Dear Parents/Guardians,

Semester two student reports will be sent home on Tuesday in week nine. Student reports provide parents with evidence of their child’s progress in the Learning Areas. Parents interested in discussing their child/rens report are encouraged to make arrangements for a mutually convenient meeting with their child’s classroom teacher.

Students will be transported to the Swimming Carnival by bus this Friday, which is planned to commence at 9:15 approximately. Students will wear their school sports uniform (sports house coloured shirt is acceptable) and will require additional drinking water. I look forward to seeing you there.

St John’s Parish will hold the 2012 Christmas gathering following this Saturday evening’s Liturgy of the Word, at the Silkwood Hotel. The cost of the meal is $15. Please note that bookings are essential on 40652322.

A special thank you to the many families and staff that attended the School/Parish Mass last Saturday evening. Students participated in the main elements of the liturgy including reading, processions and singing. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the extra effort Father Karel, Mrs Gaia and staff committed to making the liturgy such a special celebration of community.

Sincere condolences to Mario and Coral Capponi for the sudden loss of Mario’s Grandmother Mrs Capponi on Tuesday. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Capponi family during this time of grieving.

On behalf of the St John’s school community I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gaia on the adoption of their new son Billy (6 months old), who will commence his life with the Gaia family from the 3rd December this year. Knowing Mrs. Gaia’s nurturing ways with our students, I am confident that Billy will blossom under Brett and Linda’s love and care. Whilst Mrs. Gaia’s leave will pose some significant challenges in staffing, and in particular the Assistant Principal Religious Education position, I am confident that St John’s will attract a suitable candidate to the acting position for the 2013 school year.

Yours sincerely,

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

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning!”
Albert Einstein

Term 4 Week 7 – 22nd November, 2012

D A T E S  T O  R E M E M B E R

23rd November
♦ Swimming carnival

24th November
♦ Parish Christmas gathering

26th November
♦ Playgroup at Silkwood Kindy 9:00 - 11:00am

27th November
♦ Mini Vinnies team to Tully Nursing Home
♦ Kindy Sausage Sizzle

30th November
♦ Combined Kindy/School assembly
♦ P & F end of year dinner

4th December
♦ Kindy/Prep/1 Christmas party
♦ Graduation dinner

6th December
♦ Presentation night

7th December
♦ End of year liturgy at 11.15am
♦ End of school year at 12.00noon
In Religion this term, Prep/Year 1 have been looking at their individuality and uniqueness. God made each of us unique and special and there is no one in the world that is exactly like us! We have been expressing our ideas and feelings about being unique through a range of different activities. We looked at our fingerprints and compared them with the rest of the class. No fingerprints were the same! We also completed an activity where the eyes and mouth of each class member were cut out and mixed up. Students had to find their eyes and mouth and glue them on. We had lots of fun experimenting with different people’s eyes and mouths. Some very funny faces were made! Miss Harrison, Prep/1 teacher.

Kindy Sausage Sizzle next Tuesday
Next Tuesday 27th November, the Kindergarten will be hosting a Sausage Sizzle for school and kindergarten children. Cost: $4.00 meal deal - 2 sausages on bread and a fruit juice popper. Orders to be written on a brown paper bag (correct change is appreciated) and returned to the office by Monday the 26th November.

Swimming Carnival Tomorrow
Parents are reminded to apply sunscreen to children before they leave home. If you are transporting your child directly to the pool, please note that your child will require supervision until teachers arrive at around 9:00am. If you child will require to be transported by bus, written permission must be returned. Thanks to Tracey & Corey who are kindly donating a sausage sizzle for the students at lunchtime. They have also indicated they are happy if families wish to stay on for an hour following the carnival to enjoy an extended swim. Go MacKillop! Go Francis!

Mini Vinnies Tully Excursion
Next Tuesday 27th November, children who have helped to make our Mini Vinnie’s rug (which is being donated to the Tully Nursing Home), will be travelling to the home to present the rug. The rug is being donated to Fr John O’Connor who resides at the nursing home. This is the same day the Kindy is hosting their sausage sizzle. Students who would like to order for the sausage sizzle may still do so. These will be served when the children return from their excursion. Children attending the excursion are also required to bring their water bottle and a small snack with them.

Library Books/Home Readers Return
All families are reminded to return all library books back to the library for shelving and all home readers so an end of year stocktake can be done.

Bookpacks 2013
The 2013 bookpack letter was sent home on Tuesday. Please return the bottom portion of this letter so book packs can be ordered for the 2013 school year. Student textbooks are purchased with school fee levies.

Term 4 School Fees
A reminder that school fees should be finalised ASAP. If parents are experiencing difficulty, please see Mr Maley or Vera to discuss alternative arrangements.

This week parents and staff gathered together for our final parent committee meeting of the year. Wow! What a year it’s been! We have been very successful in securing government grants and fundraising has been supported well by the whole community. This wonderful effort has enabled the Kindy to complete final stages of our outdoor play areas and provided much needed shade for our children. Over the coming weeks we will be seeing our playground slowly transformed into a high quality, developmentally appropriate outdoor learning environment for our Kindy children to explore and learn. This would not have been possible without our dedicated committee who have worked tirelessly to make it all happen. Thanks to chairperson/secretary Nicky Cymer, Grants officer Renate Habermann, Fundraising Julie Elliott, Maintenance Kylie Dodds. Thanks also to the many parents who have supported the staff and committee throughout the year. This week the children have been busy practising their assembly item with Prep/1 for next week. They also had a very special show and tell. Danaya brought her new pet calf to Kindy. The children were able to feed the calf with a large bottle and teat. The calf drank 2 ½ bottles of milk!

Thank you for your support, Denise & Debbie.
The power of the kitchen table

“It’s no coincidence that those countries with strong food cultures also have strong families. When people eat together they talk. You can’t help but talk when your behind is anchored to a chair.”

The kitchen table is a parent’s best friend. It’s where conversations occur. It’s where thoughts are aired, compliments are given and food is shared.

If you want a window into a child’s world, you need to sit around the kitchen table with him or her. When I was a kid mum always made sure there’d be some food on the table when I came home from school. As soon as I came through the back door, I’d throw my school bag in my room and sit down at the kitchen table to eat. Mum used to sit at the kitchen table and have a cuppa at the same time. My most vivid memories are sitting around the kitchen table with her.

It’s no coincidence that those countries with strong food cultures also have strong families. When people eat together they talk. You can’t help but talk when your behind is anchored to a chair.

People attach feelings to different places. I’d like to think my family links happy, joyous feelings to our kitchen table. After all we’ve had plenty of birthdays, Christmases, dinners, big breakfasts and countless other gatherings around our kitchen table. The kitchen table anchors my now adult kids back to their childhoods, and gives them a sense of belonging. That’s why the kitchen table is the first place they go to when they come home for a visit. They feel at home again.

On my trips to England I’ve noticed that the English don’t use the kitchen table like Aussies do. In fact, about a third of English homes don’t have a kitchen table at all. Many families eat in shifts and in front of the television. English educators are concerned. They know the kitchen table is a powerful ally in creating talk between generations. That’s why they are encouraging people to sit at the kitchen table.

The power of the kitchen table is immense. Don’t underestimate it or underuse it!

You can build kids’ confidence around it. You can build their character around it. You can build resilience too. Better still, you can build a family around the kitchen table and that’s quite a feat.

Making mealtimes memorable

1. Turn your evening meal into a night out at home. Once a week dust off the best knives and forks and set the table in style complete with serviettes and candlesticks. Try waiting on your family restaurant style and impress on kids that they can use their best manners.

2. Serve from the table. Turn a simple meal into a communal activity by putting serving plates on the table, and plating up from the kitchen table. Kids usually stay longer when food is served this way.

3. Any excuse for a celebration. Look for reasons to celebrate with a sit down meal where everyone is expected to join in. Birthdays, term break-up days or a great school report are worth recognizing in this way.

For more practical ideas visit www.parentingideas.com.au

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St. John’s School
St. John’s School is a Christian and specifically Catholic primary school community where people support each other in promoting values, knowledge, skills and attitudes which contribute to the total development of each learner. Our purpose is to provide an educational climate that allows students to learn together to achieve their personal best in a united, caring and Christ-centred environment.

You don’t have to be Catholic to send your children to St. John’s School
Call: 4065 2193 for more details

Time Events
9:00am 100m Freestyle
9:20am – 10:20am 50m, 25m & 7m Freestyle
10:20am – 10:35am Break
10.35am – 12:15pm 25m & 7m Backstroke / Breaststroke
12:15pm - 12:30pm Break
12:30pm - 12:50pm 4 x 25m Medley
12:50pm – 1:15pm 25m & 7m Butterfly
1:15pm – 2:00pm Freestyle Relays
2:00pm Presentations
2:15pm Bus trips back to school

Cricket Skills & Games
When: Held every Wednesday afternoon
Where: Boustead Park from 4.30 - 6.00pm.
Mixed boys/girl teams
Further information phone Janine or Steve Wilson 40656126.