



# St. John's School HISTORY IN THE MAKING

## Title tattles

### Future leaders

GRADE 6 students at St John's run their own class parliament where they can have a say on school policies.

Elections are conducted and ministers elected. Each minister has a portfolio which includes a job to do in the school. Decisions made in "parliament" are sent to the principal for approval.

### Trip to Canberra

GRADE 6 students are going to Canberra in November as part of their studies on government. Parents and children are busy fundraising for this exciting excursion.

### A mermaid's tail

THIS year the school is staging a musical called *The Little Mermaid*.

There will be five performances: on August 24 at 11am and 7pm; on August 25 at 11am only; and on August 26 at 11am and 7pm. Tickets are on sale at the school office, phone 6260 2121.

### The living dead

ST JOHN'S School once included a convent where the Sisters of Charity lived. This is now the administration building.

Many teachers have recounted stories about noises and footsteps heard on the top floor of the building. A nun is said to roam and turn on the hand dryer in the ladies toilet.

There is also supposed to be a ghost who plays the organ at night in St John's Church.

### Sowing seeds

OUR kindergarten has its own little area with its own play equipment and sandpit. Enrolments for 2005 are now being accepted. Please ring the office on 6260 2121 for any further information.

### Plea to parents

DEAR Parents, the Leavers t-shirts have been finalised. Could all money be paid to the office as soon as possible.

— Valerie Reid

# On the banks of the Coal

ST JOHN'S School at Richmond offers classes from kindergarten to Grade 6 in a safe and secure environment.

The well-balanced curriculum is designed for students of today and adults of the future.

The school gives all children an excellent start for high school and adult life with fantastic teachers.

We have been a project school for the Essential Learnings Framework, which has been a stimulating and rewarding journey for teachers as well as students.

Camps are provided for Grade 2 to Grade 6 and excursions are enjoyed by all classes.

The teachers and upper primary students produce a musical every two years in the local Richmond Hall to which other schools as well as the community are invited.

The senior and junior school choirs participate in the Hobart and Eastern Shore Eisteddfods and have been very successful.

We proudly wear a school uniform which includes a sports hat, shirt, tie and



**WORK AND PLAY:** The Grade 6 group at St John's School, Richmond.

jean shorts and a jumper plus a skirt for the girls and trousers for the boys. Our colours are navy and an Elwood red. We also have a sports uniform.

Celebrations are conducted for religious occasions and we enjoy recognising events such as Grandparents Day and Mothers and Fathers Day at

the school. The school also encourages a strong commitment to our school motto: "Love one another as I have loved you".

Students are prepared for the Sacraments — Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation — at the appropriate ages.

Students participate in a variety of sporting events held around the community and with other Catholic schools.

Every morning all classes participate in daily PE which includes 15 minutes of vigorous activity.

The school has three playgrounds for different age levels and two large grass areas for playing sport.

We also run a whole-school Water Competence program.

Pupils are given opportunities to compete in a range of competitions such as the Maths Relay, OzSpell, Trivia and MS Read-a-Thon.

Access to and from school is provided by a private bus company.

This year representatives from our school had the honour of carrying the Militia Banner in the Anzac Day march in Hobart.

## Growing in faith

ST JOHN'S School was established in the "old" schoolhouse adjacent to St John's Church, Richmond 161 years ago.

Father Thomas Butler, who was in charge of the Richmond parish at the time, felt there should be a school for Catholic children "to be brought up in the faith".

Fr Butler engaged the services of Michael O'Keefe to establish and run the school from the first school day in 1843.

The school started off with 20 pupils.

In 1866, the Presentation Sisters arrived in Tasmania and took up residence at "Woodburn" in Richmond until St Mary's Convent was completed in Hobart. For 18 months they worked

in the school and parish. They were sadly missed when they moved on.

In 1888, the Sisters of St Joseph arrived and remained at the school for almost 100 years (until 1983), ministering to the needs of countless generations of students.

The first lay principal in the 20th century was Elizabeth McMahon, appointed in 1984, who unfortunately died in office in 1990. George Toepfer was then principal for 11 years until he was succeeded in 2002 by Denise Long.

The school moved to its present location, still within the parish/school grounds, in 1925. Since then, the school has grown from two classrooms to seven class-

rooms and a multipurpose room.

The school was expanded to include a kindergarten in 1994 and, with the help of the parish, the old 1843 school building became a classroom.

This year the school has two prep classes and other classes have become composite to cope with the increasing numbers.

The school population has grown from around 100 in 1983 to just over 250 this year, drawing students from as far away as Colebrook, Lewisham and Dunally.

With the development in Richmond and surroundings districts, further growth can be expected.



### School page team

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