Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next Tuesday, St John’s School and Community Kindergarten Silkwood will hold our combined Open Morning from 8:45am to 10:30am. Parents interested in enrolling their children will have the opportunity to attend the School for the morning. A formal presentation for parents will provide a brief overview of our school and the prep curriculum.

In addition, students in Years 1, 3 & 5 will transition to their respective 2013 classrooms for the morning session. The prospective prep children will be the future school leaders of St John’s in 2019! I am confident that the significant curriculum developments that are presently occurring on a regular basis will promote the children’s achievement of their educational potential at St John’s.

Thank you to Mrs Gaia for competently holding the reins whilst I travelled to Thursday Island to facilitate a Principal’s Appraisal. The rigorous process not only provided me with the opportunity to have dialogue with a colleague but also highlighted the exceptional collaborative community we have at St John’s.

The next two weeks appear to be very congested with a multitude of events. Significantly, the term four Principals’ Conference will be held next Thursday and Friday whilst final preparations are made for the Years 4-7 Camp which will take place the following week (Monday - Wednesday). In addition, short listing for the 2013 teaching position will be finalised early next week. Significantly, a large number of candidates have applied for the position.

Staff at St John’s contribute over and above the call of duty. Our school is a special place because we have specialised educational programs delivered by teachers and facilitated by school officers that care not only about the achievement of educational outcomes, but also about the welfare of all students. Tomorrow we will celebrate World Teachers’ Day and School Officers’ Day…please take a moment to consider how fortunate we are to have our wonderful staff at St John’s.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Maley
M Ed (ICT), B Ed, Dip T
Principal
October is World Mission Month
The theme this year is 'Restore Hope to a Special Someone'. A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter. It outlines ways students and families can support the 2012 World Mission

Class Mass
Next Wednesday morning, 31st October, at 9.00am, the Prep/1 and Year 4/5 will be hosting a school mass. All parents and friends are invited to participate.

Day for Daniel / Bandanna Day
Tomorrow is a very special day. St John’s will be celebrating “Day for Daniel” which is a reminder to teach children to be aware of stranger danger. This will be marked by a free dress day where students can wear a red Tshirt, red shorts or red socks. It is also Bandanna day. To show young people that you support the fight against cancer, students of St. John’s will be encouraged to wear a bandanna. A gold coin will be collected, with all monies going to Qld Cancer Council. School Hats will still be required.

Graduation Meeting
A brief Year 7 graduation meeting will be held next Monday afternoon in the Year 6/7 class at 3.00pm for parents who have children in this year level.

Sale of Frozen Cups
Fruit and cordial icy cups will be sold at the tuckshop every Thursday at 2nd lunch. Fruit icy cups will sell for $1 and cordial icy cups will sell for 50cents. All proceeds will go to the Mini Vinnies team.

New School Brochure
Thank you to the many staff and families that have contributed to the new school brochure with testimonials, pictures etc. Please take a moment to peruse the brochure and in particular the content, which summarises the main features of our wonderful school!

The kindy major raffle was drawn today, and after much anticipation and excitement, the winner of the toy Ride-on tractor was Joy Dent. Next Tuesday is the Kindy and School Open Morning from 9am – 10.30am. Kindy families interested in enrolling their child at St. John’s School are invited to spend the morning at the school. Mr Maley will be on hand to answer any questions and show parents the facilities at the school. Next year’s prep students will transition to the Prep/Year 1 classroom to spend the morning session with Miss Harisson and Mrs Strano. Kindy aged children for next year are welcome to come and participate in activities and the regular program at the Kindergarten. Parents are encouraged to stay for the morning activities followed by a cuppa. Hoping to see many new faces come and experience Kindy for the first time!

Mrs Robyn Parisi, Teacher/Director
Developing Independence

Part 2 cont’d

Here are some examples of games to develop skills of self-sufficiency and independence in children from an early age:

1. We get toddlers to smooth the doonas and arrange their teddies on their beds – that’s a JUNIOR VERSION of making a bed.

2. We encourage early primary school kids to make snacks, prepare breakfasts and help prepare a meal. That’s a JUNIOR VERSION of cooking an evening meal.

3. We drive primary school kids half way to school and let them walk the rest. That’s a JUNIOR VERSION of walking to school. Making their lunches for school and packing their lunchbox, homework, library books and their hat into their bag is another JUNIOR VERSION of organisation.

4. We let an early teen go to a local cinema with friends. That’s a JUNIOR VERSION of going out without adult supervision.

There are plenty of ways to create JUNIOR VERSIONS of independent living every day so kids can become more self-sufficient.

What JUNIOR VERSIONS of independent living are you creating for your kids?

If you are anxious about your child’s safety and tend to be more protective than you want, then start creating JUNIOR VERSIONS of independent living, so that kids can learn to stand on their own two feet rather than be dependent on you.

Remember, REDUNDANCY is your aim as a parent!

Similarly, one way for kids to develop self-help skills is to create JUNIOR VERSIONS of what you already do, so they can develop the skill-sets needed to look after themselves, and help out the rest of the family.

www.parentingideas.com.au

Sarah Payne  SEL Coordinator

Students of the Week

Social Emotional Learning Awards

Organisation

Kyle - Always being organised in the morning.

Persistence

Kent - Working tough even though you weren’t feeling very well.

Confidence

Gina - Confidence in learning to tell the time.

Getting Along

Bradley - Being a considerate person on the sporting field.

Confidence

Mitchell - Confidently starting your maths assessment. Well done.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards

Quality Producer

Braith - Producing neat and tidy work. Well done.

Nikita - working hard to write accurate, descriptive sentences.

Designer and Creator

Emma - Creatively designing your plan about being a ‘smart shopper’.

READING AWARDS

100 nights - James

125 nights - Darcy

150 nights - Kent, Arvind, Adam N

175 nights - Amy, Nicholas, Lachlan

200 nights - Tegan

FREE Well Women’s Clinics

Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse.

Tully Hospital  Wed 7th Nov  Ph 4068 4144

Tully - Mamu Health  Wed 14th Nov  Ph 4068 0000

M/Bch Com Health  Thurs 15th Nov  Ph 4068 9722

Getting a better funding deal for Catholic schools

The makeup of Catholic school families is quite similar to those in government schools. Catholic schools are an important part of the community in some of Australia’s most disadvantaged areas. Like government schools, Catholic schools also cater for families with middle and high incomes.

Catholic school students, on average, receive 20 per cent less government funding than government school students. There is also a significant gap in funding for students with special needs.

To make up the difference, parents at Catholic schools pay fees. Even then, Catholic schools still operate at around 90 per cent of the cost of education in government schools.

As it stands, paying fees is not easy for many Catholic families now.

If Catholic parents are forced to pay more in fees, it will put a lot of pressure on many families. They will have no option but to move their children from Catholic schools to government schools. Government schools will struggle to cope with more students.

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