Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to extend my thanks to the teachers for their efforts in preparing and presenting their classroom curriculum to parents at the parent information sessions. I am encouraged by the terrific parent attendance at these informative sessions. We are truly blessed to have such an experienced and dedicated staff to enhance your children’s learning at St John’s.

Yesterday’s beginning of the school year Mass was a special celebration that was well attended by parishioners, families and friends. Many parents and all staff took the opportunity to have a cuppa and a chat prior to the Mass at the meet and greet.

A suggestion has been made that each family could send a shoe box of love, similar to the boxes of essential items that we received post Yasi, to offer our support to the flood victims in Bundaberg (letter sent home yesterday). Items that may be packaged into a shoe box include:

♦ Bathroom essentials - toothpaste, soap and deodorant
♦ Clothes
♦ School items – lunchbox, books etc
♦ Small items to cheer up a child.

Please, don’t forget to colour (wrap) your family’s shoebox, either a male or female colour. Perhaps consider sending in spare shoe boxes if available, for other families to utilise. Please return the boxes by Wednesday.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful leadership speeches that were presented at assembly last Friday morning. Year seven students presented their credentials for the roles of School Captain/Vice Captain and Sports House Captain for our two sports houses of MacKillop and Francis. Congratulations to the following students:

School Captain - Emma Brooks
School Vice Captain - Zane Andrijevic
MacKillop House Captain - Christian Babsek
Francis House Captain - Jack Hogan

NOTE: - Don’t forget P & F AGM on Tuesday at 3.00pm

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

“The essential thing is not knowledge, but character!” Joseph Le Conte

Term Dates 2013
Term 1 - 29th Jan - 28th Mar
Term 2 - 15th Apr - 21st June
Term 3 - 9th July - 20th Sept
Term 4 - 8th Oct - 6th Dec

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
13/2/13 A Scarpignato & S Andrijevic

8th February
♦ Music tuition
9th February
♦ Liturgy at Silkwood 6.00pm
11th February
♦ Playgroup at St John’s Kindy 9:00 - 11:00am
12th February
♦ Shrove Tuesday
♦ P & F AGM 3.00pm
13th February
♦ Ash Wednesday liturgy at 9.00am. Start of Lent
15th February
♦ School councillor at St John’s
16th February
♦ Mass at Silkwood 6.00pm
22nd March
♦ SMCSA Soccer/Netball Carnival

8th February
♦ Music tuition
9th February
♦ Liturgy at Silkwood 6.00pm
Next week, St John’s will prepare for the beginning of an important and busy time in the Church year with the celebration of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. This important season is called Lent.

**Shrove Tuesday**

On Tuesday, 12th February, St John’s will be preparing for its Lenten Journey by celebrating Shrove Tuesday. On this day, students and staff are encouraged to purchase pancakes (actually pikelets), to follow the tradition where people used up all of the fats in the house, so they could go without until Easter. Money raised from Pancake Day will be donated to Mini Vinnies. Staff and students are encouraged to support this worthwhile project by purchasing pancakes/pikelets (3 for $1.00) on the day.

Thank you to Mrs Scarpignato for organising this for us this year. Helpers would be welcomed.

**Ash Wednesday**

On Wednesday, 13th February, St John’s will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 9am in the Church to symbolise the beginning of the forty days of preparation leading up to Lent. During the Liturgy, ashes which give Ash Wednesday its name, are distributed. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday. After the Priest blesses the ashes and sprinkles them with holy water, the faithful come forward to receive them. Usually the Priest or Leader dips his thumb into the ashes and, makes the Sign of the Cross on each person’s forehead, saying, “Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return”.

The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repent. For Catholics, Lent is a time for strengthening our faith, a time to reflect on who we are, and where we are going. It is a time of quietness and prayer, a time of penance and meditation, a time to become aware of our strengths and weaknesses. During Lent, a conscious effort is placed on preparing ourselves for Easter. We can do this by increasing our prayer, helping others, fasting, giving up things we particularly like, and supporting Project Compassion fundraising efforts.

Lent urges us to identify and walk with Jesus as he travels towards Jerusalem and the place of his death and resurrection. In the spirit of renewal and conversion we observe Lent by reflecting on the central events of Jesus’ life and welcoming the opportunity to grow through changing our lives.

S. Payne, APRE

---

**Kindy Corner**

Thank you to the many parents who stayed for the parent information session this morning. It was lovely to get together and share time with new and existing Kindy families. Last week the Kindy received two block storage units purchased with grant money so now the children can easily access the blocks for construction.

Welcome to Stevie and her family, Stevie started Kindy today.

Robyn & Denise.
Welcome back! This year, I will continue to be the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) coordinator at school. For those of you who are new to our school this year, and as a refreshing reminder to existing parents, I thought I would begin the year by giving you a summary of what SEL is.

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DEFINED**

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process of acquiring the skills to:

- recognize and manage emotions,
- develop caring and concern for others,
- make responsible decisions,
- establish positive relationships, and handle challenging situations effectively.

Research has shown that SEL is fundamental to children’s social and emotional development - their health, ethical development, citizenship, academic learning, and motivation to achieve.

In our school, we use the You Can Do It! program to develop the social and emotional capabilities that all young people need to experience learning, social and emotional outcomes. In this program, there are 5 keys to help students develop social and emotional skills.

The 5 keys are Emotional Resilience, Getting Along, Organisation, Persistence and Confidence. This term, teachers from Years 2-7 are using the Ready, Set, Go lessons. These lessons focus on the students having an understanding of the meaning of success, introduce students to the 5 keys, discuss nine values that support good character and introduce students to 5 blockers that make it harder for young people to experience positive outcomes.

In Prep-Year 1, they are focusing on Persistence and are using Pete Persistence, the puppet, to help them learn about what persistence is all about.

Each week in the newsletter, there will be a section on Social Emotional Learning. I encourage you to read this section as it may provide you with some useful strategies that you can do at home with your child.

Please feel free to come and see me, if you have any questions relating to social and emotional learning issues. Thank you.  Sarah Payne

---

**Playgroup** is open for all children from infants to 5 years old, so come and join the fun!

**Where:** Silkwood Kindy, Harold Street

**Time:** 9:00am to 11:00am

**When:** Every Monday (school weeks only)

Playgroup gives parents, carers, grandparents and children the opportunity to make new friends by playing and sharing together, so come have a cuppa and join the fun! Spread the word! St. John’s Playgroup is a member of Playgroup Queensland.