Dear St Paul’s Community,

After so many events in the school last week, it was almost a pleasant surprise to list nothing for this week. Last week we had a visit from the St John’s band, Count Us In, a sleepover and a Dad’s night. From all reports all went well and I particularly enjoyed that I had more sleep at the sleep over then I normally do, I can’t say all the teachers had the same experience. Thanks to Ms Peyton, Mrs James, Miss Lauren, Miss Mohr, Mr Zahra and John for sleeping over on the night. Thank you to all the parents who dropped in to say hello, went to Leanyer Water Park, cooked breakfast or dinner and sent coffee in for the teachers on Saturday morning.

“Count Us In” was a huge success at the school and Casuarina Square. I accompanied the students who represented the school at “Rock the Caz”. Thank you to Mrs Dawson for all her organisation. Around ten fathers ventured to the Ski club on Saturday night. Thank you to Ben Cunningham for organising the event. If any mother wants to organise a similar event for the mothers please let me know.

Some things to draw to your attention:

♦ **Transition Orientation session:** Next Tuesday November 12 at 8:30 am we have our new Transition students for 2014 visiting for their Orientation session. If you have not enrolled your child yet, please do so as soon as possible.

♦ **School Board:** Next meeting, Wednesday the 13th November.

♦ **Staffing News:** Mandy James will be continuing at the school in 2014. Mandy has accepted a one year contract. As the school is still negotiating staffing levels for next year with the Catholic Education Office, we are unable to confirm which class level Mandy will be teaching.

♦ **Remembrance Day:** The school will be holding a Remembrance Day Ceremony on the 11th November at 11am. Families are welcome to join us.

♦ **Musical Students Showcase:** For all our students learning musical instruments there will be a Musical Showcase on November 29 at 8:30 in the ILC. This will replace our normal assembly.

♦ **National Broadband:** There has been some work in the school playground this week connecting Nightcliff to the National Broadband Network. Unfortunately, the school will not be connected for some time.

God Bless

Anthony
Parent Learning Tips

Parents and the Home Environment they create are the single most important factor in shaping their children’s achievements and prospects. Research has shown that in order to raise achievement, parents need to be both involved in schools and engaged in learning (Harris and Goodall; 2007)

A Mathematical Game for Home.

War

Equipment – one pack of cards – picture cards removed.

Each player has a set of cards mixed up, face down. The two players call “war.” The two players flip a card. Players need to add the two cards up quickly. Whoever calls out the answer first, gets to keep the cards. Keep going to all cards are used.

To keep all players interested. Roll a dice or flip a card – if a low card/number comes out – the player with the lowest number wins, or the opposite high card/number the player with the most cards wins.

Sleepover report

Congratulations to all the students in Years 3 and 4 who slept over at school last Friday night. After a day full of outdoor activities, including an afternoon at Leanyer Waterpark, it was great to be joined by so many parents for the BBQ and talent/karaoke evening. It is pleasing to report that some students got some sleep. Nothing more needs to be said!! Thanks to Maria Pollon, Barney Brennan, Trish Wachtel, Darrell Higgins, Simon Chapman, Ewa Finch, Tracey-Ann Chin, Dee Hicks, Louise Crawley, Paul Boyd, Tianee and Adam Dohnt who all helped out with the event and the many other parents and carers who offered. Thanks also to the Dohnt family who donated the meat for the BBQ. A special thanks to the staff who gave up their time to stay overnight.

SRC news

The next SRC event is ‘St Paul’s Has Talent’ to be held on Friday 22 November. Each class is invited to enter one item and the talent will be judged by the SRC reps. Parents and carers are welcome to come along to the event beginning at 1pm in the assembly area.

Common Writing Tasks

Over the last couple of weeks students have been completing writing tasks ‘under test conditions’. Sometimes this is daunting for students as they cannot chat with their friends about ideas nor consult reference material for support. However, some students relish the idea of putting their head down for 40 minutes and writing without interruption. While 40 minutes is appropriate for class, shorter intensive writing sessions are super for home activities. Many of the students have shown us how much they have progressed over the course of 2013 and are to be congratulated for their efforts. Here’s an example of one of the responses to the stimulus ‘Junk food should be banned from schools’.

I am annoyed that canteens are letting children buy as much junk food. I disagree with this situation. As all of you know, it’s unhealthy and it can cause a major problem. It could affect your heart, brain and other stuff like that.

Secondly, when you get older you will be fat and you don’t want that, do you? Then you will never find a good husband or wife – and trust me, that’s painful! Thirdly, when the child peels off the rubbish, they leave litter. This creates one more problem – who’s going to pick it up? If you ask the child, they’ll probably lie and say they didn’t drop it. There’s yet another problem!

Fourthly, when the children come back into class, it makes it hard for them to learn if they only had junk food. They might go hyperactive, then a bad behaviour report. Mmmm, let’s see, that’s four problems! Gosh!

Fifthly, when you go out to play after eating junk food, you could get violent and hurt other children. Then it’s a trip to the office to be dealt with, and other people to be fixed up.

Sixthly, when people eat the junk food their body is getting too much sugar and they might have to go to hospital.

Seventhly, if they keep on buying junk food it will cost a lot of money and their mum and dad won’t be able to buy other things more important.

Finally, children might get so attracted to junk food that they can’t stop eating it and they will get really sick because of the huge amount of sugar.

So with all of these problems don’t you think that junk food should be banned in schools? What are you waiting for? We need to act right now.
Let Us hear Your Voice!

On Monday afternoon the teachers met with a representative from the Catholic Education Office to review the 2009-13 School Improvement and Renewal Framework (SIRF), and contribute to the development of the SIRF for the next five years. Through the SIRF process we look at elements including Catholic identity, Teaching and learning, Leadership, Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, Finance and Community and Culture.

We are interested in hearing from parents and carers about how you think the school is tracking in these areas. We appreciate that there has been a brief survey in the newsletter over the last few weeks and we thank those who have responded, however this one is more comprehensive and we would appreciate you taking the time to complete it. The link to the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RLJW3QL The survey should take around 5 minutes, then time for extra comments if you wish. The survey closes on Friday 8 November.

We are also interested to hear from students about how they think the school is travelling in these areas. Obviously the student survey is modified, and it is most appropriate for students in Years 4-6. Please encourage your child to take 5 minutes to complete this survey using this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R2LKfst

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the P & F who matched our re-cycling funds of $1500.00 to enable the school to buy Guided Reading Books. They are already proving to be a valuable resource.

St Paul’s Parish
Trower Rd, Nightcliff

Mass Times:
Saturday Mass  6.00pm (Vigil)
Sunday Mass  8.30am and 6.00pm
1st Sunday of the month 10.00am
Syro-Malabar Mass
Last Sunday of month 8.30am Children’s mass
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER
&
SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2013
9.00 AM – 4.00 PM DAILY
AT
MARRARA INDOOR STADIUM
ABALA ROAD - NEAR DARWIN AIRPORT

Over 90 stalls of local, handmade arts and crafts
Entry Adults $2, Children Free
Door Prize each day
Contact Di Whittaker 0436 899 256

No/Low Cost Play Therapy Sessions

Behavioural Change by Christmas!

Play Therapy Sessions at low or "No" cost* are available:

Session fees between $0, $40 and $80* pending on student experience.

Josephine Dowses,
Senior practitioner rates are $150.00
Level 2, Suite 4,
59 Smith Street, Darwin
www.playtherapy.com.au

Phone 0411116120 Email: jadowns@playtherapy.com.au

*All students (school break, undergraduate degrees. Jod has completed Play Therapy Training and holds a license for Play Therapy. ) does not mean that all client sessions are at these rates. Initial interviews and follow up parent appointments will incur the $150 fee. As the appointment is to be noted in the level of therapeutic support required, this will be noted in the student's file. Details are at Jod, 2013.

St John's Catholic College
and
ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Christmas Markets

Friday 29th November 2013
3pm – 7pm Jubilee Hall

"In partnership with St Vincent de Paul, St John's Catholic College will be hosting the Annual St John's Christmas Markets. There will be a number of stalls selling food, crafts, and second-hand clothing.

You can support the Vincent Christmas Appeal by placing a new, unopened Christmas present under our Christmas Tree. St John's and St Vincent de Paul's thank you for your contribution."

There will be a number of musical performances for your entertainment!

Luke 2:14
May the Lord be with you, under earth peace, good will towards men."

Activities

School Bands/choirs 
Drama
Dance
Watercolour
Art sale and display
Face Painting
2nd Hand clothing stalls
Food stalls - Slushies, hot dogs, sausage sizzle, Indian Curries, Coffee, and drinks available.

St Vincent de Paul Society
and
St John's Catholic College