Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next Monday, teachers will attend the 2012 Consistency of Teacher Judgement day at Good Counsel College in Innisfail. The day will provide teachers with the opportunity to network with other teachers from the Southern Deanery. The moderation process will promote conformity between teacher judgements across the Diocese and ensure that St John's teachers make accurate judgements about their students’ level of achievement.

All students will attend the Shell Questacon Science Circus next week on Tuesday. In addition, students will receive a complimentary student ticket to explore hands on exhibits at a public exhibition at Innisfail State College on Wednesday 24th October at 5.00pm - 8.00pm. The motivational demonstration style show has been sponsored by RREAP Cluster funds and will take place at Silkwood State School in two sessions;

i. Prep – Year 3 from 11:30am – 12:30pm
ii. Year 4 – Year 7 from 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Students will depart St John’s 20 minutes prior to the shows and return directly afterwards.

Our first P & F meeting for term four was held yesterday, and I am pleased to say was well attended. Agenda items incorporated many diverse topics such as; Swimming Carnival, School Camp, Intensive Swimming program, End of year P&F dinner, $5500 P&F donation, Year 7 graduation and homework reading rewards. Whilst these items occupied a significant portion of the meeting the most important topic focused on was School Renewal. Whilst the process has been extensive, the outcome is significant and will authentically inform St John’s future direction for the next five years. Thank you to all participants for your patience in supporting this rigorous school renewal process. I reiterate that St John’s really is a special school blessed with a highly effective collaborative community.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Maley
M Ed (ICT), B Ed, Dip T
Principal

“Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Term 4 Week 2 – 18th October, 2012

DATING TO REMEMBER

20th October
• Mass Silkwood 6pm
22nd October
• Pupil Free Day
• Playgroup at St John’s Kindy 9:00 -11:00 am
22nd Oct - 24th Oct
• Mr Maley at Thursday Island
23rd October
• Questacon visit
• Bookclub due
24th October
• Year 8 Orientation Day at GCC 9am -1pm
26th October
• Music today instead of Monday 22nd October
29th October
• Music/School fees due today
30th October
• School & Kindy Open morning
31st October
• P/1 & 4/5 class mass
The philosophy behind the Chinese Proverb, “Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand”, has the pencils in our classroom being well utilized. As Term 4 commences and the tasks involved in the consolidation of a year level’s expectations are faced, students are hard at work completing all requirements.

From analysing narratives, writing descriptive paragraphs on settings and characters and editing texts, English involves the writing, editing and publishing of student’s own narratives. Who knows the future of these creative writers? Money is our Mathematics focus and firstly we must perfect the art of counting notes and coins! Working on budgets, an understanding of GST, using eftpos and calculating balances, and for the Year 5’s – percentages, all make for interesting challenges.

Expressions of Prayer and Rituals is our very interesting area of study in Religion this term. We are looking at the detail involved in writing prayers with a focus on structure and purpose. We are also working with Mrs Gaia preparing and writing the next School Mass!

In science we are taking on the roles of scientists by investigating, discussing and completing fair tests on a range of different phenomenon. In year 4 we are investigating all about the plant cycle and growing our own marigolds in the classroom. In year 5 we are learning about the changing states and properties of different materials. We have some great discussions about how and why these different phenomena occur and are documenting our thoughts in podcasts. We will create a web based flip chart to document all our podcasts and investigations throughout the term

Every moment must count as we incorporate this learning with School Camp, Kanga Cricket, Swimming and Presentation Night. It is essential that we keep busy and keep focused. As the term unfolds and assessments are due, it is timely to remind students that the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just a little ‘extra’.

Mrs Jenni Williamson, Year 4/5 teacher

Kindy Corner

Our toy tractor raffle will be drawn on Thursday 25th October at 9.00am at the Kindy. All raffle tickets, sold or unsold are to be returned by Tuesday 23rd October to Vera or the Kindy. School and Kindy parents are welcome to visit the Kindy and join us for a cuppa and the drawing of the raffle from 8.45am.

Yesterday, workmen worked on the installation of two new shade sails, thanks to grants from the Qld Cancer Council, FRRR and the Qld Government.

The children made their own delicious pizza today for morning tea. Thank you to Angelique for organising this activity. A reminder that the parent committee meeting will be held tomorrow morning (Friday) at 8.45am at the Kindy.

Mrs Robyn Parisi, Teacher/Director
Part 1
A major challenge for parents is to find ways of safely moving children from being reliant on adults to a position of independence. This can be tough because your natural instinct is to nurture them.

Training for independence starts from a young age and continues into adolescence and beyond. Developing independence is one of the best ways to promote self-confidence.

When you teach children to do jobs for themselves, you send a powerful message that you believe that they are capable. Your actions speak louder than words.

Developing independence in kids can be tricky these days. Recently I heard a brilliant, yet deceptively simple idea that all parents can use to develop independence in their kids of any age.

I attended an advanced presentation skills seminar conducted by Australian professional speaker Glenn Capelli.

Glenn said that many speakers complicated matters for audiences, making things too complex. One way of making it easy for audiences to learn is to create a JUNIOR VERSION of whatever we are talking about. He likened this to the way that many sporting bodies have now developed modified versions of adult sports, so kids can learn the basic skills of the sport in fun, enjoyable ways.

**Next Week** part 2 shares examples of ways to develop the skills of self-sufficiency and independence from a very early age.

Sarah Payne  SEL Coordinator

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**Developing Independence**

© 2010 Michael Grose

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**Students of the Week**

**Social Emotional Learning Awards**

**Getting Along**
Jared - Always being kind and respectful to teachers and students!

**Organisation**
Arvind - Always helping to keep our classroom tidy.

**Persistence**
Callan - Conscientiously using your time to make sure homework is correct.

**Confidence**
Jade & Hamish - Confidently teaching your peers dance steps for the school presentation.

**Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards**

**Quality Producer**
Adam N - Consistently producing neat and tidy work. Well done.

**Active Investigator**
Jemma - Thinking of questions about heat in science.

Evan - Spending time and remaining focused to complete set work.

**Reading Awards**

125 nights - Lee, Josh, Nicholas
250 nights - Athena, Emma

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**Getting funding right for special needs students**

Governments have never funded students with special needs in Catholic schools in the same way they fund students with the same needs in government schools.

This is despite more and more families with Indigenous, poor or refugee backgrounds, or with children with disabilities, choosing to send their children to a Catholic school.

As part of their social justice mission, Catholic school communities welcome these students, despite the relatively small amount of funding they receive to support them.

Government funding for Catholic students with special needs often falls short of what students with special needs require.

If these Catholic students were enrolled in government schools, they would receive more funding to support their needs.

It’s time governments fund students equally, based on their needs, and not the school they attend.

For more information about Catholic school funding visit fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

A video on Catholic school funding can be viewed by visiting qcec.catholic.edu.au and following the Gonski Review of school funding link, which takes you to: http://www.qcec.catholic.edu.au/news/videos

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