The beginning of a school year is always a good reminder of why, we teachers love our jobs. The children return with great stories, big smiles and (even though some don’t like to admit it) an eagerness and excitement to be with friends and begin a new year.

We especially welcome our Kindergarten students and Montanha Pettman Y3, Erika Wark Y4 and Lachlan Wark Y5. May they and their families find their time at St. John’s a rewarding experience.

During the holidays we farewelled Pat Hawkins, our school “aunty”, which is how she introduced herself to all the children and staff. And actually, to her whole community. She was a great lady who had given unwavering support to St. John’s, over a lifetime. Aunty loved the school and especially the children. She came to every Assembly she could, never missed a performance of any kind, was always cheerful and encouraging.

Jimmy Bunner and Meg Walton served on altar at her funeral, dressed in their uniforms. I was so proud of them. Both represented the school with such pride and dignity. It was a moving tribute to a very special lady; I have received many wonderful comments from her family and those attending her service. We will miss Aunty very much and extend our sympathy to the Frater and Munns family.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL THIS FRIDAY 6th FEB.
Children may wear their sports uniform or house colours. We will assemble at school and walk to the pool as a whole school at 9.00am ready to begin the carnival at 9.30. It is a fun day where all children participate regardless of their ability. All children are rewarded for their effort; children who are doing the strokes correctly are also awarded Championship points. A team of Primary students will be selected to represent the school at the Western Region Carnival in Coonamble on Thursday 26th February. We encourage family and friends to join us for all or part of the day. Parent helpers are needed as “lifeguards” and “motors” for those who require assistance. Our pool is always a lovely place to spend a summer’s day and the kids love your support and encouragement.

WARATAHS – red
Joshua, Maddison Percival, Nash, Chelsea, Annabelle, Maddison Johnston, Jake, Riley, Sophie, Chloe Botfield, Hannah, Chelsea Woodham, Kaan, Riya, Anna, Fleur, Zac, Jackson, Ted, Cameron, Daniel, Lachlan, Erika, Callum

WATTLES – yellow/gold
Artie, Alesha, Chloe, Ethan, Matthew, Dimitty, Josie, Austin, Orlando, Giaan, Halle, Zali, Jordy, Thomas, Alice, Hugo, Ashanti, Bradley, Jesse, Jimmy, Tom, Brody, Jye, Montannah

NEW ARRIVALS
Congratulations to Luke, Jan and the Andrews family on the birth of their little daughter. Luke once told me he wanted to be surrounded by women!!!!
And to Uncle Austin who is very proud of his little nephew, son of Abi and Daniel.
We wish both families well.

LUNCH ORDERS
Lunches may be ordered from the Café each Monday and Friday. A tub is placed on the stage for the orders. Orders are to be in a sealed envelope or bag with the child’s name, the order and the money.

LUNCH TIMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED THIS YEAR. LUNCH WILL BE FROM 1.30PM TILL 2.15PM. This allows for a greater learning block in the earlier part of the day.
Children have a fruit/vegetable snack and water at 10.00am, Recess at 11.00 till 11.30 and the Lunch break from 1.30pm till 2.15 pm. We have a longer recess break than is usual as part of our sun protection policy. Our lunch time is reduced to align with the correct time allocations.

ATTACHMENTS
Menu for lunch orders
Swimming Permission note for new students, which needs to be returned by Friday morning prior to the carnival.