



St John's Catholic College

Newsletter

ISSUE: 1 Term 1
10th February, 2017

2017 Official Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony on Friday 3rd February, 2017.
A big thank you to Tony Lee and his son Trent Lee for leading the ceremony.



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear members of the St John's Catholic College community,

Welcome to the 2017 academic year! In addition to our returning students and their families, we are excited to welcome

Torfhinn	Antella
Leada	Blackie
Paige	Butler
Camille	Gavino
Karlea	Holtze
Logan	Hunter (Justin)
Taylor	Ketterman
Zoe	Kurnoth
Letisha	Lamilami
Jackson	Lay
Xavier	Longland
Sandra	Manybunburrawuy
Hussen	Nditije
Ciaralii	Parnell
Jaylene	Ross
Veronica	Thomas
Mitchell	Tickner
Timahis	Timaepatua
Kathleen	Unghango
Azleah	Williams
Gaidora	Williams
Candace	Wilson
Erica	Wilson

as new students to our community. Our new students are a balance of boarding, international and day students across a range of year levels though in particular we would like to welcome our Year Seven students who are beginning their Secondary school education with us. We have been blest with rain over the break and this has contributed to feelings of freshness, anticipation and new beginnings amongst staff and students alike.

We have had a strong start to the year with classes now settled and well into units of learning. While things rightly change with the coming of a new year, I have spent time with staff groups and with students reiterating the essential understandings of being a member of the St John's Catholic College community:

We are a Catholic College
Learning is essential, urgent and non-negotiable
Little things matter

These things underpin who we hope to be, how we will view and act in the world, and what we hold on to and fight for. These are "St John's things". They are different from other schools and organisations and that is not to imply that we are any better or worse because of it. What it does mean however is that we are clear in who we are and what we do. It is a conscious choice to work and learn as a member of our community. Being this clear allows everyone to make an informed decision about joining and remaining a member of our community.

At the beginning of the year we take time to set goals and a path to achieve them. It has been said that a goal without a plan is a wandering dream. Over the last fortnight Homeroom Teachers and Heads of House have spent time with each

student mapping a course for the term so that everyone can achieve at their best. This process, in combination with a rolling study skills program, will be repeated each term to regularly acknowledge achievement and make accommodations for the challenges that will inevitably arise. We begun implementing a number of initiatives across to College to support students in developing the "study skills" such as organisation, referencing, research, assignment writing that complement and support strong academic performance. Details of our new Vertical Pastoral Care structure and Edmodo will be shared in this newsletter by members of the Strategic Leadership Team.

On Tuesday we held our Meet the Teachers/Families Evening. Not every one is able to make such an evening so Homeroom Teachers will be in touch in the next couple of weeks with each family. The relationship between the College and parents is crucial so students can achieve their best. We hope that we can all work together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practise positive school habits. If parents are involved and become committed to school decisions, student achievement will improve and student behaviour will be cooperative; this will lead to the enjoyment of high quality education. Teachers are professionals with training and experience and their conduct is guided by professional codes of conduct. Parents know their children better than anyone and when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children's education.

It is important that parents and teachers have good communication opportunities. Productive communication is about speaking and listening actively and respectfully and about not making assumptions or having minds made up before conversation has commenced. Conversation is not simply an exchange of words but about listening and hearing. If problems arise, they do not have to be stumbling blocks; they can be opportunities to work together to find positive and creative solutions – solutions that will benefit each student.

We hope that throughout the year, our community will come together to participate in and volunteer at a variety of College functions, activities and events, including celebrations of our Catholic faith. In this way relationships are formed and positive attitudes developed that give positive input to our young people. It is said that a child's life is like a piece of paper, on which every person leaves a mark. Hopefully, all marks left during the year will be indicative of respect, care and encouragement.

Central to the very existence of our school is the integration of faith and culture transmitted in the various subjects that comprise the curriculum and the atmosphere of the College. In this way we hope that our students will learn how to follow Christ within each family's culture. We invite all parents, carers and friends to feel welcome, comfortable and free to contribute to the faith and educational context of our College community.

May this year be Strong in Faith.

Lindsay Luck
Principal



STRONG IN FAITH



Acting Assistant Principal: Catholic Identity and Practice

Dear members of the St John's Catholic College community,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the College family - my name is Stephen Versteegh and I have the great privilege of being a staff member of St John's Catholic College. While

the first few weeks at the College have been nothing short of hectic, I could not imagine being anywhere else. The staff, parents and students have made me feel very welcomed and I cannot speak highly enough of the behaviour and welcome by the students.

While my role as Assistant Principal Catholic Identity and Practice entails many things, I am responsible, along with every staff member, of ensuring that what we do as a College upholds our Catholic values and this includes being responsible for the Pastoral Care and Wellbeing of your son/daughter.

Bishop Eugene Hurley has named this year "The Year of Family" for the Darwin diocese and what a wonderful theme this is. We all talk about all us being members of the St John's Community, part of St John's Catholic College. At times not all members of the family will get on and that's ok because families need to challenge each other and push each other to become the best person they can be. Therefore, at times we (staff) will have difficult conversations and challenge students to raise the bar across all areas,

including academics and how they present themselves, but please know that we do this because we want them to reach their potential.

On Thursday the College celebrated the Opening School Mass and what a wonderful celebration it was. The celebration was lead by Bishop Eugene and was attended by staff, students, families and members of the community and as you can see from the images in the newsletter it was a wonderful celebration of Faith. The Bishop spoke about the importance of Family, not just at the College but also at home, and I think as a Catholic family we are very fortunate in Darwin of having understanding leaders of the Church in Bishop Eugene and also Pope Francis. I would like to leave you with this quote from Pope Francis.

"In the family three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: 'Please,' 'Thank you,' 'Sorry.' Three essential words!

My challenge to all of us is this. To ensure where we can that we do use these words.

**Please
Thankyou
Sorry**

God Bless,

Stephen Versteegh
Assistant Principal: Catholic Identity and Practice



2017 Opening Mass





STRONG IN EDUCATION



Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning

Dear members of the St John's Community,

Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year.

Edmodo:

This year Edmodo will be used by all our teachers to support students with their learning. Edmodo will be used by teachers to set assessment tasks and provide feedback and grades. As such, all students will be expected to turn in their assessment on Edmodo. In the case of oral presentations and similar tasks which are unable to be submitted online, the assessment task sheet will be turned in by students to receive feedback and a grade. Parents are able to access our class groups and assessment task results and feedback. Edmodo also allows parents to view if an assessment task has been submitted late or not submitted at all. Students also have access to a planner when using Edmodo. Each assessment task will appear in this planner once it has been set by the teacher. Please contact your son/daughter's class teacher for your unique parent code.

Tutorials:

Weekly tutorials are available each Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30 for all students in Years 7 – 12 who wish to access extra support after school. These tutorials will be held in the LOTE Centre. This will be run by our Heads of Faculty and teaching staff.

Academic Detentions:

Academic Detentions will occur on Friday afternoons from 3:30 – 4:30 and will be run by the College Principal Mr Lindsay Luck. Students who fail to submit an assessment item by the specified due date will be notified via letter that they are required to attend an academic detention. This letter must be sighted and signed by their parent/guardians in acknowledgement of the academic detention.

Assessment Calendar:

Assessment Calendars for each year level should be distributed to students next week to facilitate planning their studies.

Stage 1 and 2:

Year 11 and 12 students should log on to 'Students Online' <https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/connect/students-online> to check their personal details and their progress in achieving the NTCET. Log in requires a SACE registration number and PIN.



If you require information regarding a subject or assessment please contact the subject teacher or the relevant Head of Faculty:

The Academic Care Team:

Religious Education- Mr Stephen Versteegh:

stephen.versteegh@nt.catholic.edu.au

English/Humanities- Ms Annalea McCurry

annalea.mccurry@nt.catholic.edu.au

STEM-Mr Prasad Nair

prasad.nair@nt.catholic.edu.au

HPE/The Arts- Mr Nick Jack

nicholas.jack@nt.catholic.edu.au

Inclusion Support-Mrs Jennifer Baird

jennifer.baird@nt.catholic.edu.au

VET/Careers-Ms Belinda Taylor

belinda.taylor@nt.catholic.edu.au

May God Bless you all,

Cherilyn Hughes

Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning

cherilyn.hughes@nt.catholic.edu.au



Deputy Principal

Dear members of the St John's Catholic College community,

House System:

Thank you to all students, parents/guardians and staff for the smooth transition from a horizontal to a vertical Pastoral Care system:

Our vertical Pastoral Care system ensures that students develop deep relationships with

their peers and our staff throughout the time they are part of the College. Upon starting at St John's, students are enrolled into a Homeroom within one of three College Houses – Burford, Daley or O'Loughlin. On each campus, the Homeroom group is made up of students across year



STRONG IN TRADITION

levels and cared for by a Homeroom Teacher. Students and Homeroom Teachers are supported by a Head of House who provides continuity by working across campuses.

Official Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony:

On Friday 3 February the College gathered for our Official Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony in the newly completed Fire Pit Area. Thank you to Larrakia Man Tony Lee for leading this ceremony. It was wonderful to have two of our Larrakia students, Aaron and Zoe Kurnoth, involved in the ceremony.

Meet the Teachers:

Thank you to the Parents and Guardians who were able to join us on the evening of Tuesday 7 February for our Meet the Teachers evening. If you were unable to attend, and would like to arrange a meeting with your son/daughter's teachers, please contact the College on 08 8982 2222.

Term 1 Formal Assembly:

The College will induct our 2017 Student Leadership Team at our Term 1 Formal Assembly on Friday 17 February. The assembly will take place in the Auditorium on the Chevalier Campus from 12:30pm. All Parents / Guardians welcome.

Swimming Carnival:

Due to the construction works at Parap Pool, the 2017 Swimming Carnival will now be held at the Nightcliff Pool on Friday 10 March.

Catholic Identity Retreats:

- Year 7 - Tuesday 7 March - Darwin Baptist Church
- Year 8 - Tuesday 23 May - Darwin Baptist Church
- Year 9 - Tuesday 12 September - Darwin Baptist Church
- Year 10 - Wednesday 9 August – Friday 11 August - Mary River Wilderness Retreat
- Year 11- Wednesday 3 May – Friday 5 May - Mary River Wilderness Retreat
- Year 12 - Wednesday 15 March – Friday 17 March - Mary River Wilderness Retreat

Targeted Placement:

In 2016 the College implemented a Targeted Placement policy with regards to class allocation:

Targeted Placement occurs on the Chevalier Campus, Years 7 – 9 and on the Hartzler Campus in Year 10. Targeted Placement is used in the following subject areas: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and SOSE. Targeted Placement refers to the grouping of students in classes based on academic levels to best cater for their learning needs. Targeted Placement provides the opportunity for students to receive support and/or extension depending on their progress in each subject area. Targeted Placement decisions are informed by a range of data collected through: NAPLAN, standardised tests, school assessment and other relevant pastoral considerations.

For more information please contact the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at: Cherilyn.Hughes@nt.catholic.edu.au

Core Expectations – Stay Safe, Respect Everyone & Learn Everyday:

Homeroom Teachers and Heads of House continue to reinforce our expectations in building and maintaining a safe, respectful learning community that is focused on our Catholic Identity and Learning.

Absenteeism:

A reminder to Parents / Guardians to please notify Letticha Clarke, Student Administration in the event of student absence. Letticha can be contacted on 8982 2231 or via letticha.clarke@nt.catholic.edu.au In the event of an unexplained absence, the College notifies Parents / Guardians via our SMS service. Please ensure that the College has up-to-date family contact details.

Bus Travel:

The Northern Territory Government provides a school bus service to the College. Bus routes and timetables can be located at: <https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/school-bus-darwin/st-johns-college> The drop off point and pick up point is located at the bus turn around area at the far end of the Hartzler oval. Students are required to comply with the Department of Transport's Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel. A copy of the code can be located at: <https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/school-bus-darwin>

Bicycles and Skateboards:

Students based on the Chevalier Campus are required to park their bicycles in the bike cage. Students based on the Hartzler Campus are required to park their bicycles in the racks provided. Skateboards are to be stored in either the Hartzler or Chevalier Administration Offices during the school day. Bicycles and skateboards are not to be used during the school day. Students are strongly encouraged to secure their bike with a lock. It is the expectation of the College that students wear a helmet and obey all road rules when travelling to and from school on a bicycle or skateboard.

Uniform:

The College uniform is contemporary and has been designed for maximum comfort for the tropical climate of Darwin. Students are expected to attend school each day in the full College uniform. Consequences will be issued for uniform breaches. On days when students have Health and Physical Education (HPE) practical lessons, students are expected to attend school in the full College uniform and change into their Sports Uniform at the commencement of their HPE practical lesson. At the conclusion of their HPE practical lesson, students are expected to change back into the full College uniform. Parents / Guardians are requested to communicate with Homeroom Teachers /



STRONG IN TRADITION AND BOARDING

Heads of House in short term situations where students are unable to comply with the Uniform Expectations. Our uniform shop is outsourced by The Cricket and Football Shop located at Unit 1/422 Stuart Highway, Winnellie. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm and Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm. All items, with the exception of footwear are available from the Cricket and Football shop.

Homeroom Teachers:

For Pastoral Care, the primary contacts are the following Homeroom Teachers:

Burford 1 (Chevalier) C13 – Clinton Bock
clinton.bock@nt.catholic.edu.au
Burford 2 (Chevalier) C14 – Jenny Baird
jennifer.baird@nt.catholic.edu.au
Burford 3 (Hartzer) H01 – Liza Bowers
liza.bowers@nt.catholic.edu.au
Burford 4 (Hartzer) H02 – Andrew Keighley
andrew.keighley@nt.catholic.edu.au
Daley 1 (Chevalier) C08 – Bronwyn Graham
bronwyn.graham@nt.catholic.edu.au
Daley 2 (Chevalier) C09 – John Chisholm
john.chisholm@nt.catholic.edu.au
Daley 3 (Hartzer) H03 – Jane Anlezak
jane.anlezark@nt.catholic.edu.au
Daley 4 (Hartzer) H04 – Ben Johns
ben.johns@nt.catholic.edu.au
O'Loughlin 1 (Chevalier) C10 – Lakshmi Martinson
lakshmi.martinson@nt.catholic.edu.au
O'Loughlin 2 (Chevalier) C11 – Marianne Foster
marianne.foster@nt.catholic.edu.au
O'Loughlin 3 (Hartzer) H05 – Tony Walton
tony.walton@nt.catholic.edu.au
O'Loughlin 4 (Hartzer) H06 – Douglas Stone
douglas.stone@nt.catholic.edu.au

Heads of House:

Head of House: Burford
Mr Shinya Nagaike
Shinya.Nagaike@nt.catholic.edu.au
Head of House: O'Loughlin
Ms Melissa Nielsen
Melissa.Nielsen@nt.catholic.edu.au
Head of House: Daley
Mrs Ayesha Fatima
Ayesha.Fatima@nt.catholic.edu.au

Touch Football:

The St John's Men's Touch Football team commences games in the Darwin Touch Association on the evening of Monday 13 February. For more information, see Mr Hughes or Mr Nagaike.

God Bless,

Cameron Hughes
Deputy Principal



Director of Boarding

Dear members of the St. John's Community,

Our Residential Community would like to welcome back all of our staff and students to the College for 2017, particularly those that have travelled long distances to be here. As we begin the year, it is a great time to take stock of what we do and find ways of improving ourselves and our operations.

The Residential staff had some fantastic training opportunities at the beginning of the year to help with the growth and development of our practices and our team. We hope this will enable all of us to provide the best support possible to our students, giving them the opportunity to be the best they can be.

For our students, we hope that a new year will bring growth and maturity and the increasing development of skills that will allow them to improve and extend beyond what they achieved last year.

At the start of each year we often look at student expectations and make clear the do's and don'ts of student behaviour, but it is also a great time to look at our own expectations as a College and as individual staff. There are expectations that the students and families have of us and we should be held accountable to those.

We must offer a safe and secure environment that provides opportunities for learning and promotes excellence in professional practice. We also need to offer an interesting and enjoyable environment that promotes student and staff positivity. We should all enjoy the space we are in.

During the first week, I was very excited to be a part of the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony performed by Larrakia man Tony Lee. To have the College involved together and be welcomed onto Larrakia land as one was a great way to start the year.

Kind Regards,

Scott Mannion
Director of Boarding
Email: scott.mannion@nt.catholic.edu.au

2017 Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony



VET and Careers Coordinator

Dear members of the St John's Community,

Welcome back and bring on 2017.

I hope you all had a restful break and look forward to a new and exciting year ahead. St Johns College would like to congratulate Blake Lemke, Trent Kurnoth and Vince Goodall who have begun

their School Based Apprenticeships.

It has been a great start for our new course Manufacturing Pathways which allows the students to explore metalwork and welding, whilst our Construction students are exploring the woodwork/carpentry field. This year we have a great representation of female students in our Construction class who are very excited about the challenge.

Just a reminder that all Year 10's studying PLP this semester will be attending Work Experience in week 10 of Term 1. If you are able to accommodate a Work experience student at your place of work please do not hesitate to contact me with the details.

Stay safe and God Bless,

Belinda Taylor
VET & Career Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENT



St John's Catholic College will induct our 2017 Student Leadership Team on Friday 17 February during our Term One Formal Assembly.

The 2017 Student Leadership Team will consist of:

- Year 12 College Captains
- Year 12 College Leaders
- Residential College Leaders
- Student Representative Committee members

As the Parent / Guardian of one of the Leaders being inducted, the College warmly invites you to attend our Formal Assembly:

Date: Friday 17 February, 2017 (Week 3)
Time: 12:30pm, followed by a light lunch in the Library

Location: Auditorium, Chevalier Campus
RSVP: Tamara.Murphy@nt.catholic.edu.au or on 8982 2222 by Wednesday 15 February

Congratulations to former student Merlene Hutt who will be officiating this weekends Woman's AFL NT game.