Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

The school, as an educational institution, has continued on its journey in 2014 towards academic excellence with a sustained effort by all staff to enhance classroom curriculum pedagogy, within the parameters of the Australian Curriculum. St John's acknowledges the significant contribution of the newly elected 2014 P & F Executive Committee including;

- Mrs Julie Elliott – President
- Mrs Sandra Andrijevic – Vice President
- Mrs Debbie Daly – Secretary
- Mrs Nicole Hogan – Treasurer
- Mrs Renate Habermann – Grants Officer
- Mrs Robyn Taifalos – Book Club Coordinator
- Mrs Debbie Bennett – Uniform Convenor

Random Act of Kindness week started with a blast on Monday morning at a whole school story session. Since then, I have been overwhelmed by the random acts of kindness that have been truly inspirational. Tears of joy have been noted which highlights the value of acknowledging each other with love and kindness.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful leadership speeches that were presented at a special assembly last Friday. Year six and 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:

- Year 7 School Captain - Jennifer Nguyen
- Year 7 School Vice Captain - Matthew Andrijevic
- Year 6 School Captain - Chad Formosa
- Year 6 School Vice Captain - Bethany Hogan
- MacKillop House Captains - Lachlan Harvey & Nikita Scopelliti
- Francis House Captain - Jacob Bradshaw & Nicholas Frumento

These students will work as a leadership team in collaboration with the entire Year six and seven cohort to provide student leadership and representation for the students. Today all school leaders travelled to Innisfail to participate in a leadership day. Caritas Australia are organising the day through the Catholic Education Office in Cairns. The program is titled “Just Leadership”.

Yours sincerely,

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

“Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change!”  Bob Kerrey (1943)  American Politician
**Safe Practice**

Parents are reminded to give way to buses when entering or departing from Harold Street. Recently we have had some close calls due to smaller vehicles not giving way to buses. Unfortunately, the entrance to Harold St is narrow and poses challenges for buses turning in a narrow section of road. Please **leave at least two car spaces clear of buses and give way** according to traffic regulations.

**Beginning School Mass**

Our school Mass will be celebrated this **Monday 17th February at 9.30am**. We encourage you to join us as we gather as a community to ask for God’s blessings over all of us for the 2014 school year.

**School Fees**

A reminder that school fees are due on 20th February whilst Kindy fees are due by 7th March if paying in full.

**Bus meeting**

A brief meeting for parents whose children travel on the Walter Lever Estate / No4 Beach Bus will be held next **Monday 17th February at 7.00pm in the school library**.

**Music**

Cameron has informed us that this term music will be held **predominantly on Fridays**. He is unable to come to St. John’s tomorrow, however will make up lessons next week.

**Headlice**

Now that school has commenced, please take a moment to check your child/ren’s hair for headlice and treat accordingly. If headlice or eggs are found, treatment must be administered weekly until all eggs have been destroyed.

**Caritas: Project Compassion**

2014 Project Compassion carries Jesus’ commitment for all for a life of abundance: “Have life and have it to the full” John 10:10

When reflecting on this verse Pope Francis said: “Men and women of all times and all places desire a full and beautiful life... a life that is not threatened by death but can mature and grow to its fullness.” Caritas Australia through Project Compassion work towards making this desire for a full and beautiful life within the surroundings of a home, a reality. You can assist in ensuring this happens by donating to our “Red Dress Day” tomorrow. This also ties in beautifully to our Act of Kindness activities this week.

**Tomorrow is “RED DRESS DAY”**

A gold coin donation to Caritas and remember sun smart clothes and sandals must be worn.

**What's Happening in Year 6/7**

The Year 6/7 class has made an enthusiastic start to 2014. The most demanding task has been the leadership speeches that were delivered at assembly last Friday. I think all students who delivered speeches should be immensely proud of their efforts! The quality of speeches made the voting difficult, with so many worthy prospective captains. A special congratulations to the students selected in the different leadership roles.

Another exciting responsibility has been reorganising the compost bins after the holiday period. Students got their hands dirty digging in and cleaning out 5 bags of regular rubbish from the compost bins. It was surprising to see that during the filthiest part of the chore many of the strong boys of the class couldn’t handle it and Bethany and Nikita from Year 6 had to finish the job!

In the classroom the students have started looking at their new geography and history units. The Year 6 class will look closely at Australia’s place in Asia and at life in the early 1900s leading up to federation and the outcome of this. The Year 7 students will be gaining an understanding of the importance of water and also archaeological terms and significant dig sights in the world.  

Mr Stuart Russell

**Kindy Corner**

The kindy children were surprised on Tuesday by the Year 2/3 class when they came over to the Kindy to weed our gardens. This **random act of kindness** was much appreciated by the kindy children and staff. We decided to cook biscuits at Kindy for the 2/3 class to thank them for helping us at Kindy.

The **first Parent Committee Meeting will be on Thursday 20th February at 8.45am** at the Kindy. Parents are asked to consider taking on a position with the parent committee for 2014. Positions include: Chairperson, secretary, treasurer, fundraising and grants.

Reminder that the focus **colour for this week and next is RED**.

Regards, Robyn & Denise

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[Image: Year 6/7 welcome everyone (RAOK)]

[Image: Caritas: Project Compassion]

[Image: Safe Practice]

[Image: Beginning School Mass]

[Image: School Fees]

[Image: Bus meeting]

[Image: Music]

[Image: Headlice]

[Image: Caritas Australia through Project Compassion]

[Image: Tomorrow is “RED DRESS DAY”]

[Image: What’s Happening in Year 6/7]

[Image: What’s Happening in Year 6/7]

[Image: Kindy Corner]

[Image: Kindy Corner]
**Students of the Week**

Social Emotional Learning Awards

**Emotional Resilience**

**Getting Along**

Rosie - Bouncing back when things get tough!

Talia - Always using beautiful manners.

Billy - Being helpful and responsible in class.

Darcy - Always being an enthusiastic member of our class.

**Persistence**

Olympia - A determined effort in your maths lessons this week.

**Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards**

**Designer & Creator**

Adam N - Taking care in illustrating a dreamtime story.

**Quality Producer**

Jarred Hav - Always working quietly and conscientiously in class.

**Effective Communicator**

Bradley - Well done on a legendary school captain speech. Great job.

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**Black Duck Wisdom by Maggie Dent continues in 2014...**

**14th Wisdom**

Ageing with grace, wisdom and acceptance will help you be happier in your life

Ducks age without complaint. They accept aging as normal and old ducks simply look like old ducks... Many humans struggle with getting old. Some colour their hair, some have cosmetic surgery and some simply waste their lives feeling sad and depressed about getting old. Nature intended us to age - accept it positively and then you will also be able to enjoy the twilight years of your life!

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**St Vincent de Paul Society**

It’s great to be back in 2014. With school and house captains decided, we will commence seeking candidates for our Mini Vinnies Executive Team for 2014. All students in Year 6 & 7 are invited to nominate for the various roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraising Officers. There will only be one group of executives for both grades.

**Nomination forms are due back to school by Monday 17th February** with leaders being announced at assembly on Friday 21st February.

Over the Christmas holidays we received advice that the money donated to ‘Assist a Student Fund’ in 2013 is supporting Jesna Kurian in India who is studying nursing and Anjali Joy in India who is studying Science. What wonderful work St. John’s!

Mrs DeBrincat, Mini Vinnies Coordinator

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**Random Act Of Kindness Week**

*Mr Maley reads to the whole school.*

Our week started with a bang with Mr Maley reading to the whole school a story about an act of kindness that created a ripple effect throughout an entire town.

This set the stage for some wonderful acts of kindness throughout our school. Year 6/7 have spent each morning welcoming students and visitors at the front gate which has been wonderfully received. Year 2/3 have visited the Kindy and helped to weed their garden. Year 4/5 presented certificates to staff members reminding staff that they do make a difference in the world. Prep/1 have handed out beautiful art work which has brought a smile to many faces. The students and parents have also contributed stories to our RAOK wall and tomorrow we will conclude our week with a fundraising day for Caritas. We have had a busy week.

Most importantly, we need to remember that these ROAK don’t finish tomorrow, that if we all made an effort to be kind in all our words, thoughts and actions throughout each and every day, we can make a difference in the world.
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