CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

ALUMNI AWARDS - THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR PAST STUDENTS

A YEAR OF EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC, PERFORMING ARTS & SPORTING OUTCOMES
The Eagle is a symbol of spirit, vision, strength and courage. It is the epitome of John Paul College where its students and alumni ‘soar like eagles’. Not all students can be leaders and not all leaders will succeed, but we must not allow the illusion of limitation to ground us in our flight.
Reflecting on a Year of CELEBRATION & EXCELLENCE

From the Headmaster’s desk... by Mr Peter Foster

As I reflect on this past year filled with our 30th anniversary celebrations and calendar events, I am filled with pride for all that we have achieved.

The year 2012 was certainly one for acknowledging our successes and it was with great anticipation and excitement that we looked forward to celebrating the very attributes that make us one of Australia’s leading independent schools.

The launch of the highly anticipated Spirit Video in January, our Gala Ball attended by around 500 members of our community in May; this new magazine, The Eagle distributed to over 7,000 members of our community in June; Champion Sports Saturday in July and the Back in Time Musical Spectacular attended by almost 4,000 people in August were just some of the many highlights of our year.

The outcomes of our sustainability program were recognised at both state and local government levels when we won the 2012 Logan Eco Award and Schools’ Category of the Premier’s Sustainability Awards. Sustainability was also the key focus at our ERAS conference, attended by over 260 delegates in June.

We also celebrated success at our regular calendar events including weekly TAS games, concerts, exhibitions, Headmaster’s Assemblies, Cum Laude Awards, Valedictory Day, Speech Night – too many to mention them all!

Time was spent reflecting during Chapel services and giving back through service to others in the community. Our International Baccalaureate students also completed service of their own as they travelled overseas to Thailand, Burma and Laos to assist local communities.

In sports, we once again took out the TAS Champion Blue School title and our prestigious Open A Girls’ team brought home the title of Champion School of Australia for the third consecutive year, making the College the most capped basketball school in the history of the tournament.

We also welcomed our new mascot, Eddie the Eagle, kindly donated by our Parents and Friends Association, who cheered on our teams at numerous sporting events.

Our International students also achieved incredible results with many returning to their own countries to study at prestigious universities.

It’s hard to imagine, as we now make full use of the Noelene Munns Learning Centre, officially opened and named at our Foundation Day Celebrations in August, that this outstanding facility was just a dream about to become reality at the commencement of 2012.

Throughout the year, the campus was a hive of activity as the John Paul College family pulled together during a number of working bees to create our Finch Farm.

We are determined to keep John Paul College at the forefront of global education and continue to provide a distinct “point of difference” for our students and families. We have a College to be proud of as we strive to be internationally recognised for what we do and who we are.

Indeed, this is reflected in the quality of our alumni, who are one of our most important assets. They project what it means to be a member of the John Paul College family every day of their lives. This was reflected at our recent Outstanding Alumni Awards where we celebrated the achievements of many of our past students who work and compete at senior levels throughout the world.

As we look back on this most significant year with pride, please spend some time reflecting on all that you have contributed to our wonderful College and the role that you have played in supporting your children during their educational journey.

Looking forward to the 2013 school year, we will continue to strive for academic excellence and continue to offer high quality co-curricular programs to provide the best opportunities for our students.

The 30th Anniversary celebrations have reconnected the John Paul College community with the foundations and ethos that we were established on three decades ago. This has provided a renewed stability and enthusiasm to build on for the future. Our goal is to provide the appropriate structures to facilitate the growth of our students into creative global thinkers who challenge the norm, whilst providing opportunities for them to achieve through a variety of pathways, catering for the many different types of learner profiles.

John Paul College will provide the holistic education required to prepare these learners for careers that do not even exist yet in this ever changing digital environment, the world that our young, dynamic thinkers will lead into the future.
John Paul College is proud to announce the appointment of Tori Matthews and Nathan Bleakley, the 2013 College Captains. Tori and Nathan were announced as captains following a rigorous selection process in which they won the votes of their peers and teachers and impressed at interview.

They have enjoyed a long association with the College, both commencing as Prep students in 2001. Tori and Nathan are enthusiastic and dedicated students who are committed to fostering school spirit and community, and view captaincy as an opportunity to serve the College and their peers.
The role and the activities of the Board are not often communicated and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some insight into our structure and processes.

**WHY DO WE HAVE THE BOARD?**

John Paul College is structured as a not-for-profit company owned by parents who have opted to become members of John Paul College Limited. These members elect the Board of Directors who is responsible for appointing the Headmaster.

As a public company, we have serious responsibilities prescribed by State and Federal laws, as well as an obligation to our community and employees to protect and prepare the College for the future. We must also ensure that the College has longer term strategic, infrastructure and financial plans and we work closely with the Headmaster to ensure that the College is progressing towards the delivery of these plans.

This model provides us with significant freedom to set the future direction. Our values, ethos and objectives have been progressively established through a series of conscious choices that have been made during the past 30 years. The freedom to chart our own future comes with the responsibility to not only protect what has been created, but also build upon it and ensure that we remain relevant in the 21st century.

**WHO ARE THE DIRECTORS?**

The Directors are elected by the members and bring valuable skills and experience to the Board table. All of the Directors are current or former parents of the College and, whilst not a requirement, this does ensure that there are stronger connections with our community.

All of the Directors are members of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and five have graduated from the AICD Company Directors’ Course. It is important that Directors are well-informed of the principles of good corporate governance and are aware of their obligations. Directors are encouraged to attend professional development to improve their skills and ensure that their governance knowledge remains current to effectively discharge their duties.

**WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC PLAN?**

It is essential that there is a clear vision for John Paul College with a relationship between our objectives and the strategies to deliver upon them. This is the Strategic Plan and when considering this plan, it is important to continue to maintain a balance between strong traditional values and preparing students to become ‘life-long learners’ in an increasingly digitally-connected world.

**HOW DOES THE BOARD WORK?**

The Board meets once a month and sub-committees meet separately and report regularly to the Board on their activities.

The Board also has two permanent Committees that are tasked with specific areas of responsibility. They are the Infrastructure Committee, which is responsible for significant building projects at the College and the Audit and Risk Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the College’s financial performance, audit requirements, workplace health and safety and other strategic risks.

**CAN WE, AS PARENTS, COMMUNICATE WITH THE BOARD?**

The day-to-day activities of running the College are the responsibility of the Headmaster and his team. The Board is aware of the various activities that take place but acknowledges it does not run the school and should not get involved in the daily decision making at the College. As a parent, if you have questions or feedback about the running of the school, Directors will always be interested to listen, but will encourage you to speak directly with the Headmaster.

Earlier this year, three new Directors joined the Board. We now have five Directors who have been appointed within the past two years which has brought new energy and fresh ideas to the Board table.

On behalf of my fellow Directors, I wish you and your families all the very best for the year ahead.
AM I ENOUGH?

Students in the Senior School enjoyed Chapel each fortnight, with a number of topics covered, including one very thought provoking subject – entitled ‘I’m not… enough’.

This discussion looked at the idea that everyone feels inadequate at times (that we are not pretty enough, smart enough, popular enough, good enough or talented enough) but that God made us the way we are so we shouldn’t compare ourselves to others or look down on ourselves. Students discussed the message that God promises to be with us no matter what we are going through.

Other topics explored were ‘Grief’, ‘Who is Jesus?’, ‘Celebrating Life’ and ‘Making Decisions’.

Student were also shown the DVD “Indescribable”, which looks at God as the Creator of the universe (with some amazing pictures from NASA and a letter written to the preacher from an astronaut), and how this amazing God then humbled himself to becoming a man and dying on a cross so we might be reconciled to him.

Students also ran some of their own Chapels with topics including “Bullying”, “The Environment” and the “Good Samaritan”. Christian bands “Iron and Clay”, “Hey Denise!” and “Remember Seven” also performed, sharing positive messages with the students.

“Remember Seven” shared stories of their work with the Christian organisation “Destiny Rescue” which is looking to have an impact on human trafficking. This band recently supported a young mother and helped her to turn her life around so that she no longer had to work as a prostitute. She is now able to support her child, study and provide herself, and her son, with a better future.

COMPASS FOR CHRISTIANITY

In the Senior School a new weekly group called “Compass” was started for students interested in finding out more about Christianity, or who are Christians and want to hang out with other Christians.

YEARS 6-12 SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE

At the Years 6-12 Social Justice Service, Major Bryce Davies from the Salvation Army shared his work with ‘Streetlevel’ in Fortitude Valley. He brought a couple of friends who had troubled backgrounds but had come to have faith in Jesus Christ through the work of the Salvos and had started to turn their lives around.

Some students and staff visited him and the people being helped.

RETREATS

In the Primary School, the Year 5 and Year 6 students went on Retreat. The Year 5s watched “The Story of Jesus for Children” DVD and discussed this in small groups. They also looked at the Lord’s Prayer and what it means.

The Year 6 Retreat was run by “NET” ministries and they shared God’s “Arms of Love” with the students. The young people on the team from the Catholic Church did a great job presenting this through drama, music, small groups and personal testimonies of their own faith journey.

The Year 6 Retreat was run by “Island Breeze”. Christian men and women from Pacific Islands came and shared their culture and faith with the students. They told the story of how, on Tonga, three of the first four missionaries were eaten. The fourth stayed and married a local, and through him Christ was introduced to the island.

NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

By Father Leo Burke, Patron of John Paul College

As Christians, Advent and Christmas can have an important role to play in our lives.

Advent is meant to be a time of waiting for something to happen - in this case to prepare to remember the birth of Jesus Christ our saviour.

That happened so many years ago that if we are not careful we will forget the significance of this. It was not just an historical event but something that continues to be able to have an effect in our lives today.

For any great event - such as this one - it should be of value to prepare, to remind ourselves of what the God of the universe has done for each one of us.

So then let us be grateful that our God chose to do this in a very human way, by coming down on earth to show what we need to do by gathering a group of dedicated men and women to assist Him in this plan, and to give us someone to imitate and to follow.

Let us use this time of the year to re-read the Gospel stories of Christ’s birth in Luke and Matthew’s gospels; to express our gratitude to Him in prayer and to ensure that we join with so many other Christians in remembering and celebrating His birth by joining in our local church service in our own area or wherever we may be at Christmas time.

May that peace of Christ be more deeply in your own life this Christmas time, and in the lives of those folk around you.

By Mr Steve Ward, Chaplain
Students have opportunities to participate in various activities, fundraise for chosen charities, work with students in different grades and put forward their ideas and opinions for helping others.

Through the duration of this year, JPC Community Care has successfully completed a range of activities and raised significant funds for individual charities.

These activities have included helping young students who struggle with English at Homework Clubs; organising and participating in World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine; running and selling goods at stalls to collect funds to donate; visiting and playing games with senior citizens at their retirement village home; knitting beanies to give to the hospital for premature babies; face-painting at Mayfair; spending time on the street helping the hungry and lonely people around Woodridge through ‘Rosies’; assisting with Operation Christmas Child in sending shoe boxes to the underprivileged overseas; co-ordinating fund-raising for SIDS and Kids and supporting and raising funds for KENG, the Kingston East Neighbourhood Group which puts school packs together for needy families.

JPC Community Care has definitely been a great co-curricular to participate in and be a part of in 2012 because it has provided myself and the rest of the team with the satisfaction that comes with helping people who are much less fortunate than we are.

We are privileged to attend a school like John Paul College and it is important for us to remember to give something back to the community. We would like to thank Mr Foster, Mrs Graham, Mr Ward, Mr Hotchilt and Mrs Posala for their ongoing support.

We would also like to thank the John Paul College community for their continued support - people like Mrs Howard, Mrs White and Mrs Bartlett who knitted over 40 beanies for the premature babies.

I hope many more students will consider taking up the challenge in 2013, because each and every one of us can make a difference in our community.
The spectacular production paid homage to 30 years of theatre, music, dance and splendour, as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations.

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cintillating musical performances, gravity-defying aerial stunts and dazzling costumes ensured yet another unforgettable musical production when a cast of 600 students and Alumni performed to an audience of nearly 4,000 in the John Paul College Back in Time Musical Spectacular.

The shows were conceived and developed by the School of Performing Arts staff and were a collaborative effort by many different teams. The spectacular production paid homage to 30 years of theatre, music, dance and splendour, as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations.

The production was the largest ever staged by the College and featured 16 talented alumni and 12 outstanding students in lead roles, as they reprised the characters of yesterday over two amazing shows.

Held at the Suncorp Piazza, South Bank on 10th and 11th of August, families were able to take a stroll down memory lane and relive the classics that gave John Paul College the world-renowned reputation it enjoys today, with favourites from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar, Guys & Dolls, and Grease.

Thanks must go to the staff and Senior Leadership Team for their support and help throughout the year long project. Thanks also to the parents of all of the students involved for their time and effort in ensuring that students attended rehearsals and performances; the alumni and student performers for their 12 months of blood, sweat and tears and the performing arts staff for their continued efforts to provide the highest quality performance opportunities for our students.
During his speech, Mr Munns shared some of his knowledge of the struggles in establishing John Paul College some 30 years ago, and the joys and tribulations of the first decades of remarkable growth.

"Firstly, could I share that neither our Founders nor I ever imagined, when we opened John Paul College in 1982, that it would become such a great school in such a short time," Mr Munns said.

With the determination of parents to provide the very best education for their children, meagre funds and one transportable wooden building, John Paul College opened on Australia Day, 1982, in the Drake Building – our “wooden shed”.

“As you look at our great facilities, today, it is difficult to comprehend the absolute humility of our foundation,” said Mr Munns.

“For example, we had no library, no science laboratories, no sporting facilities, a caravan for a tuckshop; and, when we opened, I, as Principal, had only enough money to pay my teachers up to the Easter holidays,” he added.

In spite of such humble beginnings, John Paul College survived and flourished; and soon became recognised as one of the finest of independent schools in Australia.

“From the day of our foundation, our emphasis was always on establishing a culture of excellence and students were encouraged to see themselves as people who would “soar like eagles” and never be alone in their efforts to do so. Staff and parents were the “wind beneath their wings” and this allowed them to soar to greater and greater heights,” Mr Munns said.

For two decades, Mr Munns believed he was simply “plain lucky” and honoured to have supporting him the Board, dedicated staff, committed parents and the hard working students. He also acknowledged the wind beneath HIS wings – his own family.

“Being Principal of a great independent school – especially setting one up in an area where there had previously been none – being Principal of such a school can be a lonely job,” Mr Munns said.

“The value, of a wife and family who not only support your educational “impossible dream”, but who are willing to live it with you, can never be over-estimated. From Noelene, I had the added advantage of professional support of the very highest calibre. Indeed, Noelene, herself, had many dreams for John Paul College; and most of these became educational realities in her time.

“However, her dream of a purpose-built Library/Learning Centre for her Prep to Year 7 students was not turned into reality in her time,” he added.

Mr Munns said that with the opening of the magnificent Noelene Munns Learning Centre, that she would be looking down and smiling, with a message of “Well done, in the service of the young people entrusted to you!”

“Life has taught me that there is no stopping an individual who has a really powerful dream,” he said.

“Noelene’s “powerful dream” was to nurture those in her care to excellence. She turned that dream into reality not only for her students and staff at John Paul College, but also for those of us of her close family. She was and remains “The Wind Beneath our Wings”.

Life has taught me that there is no stopping an individual who has a really powerful dream."
The John Paul College Open A Girls’ Basketball Team stormed home to win the Gold Medal and claim an historic victory at the 2012 Australian Schools Championships in Melbourne in November.

The 86 / 49 win over Melbourne’s Rowville Secondary College meant they could claim their position as the leading school in the history of the tournament following their total of six titles since the tournament commenced.

Their amazing achievement is even more significant as the team is coached by College Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster, who understandably, was extremely proud.

“This win demonstrates for us the incredible success of the basketball program at John Paul College. “This has been a great team effort and we are very, very proud,” he said.

“The depth of our Junior Development Program was also reflected in the success of our Under 15 Girls’ Team who won Silver in the final of the competition.”

We are on a journey where we educate our players as people first and athletes second.

“This makes them better athletes and creates an environment of excellence within the team which leads to greater academic outcomes,” he said.

The benefits of participating in sport at school has been extensively researched and it has been found that students who are involved in sports develop higher academic results, good relationships at school, and are more likely to continue on to higher education.

This has proven true for key player and 2012 graduate Kalani Purcell, who received an invitation to trial for the New Zealand national team, Tall Ferns. Kalani has also been offered a $250,000 scholarship to play for Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, Utah and hopes to head to the USA next June.

Basketball Australia Chief Executive, Kristina Keneally, said the Australian Schools Championships plays a key role in the development of future basketball talent.

“In the past, the Australian Schools Championships have brought some of Australia’s best junior and senior basketball talent to the fore,” Ms Keneally said.

“In fact, it’s at tournaments like these that the future legends of Australian basketball can begin their journey to one day starring on the biggest stage of all – just like our Australian Boomers and Jayco Opals did at the London Olympics recently.”

With more than 100 teams and 900 players in Melbourne in search of championship glory at the five day event, the achievements of our teams have made the John Paul College family very proud.
2012 has been a hugely successful year for the John Paul College cheer and dance teams.

Even though a lot of the focus this year was on our 30th Anniversary Back In Time extravaganza, the cheer and dance teams were still rehearsing and honing their skills for the World Cup Cheer and Dance National Schools competition held at the Boondall Entertainment Centre in September.

“There was an air of excitement and trepidation as we boarded the bus to take the teams to the venue for the competition,” said cheer and dance co-ordinator, Kylie Pocklington.

When we arrived, the teams focused their energy and enthusiasm on their routines and earned first places for the Eclipse Pom, Eclipse Jazz, and Senior Dance Freestyle Dance, she said.

The JPC Eclipse team was awarded the 2012 National School Grand Champion award for their Pom, Freestyle and Jazz routines as well as the overall Dance Grand Champion.

The Primary and Senior cheer teams went out and stunted their hearts out, bringing home further success with first places for the JPC Asteroids, JPC Shooting Starz, JPC Nova Starz and JPC Supernovas.

The JPC Supernovas were awarded Grand Champion for Level 2 for their cheer routine and were also awarded overall Cheer Grand Champion.

They also received an “At Large Bid” to the 2013/2014 World School Cheerleading Championships in Florida, USA. Teams can only enter this renowned international competition if they receive a bid.

Congratulations to all our teams on another successful competition season!

The Cum Laude Awards are an important part of both our academic program and in building a culture of personal best effort.

These awards recognise the excellent academic achievement of our students in Semester 1 each year. In 2012, 205 exceptional students were presented with Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude awards at the 2012 Cum Laude Assembly in July.

In 2012, an additional recognition was made when the Cum Laude Praestantia Award was presented for the first time. This award was introduced in 2012 as this was the first year students had the opportunity to receive six Cum Laude Awards since they were first instituted in 2007. The awards were presented to students who achieved a Cum Laude award each year from Year 7 to Year 12.

There were 11 students who received this award and they included Seth Pickford, Aaliya Doolabh, Brittney Finlayson, Meera Gandhi, Alicia Kent, Daniel Kooymans, Su Ji Lee, Zeenat Omar, Amanda Spillane, Stephanie Tang and Christine Tromp.

The Cum Laude Praestantia Award for Seth Pickford was even more significant as he achieved six Summa Cum Laude (the highest and most prestigious) awards in this time.

These students will be honoured by having their names placed on a Praestantia Honours Board that will be proudly displayed in the Gorman Centre.
The students of John Paul College have had a year of exceptional educational and co-curricular outcomes and these achievements were celebrated during Speech Night held at the Brisbane Convention Centre and attended by nearly 5,000 students, staff and parents.

During the evening, over 300 students from Years 7 to 12 received awards for achievements in Academics, Sports, Performing Arts and other co-curricular activities. Of these, over 100 prizes were awarded for Academic Honours.

Prestigious prizes were awarded to Grace Ingram (Dux of Year 7), Yoshiki Chen (Dux of Year 8), Varun Kumar (Dux of Year 9), Claire Weatherhead (Dux of Year 10) and Alyssa Bebbington (Dux of Year 11).

Other outstanding achievers included Kalani Purcell (The Lloyd Trophy for most improved sportsperson), Matthew Davis and Madeline McAuliffe (The Bradley Cup for finest all round sports person), Cameron Parrish (The Captain’s Cup for the finest all round cultural person), Laryssa Perkins (The M.G. Dickson Shield for outstanding co-curricular service and attitude), Kevin Yu (The K.H. Farmer Memorial Award for the student who has shown the greatest development in academic performance) and Sumin Jang (The Rob Marr Cup for the highest ranking International Baccalaureate student and the Foundation Teachers’ Prize as Proxime Accessit of the College).

Amanda Spillane was announced Dux of John Paul College, receiving the Munns Prize.

Christine Tromp, Year 12 Vice-Captain in the Senior School, received the Cameron Cup, awarded to the student who best exemplifies the school motto – Unity, Christ, Learning.

One of the highlights of the evening was the address given by Mr Li Cunxin, the internationally-acclaimed dancer, successful stockbroker and now Artistic Director of the Queensland Ballet. As the author of *Mao’s Last Dancer*, his story was certainly awe-inspiring.

The entertainment also provided another fantastic highlight as our talented students performed at the highest level, culminating with a rousing rendition of *Happy Anniversary*. 
During the evening, over 300 students from Years 7 to 12 received awards.

Christine Tromp receives the College’s most prestigious award, the Cameron Cup.
Primary school children need to be physically active every day. Right from Kindergarten, children need quality sports programs to develop the musculoskeletal and neurological structures that will support them for a lifetime of health and activity, as well as improved cognitive function and social wellbeing.

The Primary Sports Program at John Paul College is founded upon a movement based theory known as Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD), a developmental pathway whereby athletes follow optimal training, competition and recovery regimens from childhood through all phases of adulthood.

“The development of physical literacy at a young age is essential for the long term physical, social and psychological wellbeing of our students,” said Assistant Director of Activities, Mr Phil Hoyt.

“The vision behind this program is to rethink how we encourage sport and train our young people to ensure that they develop a love of participation in activity. We may even unearth the next sporting superstar” he added.

Within our program, students from Prep to Year 3 are encouraged to participate in as many sports as possible to build FUNdamental skills whilst focusing on the ABCs of sport – Agility, Balance, Co-ordination and Speed.

The College offers an extensive array of play-based programs designed with ‘fun’ being the major motivator. Our internally run programs consist of Foundation Sports (nine sports), Dinosaur Football, In2Cricket and Learn to Swim/Squad Swimming and Club Basketball as well as the external products offered on campus including Auskick, Mini Muscles and Rookies2Reds.

Following the FUNdamental stage of development, students from ages 9-12 enter the Learning to Train phase of sport. In this phase, students acquire sport specific skills that are the cornerstone of athletic development.

Once again, students are encouraged to participate in multiple sports and not to specialise as studies have found that specialisation at a young age increases the likelihood of burnout, injury and narrow physical development.

It is at this stage our students enter the JTAS and club sport scene. An extensive list of sports is on offer at this stage including AFL, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Squad Swimming, Tennis and Touch Football.

Further information regarding the Long Term Athletic Development Program can be found at [http://canadiansportforlife.ca/learn-about-canadian-sport-life](http://canadiansportforlife.ca/learn-about-canadian-sport-life)
NEW ATHLETICS CLUB IN 2013

In 2013, John Paul College will have its very own Athletics Club which will compete in Queensland Athletics Meets. This will be headed by Mr Antonio McCray, a former US College Track star who gained selection into the US Olympic trials.

Mr McCray is now working in the Physical Education department and will use his extensive knowledge, expertise and passion to drive the Athletics Program.

WE ARE Aiming EVEN HIGHER IN 2013!

After a national study identified that primary age girls in general lack basic sporting skills and fitness, John Paul College has designed and implemented a Primary ‘Girls in Sport’ program. Last term, over 70 primary girls attended the three, one hour sessions each week and we have visible evidence that our primary girls have made significant improvement in all areas.

We will build upon this in 2013, as it is our aim to increase the participation rates of our girls in primary sport.

Thank you to our Coaching Directors who ensure that our students continue to achieve excellence. Without them, our students would not have the opportunity to reach the levels of excellence that they dream of, and it would not be possible for our College to sustain its position as one of the leading co-educational schools for sport in Australia.

2012 PROVED TO BE ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEARS FOR SPORT AND HAS TAKEN US CLOSER TO ACHIEVING OUR GOAL OF BECOMING ONE OF THE LEADING CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR SPORT IN AUSTRALIA.

TAS BLUE CHAMPIONS!

We have once again taken out the TAS Champion Blue School title, along with a number of high profile Queensland sporting competitions.

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

Our basketball program continues to go from strength to strength, boasting a record number of teams from Kindy right the way through to our prestigious Open A Girls’ Team, who are the current Australian Champions.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!

The College experienced the most successful TAS football season to date, winning every TAS Age Group Premiership.

Our boys’ football teams have also dominated Queensland Schools Competition. John Paul College is now ranked as the number one school for football in Queensland after winning the Under 15 Bill Turner Queensland Championship. Our Under 15 boys progressed on to represent John Paul College and Queensland at the Australian Schools Finals held in Newcastle where they were placed in the top four schools in the country.

Our First X1 team also dominated the Queensland Championships winning the prestigious Uhlsport Cup, defeating all GPS and independent schools to take out the title.

NETBALL CHAMPIONS!

Our Open A Netball Team was crowned the number one school in the nation after defeating Victoria by one point in the final of the Australasian Schools Netball Championships held in Melbourne.
The Year 6 students ignited and created history following their research into the significance of an historic mosaic floor plaque, its disappearance and their persuasiveness in having it replaced.

Thanks to their enquiring minds, these students presented an amazing gift to the whole school family when this historic symbol was reinstated at a formal unveiling ceremony in October.

Special guests included Foundation Principal, Mr Cec Munns, Chairman of the Board, Mr Mark Fenton and Board members, Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster, the Senior Leadership Team and the Year 6 students and their teachers.

The reinstatement of the mosaic began late in 2011, when the then Year 5A students, as part of the upcoming 30th anniversary celebrations, researched the aspects of symbolism that are part of the College’s history.

“One on a walk around the school one of our teachers, Mrs MacNamara, spoke to us about symbols at John Paul College and what they mean,” said main investigator and Year 6 (2012) student, Emily Weissenberger.

“We learnt about the Eagle and the Tree of Learning, and it was then that we learnt of a floor plaque which was once located in the Administration Building.

“It was a mosaic of the original John Paul College logo and we asked our Headmaster, Mr Foster, what had happened to it,” Emily said.

“Mr Foster didn’t know, but he wanted to find out along with us,” she added.

Mr Munns, Mr Fenton, Year 5A teacher Mr Sam Couche and Mrs MacNamara were also all involved in the research behind the missing mosaic and although no answers were found as to its disappearance, Mr Munns was certainly happy to assist the students with the importance of the symbolic significance.

During his official address to discuss the history of the plaque, Mr Munns said “These young movers and shakers were relentless in their research process which led to the restoration of this mosaic, a symbol which, for more than two decades, had been so much a part of our College’s tradition and ethos.”

“What impresses me most is that this lost tradition remains in the collective memory of our College family and the most remarkable thing is that these Year 5 students of 2011 researched and resurrected a College tradition which they, themselves, have never seen.

“It was then I realised that the main beneficiaries in preserving and honouring a fine College’s ethos are the students themselves and I thank them for their wonderful efforts in assisting with strengthening these traditions,” Mr Munns said.

Although it is still unsure why the original mosaic was removed, everyone is very happy that this historic symbol of the College has been reinstated.

The new mosaic was created and donated by artist Toni Sokolov and contains in excess of 19,500 tiles. Toni builds customised, sculpted, unique landscapes and has worked on projects in the city including a sculpture in James Street and the Waterline Waterfront development for Mirvac.

Each piece represents the uniqueness of each member of the John Paul College family – all of the pieces together bind us in Unity, Christ and Learning.

The tradition of not walking across the mosaic has already been reestablished with staff and students walking around the mosaic whilst taking a moment to reflect on the importance of the community to which they belong.
The Year 6 students were the focus of the Senior Primary presentations as they enjoyed their graduation assembly on the last Thursday of term.

At their graduation, Head of Primary School, Mr Norm Kerley, spoke of the passing of time, and the importance of using this precious resource wisely because the next six years would go quickly. He encouraged them to make the most of the time remaining. Students were then presented with graduation certificates, with some receiving commendations for their hard work and academic achievements.

The audience enjoyed several performances and Natalie Koch spoke about her Primary School journey and presented a gift of a framed 2012 PYP Exhibition t-shirt to the Headmaster. Students were then welcomed to Middle School by Head, Mr Zietsch and the tradition of the ‘hand over’ was complete.

At the Year 6 graduation, the Stanley Sclavos Award is presented in honour of Stanley Sclavos who sadly passed away in 2003 when he was in Year 5. It is awarded to a student who best exemplifies the traits which Stanley demonstrated as a John Paul College student.

The prestige of this award was enhanced by the generous donation by the Sclavos family of an honour board featuring the names of the recipients and this will be displayed in the Noelene Munns Learning Centre. The 2012 recipient was Kieren Bofinger and he cut the graduation cake at the afternoon tea shared by students, staff and families of the graduates.

On Friday, 2 November, we celebrated our annual Grandparents’ Day with nearly 700 grandparents and friends joining the children of John Paul College for a concert followed by classroom activities and tours and a shared morning tea.

The visitors enjoyed the performances, heard the students reflect on the importance of grandparents and other special friends within their lives and received a rose.

Back in the classrooms, the children shared their talents and learning with their grandparents, and showed them how to use the iPad, digital camera and mobile phone to take and look at photos.

Grandparents then shared insights which can only be acquired with the passage of years, as they talked to the children in a way that only the experiences of life can teach us.

The opportunities for our students to proudly share their love and their learning, authentically practise introductions, use their manners, perform before a proud audience, and serve morning tea are life’s lessons in themselves.

Thank you all for supporting the Grandparents’ Events, and strengthening the links that bind the John Paul Family together as one.
The Noelene Munns Learning Centre officially opened on Foundation Day at the beginning of Term 3.

It is fitting that this fantastic facility, which provides 21st century learning spaces, technology and resources for our teachers and students, was named after the inaugural Principal of the Primary School, Mrs Noelene Munns.

“Mrs Munns was a progressive educator who ensured that quality educational experiences would provide the best learning for her little ones,” said Head of Learning Centres, Mrs Marilyn Fry.

“Her portrait now smiles down upon us every day as if she is gazing approvingly on all that we do. What an amazing few months we have had since opening!” she added.

The students, staff, parents and visitors of the College have been in awe of the building, the design, the sustainable features and the amazing resources at the students’ fingertips.

The building has clever features such as smart lighting and air conditioning that turns off when areas are not in use, large windows which allow in a lot of natural light, collaborative learning spaces and colours, furniture and fabrics that make learning comfortable and attractive. There is also touch screen technology in a variety of formats.

“It is amazing to see the young students chilling out at lunchtime, watching a 3D movie or playing Wii, PS3 or Xbox games. The Learning Centre has several iPads which contain a collection of educational apps and e-books,” Mrs Fry said.

This collection will be extended in 2013 to include Android touch devices in our efforts to put the latest technology in the hands of our learners. Books and reading of course still rank high in popularity and the text collection has been well used since we have moved into the new facility.

We look forward to an even more exciting and eventful 2013 bringing our staff and students amazing new experiences and taking our Learning Centre and activities onto the global stage with planned collaborative projects across the globe.

The Year 6 students hosted an exhibition on 26 November to illustrate their journey through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP).

The displays were all of a very high standard, impressing staff, parents and students at a special exhibition night held in the Bradley building.

The students spent the day setting up their displays, putting into effect the techniques they learnt throughout the unit. The evening began with a performance of the song, ‘Hall of Fame’ in the Piazza, followed by a procession to Bradley Space. Students wore their specially created PYP t-shirts, and following some formalities to open the Exhibition, families had the chance to experience the learning which had been their focus throughout the preceding weeks.

“Who We Are” was the theme, but the presentations were varied and enthralling. Not only did students display the topic through a variety of media, but they spoke enthusiastically to engage the many visitors. This continued the following day as many classes, staff and students from other schools also attended.

The students deservedly received many compliments, and those who attended were impressed by the depth and maturity of the topics and how the Year 6 students presented them.

“Who We Are” was the theme, but the presentations were varied and enthralling.
YEARS 7 CANBERRA TOUR

During Term 3, 138 students and 15 staff enjoyed an amazing experience on their trip to Canberra as they visited various attractions.

Teachers relayed real time experiences via Twitter and a tour blog as they visited places such as the War Memorial, AIS, Questacon, Geo Science Centre, Deep Space Centre, Parliament House, Old Parliament House, National Dinosaur Museum, Botanical Gardens, Mt Ainsley and the National Museum.

Year 7 students Loes and Sammie Klinker, on behalf of the Year 7s, were extremely happy with their trip and their experiences.

“The week literally flew past and we are all extremely grateful for the delightful adventure that we went on,” said Loes (7C).

“Each person learnt something about the landmarks we visited and it was a magnificent opportunity for which the Year 7s were exceedingly grateful,” added Sammie (7E).

The exceptional planning, organisation and problem solving by Head of Year 7, Ms Stacey Lang ensured that all the Year 7s enjoyed a smooth and joyful experience.

YEAR 7s CONNNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

John Paul College and Tall Trees Care Community have begun what is anticipated to be a long term partnership with a visit by the Year 7 students to Tall Trees in November.

Accompanied by Head of Middle School, Mr Mark Zietsch and Ms Stacey Lang, Head of Year 7, the students visited the residents, shared morning tea and listened to numerous stories before enjoying a tour of the units and recreational facilities.

The Tall Trees partnership was initiated by Year 7 student, Jack Boughton who thought that building a relationship with seniors could be mutually beneficial. He entered his idea into the NAB Schools First competition and won $5,000 for John Paul College with his idea to partner with Tall Trees.

“I really enjoyed the visit and talking with the residents of Tall Trees,” Jack said.

“One of the ladies we spoke with said one of the most important things in life is to get a good education, so at John Paul College, we are on the right track,” he said.

It is hoped that residents will visit John Paul College next year and assist with reading and the Finch Farm.

RU OK?

RU OK Day is held nationally on 13 September as a day of action dedicated to inspiring all people of all backgrounds to regularly ask each other, “Are you OK?”

The RU OK Foundation aims to prevent isolation by providing resources throughout the year and empowering people to support each other through life’s ups and downs.

John Paul College supported RU OK Day through a number of initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the importance of connection.

In the spirit of connecting with and supporting others, Middle School students were given the opportunity to encourage others in their class and in their year level by giving Caring Cards during Pastoral Care. These Caring Cards were a simple way to send a special message to someone to let them know why they were appreciated.

In conjunction with RU OK Day, Middle School also held an inaugural Fun Run with over 400 students and a number of staff completing the 1.7km course through the College.

The Tall Trees partnership was initiated by Year 7 student, Jack Boughton who thought that building a relationship with seniors could be mutually beneficial. He entered his
The Year 12 formal was held at MODA Portside and organised by Head of Year 12, Mrs Susanne Jamieson, Mrs Stephanie Ingham and the Year 12 Formal Committee. The evening started on a fantastic note with the arrival of the students by all modes of transport including fire engines, army vehicles, boats and stretch hummers.

Dressed to impress, the students enjoyed arrival soft drinks on the balcony with the Brisbane skyline as the backdrop. As the sun set over the river, our young men and women were welcomed in a receiving line by the Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster and the Chairman of the Board, Mr Mark Fenton. Once inside, everyone was treated to a wonderful meal followed by some beautiful waltzing learnt under the guidance of Mr Rodney Davison and Mr Anthony McCray.

As the night progressed, students and staff enjoyed each other’s company and there were numerous photos taken to capture precious memories.

After lots of dancing, the night drew to a close and the Year 12s, despite their sore feet, left smiling and happy. Overall, it was a tremendous evening thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.
For many, this marked the end of a very long journey at John Paul College with 49 of the graduating cohort here since Prep. It was also the end of the journey for several families who have enjoyed a relationship spanning over 20 years with the College with many older siblings previously graduating.

Many of the Seniors started the day with a celebratory breakfast and after some quality time with their Head of Year, Mrs Susanne Jamieson, the students moved to the traditional farewell service at St Edward’s Catholic Church with staff, family and friends. During the service, College Chaplain, Mr Steven Ward, reflected on a wonderful year and shared some of his personal memories with the cohort which brought a tear to many eyes.

Following the service, the Year 12s moved to a full school graduation assembly where they were presented with their Graduation folio by Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster and Chairman of the Board, Mr Mark Fenton.

During the assembly, the Year 12 students from the School of Performing Arts entertained the audience one last time with a wonderful rendition of *On Top of the World* by Imagine Dragons.

The assembly was also the final opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Year 12 with the presentation of several awards, including the Kate Christensen award which was won by Brittney Haines. Following the assembly they moved to the Bradley Rocks area to deliver a spirited final War Cry. The Primary School formed a Guard of Honour for the students and their parents as the moved to the ARC to enjoy some refreshments and the final opportunities to say goodbye to staff and classmates.

Overall it was an emotional but exciting day for our Class of 2012. We wish them all the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their adventure.
The Finch Farm has been a platform to reignite and foster community spirit and from its humble beginnings, is now an engaging extension to our classroom learning environments.

The timeline began in November 2011 when the proof of concept was ratified by the Headmaster and the Board.

In April 2012, heavy equipment arrived to contour and shape the farm site with fill from the Noelene Munns Learning Centre site. In May, the working bees began with a call for community support to turf and mulch the area to add stability to the contoured terraces. By June, the team of hard working volunteers had raked, hoed, dug, filled, chopped, stomped, built, levelled, painted, barrowed and planted their way to a working farm. The construction began in earnest in July with volunteers creating garden beds and chicken houses. Fruit trees were planted to establish the orchard.

In August sustainable living was the focus of the Year 4 camp and a willing band of students planted the first of the garden beds. September saw Stage Two of the koala food plantation established and a crop of beans and lettuce was harvested from the garden beds. The Year 2 students experimented with planting their own watermelons.

Community spirit has been ignited as our farm goes from strength to strength!

A Koala Food Plantation has been established on Finch Farm to provide food for captive koalas.

Working in conjunction with Naomi and Stuart from Koala Services, Queensland, food from Finch Farm will be collected from the plantation and distributed to local facilities that provide shelter and a home for injured and recovering koalas in captivity. The Koala Food Plantation was established with the help of students and parents during two working bees throughout 2012. Armed with hole-diggers, seedlings, stakes, fertilizer pellets, mulch and protective bags the volunteers established our very own little corner of “koala heaven”. Over 400 trees were planted in two locations - at the entrance to the farm site and on the southern bank of Stephen Bowers Oval.

It is estimated that it will take 18 months to two years before the plantation is mature enough for harvesting.

Each koala in captivity requires approximately 10 branches of leaves a day to survive - and because they have an innate ability to judge the water content, nutrition content and toxin level of the food - a variety of eucalypt types are offered at each feeding session. Our plantation will provide Tallow Wood - which is a favourite of the koala all year round.

To enhance the speed of growth of the plantation, each of the 400 trees needs approximately one litre of water a day! There will be plenty of opportunities for willing workers to help with this task and over the next two years, volunteers will be called on to nurture our Koala Food Plantation to maturity.
Local businesses, community members, school students and hard-working families joined Australia’s conversation on climate change at a free community forum held at John Paul College in September.

As the winners of the Premier’s Sustainability awards, John Paul College, in partnership with the Australian Climate Commission, discussed what climate change means for Queensland.

Professor Tim Flannery, Chief Commissioner of the Australian Climate Commission and Chairman of the Copenhagen Climate Council was the keynote speaker and hosted a discussion with members of the community.

“We have invested heavily in a number of energy management systems and continue to work to reduce our impact on the environment, said Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster.

“As a consequence, our students and staff make informed and thoughtful choices about how they use grass, paths, water, power, plastics, waste bins and school resources at every turn,” he added.

Today John Paul College has substantially retrofitted or sustainably designed and built its 58 buildings across a 100-acre campus, and has created “Finch Farm”, a sustainable community farm.

Proceeds from the concert were donated to an Armenian Children’s Charity and Lisa was invited to sing in concert in Armenia following an invitation from that country’s First Lady, Rita Sargsyan.

An acclaimed soprano, graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, author and health ambassador, Lisa last year penned her inspirational memoir which detailed her incredible journey over 12 years as a survivor of two different forms of cancer.

Entitled “Heartsong – A Search for Harmony”, Lisa also released a CD, “Heartsong”, in conjunction with her one-woman show of the same name.

Today Lisa is healthier than she has ever been and she’s using all she has learned to help others in need. She has launched a non-profit, health-focused foundation helping people get back to living a more ‘normal’ life, free from the stresses and lifestyle choices that lead to disease.

We wish Lisa well as she takes her book, CD and foundation to the world.

For more information about Lisa’s foundation visit www.quietpace.org.au.

The Headmaster proudly hosted a number of the College benefactors for morning tea in ‘The Noelene Munns Learning Centre. It was a great opportunity to thank these people for their generosity and enable them to view this new facility and its resources.

Approximately 65 volunteers joined the Headmaster for afternoon tea. The volunteers represent all parts of the College community, including the Parents and Friends Association, “Friends Of” groups, classroom helpers and others who so generously give of their time.
The International Baccalaureate (IB) Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The emphasis is on ‘learning by doing’ real tasks that have real consequences and then reflecting on these experiences over time.

“The Creativity, Action and Service component (CAS) of the IB program is a framework for experiential learning, designed to involve students in new roles,” said Director of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Mrs Julie-Anne Skelton.

CAS aims to develop students who are reflective thinkers so that they understand their own strengths and limitations, can identify goals and devise strategies for personal growth.

Our students have undertaken a number of projects to meet the requirements of the CAS program, including a service learning trip, providing assistance to a local Mosque and encouraging the Headmaster and members of his Senior Leadership Team to jump off a tall building in aid of the Save the Children organisation.

SERVICE WITH A PURPOSE

During the September school holidays, Mrs Skelton and teacher, Mr Bruce Middleton, took a group of 15 students on a “Service Learning, Cultural Awareness” trip to Thailand, Burma and Laos.

“As Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) is an integral component of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, it is essential that the students who undertake this rigorous program develop greater insights into the nature of the component itself,” Mrs Skelton said.

While it would be easier for them to meet their challenges in Australia, the wider opportunities presented to them internationally meant that students on this service trip undertook experiences so that they better understood aspects of the IB Learner Profile, the IB Mission Statement and Habits of Mind.

They were able to be involved in another community and culture, were extended through demanding endurance and met many personal challenges, developed as team members, became willing risk takers, learnt skills that they were able to pass onto others and undertook service with responsibility. At the end of this service trip they were able to understand the human consequence of their work, both as individuals and within their “new” community.

As they embarked on their journey across the world, taking in Thailand, crossing into Burma, visiting markets, trekking through rice fields and enjoying local cuisine, they arrived in Luang Prabang, Laos to begin their service work.

“Living like locals, we pumped our own water, used squat toilets and bucket showers and spent four days completing an unfinished toilet block,” said student and team member Laryssa Perkins.

“We completed the project by adding our own personal touches to the walls including painting large trees with leaves of our hand prints, a river of Aboriginal inspired dots, humble bees, flowers, mountains, rice fields and balloons,” she added.

The team also performed service work which included teaching English in the local schools.

“Often it was a challenge to communicate with the local students as they spoke as much English as we did Laos. Even if much of the lesson was lost in translation, I feel that if we had as much of a positive impact on the children as they did to us, then the time spent was invaluable,” said student and team member Jessie Wiles.

The trip was summed up by student and team member, Sidonie Wakefield who said “All of us were shocked at how fast the two weeks had gone and after travelling for a day, we were back in Australia and feeling so grateful that we had been able to experience everything that we had”.

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Thank you to Mrs Skelton and Mr Middleton for all the hard work you put in to make this possible for us. It was LIFE CHANGING!
THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A NEW MOSQUE BEGINS WITH 5,880 BEADS...

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program student, Aaliya Doolabh recognized a need within her community and found a means of achieving this by completing a project within the Creativity, Action and Service component of her IB program.

“My passion for singing and graphic design led me to what was said to be an “impossible task”, which was to record and design a CD in a foreign language in support of the Islamic Society of Algester,” Aaliya said.

Around 5,880 beads later, her love of playing with pliers found her shaping over 1000 pieces of jewellery in order to fund the production of the CD.

Although these unique far-fetched innovations of a 16 year old perplexed many, she was able to give back in her own special way to the building fund of a wonderful association that she holds close to her heart.

“I have watched the Islamic Society of Algester grow substantially in the last 10 years”, Aaliya said.

“As a result, the current premises, an old, two-storey house, used as a Mosque and community centre, no longer meet the needs of the growing community.

Their admirable efforts have inspired me to complete this mammoth task. Without their support and enthusiasm, I would not have dared to dream,” she said.

Aaliya is extremely grateful to have had the assistance of alumnist Moshin Ghumra who donated a considerable amount of his time recording and producing the CD.

She was also humbled by the response of people keen to purchase both the jewellery and CDs and Aaliya’s project raised $7,350, with over 300 CDs sold in 11 different countries.

JOHN PAUL COLLEGE HEADMASTER AND TEAM IN QUEENSLAND’S FIRST URBAN DESCENT

Would you step outside of your comfort zone to do something amazing to help vulnerable children in Queensland?

John Paul College Headmaster, Mr Peter Foster, Deputy Headmaster, Mr Norm Kerley, Head of Senior School, Mr Allan Dennis and Head of Middle School, Mr Mark Zietsch bravely stepped outside of theirs as they took part in Queensland’s inaugural Urban Descent in October.

With $500 per person to be raised, Year 11 International Baccalaureate students Kiandra Are, Laura Truong and Amy Huynh were the team behind the scheme. They raised over $2,000 to ensure that this awesome foursome could bravely abseil the 36 storeys down the iconic Gold Tower in Brisbane.

Cheered on by a number of John Paul College family members, the team completed their descent in strong cross winds and were happy to have assisted the students to raise money for such a worthy cause.
South Korean student, Sumin Jang has received an offer to study a Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) at the most reputable University in Korea, the University of South Korea.

It has been an amazing journey for Sumin to achieve her goals. She first came to Australia in 2008 with very limited English. “I was shocked with the result on my first test at John Paul International. I was placed in Level 2, the second lowest level of English even though my English result in South Korea was pretty good”.

Along with many other international students, Sumin entered the High School Preparation Course, which is designed to help international students to meet academic entry standards and develop study, language and cultural skills. Here she advanced through each class level before graduating into the main stream classes at John Paul College.

Sumin was one of the top Year 12 students at John Paul College in 2012, and in Years 11 and 12, was awarded many of the College’s major prizes.

Another key element at the College is pastoral care.

“Of course, I would not be in this position without the help of my teachers,” Sumin stated. “The key to success is not to hesitate to ask teachers when you have questions. They are always there to help.”

Pastoral Care is regarded as part of every teacher’s daily interaction with students. This involves setting up a warm and accepting environment in which students feel safe and happy, which in turn also helps them overcome culture shock and homesickness. It involves modelling appropriate behaviour and attitudes, and encouraging increasingly mature and responsible personal and social growth.

“I remember when studying Year 10, I had to make the decision whether I should take IB or OP. Without my teacher’s and the career advisor’s guidance, I didn’t know which one would be more suitable for me”. By completing Years 11 and 12 in Australia, students are well prepared to undertake their university study anywhere in the world.

Sumin was a key member of some of the elite performance groups in the College’s broad co-curricular program which complements the academic life of students. She participated as a member of the Orchestra, the Back in Time Musical Spectacular and also the Performance Choir.

“I must say international students are often afraid of not making friends with Australian students, but by joining the co-curricular program, I was able to make friends. It is quite important because it makes you more involved in the school community. It seems much easier making friends who are doing the same co-curricular activity, because we have the same habit.”

Sumin also lived with one of the College’s registered and government approved homestay families, primarily to improve her English. As a participating member of the homestay family it also assisted her to adapt to the Australian way of life and reduced her homesickness.

We congratulate Sumin and all of our international students on their fine achievements in 2012. 

The key to success is not to hesitate to ask teachers when you have questions. They are always there to help.

SUMIN JANG WELL PREPARED FOR FUTURE STUDY
VISA STUDENTS ACHIEVE GREAT SUCCESS

PIC graduates and direct-entry students proudly received a total of 35 prizes between them. This is a great achievement, as most are studying in a new country, in a language other than their mother tongue and without family…therefore an even greater achievement!

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students who won these major prizes:

- Sumin Jang from South Korea, who received The Foundation Teachers’ Prize, The Rob Marr Cup, Year 12 Academic Honours, IB Mathematics Prize and the IB Experimental Sciences Prize. Sumin will study a Bachelor of Science/Pharmacy at the University of South Korea.

- Kevin Yu from South Korea, who received the KH Farmer Memorial Award and Year 12 Academic Honours. Kevin will study Aviation / Space Science in Sydney.

- Alex Hung from Taiwan, who received the Robinson Prize for Mathematics C, the Enright Prize for Physics and Year 12 Academic Honours. Alex plans to study Engineering in Melbourne.

- Maya Furmanovsky from Japan who received The Darnley Prize for Chemistry and Year 12 Academic Honours. Maya will return to Japan to study at one of the top universities in Tokyo.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MANY INTERNATIONAL VISA STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED AWARDS AT SPEECH NIGHT.

YEAR 8 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WINS QUEENSLAND YOUTH ART AWARD

John Paul College Year 8 international student, Via Lim from South Korea, has won a Queensland Youth Art Award.

The Queensland Youth Art Awards has grown to become South East Queensland’s premier student art exhibition and is open to all schools in the South East Queensland region. The exhibition was founded to provide young artists with a venue to exhibit their work and receive public comment and recognition.

Each school involved contributes the highest standard of art works from Visual Arts students in Years 6 to 12. The exhibition displays hundreds of works of fine art; drawings, sculptures, paintings, photographs and mixed media works and John Paul College hosts this prestigious event on a rotational basis.

Via was also awarded an Academic Honour, the Applied Design Prize and German Prize at the College’s recent Speech Night.
A small matter of his wedding prevented Daniel Jensen (2001) from attending the Outstanding Alumni Awards where he was a finalist in the Industry/Professions category. Daniel wed Kim Stewart at Sirromet Winery on October 26. Son, Oscar celebrated with Mum and Dad. 2012 caps off a very successful year for Daniel, who was recently named Australasian Subway Franchisee of the Year.

Congratulations Mr and Mrs de Vries! It was a match made in JPC heaven when Nicole Bryan (2004) married Daniel de Vries (2002) on August 4 at Lighthouse, Fortitude Valley. Kate Wilkie, nee Bruschweiler (2004) and Nik Vassilev (2002) were bridesmaid and best man respectively while over 30 former JPC students ensured festivities continued well into the night. Nicole and Daniel honeymooned throughout Europe.


Andria Marsden (2004) became Mrs Andria Hutchinson when she married Ben at Graceville Uniting Church on November 10. The couple met through mutual friends. Having just returned from a honeymoon in China, Andria and Ben have settled in Ashgrove.

Genevieve LaCaze (2007) ran a three second PB in her heat of the 3000m steeplechase at the London Olympics.

Mitch Larkin (2010) recorded PBs in his heat and semi-final swims to make it to the Olympic 200m backstroke final – top eight in the world!

David Ki (2006) – claimed an Olympic bronze medal with his South Korean soccer team.

Champion Sport Saturday

With verbal jousting on Facebook starting even before the first whistle, it was always going to be competitive. Games of netball, touch and soccer involving alumni, parents, staff and friends of the College were organised as part of Champion Sport Saturday in July.

And the winners – Netball: the Pavlovas - Kirsten Strudwick, Clare McMeniman, Keisha Tincknell, Megan Christie, Nathan Strudwick (guess it helps when you have two former Firebirds in your team!); Touch: See Ya in the Final - Travis Gaskin, Ollie LaCaze, Elliott LaCaze, Jarrod Rigby, Jon Michael Stuart, Shaun Stuart, Naomi Quirk, Ashleigh Poole and Francesca Gutierrez; Soccer – a controversial win to the alumni team over the current Open boys.
SHANE HODGES:
The 1988 graduate has been appointed Managing Director of global corporate sales with Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide. Shane, who now lives in New York, will oversee a team that handles the hotel company’s largest 19 corporate accounts. Shane has been with Starwood for more than 17 years, primarily in Europe and Asia/Pacific, and most recently as Head of Sales and Marketing for the company’s properties in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

KYM JACKSON:
Kym graduated from JPC in 1998 with big plans of acting in Hollywood one day. A stint at Warner Bros Movie World, a year in Sydney and the big decision to pack her bags and move to Hollywood is now paying dividends. It has been a long, and at times, difficult journey for Kym. Her big break came in 2008, when she landed her first real acting role in LA - one scene in the TV show Criminal Minds. Since 2008 she has worked alongside A-listers such as Susan Sarandon, Dwayne Johnson, and Sean Patrick Flanery in over 20 feature films and TV episodes, including “Iron Sky” which was recently released in Australia. She is also now a published author, having spent the past three years writing a book that shares a wealth of vital Hollywood insider knowledge she has gained from working in various roles in the film industry. This year she released her 308-page textbook entitled The Holly Survival Guide for Aussie Actors, to show aspiring Aussie actors how to succeed in Hollywood.

TIM MCKINNON:
What does it take to become the Australasian Natural Body Building Competition Junior Men’s Queensland champion? Ask 2008 graduate Tim McKinnon. Not only did Tim secure this title, but he has since gone on to win another two state junior titles and place fourth in the Junior Men’s International Natural Body Building Association competition in October in Melbourne. Weighing in at 68kg in Year 12, Tim now tips the scales at 98kg. A gym membership at the end of school piqued Tim’s interest in weight training, but it wasn’t until the beginning of 2012 that he decided to enter serious competition. An arduous 20 week preparation period consisting of weights and cardio training every day coupled with a strict protein-rich diet to reveal muscle mass, ensured Tim was in peak physical condition for competition. In addition to running his personal training business out of Goodlife Health Club in the Wintergarden, Tim is currently studying Business at QUT.

CLASS OF 2002 - 10 YEAR REUNION:
A great night was enjoyed by all as more than 90 former students reconnected at the Port Office Hotel. With Jen Kerr still looking the goods in her JPC uniform, past students were joined by a number of their former teachers who were also in party mode. Celebrations continued well into the early hours of the morning at the Victory Hotel thanks to the hospitality of Jedd Rifai. Congratulations to the organising committee of Kirsten Strudwick, Clare McMeniman and Tim Woods.

CLASS OF 1992 - 20 YEAR REUNION:
Former classmates from as far away as China returned to Brisbane to attend the reunion. There was a little early trepidation for some who had not seen former classmates since school, but nerves gave way after a few drinks and conversations and laughter flowed freely well into the night. Thanks to organisers Kristine Watt and Matthew McKee on a great night!
It was confirmation that from a school in Daisy Hill, ‘big things’ are possible. And in the case of our finalists, ‘big things’ didn’t necessarily mean career or financial success – as success for these Awards was also measured in terms of service or giving back.

Every one of our finalists inspired me – for very different reasons. From our overall winner, Yassmin Abdel-Magied for her remarkable achievements in her young life, for her obvious intellect, her pervasive social conscience and her generosity of time, to Daniel Jensen – who with perseverance and hard work has gone on to build a formidable business empire, to Serena Langenbruch, whose care and concern for others meant sleeping on the floor of an impoverished Thai village – for two years!

I am certain that we have only skimmed the surface of learning about the work that our alumni are doing throughout the world. I look forward to these Awards in future years to celebrate the success and be inspired by a whole new group of John Paul College past students.

I WAS PRIVILEGED TO ORGANISE THIS YEAR’S INAUGURAL OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS. FOR ME, THERE WAS A PALPABLE AIR OF AWE AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY FOR THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR FINALISTS AS THEY WERE PROFILED.”

BY SUE HOMANN, ALUMNI CO-ORDINATOR

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE INSPIRATIONAL WINNERS

OVERALL WINNER / COMMUNITY CATEGORY WINNER:
YASSMIN ABDEL-MAGIED (2007)

As the overall winner of the Outstanding Alumni Awards, Yassmin graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with First Class Honours and was also the recipient of the Dean’s Excellence Scholarship.

At the age of 16, Yassmin founded Youth Without Borders, an organisation that empowers young people to work together for the implementation of positive change in their communities. The organisation undertakes projects both in Australia and abroad.

Yassmin’s growing collection of accolades includes:

- Young Leader winner – Australian Financial Review and Westpac’s ‘100 Women of Influence’ 2012 Awards
- Suncorp Young Queensland of the Year - 2010
- Named one of Queensland’s 50 Best and Brightest in 2010
- Young Australian of the Year, Finalist - 2010
- Young Australian Muslim of the Year - 2007

In addition to her work with Youth Without Borders, Yassmin is an active volunteer in the community and sits on the Australian Multicultural Council, the Board of the Queensland Museum and the Design Council. She is also the Patron for the United Nations Student Association.

FINALISTS:
- Serena Langenbruch (2004)
PROFESSIONS/INDUSTRY WINNER:
DAVID BAXBY (1991)

David obtained his Bachelor of Laws and Commerce from Bond University in 1993 and after a brief stint with Arthur Anderson Corporate Finance, he joined Goldman. After moving to London with the firm, David served on the client team for the Virgin Group, where he oversaw the public float of Virgin Blue and came to know Sir Richard Branson. He returned to Australia in 2004 as CEO of Virgin Management Asia Pacific.

In a move to Geneva in 2011, David assumed the role of Co-CEO of the Virgin Group, with a responsibility for approximately 50,000 people in 34 countries and global branded revenues in 2011 totalling $21bn.

David is an avid supporter of the Tour de Kids cycle event in support of the Starlight Foundation, and has participated in the 1,200km annual ride for the past ten years where he has personally raised $500,000.

He recently won the prestigious Robert Stable Alumni Medal from Bond University.

FINALISTS:
- Dr Benjamin Burton (1992)
- Dr Scott Fanning (1991)
- Daniel Jensen (2001)

THE ARTS WINNER:
KYLIE POCKLINGTON (1994)

Kylie completed her Bachelor of Education at QUT followed by a Master of Creative Industries (Dance Teaching). She is a Level 5 Cheerleading Coach and Cheerleading and Dance Assessor for the United States All Star Federation and the International All Star Federation. She is also a Level 4 USA Certified Coach for the National Council for Spirit Safety and Education, a National Cheerleading and Dance Judge and a Level 4 Cheerleading and Dance Judge with the International Cheer Union.

Since 2010 Kylie has been a World Champion Dance and Cheer judge for both the International Cheer Union and the United States All Star Federation.

In her capacity as an international judge, Kylie has also been invited to judge at the Singapore and Malaysian National Championships.

Kylie has been the Events and Education Director for World Cup Cheer and Dance and assisted in growing the company from three staff to over 20.

The relationships she has fostered in her chosen field around the world, and the partnerships that have grown from that have well and truly ensured that Australian cheerleading and dance is at the forefront of international competition.

FINALISTS:
- Francesca de Valence (1998)
- Loren Hunter (2007)

SPORT WINNER:
MITCH LARKIN (2010)

Mitch’s swimming pedigree was established early when at the age of 14 he won five gold and two silver medals at the Australian Age Championships. He currently holds 12 Australian and All-comers records where his name sits amongst other Australian swimming greats – Ian Thorpe, Jon Sieben, Kieren Perkins, Grant Hackett.

Competing at senior level in 2011 at the Australian Swimming Championships, he won one gold in the 200m IM and two silvers in the 200m backstroke and 400m IM – again breaking Australian and All-comers records. He was subsequently selected in his first senior Australian team for the 2011 World Championships in Shanghai.

In 2012, Mitch was at his best, claiming a place on the Australian Olympic Swimming Team. His Olympic campaign was phenomenal – recording two personal best times in his heat and semi-final to book a place in the final of the 200m backstroke where he finished eighth. Top 8 in the world!

In terms of Australian swimmers and all time rankings – he is the third fastest Australian over the 200m backstroke, fourth fastest in the 400m individual medley and 6th fastest in the 200m individual medley.

Mitch regularly volunteers his time as a speaker and presenter at schools and club presentation days, swimming camps and corporate charity events and was heavily involved in community work in Manchester in the lead-up to the London Games.

FINALISTS:
- Lara Korhammer (1989)
- David Ki (Year 10, 2006)
- Genevieve LaCaze (2007)
- Fletcher Dyson (1990)