CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Parramatta Diocese recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week (March 6 – 12). This is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution Catholic schools make in the education and formation of young people, their families, and the broader community. Loyola marked this week through participating in a special Mass at Holy Family, Emerton. This was a wonderful celebration, highlighting the place of Catholic education in our local area. Thank you very much to the Holy Family community for your great welcome and spirit of inclusion. Thanks also to Mrs Virginia Arundell and our students who beautifully represented Loyola.

GRADUATES’ ASSEMBLY

Loyola recently welcomed back our 2015 graduates, whose achievements and destinations we celebrated with great joy and pride. Each student was invited to tell the assembly their pathway for this year, which included a vast array of university courses, TAFE courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and work opportunities. Three students, Mitchell Farquharson, Chloe-Lee Martin and Eid Yousef shared very personally and profoundly about their journey at Loyola and their desires for the future. I hope this occasion is a great source of inspiration for our current students, and affirmation for the wonderful work of Loyola’s staff.

Loyola’s top ATAR was 98.85, accompanied by a number of other ranks in the 90s, an outstanding reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students and their teachers.

154 students have now embarked upon their first year of university, including courses in Teaching, Nursing, Business, Psychology, Arts, Engineering, Design, Construction, Social Work, Criminology, Law, Medical Science, Theology, Tourism Management, Information Technology, Policing, Communications, Sport and Exercise Science, Paramedicine, and that does not name them all! We hope their transition to tertiary studies is a gentle one.

82% of students graduating from the Trade Training Centre have continued full-time with their School Based Apprenticeship employers. That is an outstanding result and significantly better than national averages.

Thank you to our guests: Fr Greg Jacobs SJ and Fr Stan Lim SJ from Holy Family Parish. The spirit of St Ignatius is well nourished through your support and presence.

Tricia Carr, Shane Morris and John Cruickshank from our local
Catholic primary and secondary schools. The assembly is a great opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the foundations laid in schools from which students have come.

**Tracey Maroney** from the University of Notre Dame and **Daniel Nelson** from the Australian Catholic University. Just as we recognise the schools from which students have come, it is equally fitting to acknowledge the destination to which many of our students go, such as these two very significant partners in our University Hub **Edmond Atalla MP**, Member for Mount Druitt, whose story of arrival and immersion within the Australian culture is not dissimilar to many of ours!

**Mrs Cathy Larkin**
Principal

**DIOCESAN LENTEN EVENTS, INCORPORATING THE YEAR OF MERCY**

Palm Sunday each year is the day established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 as the International World Youth Day celebration. This year's celebration will be held on 20 March 2016.

Loyola Senior High students have been invited to join the youth and clergy of the Diocese, to participate in the Palm Sunday procession that moves off from Parramatta Town Hall and concludes at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta. The Palm Sunday procession commemorates the entry of Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem in the week preceding His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Following the evening Mass, Catholic Youth Parramatta will host a World Youth Day event where the World Youth Day Krakow 2016 raffle will be drawn.

Students are asked to assemble in front of Parramatta Town Hall at 4.45pm with their teacher in readiness for the procession to start at 5.00pm. Students can be picked up anytime following the completion of mass approximately 7.15pm and no later than 8.00pm from St Patricks Cathedral, Parramatta.

The Good Friday Night Walk is a very successful youth event of the Parramatta Diocese. Participants walk from St Patricks Church Blacktown to St Patricks Cathedral Parramatta making stops along the way at the parishes of Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Wentworthville, and Westmead. The ‘Year of Mercy’ will be the predominant theme this year and will be incorporated into the liturgical reflections at each parish stop.

The walk itself begins at 10.00pm on the Friday evening and should reach the Cathedral by 6.00am the following morning. There will be refreshment/bathroom breaks along the way. Students are asked to assemble at St Patricks Blacktown from 9.40pm in readiness for the Good Friday Night Walk to commence at 10.00pm.

**Mrs Virginia Arundell**
Religious Education Coordinator

**ARRUPE HOUSE REFLECTION DAY**

On Thursday 3 March, our Year 11 students in Arrupe House had the opportunity to attend the Year 11 Reflection Day. We were privileged enough to host such a special day at Edmund Rice Centre in Mulgoa, along with Faber House.

The day began with a whole group prayer and readings on Luke’s Gospel and St Ignatius. During this time, students were asked to open their hearts and minds to the possibilities of the day and how they could invite their peers, Tutor Teacher and God to help them reflect on their life.

Throughout the day, each Tutor Group played a
range of fun activities, where students were able to develop their skills in communication, teamwork and leadership. These activities also provided the opportunity for students to learn more about each other and their Tutor Teacher.

Other activities centred on the student’s past, present and future. Students prioritised the important aspects of their life and set goals to develop a better understanding of who they are and what they hope to achieve in the future.

Students learned about the life of St Ignatius, the patron saint of Loyola. This was achieved by prioritising the sequence of the main events of his life. The students now have a better understanding of St Ignatius and will hopefully reflect on what they discovered, each time they pass the statue in the Ignatian Courtyard within the school.

At the conclusion of the day, we gathered as a House and the students were led through an Ignatian prayer, called the Examen. St Ignatius Loyola developed the Examen, and believed that the daily exercise of prayer allows people to hear God in their hearts. The Examen provided the opportunity for students to not only reflect on their day, but to also reflect on their faith, relationships and goals for the future. This provided a wonderful close to such an important day for our Year 11 students.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the students for their participation on the day and also for the deep level of respect and care they displayed to each other and the teachers. A big thank you must also go out to the Arrupe Tutor Teachers, who are always excellent mentors to their tutees. They continue to support our Arrupe students every day at Loyola Senior High School.

I hope that Year 11 enjoyed their Reflection Day and have now learned more about themselves, their peers and their Tutor teacher. I look forward to coordinating future events with Arrupe students, as they are a very mature group of students. They should be proud of their and involvement so far during their time at Loyola Senior High School.

Mrs Samantha Fresco
Arrupe House Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Students at Loyola are very fortunate to have access to not only a Careers Advisor but also a very unique position- an Academic Advisor who takes care of the Mount Druitt University Hub. Together, we work very hard to assist students to get into their chosen course at their preferred university. Having two people working to secure access to university has had results. We have seen an increase in successful applications to a higher education institution over the past three years. In part, this has been achieved through increased access to and awareness of the many schemes universities offer students of Loyola. Some of these schemes include:

Australian Catholic University Principal's Recommendation Scheme.

This scheme is very generous to Loyola students, allowing them entry into undergraduate courses when they don't receive the published ATAR due to circumstances beyond their control. It requires a student to demonstrate commitment to studies for the Principal to deem them worthy.

Sydney University E12 Early Access Scheme

Another very generous scheme, which offers up to 20 Loyola students the opportunity to receive an early offer for a range of courses at Sydney with significantly lowered ATARs. Examples include Physiotherapy requiring an ATAR of 85 (Published ATAR cut off 2015: 99).

University of Technology (UTS)

UTS offers Loyola students a 10 point ATAR bonus provided they reach the base ATAR of 69. There’s no need to apply, UTS offer this specifically to our students (TBC for 2016).

UAC’s Educational Access Scheme

This is for students who have suffered long term disadvantage predominantly throughout Year 11 and/or 12. This could be financial (Centrelink recipient), health related (physical/emotional) to you or someone close to you or carer responsibility. It requires a great deal of time and paperwork but the benefits for students are great; either extra ATAR points or allocated places set aside in university courses which are below the published ATAR cut off. We run sessions to assist students with what disadvantages you can claim, evidence required and assistance with competing the application form.

UAC School Recommendation Scheme

Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) enables schools to recommend current Year 12 students who are UAC applicants, for early offers of undergraduate admission. The aim of SRS is to help Year 12 students gain access to higher education, some of whom might otherwise not be offered a place.

SRS aims to centralise the early admissions process. It allows for a simple single online
application, rather than institution specific applications. As a result, students who wish to apply for early entry into multiple institutions will only have to complete one application.

http://www.uac.edu.au/srs/

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)
The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is developed each year by ACER on behalf of the UMAT Consortium. The test is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health science degree programs.

Participating universities
You will need a UMAT score to apply for admission to any of the following courses*:

New South Wales: The University of New South Wales Medicine, Optometry
The University of Newcastle/University of New England Joint Medical Program
Western Sydney University Medicine
Northern Territory: Charles Darwin University Clinical Sciences
Queensland: The University of Queensland Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science
South Australia: The University of Adelaide Medicine, Dental Surgery Flinders University Clinical Sciences/Medicine
Tasmania: University of Tasmania Medicine
Victoria: La Trobe University Health Sciences in Dentistry/Master of Dentistry, Oral Health Science Monash University Medicine
Western Australia: Curtin University Medicine The University of Western Australia Medicine (assured entry), Dental Medicine (assured entry)
New Zealand: The University of Auckland Medicine University of Otago Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Dental Surgery

*Please note that at select institutions, international students may be exempt from taking UMAT or may be required to sit a different test. For details please refer to the websites of the universities you intend to apply.

Registrations opened in early December 2015
Registrations close at 5.00pm AEST on 3 June 2016. Late registrations are accepted up to 5.00pm AEST on 17 June 2016 (late fee applies) Admission Tickets are available two weeks before the test
Test date: 27 July 2016
Results available in late September 2016.

UNSW Science and Engineering Student Parent Evening
23 March 2016, 5:30pm to 8pm, UNSW Kensington Campus
The evening will provide information on the degrees offered in Science and Engineering. It is directed at prospective students and their parents. Attendees will be able to speak one-on-one to academic staff about the degrees and also life on campus.

Defence Careers Online Q&A's
Find out more about opportunities in the Australian Defence Force by participating in an online Q&A.

Learn to be a Leader: Wednesday 23 March, 6:30pm – 8:00pm (AEDT)
https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events

Ms Tracie Huet
Careers Advisor

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Sunday 6 March 2016 we gathered together as a Community of Schools to celebrate the launch of Catholic Schools Week, at Holy Family Catholic Church Emerton.

St Clare’s, Good Shepherd, Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St Agnes, St Aidan’s, St Francis of Assisi and Loyola Senior High School joined together to celebrate the valuable contributions Catholic schools have made to Australian communities.

This year's theme was 'I belong. You belong. We belong.'

The theme ties in with the Church’s celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and the focus has been on forgiveness, love, aid and strength.

Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful occasion for students, teachers, families and parishes to acknowledge the strengths and achievements of Catholic schools.

With a tradition of more than 194 years in Australia and record student numbers in our schools across the nation, we have much to commemorate.

Our schools are founded on the person of Jesus Christ and enlivened by the Gospel. They are embedded in a community of believers.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those...
that have a stake in our schools – students, teachers, parents, priests, parishioners and members of the wider community.

Thank you particularly for our SRC Leaders, Ronald Hilario and Monique Murnane for their attendance and for reading the introduction for the mass.

Mrs Arundell
Religious Education Coordinator

BICENTENNIAL PARK NEWS

On Tuesday 23 February, Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students and three teachers attended a fieldtrip to explore the local ecosystem at Bicentennial Park in Homebush Bay. The excursion began with a detailed tour through the Mangrove and Saltmarsh ecosystem, from its early beginnings as a dumping site to finally being transformed into an ecosystem brimming with a diverse range of wildlife. Students also completed a variety of activities, such as collecting biotic and abiotic measurements and practising their sampling techniques. The students enjoyed the outdoor experiences (however hot and tired they may have felt by the end of the day) and have learnt to appreciate the importance of this vital ecosystem. Thank you to the Yr 11 students, Mr Fleri and Mr Thai for a most enjoyable day.

Ms E Price
Science Coordinator

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DEBATING? YEAR 12 STUDENT, SAMANTHA MICALELLE REVEALS ITS BENEFITS.

Debating is the kind of extracurricular activity that benefits students in ways that aren’t just limited to the debates themselves. It requires the formulation of an argument that is well-structured, founded in evidence, and responds to the statement given. Being able to form such an argument is invaluable to high school students, especially when it comes to essay-writing. Additionally, debating allows students to hone the skill of articulating a point in a clear and concise manner, something that comes in handy when required to give speeches or addresses.

The 2016 Catholic Schools Debating Association (CSDA) debating competition is about to get underway and Loyola is looking for students to get involved! If you want to improve your ability to form an argument, gain confidence in speaking for an audience and find a group of people to have some fun with on Friday nights, then debating is for you. No experience is required! All you need is commitment to getting involved and having a go. Training will commence Week 7 on Friday afternoons, the debates will kick off in Week 9, resuming in Term 2. For all the competition dates, visit http://www.csda.nsw.edu.au. Also see the Loyola daily bulletin for regular messages from the coordinator Mrs Payne.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Samantha Micallef
Year 12 student

LOYOLA PULLS TOGETHER FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

On Sunday 13 March, in scorching 34-degree heat, a team of Loyola students pulled together as a Tug-of-War fundraiser challenge took place at Last Round Training Facility in North Richmond.

As a team of seven, Christopher Kaliappan, Robert Leota, George Toeai, Josefa Alefosio, Jysiah Uele, Chase Taia, and Renato Erupi made their way out to the gym in North Richmond to be a part of a round robin heat of Tug-of-War.
The challenge was put together by the gym owners, Matt and Lisa Hamilton, to raise money for 17-year old Jackson Koopman, who has been fighting cancer for the majority of his young life. *Team Loyola* was in the Men’s rounds, which saw them up against adult men who actively train in strength sports. However, it was our Loyola students who were the crowd favourite, especially after their win in the first heat seeing them through to the semi-finals.

Between rounds, George and Renato competed in a push-up competition against cross-fit trainers from a local gym. As this was underway, Loyola was called up for their second heat in the Tug-of War. The crowd waited eagerly as George eventually secured his title in the push-up competition and casually strolled out to take his place as anchor on *Team Loyola*.

Unfortunately, the semi-finals saw them staring down the rope of the entire cross-fit team, who had not just flexed their muscles on the gym floor! *Team Loyola* put up a courageous battle in both sets and you heard the crowd fighting with them and also feel their disappointment when they fell and lost momentum.

Although our boys didn’t continue to the finals, they were approached to take on *No Limits* gym team in a special grudge match. All in the name of fun, *Team Loyola* grabbed the rope with both hands and had a friendly attempt against the overall winners. George stood in as anchor on *Team Tallowood* mixed team in an effort to help them across the line. He gave it his all but was out-muscled in that round too.

The climax of the day was watching Luke Reynolds, Australia’s Strongest Man competitor, demonstrate his exorbitant physical strength in the atlas stones challenge. This involved lifting a series of five stones ranging from 100kg to 181kg to a platform height of 1.6metres within 30 seconds. It was the highlight of the boys’ day when they were asked to spot him in each lift as he moved along the stations. Luke graciously offered to have a photo with the boys after the challenge.

Overall, despite the searing heat, there was an excellent atmosphere and community spirit exhibited on the day. Jackson and his mum were in awe of the turn out and what the gym had so humbly put on for them. They were especially grateful to our students who had travelled the furthest to participate in the day and contribute to the funds raised for Jackson’s comfort.

*Team Loyola* not only did themselves proud but they also did Loyola Senior High School, as well as the community of Mt Druitt, proud. In fact, Matt Hamilton has even offered to provide group-training sessions with the boys, if they’re keen. Who knows, our students might be giving Luke Reynolds a run for his money in the near future!
On February 11, a number of students bravely vocalised their thoughts and opinions, in light of a topic of their choosing (from a collection of topics provided by the CSDA), to be considered to represent Loyola in the CSDA Public Speaking competition. Students who proudly showcased their verbal abilities include Derya Hatipoglu (Year 11), Atiu Mawien, Elyse Provest, Shaarang Singh, Tori Barendregt (Year 12) and myself. Of the twelve topics that were released by the CSDA, students conveyed their interpretation of either ‘Be afraid, be very afraid’, ‘My Kitchen Rules’, or ‘Women’s agenda’, in the form of a speech.

While Mrs Payne, Miss Merhab, Mr Pope, and Mr Fleming critiqued each speaker, all participants provided each other with support; a positive energy in the room was obvious throughout the speeches as all members of the audience listened attentively and encouraged every speaker with warm applause.

The Public Speaking tryout was a great learning experience for all, the participants gave the audience an opportunity to listen to insightful and well-spoken speeches on various issues, it also gave speakers the chance to develop skills in articulation and confidence building.

Good luck to our representatives, and congratulations to all the students who participated in this tryout!

Pictured are some of the participants in the 2016 CSDA Public Speaking Competition

Reina Caballero
Year 12 Student

Mr Clinton Boreham

Excitement came for many science students of Loyola Senior High School last Monday when they were asked to attend the ABC studios for the live airing of Q&A. For these students seeing a special filming of the popular TV show Q&A, was an excellent opportunity to enhance and strengthen their interests in the Sciences. For one lucky student the opportunity was given to ask a question. Claudine Bautista was surprised when she found out that her question was selected out of a pool of approximately two hundred questions. She commented, that “…being given the chance to ask a question by Q&A was a great highpoint of the night and something I will remember forever.”

Showing that this Western Sydney School can make a difference in a public forum once again, Claudine posed her question confidently and in a manner that was well articulated and thought provoking. Panelist and world-renowned physicist and string theorist, Brian Greene snapped up the question and gave Claudine and her classmates a detailed response. His response would have baffled most viewers, however for the science enthusiasts of Loyola, they took great delight and consideration in his answer.

Upon the conclusion of the show and on the long bus ride home the students debated their ideas and thoughts on many science related topics. The answers that the panelists gave Claudine will be the conversation piece for many science classes for weeks to come. Loyola’s Leader of Learning for Science, Evelyn Price said that the night “was a great opportunity for the Science department and one such example on how Loyola finds unique opportunities for its students.”

Behind the desk at Q&A

Trishala Sharma
Year 12 Student

LOYOLA ATTENDS Q&A
SCIENCE SPECTACULAR

Trishala Sharma, a student of Loyola was asked to write the following short article about a recent excursion to the ABC television broadcast of Q&A. Loyola would like to congratulate not only Trishala for producing such a great article but all students that attended this excursion.
**SRC REPORT**

After an intensely eventful past couple of weeks of half-yearly exams for Year 12 Senior High School students and the Year 12 work-placement Trade Training Centre students, we can now finally rejoice with the arrival of our stylish and impeccable Souvenir Jackets. With personalised names and a design that sticks to Loyola’s message and morals, our jackets are a manifestation of what the students of Loyola stand for, adding an inspiring sense of unity within the cohort, marking our final year of schooling.

On Monday March 14, the SRC, along with some of the school’s most talented science students, attended a broadcast of Q&A. The theme of the night was all things SCIENCE, and we are very grateful to the producers of the program and to the ABC for allowing us attend. We are also very thankful to Mr Clinton Boreham for organising it; and to Mrs Cathy Larkin, Ms Evelyn Price, and Mr Michael Thai for attending with us.

Thursday 17 of March was the highly anticipated Year 11 SRC Election, in which 8 students from Year 11 were selected to be representatives for their cohort joining the existing SRC. We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 members. We hope they find a source of guidance and mentorship and that they are never afraid to express, create and innovate, for the betterment of our school community.

With De Gratia teams underway, the SRC are in the process of planning and organising many exciting events for the school, but more of this in the coming weeks. God bless.

Trishala Sharma  
SRC Media Representative

**ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS**

A big step towards achieving your goals is developing and maintaining a goal setting mindset as the attitudes you have learnt and develop will influence the way you view goal setting.

Approaching a task with a negative and self-defeating attitude makes it much harder to actually be successful at that task.

You need to have a positive attitude when you are setting and trying to achieve your goals. A positive attitude means you are looking for ways to succeed rather than focusing on the difficulties and obstacles that could be in your path.

To create a more positive attitude:
- Each day note down something you did towards achieving your goals.
- Note down any changes someone else has noticed eg. your teacher says well done on your work.
- Don’t stop trying if something goes wrong, rather reassess your goals or decide you need to work harder to achieve them.
- Find a mentor or helper to encourage you to achieve your goals, possibly someone who is interested in the same things or is good at the same subjects, but is a bit further ahead of you.

**Other reasons why we don’t achieve our goals:**
- No action plan.
- No true commitment to the goal.
- Not rewarding yourself along the way.
- Trying to focus on too many goals.
- Not preparing yourself for success.
- Fear of failure.

If you are still not achieving your goal try this:
- Clarify your goal.
- Write a list of actions.
- Analyse, prioritize and prune.
- Organise your list into a plan.
- Monitor the execution of your plan and review your plan regularly.

You can learn more about how to support your student’s learning at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: loyolashs
Password: 94success

**FROM “LEARNING TO POSSIBILITIES” AT LOYOLA**

Last year I graduated from Loyola after the biggest academic year of my life. It was also my most successful.

I am currently undertaking a double degree of Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Global Studies at the Australian Catholic University. In gaining entry to this course, I was competing with kids from schools where the view outside their window was the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, whilst mine was Chifley. Just a reference point!

Studying at Loyola, I wasn’t the kid who received first in the year or awards for extraordinary academic achievement. In fact, I didn’t pass all my
subjects in the first semester of Year 11 and only passed two by the end of the Preliminary Year. But something big happened. After what I thought was a dismal effort, this school didn’t give up on me, nor did the teachers. For this, I am immensely grateful.

In my HSC year I motivated myself. However, we all need a mentor and mine were the teachers at Loyola. One of my teachers ran year round revision classes before and after school; another had recorded lectures in an app; and many teachers spent hours annotating my work. In Preliminary I would write one of my essays thinking I was king! I would get my mark back and put it straight away in my bag, satisfied. But that attitude would not have got me this degree. I wanted better…I wanted to be better. So I started emailing teachers, asking for feedback. And they replied. I went from getting marks from 7,8,9,12 to 16,17,18 out of 20.

How did I achieve this? I started with a principle, a teacher taught me and I want to share it with you. This HSC year takes two words ‘work ethic’ and the most pivotal message for me “Learn to your possibilities because we don’t teach to your expectations…we teach to your possibilities’. I wish you all the best in your final year. Make it to your possibilities.

Joshua Lopez
Loyola Graduate 2015

Ethan Tucker, Joshua Lopez and Kyle Steward all at University pursuing their dream careers.

WHY READ?

A university librarian was going to speak at a recent school library conference. Before she went she asked different university lecturers what message they wish school librarians to hear. The overwhelming chorus of “Tell them that students must read, read, read” came back to her.

Why? There are numerous reasons, and here are a few:
Reading develops a higher vocabulary level, both verbally and written.
Improves concentration and focus.
Improves your mind. It has been suggested that children who read tend to excel academically (Robbins & Edelstein 2014).
Exercises your brain.
Enables us to feel more empathetic towards others.
It has been found in studies that the more people read the more empathetic they became. In studies by Dr Keith Oatley of Toronto University and Raymond Mars, Associate Professor of Psychology at York University, Toronto, they found children to be more understanding of others, empathise and see others’ perspectives. Mars found the regions in the brain that are activated during reading are those that help you understand people (Robbins & Edelstein 2014).
Improves your imagination.
Gives us the experience we never would be able to get. Scientists using MRI found patients’ brain activity changed when reading. “When you’re reading a novel or a narrative memoir with full attention, you don’t only understand the story, you experience it” (Robbins & Edelstein 2014).
Improves your imagination.
Gives us a new understanding of the world around us.
For entertainment and pleasure.
Lessens stress.
Research has found the reading of self-help books reduces levels of depression.

With all the above in mind, the English faculty has been determined to improve our students’ reading abilities and has instigated ‘30 minute reading per night’ incentive. The library has responded by purchasing more fiction books of various genres. For example, the library has the best-selling page turner ‘Girl on the Train’, the recent Pulitzer Prize winner ‘All the Light We Cannot See’, the book of the recent film, ‘The Martian’ and the new Harper Lee’s ‘Go Set A Watchman’ – just to name a few.

To further encourage this love of reading, the library recently ran a competition to celebrate Book-lovers Day. Students had to match the correct teacher to that particular teacher’s favourite book. The winning tutor group, TG 5, enjoyed a delicious morning tea supplied by the library.

SCHOOL FEES
A reminder that all fees are now due. If you are experiencing difficulties in the payment of fees, please contact Vicki Fraser (Business Manager) on 9832 -1471 to discuss a payment arrangement.

OPAL CARDS
Applications for Year 11 students can be completed online transportnsw.info/school-students
Submit your form for validation at the school office.
Opal cards will be posted to the student’s home address
More information regarding Opal cards transportnsw.info/school-students

SCHOOL TERMS 2016
Term 1 - 28 January - 8 April
Term 2 - 26 April - 1 July
Term 3 - 18 July - 23 September
Term 4 - 10 October - 20 December

KEY FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Attendance affects academic achievement. Every day of attendance contributes towards a child’s learning and enhances academic achievement.

Attendance has a strong relationship with student outcomes as measured by NAPLAN scores. Each percentage point increase in attendance is related to higher student outcomes by an average of 2-3 NAPLAN scale score points in numeracy, reading, spelling, writing and grammar & punctuation

Absence from school is associated with academic achievement in the current year as well as future years.

If children do not attend school regularly they miss out on the chance to build a good attendance habit

Being absent for one day of school each fortnight (2 days a month) adds up to missing more than a year of learning over 10 years. This is called school Absenteeism.

Sporadic absences affect academic achievement as much as consecutive days.

School attendance patterns are established early in Kindergarten and Year 1.

SMS MESSAGING FOR ABSENCES
We have re-introduced SMS notifications for when your child is absent from school.

When your son/daughter is absent an SMS will be sent to the parent/caregivers mobile phone that is registered on our database.

You will have two options:

1. Reply to this SMS stating a reason for the absence. This communication will be recorded on our database and will act as a legal notification of absence. No further letter/correspondence will be required to be sent to school.

2. Do not reply. If this option is taken a letter explaining your child’s absence will be required on his/her return to school.

Please note: Phone calls to the school are NOT a legal form of notification. You will still be required to reply to the SMS.

If your child is absent from school and you do not receive an SMS message please contact the school on 9832 4455 to update your contact details. It is important to ensure we have the correct contact details for you.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Become part of our online community with over 1,150 likes. Find out information on school events, news stories, photos and connect with alumni.
www.facebook.com/loyolamountdruitt