Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God’s omnipotence did not extend to God’s kids. After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was: “Don’t!”

“Don’t what?” Adam replied.
“Don’t eat the forbidden fruit,” God said.
“Forbidden fruit? We got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we got forbidden fruit!”
“No way!”
“Yes!”
“Don’t eat that fruit!” said God.
“Why?”
“Because I am your Father and I said so!” said God, wondering why he hadn’t stopped after making the elephants. A few minutes later God saw his kids having an apple break and was angry.

“Didn’t I tell you not to eat the fruit?” the First Parent asked.
“Uh huh,” Adam replied.
“Then why did you?”
“I dunno,” Eve answered.
“She started it!” Adam said.
“Did not!”
“Did too!”
“Did NOT!”

Having had it with the two of them, God’s punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed. But there is reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven’t taken it, don’t be too hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

**Advice for the Day:** If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what is says on the aspirin bottle: *Take two and keep away from children!*
Year 7 at St Ignatius is an exciting time for students as they prepare for high school. The students will encounter new concepts and challenges in the academic areas of school life, as well as being given the opportunity to set a sensational example for all children. The wearing of our Leadership badges signifies the importance of our roles as leaders in our school.

Our goal for learning is to empower our children of all ages to be a contributing part of our changing world, by living the gospel of Jesus. As a supportive, learning community we plan from the roles of Lifelong Learning - consistently, explicitly and creatively for every child.

We plan to include some of the following roles for each meaningful and significant task: Community Contributor, Quality Producer, Leader and Collaborator, Designer and Creator, Effective Communicator, Active Investigator and Reflective, Self-Directed Learner.

Educationally, there are exciting and challenging times ahead, with the Australian curriculum now in full swing and the introduction of a new on-line Mathematics program being implemented throughout the school this year. The Key Learning Areas of History and Science have joined Maths and English, as our Australian curriculum focus during 2012.

“You can cross the ocean, if you are not afraid to lose sight of the shore.”
Homework

It is expected that students in Year 7 will be spending up to 30/40 minutes on home tasks each night. As a whole school, this year our homework tasks will continue to follow Ian Lillico’s Homework Grid, where students and families enjoy learning time together. In this way, homework is more flexible to suit the child and the demands of modern day family life.

Each grid will be completed over a two week period and parents will be asked to monitor and sign the tasks completed. Curriculum aspects of their homework will include:

Written:
- *Spelling Conventions* - one unit completed per week
- *New Wave Maths Mentals* - completed nightly

Research/Computer/Assignments:
- Set tasks related to units of work.

Reading:
- Library task/book of own selection - 20 mins/night

LOTE:
- Italian as required from lessons during the week

Music:
- As required from lessons during the week

Homework diaries are to be used as a record of the class’ weekly timetable and parent/teacher communication - to be signed by a parent each week.

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Homework is an important aspect of Year 7 school life, as it reinforces class tasks and prepares children for the greater challenges of High School. Homework and study are areas where the three partners in the educational triangle - parents, teachers and students - can contribute towards achieving set goals.

**Expectations for:-**

**The student:**
1. Writes homework tasks neatly in diary.
2. Completes set tasks by the due date.
3. Finds out the homework given if you are absent.
4. Sees your teacher prior to the next lesson if you have had a problem.
5. Develops a positive attitude towards homework - it is an educational aid, not a penalty.

**The teacher:**
1. Sets homework that is meaningful.
2. Sets it on a regular basis.
4. Checks homework on a regular basis.
5. Monitors those students who do not follow class expectation.

**The parent:**
1. Provides a suitable workplace.
2. Assists students to develop time-management skills.
3. Takes an active interest in homework, including providing assistance when required and checking and signing homework and diaries.

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Camps

- Leadership Day ~ date and venue tba
- Year 6/7 Canberra Trip ~ 8th - 12th October 2012

Religious Studies

Year 7 students are expected to participate in all school celebrations with reverence, exhibiting responsible behaviour as a model for younger students. Our Religion program is based on the Religious Education Guidelines and RE Modules. Our units this year are as follows:

- Images, Symbols and Language (Scripture)
- Making Meaning Through Prayer and Ritual (Celebration and Prayer)
- Church: Unity and Diversity (Beliefs)
- Justice in the Local Community (Morality)

Mathematics

The use of our Resource Book is encouraged to help with homework or in the recall of formulae and rules.

With the introduction of the Australian curriculum in Mathematics, we have made the decision to move to an on-line Maths Program, called Stepping Stones for 2012.

This program focuses on our use of Inquiry based learning, whose skills and attitudes allow the learner to ask questions about new resolutions and issues while gaining new knowledge.

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English

We develop the appreciation that certain genre and their text types have features, which are associated with particular writing purposes and audiences. This year the Upper School has again made a commitment to Literacy Blocks, where the children work uninterrupted on the reading and writing tasks involved in each Unit of Work.

The presentation of written work focuses on accurate spelling, paragraphing and the further development of proofreading skills. The development of suitable Spelling strategies and mastery of grammar are also included in Homework tasks. Students are encouraged to actively and appropriately evaluate their own and others’ written and oral work.

Throughout the year in Year 7, we will focus on a range of genres across all KLA’s including Technology and the Arts. Some of the focus English tasks will involve the following text types and/or generic structures:

- **Exposition**  Persuasive oral presentation/written practice in preparation for NAPLAN writing task.
- **Explanation**  Debating
- **Recount**  Science investigations
- **Narrative**  Journal writing
- **Report writing**  *Comparative report writing on Government structures*

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History

Through this new learning area within the Australian curriculum, students will continue to develop and consolidate research skills and will be encouraged to collect data and information from a wide variety of sources. Assistance with this will be given in Library and Computer lessons each week.

Areas of focus may include:-

- Local, State and Federal Government
- Australian as part of a global community

Science

A selection of units of work taken from the Australian curriculum areas of Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences and Earth and Space Sciences will be included throughout the year.

Health and Physical Education

During Year 7, we acknowledge that we need to develop the students understanding across the three strands in this KLA. This will be achieved with 45 minutes of PE lessons per week, units of work in class time and special emphasis on Personal Development and Relationships with the “Skills for Adolescence” program.

Strands covered in class time will be Health of Individuals and Communities and Enhancing Personal Development.

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School sport will include Swimming in Term 2, interschool sport for ten weeks over Terms 1 & 2, athletics and cross country.

Italian

Students participate in classes conducted by our specialist teacher for 90 minutes each week.

Music

Students participate in classes conducted by our specialist teacher for 45 minutes each week.

Technology

Through the use of computers in the classroom and in our dedicated computer workspace, the students will consolidate their technology skills including the following:

- Word processing
- Publisher, Power Point and Prezi
- Notetaking and Editing
- Research through the use of the Internet
- Software – such as Wordle, Pixton Comic Life

The Arts

Strands to be covered this year: Visual Arts, Media, Dance and Drama.

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Library

In addition to consolidation of research skills, the students will also be introduced to research tasks associated with literature.

General

- Class Co-Ordinators - Danielle Ricketts, Trish Humphreys, Sheryl Prins, Natalie Mathiou and Emma de Roquefeuil
- Year 7 Polo Shirts - design to be selected and orders placed shortly.
- Year 7 lunch, Graduation liturgy and supper - Tuesday, 4th December 2012.
- My email address is dshaw@bne.catholic.edu.au or the school email of ptoowong@bne.catholic.edu.au may also be used.

If you have any queries or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to let Bettina and I know and we can make a suitable time to meet.

Thank you for your interest and support in your child’s final year at St Ignatius.

Denise and Bettina

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