Welcome to a new year at All Saints’ College Junior School. What a pleasure it is to be part of such a caring and friendly community that is All Saints’. I look forward to meeting all of the parents in the next few weeks and encourage you to support your children at school at every opportunity, especially the Swimming Carnival on Friday 8 February. The theme I would like to use for this weeks Report is that of Encouragement which I will explain through the following story. Please read it to your child and discuss its meaning.

The Story of the Persistent Frog

A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit. The other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions. When they saw how deep the pit was, they concluded that it was impossible for the rest of the dismayed group agreed that it was hopeless and told the two unfortunate frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, because they were as good as dead.

Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs tried with all of their might to jump out of the pit. The other frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless, and that they wouldn’t be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules, and more responsible. They continued shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead.

But the two frogs continued jumping as hard as they could and became quite weary. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellows. Spent and disheartened, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit, and died as the others looked on in helpless grief.

The other frog continued to jump with every ounce of energy he had, although his body was wracked with pain and he was completely exhausted. Once again, the crowd of frogs started yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and—wonder of wonders—finally kept so high that he sprang from the pit. Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his miraculous freedom and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and—wonder of wonders—finally kept so high that he sprang from the pit. Amazed, the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions.

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Swimming Carnival Helpers

If you could help out with timekeeping at the Junior School Swimming Carnival please let Leonie Keogh know by Tuesday 5th February.

New Staff in the Junior School

Miss Alisa Thompson – Year 4 Teacher

Alisa comes to us from Sydney where she has been teaching for seven years. She has taught Years 4 and 5 and has also been the teacher-librarian. Alisa enjoys playing tennis and swimming and is a passionate St George Dragons supporter.

Miss Kate Keene – Kindergarten Red Teacher

Kate completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) at Charles Sturt University (Bathurst) in 2006. She has taught at the Gunabalany Community School in Arnhem Land, NT for four months, after completing her teaching internship there. Kate then spent 2007 teaching Kindergarten at Newington College. Kate believes that each child is an individual and that it is important to cater for the needs of each child. Kate enjoys touch football, social tennis, travel and the beach.

Mrs Sally Parsons – 2 Day Transition Teacher

Sally is a trained Early Childhood teacher with 10 years experience in school, preschool and health education. Sally has a passion for connecting children’s learning with practical applications and real life experiences. Sally has three sons and is married to David. She loves tennis, going to the gym, gardening and being active with her family.

Year 6 Leaders for 2008

It gives me great pleasure to announce our Year 6 Leaders for this year. It is expected that all Year 6 students lead by example and provide appropriate role models for the younger students.

Junior School Captains – Eliza Crozier and Angus McClelland

Bradwardine House Captains – Scarlett Breen and Michael Waldren

Esrom House Captains – Alexandra Coates and Jake Griffin

The Jackman Challenge

Each weekly VIM will contain a problem solving question. Students need to place their answer on a sheet of paper (labeled with their name) in the Jackman Challenge box in the Junior School Reception on Mrs Keogh’s desk. Each Friday before assembly I will shake the box up and pull out an entry. If that answer is correct that student will receive a small prize at assembly.

Question: How many games of tennis would need to be played to determine the winner in a Grand Slam tournament (ie. Knock out competition) if there were 128 players in the competition?

Entries due by 10.00am on Friday 15th. No assembly in Week 2 due to the Swimming Carnival.

Important Dates for the Calendar

1/2/08 Infants Information Night (7.00pm)

5/2/08 Swimming Finals – 100m Freestyle & 100m IM 10 years and under, 11 years, 12/13 years. (9.00am)

5/2/08 Year 5 and 6 Information Night (6.30 – 7.30pm)

7/2/08 Year 3 and 4 Information Night (6.30 – 7.30pm)

8/2/08 Swimming Carnival (9.30am – 1.00pm) - Wear PE gear.

10/2/08 Commencement Service (4.30pm)

19/2/08 Picnic on Oval - Transition to Year 6
Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to 2008. Our school year has started very happily and the children are happy and settled.

Please join us for our Parent Information Night this Friday the 1st February at 7pm in the school grounds and classrooms.

Feel free to speak with us at any time regarding your child.

Regards Liz Rolfe, Deb Porter and Sally Parsons.

**Transition News**

The first meeting for 2008 to commence the planning of this year's Art Show will take place on Thurs. 7th Feb. at 7pm in the Junior School Library.

All interested persons are welcome to attend. Maree Crofts

**Basketball**

Basketball season kicks off again this Friday.

- Cobras play at 4.30pm Friday
- Lollipops play at 5.20pm Friday

Please let Mrs Murray know if you cannot attend.

**Transition Bus**

The Transition bus will operate in the morning as well as the afternoon each day for a small charge. Most areas of Bathurst can be served with the exception of some fringe locations. Previous experience has taught us that the bus is best used by only those families who really need the service. For further details about eligibility, times and routes please contact Mr Barney Lavelle on 0417465705.

I am excited to welcome everyone back to a new year and to a much invigorated campus. I am sure that our many new students, together with our 8 new staff will be embraced by our friendly community and made to feel ‘right at home’ straight away. A very big thank you goes out to Gavan Carter and the members of our maintenance team who have worked tirelessly during the break. Our new year 1 and 2 classrooms and reformed computer labs are just two of the wonderful projects they have completed. I wish everyone a happy and fulfilling year. Particularly to our new Assistant Head of College Junior School Mr Jackman and his family

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.”

**From the Head of College**

Ms Jenny Williams

**ART SHOW**

The first meeting for 2008 to commence the planning of this year’s Art Show will take place on Thurs. 7th Feb. at 7pm in the Junior School Library.

All interested persons are welcome to attend. Maree Crofts

**Dining Room Official Opening**

Official Opening of the All Saints’ College Dining Room – Tuesday 12th February 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Members of the College Community are invited to official opening of the dining hall. So please come along and inspect the fantastic transformation to the “nerve centre” of the College. It will also give those attending an opportunity to thank the P&F committee for their considerable financial and organisational input into the final product. Drinks will be served together with finger food, very kindly supplied by Spotless. Also please remember that the next time you are looking for a function venue, the dining room, with catering, is available upon request at a very reasonable rate.

Could those attending please advise Rachel McMahon at reception before 13th February so we may advise Spotless for catering purposes.

**Library Borrowing**

Library borrowing will commence next week. All students from Transition to Year 6 MUST bring a fabric library bag to their library lesson each week. In 2008 plastic bags will no longer be available for students to use for the purpose of borrowing, therefore the children will need to bring their own. If you need a Library bag, they can be purchased at the circulation desk in the library. A note is required to place the amount of $5.00 on your school account.

Mrs Crofts, Teacher-librarian

**VIM Corners**

To encourage the best possible communications between school and home after reading the weekly VIM’s please sign and detach the VIM corner and return to school in your child’s prep diary. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Representative Soccer Trials**

Bathurst District Soccer Representative Trials for Boys & Girls aged Under 11 upwards will be held on Sundays February 3 & February 10, 6pm at Proctor Park

Please sign and return

Junior School VIM is distributed on Thursday afternoons to all Junior School students. Items for inclusion should be submitted to Mr Chris Jackman or Leonie Keogh by Wednesday morning. A copy of Junior School VIM is available on the College Website: www.saints.nsw.edu.au

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**After School Care**

This service is being provided again this year. After School Care is located in the Transition Room. The cost is $2.50 per half hour. Care is provided from 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm daily. If you wish to use this service please write a note with the dates and times. Casual use as well as regular use is quite acceptable. Transition children will be supervised until 3.15 pm. Emergency phone contact during After School Care can be made on 63327367.

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