



## Head of St John's

Shannon Rosewood



**ST JOHN'S**

### Term Dates to Remember

TERM 3 (10 weeks)

#### Events coming up

- **Kindergarten Orientation days**  
– Contact enrolments for more information.
- **Grandparent's Day – 5 September**
- **Spring Fair – 6 September**
- **Camp week**  
Year 5 and Year 6 – 8 to 12 Sept  
Year 3 and Year 4 – 10 to 12 Sept  
Year 1 and Year 2 – 8 Sept  
Kindergarten – 11 Sept  
Transition – throughout Term 3.

#### Thursday 18th September

2.30pm: Assembly -  
Dr Jan Milburn Room  
Last of Day of School

NEGS Calendar Link

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

### Excursion Week

The Week 8 excursion education program achieves many goals both in the educational sphere as well as in the areas of personal and social skill development. Students will return to school to write and reflect on their camp and daytime experiences. Coping with one's personal care and hygiene, organising clothing and belongings, sharing a room with a fellow student and eating food prepared beyond the home are all sound learning opportunities. For our younger students it is the difference of a days learning outside the classroom that creates excitement and challenge.

CLASS	CAMP NAME/VENUE	DATES	STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME	BUS ARR/ DEP SCHOOL	ARR/DEP LOCATION	CLASS TEACHER
K	Aboriginal Keeping Place, Kentucky Street, Armidale	Tuesday, 9th September	Normal	10.15am on School bus	10.30am/11.45am	Jess O'Connell
1/2	Thalgarrah Field Studies Centre	Monday, 8th September	Before 9am	9.00am on School bus	Back at school by 3.10pm	Lou Wood
3/4	Lake Keepit	Wednesday, 10th - Friday, 12th September	7.15am	7.30am on School bus	10.30am/leave 12.30 Friday. Arrive back by 3.20pm.	Anne Ward
5/6	Canberra	Monday, 8th - Friday, 12th September	6.15am	6.30am on Oxley Explorer coach	Arrive Canberra 5.00pm Leave Canberra 8.30am	Liane Nixon Heidi Dent

### Helping your child prepare for camp

At St John's, our goal is to make school camps rewarding and enriching experiences for every student.

We know that for some children, being away from their families can be challenging and perhaps daunting. However, we trust that you understand these experiences to be an important part of our curriculum, which cater to the social, physical and emotional development of your child.

For most children, anxiety is quite normal. As a parent, you might welcome advice on dealing with your child's nerves. We have prepared some suggestions to assist you in preparing emotionally for camp.

#### What parents can do

- Acknowledge your child's fears and worries. Don't dismiss or ignore them - but don't dwell on them either.
- Let your child know that it is normal to feel a little worried or anxious and that she may find many of the students in his/her class feel the same way.
- Try to connect this experience to another relevant, positive experience where a good outcome was achieved after initial worries.
- Gently encourage your child to try new activities that challenge them.
- Speak positively about the camp, both to your child and whenever you are within earshot. If you have your own concerns, don't hesitate to speak to your child's classroom teacher.
- Let your child pack their bag with your supervision so they know where to find each outfit and toiletry item. Prepare well in advance and tick each item off a list.

- If your child is feeling anxious, you may consider sending a keepsake of some sort, such as a soft toy or a special reading book.
- Debrief with your child on their return home to help them reflect on just how well he/she has managed with the challenges faced. Remember they will arrive home very tired and perhaps such conversations are best had over the weekend rather than Friday night.

### Kindergarten Orientation

New students coming into Kindergarten in 2015 had an amazing first day of Orientation. Kindergarten is an important foundation year in a child's schooling. Learning should be fun, creative and explore concepts through investigation and prepare students to become global citizens in an ever changing world. Student's completed a wide range of activities and we can't wait to see them again next week. If you know someone who would like to experience St John's for a day, phone 6774 8700.



### Chess Challenge!

Good luck to Year 3/4 at the Primary Schools One-Day Chess tournament being held in Armidale this week. Our resident chess enthusiast, Mrs Ward, is confident that our young players will do St John's proud at this challenging event. Playing chess has been proven to improve problem solving skills, enhance memory and reading, and teaches children to think logically and efficiently. For more interesting reading on this topic see Dr Peter Dauvergne's article 'The Case for Chess as a Tool to Develop our Children's Minds' found on the NSW Junior Chess League website <http://www.nswjcl.org.au>.

### Grandparents' Day

It is with great excitement that we are looking forward to Grandparents' Day on Friday, 5 September. A musical concert will begin the event at 9:30 in the Assembly Hall. A scrumptious morning tea, bookstall, visiting Junior School classrooms and a Grandparents' Day Chapel Service are all part of the joy of the day. Students are welcome to bring a special guest if circumstances prevent them from enjoying the day with a grandparent.



### NSW Northern Decathlon

On Friday, 5th of September, a combined team year 5 and year 6 students will attend the Northern NSW Da Vinci Decathlon. The decathlon is an academic inter school gala day run in the spirit of an olympic decathlon with events of an academic nature. This event will be held at TAS with the theme for this year being 'Mystery and Mayhem'.

The challenges set for the day are difficult, however, students tackle these tasks together as a team and all bring different areas of strength. Our Stage Three team consists of Grace, Eva, Charlotte, Isabel B, Anna, Hannah R, Isabella G and Francicsa.

Our team of girls will participate in activities across the following disciplines:

*Science* – where students will be provided with higher-level scientific concepts and be tested on their ability to apply them.

*Mathematics* – where the emphasis is placed on problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles.

*Philosophy* – which deals with maps, photographs and other evidence.

*English* – where spelling, word origins, definitions, scrabble and writing tasks are all attempted.

*Creative Producers* – where a sub-group from the team will develop and present a 30 second commercial to promote a particular product. The sub-group will move outside the competition venue and be given 10 minutes preparation time prior to presenting.

*Engineering Challenge* – whereby a building task designed to test creativity and ingenuity will be given.

*Art and Poetry* – in this area, the team will develop a poem plus a complementary work of art on a given theme.

*Cartography* – requires students to decipher maps and apply the principles of map-making to represent spatial information in an imaginative ways.  
*General Knowledge* – testing of current affairs, entertainment, sport and trivia knowledge.  
*Code Breaking* – where in the spirit of World War II students will aim to decipher the various codes.

We are looking forward to a great day. Mrs Dent

### Spring Fair

St John's students and staff have contributed to a fantastic St John's Spring Fair 2014 poster. It is so cute! It is an A3 size poster that has the portrait of all students and staff. It will be available at the Spring Fair for \$2 or \$4 laminated. Posters can also be ordered from Mrs Smith at St John's Reception.

### Student Achievements

Congratulations to Caitlin Croft on her performance at the recent Carinya Christian School Horse Sports Day. Well done on receiving third in hacking, third in girl-rider, third in pleasure hack, and fourth for In and Out at the Paddock. Well done to Katie Hancock, winner of first place at the Official Tamworth Dressage Event and to Pricilla Clonan for her third place win at the Tamworth One Day Event. Fantastic riding girls!

*St John's loves to hear about all the exciting community events that our students are involved in. Make sure to let us know.*

### The Pan Pacific Games

I won a competition and last Friday I went and handed out flowers for men's and women's 50m breaststroke at the Pan Pacs on the Gold Coast. It was fun and I got a VIP pass for Wet and Wild, Sea World and Movie World. I saw Caren McEvoy and Michael Phelps swimming – it was great! I want to swim like them.

*Calan Loudon (Year 4)*



### Mathematics and Creativity

The recent paper plate challenge was a fantastic success. The excitement and creativity was a sight to behold. All students (and staff!) are to be congratulated on their efforts.

In recent weeks Years 5 and 6 have explored the role of creativity in Mathematics. Year 5 investigated how many multiplication tables we need to learn. Year 6 is currently designing their own fraction board games. The year 6 students hope to share these games with parents in the coming weeks. Keep your eyes out for a special invitation!

### Website survey

Parents are asked to make comment and suggestions on the temporary St John's website that is available at <http://www.stj.com.au>.

I am also interested in parent interest in the use of phone apps like Skoolbag or School Stream. Are parents interested in this kind of service? A short promotional video is available on the School Stream website - <http://www.schoolstream.com.au> or My School website- <http://myschoolapps.com.au>.

Recent discussions with parents have prompted St John's to consider the effectiveness of their communication with the community. The school diary is the best form of daily correspondence with your child's class teacher. The newsletter is an important information source for important dates and school events. A phone call to St John's Reception can also assist parents with understanding the term calendar that was sent home at the beginning of the term. Schools are busy places. It is the nature of a dynamic institution that dates change and new initiatives are pursued. We would like to make sure parents have the information that they would like about their child's education experience.

### Parent Helpers and MultiLit

Parents wishing to assist with Infants reading are welcome to contact St John's Reception to register their interest. Literacy groups occur between 9 am and 11 am Monday to Friday. Infant's classes will be utilising Miss O'Connell's recent MultiLit training at Abbotsleigh. What a fantastic resource for our young readers! The MultiLit program is a Macquarie University phonics program that has shown to have great success in developing and strengthening early reading. Multilit parent information can be found on their website <http://www.multilit.com>

## Assembly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in the Week 6 Assembly:

### Personal Best Awards

K - Taj Killen  
1/2 - Arabella Dagg  
3/4 - Ashley Knight  
5 - Timothy Lindeman  
6 - Clancy Hedges

### Book Work Award

K - Brodie Meredith  
1/2 - Andrew Knight  
3/4 - Alexandra Reed  
5 - Bronte Dagg  
6 - Zoe Reed

### St John's Star

K - Emma Ong  
1/2 - Ava Loudon  
3/4 - Jade Watkins  
5 - Keeley O'Connor  
6 - Isabel Bookallil



**Twilight Concerts**

Congratulations to all our performers who participated in the Twilight Concert on Wednesday 27 November. Audience members were treated to an impressive display of talent from both NEGS and St Johns. Some of our younger students were performing for the first time and were excited to share the programme with our accomplished Year 11 girls. Highlights of the evening were vocalists Simone Sakker and Isabella Watson with their versions of *Love Like Breathing* and *Don't Rain on My Parade*, as well as Maria Fantini's beautifully stylistic interpretation of Bach suite movements on viola.

The next Twilight Concert will on Wednesday 22 October (Term 4, Week 3).

**NEGS Musical - Narnia**

Auditions for the 2015 Musical will take place in Week 8. Please see Ms Williams or Mrs Tall if you would like more information. The performance will take place during Term 1 of 2015 and auditions are open to students from Years 7 to 9 (2015).

**AMEB Results**

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved success in recent AMEB examinations:

- Dominique Holley First Grade Theory - 97%
- Imogen Gifford First Grade Theory - 99%
- Imogen Gifford Third Grade Violin - A
- Hayley Whitehill First Grade Piano - B+

**Upcoming Dates for Your Diary**

Grandparents' Day Concert	Friday 5th September
Year 12 Valedictory Assembly	Friday 19th September
Twilight Concert	Wednesday 22nd October
Speech Day	Tuesday 2nd December
NEGS Carol Service	Tuesday 2nd December



**NSW Parents Council**



- NSW Parents' Council reports on its very successful trip to Armidale, with articles from two of the speakers, Nina Funnell and Kate Fitzsimons
- Wellbeing@NEGS: Principal Clive Logan talks about new initiatives at New England Girls' School
- #ozptchat - connecting parents and teachers on twitter
- Trent Southworth, Teen Strategies Group, gives advice on the potential dangers in your medicine cabinet and congratulations to the deserving winners of our Awards for Excellence, presented at our AGM

Full newsletter at <http://www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au/Newsletters.htm>

**NEGS & St John's**

*invite you to*

**Grandparents' Day**

**Friday 5th September 2014**

Meet your grandchild at 9:15am at the Assembly Hall, for commencement of a musical concert at 9.30am.



New England Girl's School  
 Uralla Road, Armidale NSW 2350  
 T +61 02 6774 8700  
 E [reception@negs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@negs.nsw.edu.au)  
[www.negs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.negs.nsw.edu.au)

**Daily Fitness 8.45 Monday - Thursday**

As part of our Live Life Well @ School program daily fitness sessions focusing on fundamental movement skills will commence each morning from Monday to Thursday at 8.45am.

### Year 1/2

This term Year 1/2 have been looking at Transport in HSIE, and Natural and Man-made things in Science. The highlight so far of our Transport unit has been our venture across the oval so we could clearly see the highway. We used tally marks to count the different types of vehicles going past and found out that cars were definitely the most popular form of transport going past our school. Also popular were utes. Not so popular, and maybe a little unusual was a fork lift and a taxi! In Science, we have classified things into natural and man-made categories. We have looked at some of these things under the microscope which has been really interesting.

We enjoyed Well-Being Day last week and we worked with Kindergarten to create some fantastic artworks which are displayed in our room. We have also been into the Yr 3/4 room to look at, and play, the games they created, and to share some reading time with them. We are lucky to be able to do these sorts of things with the other year groups at St John's.



### St John's Sport Miss O'Connell

#### IPSHA

Students travelled to Sydney this week for IPSHA Athletics. Our girls did exceptionally well and enjoyed the day.

Eva K placed 1st overall for the 800m with a time of 2min 34sec. She will attend the CIS Carnival in Sydney in two weeks time. We wish her all the very best.

Isabel B did very well in her two events, placing 2nd in her heat for the 100m and 1st in the 200m.

*Well done girls!*

#### SUMMER SPORT

Summer sport will start in Term 4. If you played Basketball and Touch Football in Term 1 earlier this year you will be playing on the same team. More sport information for Summer Sports will be sent out very soon so stay tuned.

#### GYMNASTICS

St John's have been travelling to the Gymnastics Centre each fortnight and have had so much fun. We have one more session left this term.

#### SWIMMING

Swimming will take place next term. Notes regarding this will be sent out once arrangements have been finalised.

#### REMINDER

Just a reminder that we have a new sport email. It is: [stjohns.sport@negs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stjohns.sport@negs.nsw.edu.au)

**Congratulations to our St John's netballers!** The VIP CGA Rockstars are a combined St John's and Armidale City team. These fantastic players had an exciting game against PLC on Saturday and won 25 to 20. Their amazing shooting, throwing and passing means that they will move into the finals next week. Go girls!





## Year 8 Invite Transition Mrs Morley

Year 8 invited Transition to come and do some woodworking in the new workshop today. The Transition students shared stories about their favourite toys and made animal pictures with nails and wool.



## Science Day@NEGS Miss Belinda Stone

### Science Day 2014

On Wednesday 20th August, NEGS and St John's marked National Science Week with our annual Science Day. The theme this year was Food for our future: Science feeding the world. The theme was inspired by the International Year for Family Farming and could include topics like food security, agricultural sustainability and innovation.

As has become customary at NEGS, our Year 10 students took the lead in implementing activities from K-9. Our Kindergarten class modelled how much of the Earth is available to grow food using dough and planted their own climbing beans, just like Jack and the Beanstalk! Year 1/2 constructed some very colourful wind turbines and Year 3/4 investigated which type of chocolate melts the fastest; white, milk or dark. Year 5 learnt about sustainable fisheries and participated in the 'Paint a Fish' Campaign to make their voices heard in favour of sustainable fishing. Year 6 investigated how water-holding crystals can assist farmers in drought affected areas. Year 7 were very fortunate in being able to attend a workshop on dung beetles, presented by Dr Jean Drayton from the University of New England. Year 8 were assigned an invention challenge - what can you make from a plastic water bottle? The girls were very creative, coming up with small animal feeders, fish traps and water filters, to name a few. Year 9 participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) challenge - how do you get tomatoes down a Nepalese mountain without crushing them? Their designs were innovative and the winning team managed to safely carry over 740g of tomatoes down our 'mountain' flying fox. Once again, this day could not be possible without the incredible work behind the scenes by our laboratory technician, Annette Edmonds and the support of all staff. Plans are already underway for next year's event.





## WELLBEING DAY

On Wednesday 27th August, St John's participated in Term 3 Wellbeing Day. Students from Transition to Year 11 completed activities and attended motivational talks.

The wet weather didn't stop St John's from getting into the spirit. Each stage completed activities in the classrooms focusing on team work, resilience, cooperation, along with many other concepts from the program. Below are the activities students completed and some photos of the day.

Transition: Getting Along games and Art and Craft Activities.

Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two: 'Mirror' Art Activity & Tissue Paper Window Art

Year Three and Four: Chess and Construction Activity

Year Five and Six: Paint blowing/Thumb Print/ Tree Activity.

Miss O'Connell and Junior School Staff







# The Annual NEGS



## Spring Fair

10:00 am Saturday 6th September

pony rides / paint a pony / wine wheel barrow/ tombola / lob-a-choc / face painting, hair & tattoos / books & craft / gourmet BBQ & relishes / cakes / nachos / drinks / ice cream / plants / balloon guessing / Concepts of Armidale fashion parade / chocolate wheel /novelty events / musical performances



Emporium with over 20 stalls / Annual Art Show /  
Old Girls' Weekend

Be there for a great day experiencing NEGS in its full spring glory

