest supporters. Every issue Mrs. Fisher orders books for the Junior School section of the library and helps us earn extra rewards for our St John's classrooms.

Amy Layton
Scholastic Book Club Coordinator
Contact me as listed on the brochures or email amy.layton4@bigpond.com



ST JOHN'S



Our amazing Kindergarten teacher Jess Oehlers has made the decision to shave off her hair to raise money for her goddaughter Sara Lynch. Sara has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia. Sara attended St John's for Transition and is a good friend to several of our students.

There are several events that families can attend to help the cause: Mums are invited to a Ladies' Luncheon event on May 23 (RSVP Wed 20 to 6772 2111). There is also a fund-raising golf day at the Armidale Golf course on Friday 29 May (contact Troy Johnson on 0408711622). This charity event will be followed by a fundraising auction and the shave.

St John's is the kind of school that thinks about others. It would be wonderful if as a school community we could help Jess raise funds to support Sara and her family over the coming months.

St John's Crazy Hair Day will be held on Friday 29 May.

Bring a **donation** and wear your wackiest clothes! Create your own crazy hairstyle, wear a wig or visit the St John's Salon (open from 8:30 am). We are asking parents with creative skills to come and help.

Year 6 girls will be offering these fabulous services:

- Coloured hair spray - \$5
- Hair pieces - \$3 each
- Hairdo of your choice from one of our talented parents or staff - \$10 (Please bring your own hairbrush and ties)

Our Director of Development (and hairdresser to the stars) Mrs Mary Wright will be offering her professional stylist services for an exclusive fee of \$20. Bookings advised!!

Kind regards

Shannon Rosewood
Head of St John's Junior School

Knights of the King

Holiday Bible Club

each morning
July 6th - 10th
2nd week of holidays
Details to follow...

WESTSIDE GOOD NEWS WEEK

Hosted by **STMarks** **uneChurch**

Lucinda Crosby, Surprise, Yr 1 St Mary's Armidale 2014

Let's Hang it! 2015

Open to school students in regional NSW aged 5 to 19 years.

UNESAP

PRIZE CATEGORIES:

	1st place	2nd place
Infants	\$75	\$50
Years 3-6	\$100	\$75
Years 7-9	\$200	\$150
Years 10-12	\$300	\$200

University of New England School Acquisitive Art Prize

First prize winning artworks will become part of the University of New England's permanent art collection. All finalists will receive a certificate of distinction and their works will be shown at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), Kentucky Street Armidale.

EXHIBITION DATES: Friday 17 July to Sunday 2 August 2015

Entry forms can be requested from your school office or downloaded from the following URL addresses:

www.une.edu.au/education/unesap
www.neram.com.au/unesap2015

Entries Close
Friday 5 June

NERAM S&S University of New England



It's The Wheel Thing Maths Investigation

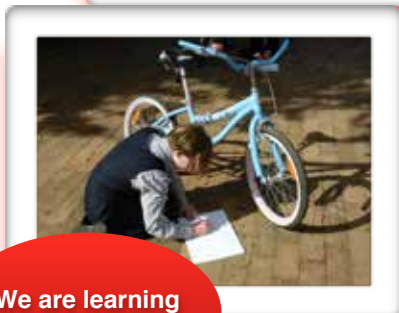
Year 3/4 are undertaking a maths investigation where they are studying the Mathematics of their bicycles. Students are investigating the concepts of angles, length, volume, 3D and 2D space, area mass and number. The children are to investigate these concepts and to record their findings using efficient problem solving and recording strategies. Some wonderful maths language and cooperation between classmates has been taking place as we begin our investigations.



I am wheely trying to use efficient strategies



This is wheely interesting!



We are learning wheel facts!



This is wheely cool!



Oh là là!

On Wednesday 10th June (Week 8), St John's and NEGS will be celebrating their inaugural French Day. *C'est fantastique!*

French Day is about promoting the French language and culture, and having fun at the same time.



GETTING READY

With the big day fast approaching, we have been working on some fun cultural projects in the classroom. St John's and Year 8 students are preparing a photo exhibition for our pop-up museum, using an iPad, a green screen, and their imagination.

We have also been brushing up on the basics - ready to participate in mixed-year quizzes and games. Kindy and 3/4 are now experts in colours, practising their vocabulary by creating funky hairstyles on the iPad. Watch out Year 8 - the littlies will be serious competition!



FRENCH - WHAT'S THAT?

Recently, I asked students what's so different about the French:

"You speak French and we speak normal language." (Kindy)

"You wear fancy shoes." (Y6)

"You eat snails." (Y3/4)

"Your skin is lighter because there's no sun in France." (Y3/4)

"You cut people's head with a guillotine." (Y3/4)

Let's reassure everyone right now - there won't be any head-cutting happening on French Day, but it will be a great opportunity to reflect on French and Australian cultures, trying to sort out facts from stereotypes. Are French people really these barbaric snail-eating pale fashionistas? We'll find out...

PROGRAM OF THE DAY

Students from transition to Y6, as well as Y8, are invited to come in mufti and dress up with a little French flair to participate in the best dressed parade.

The rest of the day will be filled with fun activities including French-flavoured craft, games and food. Our bravest students might even put on a blindfold and take part in the Dare to eat it? competition which will involve crispy croissants, smelly cheeses and all sorts of French delicacies.

Students from Y3 and up are especially looking forward to playing the Loups-Garous, an amazing board game involving secret identities, magic powers, strategy and team spirit. We will attempt the biggest round we have ever done with almost 40 students playing at the same time.

A GOOD CAUSE

French Day is also a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for the Language Department and we would really appreciate your help. We ask students dressed in mufti to bring a gold coin donation. They can also purchase yummy treats in our café for \$2.

The money raised will be used to purchase AIM resources that will help students increase second language acquisition and fluency in French through music, drama and gesture. Created by award-winning teacher Wendy Maxwell, the Accelerative Integrated Methodology transforms the way we teach languages, focusing on the vocabulary and grammar concepts students need to communicate effectively.

I am very excited to start teaching the AIM program next term and hope to share this enthusiasm with the students. If you would like to know more about AIM, go to their website <http://www.aimanz.com/what-is-the-aim/> or simply ask me any questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your support.

St John's Music Mrs Rowena Tall

St John's Music News - Eisteddfod Success!!!

St John's has had outstanding success in the choral events of the 2015 Armidale Eisteddfod winning first place in their division of both the unison and 2 part events. The adjudicator, Gordon Hamilton who conducts one of Australia's most celebrated choirs, The Australian Voices, commented on their excellent intonation, dynamics and diction. The students were very excited about their achievement and their performances were a great testament to the St John's music programme.

The K-2 choir also performed on Tuesday in the non-competitive section of the eisteddfod. They sang 'Gecko' and 'Seeing Things at Night'. I think they had a lot of fun and the audience thoroughly enjoyed their singing.

The Vocal Ensemble is a small group this year with just 6 members but, in spite of their size, they make a beautiful sound and impressed many with their performances last week. They are to be congratulated on their 3rd place in the vocal ensemble event especially as they were competing against some much larger ensembles.

One of the lesser known events at the eisteddfod is the composition section. Students submit an original music composition for any instrument or ensemble at the conclusion of Term 1 and these are judged by an Australian composer. Three finalists are chosen from each age group and invited to perform at the composition night. Following the performances the final placings are announced. I was very excited to hear that Eloise Gooch from Year 4 was a finalist in the K-6 section of this event. Eloise performed her piano composition, 'Chase', on Wednesday evening and was delighted to receive 2nd prize. Her award included a framed excerpt from a work by Australian composer and music educator Mike Irik. Congratulations Eloise!

And now we turn our attention to 'The Three Little Pigs' our St John's musical for 2015. Auditions for this musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's revolting rhyme will be held later in the term. Stage 3 students have received a copy of the script so they can begin to make their preparations. Rehearsals will take place in term 3 during choir lessons, with extra rehearsals for main characters one afternoon per week. This will probably be either Monday or Friday afternoon from 3.30-4.30pm.

Thank you Year 6 of 2014

St John's would like to thank Year 6 2014 for their amazing gift to the Junior School. The new chess set is already a loved piece of playground equipment. Thank you to the parents and students of Year 6 2014. Our chess enthusiasts meet on a Tuesday afternoon in the Library. New members are always welcome. Students from Years 4 to 6 will be competing in the Armidale's Primary Schools Chess Teams Competition next term.

