



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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Absentee Message Bank - 9844 0280

Advent Prayer

O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Guide us in your ways of compassion so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

Amen

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians, Families, Students and Members of our College Community,

Although our Term time is rapidly diminishing, the College remains a hive of activity.

This week we held a special assembly to announce the winning House: Congratulations to Ozanam for their win. It was a close call and all House members are to be congratulated for their efforts over the year.



Important Dates & Coming Events

Sat/Sun 6/7	Mon 8 December	Tues 9	Wed 10	Thur 11	Fri 12
		Uniform Shop Open 8.00-9.00am & 2.30-4.30pm	Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am HFC	Yr 4-6 Picnic Kindy Christmas Concert	Yr 10 Life Skills Day Pre-Primary Christmas Concert
Sat/Sun 13/14	Mon 15 December	Tues 16	Wed 17	Thur 18	Fri 19
	Yr 7-10 Activities Day Yr 1-3 Picnic	K-10 Last Day for Students Uniform Shop Open 8.00-9.00am & 2.30-4.30pm	Teachers Finish		Office Closes and re- opens on 19 January 2009 8.30am-4.00pm

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At the special assembly we announced the finalists in the P & F Individual House Point Prize Draw - these will be drawn at the final College assembly and the Junior School, Middle School and Senior School recipients will ride off on a bike, compliments of the P&F and the Great Southern Bicycle Company.

Ozanam House will enjoy the Winning House Picnic on Thursday.

Special thanks to Mr Scanlon and the students from Years Ten and Nine who entertained us at Wednesday night's Music Concert in the Chapel. The audience had a wonderful opportunity to hear these talented young people.

Congratulations to Saints Swim Club members, coaches and managers for the Lap-a-thon held today. This dedicated club will help the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Appeal with the funds raised.

Thanks also to students and families who have supported the School's St Vincent de Paul Society's appeal. The funds raised and goods donated will help people in Albany this Christmas.

Mr Bradley Hall - Principal

Keeping Learning Alive During the Holidays

Holidays can be a great time for children - and teachers - to rest and for families to encourage different learning strategies within their homes. Summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy activities together. Children return to school from the long holiday more mature and keen for the new year after weeks of close contact with the family and friends.

Without, however, some attention to learning, the summer weeks of down-time can bring problems later, when teachers have to spend time re-teaching concepts students have forgotten.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The summer break can be especially difficult for younger children who have only recently got used to the daily school routine. They are new learners, and the new skills and routines take a lot of reinforcement, so it's harder for them to come back after the break and start up again where they left off.

Parents may like to spend a short time each day going over some of the things their children have learned at school. Make it fun, but also help to reinforce what children have been learning. Enjoyable activities with letters and numbers and reading a lot can help keep learning alive.

There are many educational activities that families can do to help make the transition back to school easier. Cooking, shopping and reading, planning activities, working out costs, making phone calls, writing thank-you letters are all very important to keep children engaged so that their minds stay fresh for when they return to school.

Try using the newspaper as a learning tool, even with younger students. They can find the items you need in supermarket advertisements. Get them to circle words they recognise in stories or photo captions.

Take children for small day trips that are fun, educational and energetic. Buy postcards so they can write to friends and grandparents about what they have seen and done.

Playing cards and board games can keep children in reading, co-operating and learning skills.

Acknowledgement: Antoinette Konz, The Courier-Journal

COLLEGE NOTICES

Nathan Drew Memorial Trust

Last Monday Graeme Drew (who is a finalist in the WA Local Hero of the Year 2008) from the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust came and spoke to Year Five and Six students about safety when using our coastline. Mr Drew displayed inflatable vests that the foundation hire free of charge to people from several outlets within the community. He also provided the children with a number of safety strategies they can use when they use the coastline.

The students responded very positively to Mr Drew's presentation and are keen to fundraise some money to purchase an inflatable vest for the foundation. The Year Five and Six students will be holding a Christmas Hamper Raffle and promoting Friday 12 December as a 'Wear your Cap to School day,' for a fifty cent donation.

Please support our students in their efforts to help this worthy community project.

Mr Jim Morcom & Mr Paul Romeo -Years Six and Five Teachers

Saint Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

Thank you to families who donated food items for St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Appeal and who provided money for the money chain conducted by Middle and Senior Schools students.



Brianna St Jack, Tahlia Putland, Tiffany Clarke, Ashleigh Smith, Cameron Mitchell, Addison Dew and Ned Turton fill the Junior School Food Hamper for the Christmas Appeal

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Also to the many students who participated in today's Lap-a-thon to raise money for the Christmas Appeal.

The St Vincent de Paul Conference are always very appreciative of the support given to their annual appeal by our College. All food items donated and money raised go towards making up hampers to present to needy families in the Albany region just prior to Christmas.



Middle and Senior Schools' Money Chain: Year 7 Students placing the coins donated

Positive Image Award 2008

The St Joseph's College community congratulates Year Ten student, Raylyn Pascoe, on her selection as the Regional District Ambassador to receive the 2008 Positive Image Award. The award recognises Raylyn for her contributions to family, school and community.



Raylyn is a very active member of the Holy Family Parish as an organiser and coordinator of the Albany Youth Group at New Camfield whose aim is to promote positive involvement in both community and Church activities. Her commitment to her faith and her involvement in World Youth Day in Sydney is testimony to a young woman who bears witness to her faith and who leads by her actions promoting a genuine concern for others in the community. Her willingness

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to assist and engage in all aspects of College and Community life without expectation of recognition is evidence of her strong sense of commitment to build a positive community.

As one of twenty-nine students chosen throughout the state to travel to Perth accompanied by a chaperone, Raylyn travelled to Perth last week to participate in a "Special Rewards Day" organised by the Department for Communities' Office for Youth.

The two day programme included a Certificate Presentation by the Hon. Donna Faragher JP MLC Minister for Youth, visits to the Western Australian Art Gallery, Scitech, Twilight Sail and Supper on the STS Leeuwin, Kings Park Federation Walk and a movie at the Millennium Cinemas, Fremantle.

The twenty-nine ambassadors nominated by their respective schools, were selected for their willingness to serve others in their school community, and who, in some way have overcome difficulties in their personal and family situation. Despite their own personal struggles, these students have continued to offer their assistance in all aspects of their school life: truly being a genuine positive role model for others.

Ms Jude Stringer - Head of Curriculum

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Ahoy There Me Hearties!!

Last Friday Year One students were invaded by junior pirates from the 'Jolly Roger' who having lost their pirate gear at sea made hats, eye patches, treasure chests, parrots, telescopes and treasure pouches to store treasure. They also made a hearty pirate lunch of pizza, pikelets and fruit salad before they embarked on a hunt for treasure that had been stolen from a pirate ship belonging to Captain Jake. Despite the loss of one of the clues, the treasure was eventually found (after much searching) hidden in Mr Watson's cupboard. After a quick snack the pirates crept carefully over the oval and through the old bush area and captured Mr

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Small who was busy teaching sport to the Year Six Students. Poor Mr Small.... He had to walk the plank. A wonderful time was had by everyone!

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful parents who came in and helped with the art and craft and cooking activities - your support enabled the day to run very smoothly and ensured that the children had a marvelous time. Thanks also to Mr Watson and Mr Small for being such good sports and to Jess for taking lots of photographs.

Mrs Christine Palfrey - Year One Teacher



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Senior Citizens

Well done to Mrs Tassicker and Mrs Palfrey for taking the choir and Year One Students out to Le Grande Motel to entertain the senior citizens from St Joseph's Lodge at their annual Christmas Party. The senior citizens really enjoyed the student's performances and students were warmly applauded for their efforts. Students were rewarded with a bag of lollies each provided by organiser John Simpson and his group of assistants.

Parent Meetings

Last Friday's Parent Meetings for parents/guardians of students going into Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year One in 2009 were well attended. The meetings provided parents with an opportunity to meet staff who will be teaching their children in 2009 and to discuss any concerns they may have in preparation for the 2009 school year. Parents/guardians who were unable to attend the meetings are very welcome to pick up an Information Booklet from the Early Learning Centre.

Information about Kindergarten/Pre-Primary interview times for the first two school days of Term One 2009 (Monday 2 February, Tuesday, 3 February) will be sent home to parents towards the end of the school year.

Mr Mike Watson - Head of Junior School

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Building a Community of Service to Others

The completion of 20 hours of Christian Community Service is one of the requirements for gaining the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) commencing in 2009 for all students in their final year of schooling. Students can complete their hours of service in Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve. To assist students to complete their hours of service, the College offered volunteer service placements at Clarence Estate, Gwen Hardie Lodge and at the 'Class A Natural Reserve' at Frenchman's Bay.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Students in Year Ten travelled by bus to Frenchman's Bay to rid the area of the Victorian Tea Tree 'pest' weed. The eradication of this weed in this prime coastal natural bush reserve is vital to the conservation of natural plants and wild life. If allowed to dominate the biodiversity of this rich and beautiful coastal area that we all enjoy will be lost forever. As the Victorian Tea Tree is so robust and spreads easily, Albany City Council's Bush Care Department works continually to contain this plant. Students and staff who accompanied the group on this excursion are to be commended for taking up this Community Service Project and in the process they all learnt much about this fragile environment. This project was demanding and required staff and students to walk through sections of bushland spotting the 'pest weed' and pulling it out of the soil. This was, despite the 'hard day's work', a wonderful way to experience and to gain the vital knowledge and understanding of how our natural bushland is under real threat. The challenge for us is to be actively engaged in some small way to preserve what we have.

The College acknowledges the support and assistance of Peter Stewart and Melz Armstrong, Bush Care Assistants, and Kevin Pampling from Green Skills who worked along side students for the two day project. We particularly appreciated their willingness to share their knowledge of the unique Western Australian native bush areas as this made us all see how important our efforts were in preserving our environment for the future.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We have also continued our visits to Clarence Estate and to Gwen Hardie Lodge where students from Year Eleven and Year Ten assisted residents with surveys, played board games and shared morning tea with seniors in our community. This experience is always a rewarding and special time when the youth of our College mix the seniors in our community and continue to build meaningful relationships.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs Ann Heward and to thank her for supervising the students during this project.

Ms Jude Stringer - Head of Curriculum

PARISH NOTICES

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Youth Group Wind Up



Celebrate the end of a year,
bring a guitar, music, friend and
a plate to the Shack,
behind New Camfield on
Friday 12 December
3.30pm



Christmas Pageant 2008

**Saturday 6
December**

**7pm - 8pm
Christmas Float Parade
8pm-9pm Concert -
Alison Hartman Gardens**



Hello Parents/Guardians

Angels and shepherds are required for the Holy Family Parish Christmas Float for this year's Christmas Pageant.

York Street will be closed from 4pm on Saturday so Angels and Shepherds need to access Stirling Terrace via Princess Royal Drive or Hanrahan Road through to Residency Road between 6.15pm - 6.30pm for a 7pm start. SES Volunteers will direct you to the Float.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact Gloria Barnes 9844 1594.

Christmas Eve Family Mass Holy Family Church - 6.00pm

Our traditional Christmas Eve Family Mass will need the assistance of **angels and shepherds** to help us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and bring it to life.

So please bring your angels and shepherds to our Christmas Eve Family Mass.

Practice days and times:

Thursday 18 December 11am - 12noon
Monday 22 December 11am - 12 noon
Tuesday 23 December 2pm - 3pm

Any further enquiries please phone Gloria Barnes on 9844 1594.

*Hope to see you all there for a
wonderful Christmas celebration!*

