Middle School Messenger

Our Year 8 Leaders Shine!

At last Friday’s assembly our Year 8 Leaders were presented with their ‘Crescere Maior’ Leadership badges. Chloe and Nick spoke about the significance of the badge’s meaning “Crescere means “to grow” and Maior means “elder” so the significance of the badge looks at us as Year 8 leaders growing into respectful leaders of our community here at St Mary’s.” Mr Pollard and Father Michael then presented the leaders with their badges and they also received a blessing from the students which was conducted by Father Michael. On behalf of the teachers, I would like to congratulate our Year 8 students for embracing their new roles, and we are looking forward to them ‘growing’ into these positions.

In this issue, I would like to share some resources that may help you assist your child at home with the upcoming assessment period. Assessment can be just as stressful for parents as it is for the students. Here are some tips, strategies and resources to help you minimise your child’s stress levels, and hopefully yours!

1. Turn off the TV and other devices which may be a distraction.
2. Designate a specific area for study that is organised and well resourced with the items your child will need to help them complete their work.
3. Discuss tasks with your child to gain an understanding of what they are require to do and when tasks are due.
4. Create a study timetable and calendar.

If you would like more information the following websites may be useful:

www.childdevelopmentinfo.com
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
Www.paerntingideas.com.au

If there are any specific topics you would like resources for please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Mrs Nicki Wyllie

Recount about Year 7 Camp

Let’s just start by saying, camp was awesome! I think the thing everyone enjoyed the most had to be the creek despite how cold it was. Seeing the smiling faces of Jamie, Jo and Ana made me feel welcome as soon as we got there. We unpacked the bus and went straight to our cabins. Over the next 4 days we explored every inch of Thunderbird Park, by climbing mountains, going down 30 metre cliff faces in abseiling or just walking down to dinner to the café. Bonfire night was filled with laughs, Mr Pollard’s true stories and marshmallows. We learned the art of surviving in the mountains by building shelters and bonfires and we all became one with nature. We all enjoyed just rolling around in the mud puddles like a dog who had fleas. The food in the Sapphire Hall was great and all compliments to the chef at dinner. We would go down to the café or if we were feeling snazzy we would go to the restaurant. We had mass with Father Michael. At the start of camp we did raft building and by the end of that we all smelt like yucky pond water and toads! Another fun activity was laser skirmish! Mrs Quinlan and Mr Goodes had to join in. Before we knew it camp was over and it was time for the 5 and ½ hour bus drive home. Lots of kids enjoyed Thunderbird Park and we hope to see it again one day!

Olivia Norman
Noticeboard

Item 1 - Fitness with Mr Goodes
Every Wednesday morning from 6:30am to 7:15am Middle School students have been meeting to work on their strength, agility and flexibility. It is a fantastic way to start the day with students visibly alert and ready by the time school starts at 8:35am. Students have been willing and eager which makes running the sessions very enjoyable. These morning sessions will definitely continue with all Middle School students welcome.

Item 2 - Assessment
Students have been given their assessment calendars with due dates for assignments and tests. We are now heading into the busy end of term with assessment starting to heat up. Please monitor your child’s progress and speak to them about what is due and their task requirements. Students can always email teachers to gain further clarification on tasks/assignments.

Item 3 - Absentee Hotline
Do you know about the ‘Absentee Hotline’? It is an answering machine, where parents can ring and leave a message regarding your child’s absence. It alleviates the need to ‘clog up’ the phone lines (we only have two), in the mornings. Admin then retrieve these messages on a daily basis and note down absences.

The ‘Absentee Hotline’ is 46712063. When you call can you please state your child’s name, class and absent reason (ie illness, appointment, holidays etc). The number can also be found on the top of Links.

Item 4 - Recreation Time
On Wednesday afternoons from 2pm-3pm, students participate in a school designed Recreation program. During these sessions, students focus on particular areas that need addressing in the Middle School, such as the use of email and assessment policy for Year 7 students and devising ‘Gifts of the Holy Spirit’ classroom posters for the Year 8 students. For the remainder of Term 1, the Year 8 students (as part of their Leadership roles in the school) have opted to assist primary students with reading, mathematics and computers lessons. The Year 7 students will be upskilling their knowledge of ICT programs to be more efficient when using their laptops.

Next term, I will be asking people from the community to come in and discuss their careers. If you, or you know of someone who would be interested in coming in to talk to the students about what your job entails, I would be eager for you to contact me via my email.

Nicola.wyllie@twb.catholic.edu.au

From the Students— Star Lab Experience

The Star Lab is basically a massive inflatable dome. When you go in and you speak it sounds like an echo. As you go in instructor (Paul) will tell you to sit down in the middle of the dome so you don’t touch the sides because all of the side are the screen. When you get settled the screen shows all of the different galaxies and everything on the screen looks 3D. Then Paul focused on a spiral galaxy which is the type of galaxy Earth and all of our solar system is. He starts to tell us about the different galaxies and how they can make stars. Then we move onto the phases of the moon. The thing that I found most interesting was that the moon rises later every night so you will never see the moon in the same place, same time the next night. After that topic we moved on to all the different planets and if a human could live on them. The most surprising thing in this topic is that some of the planets like Mars could have life on them.

In conclusion, the Star Lab was not only awesome to be in! It also let us learn in a fun way about things that will become useful in our future.

By: Gracie O’Shea