



St. John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten *Silkwood*

www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au



Catholic Early Learning & Care
**Community Kindergarten
Silkwood**

Harold Street, SILKWOOD QLD. 4856

Ph: (07) 4065 2193 • Fax: (07) 4065 2355

Email: principal.silkwood@cns.catholic.edu.au

Email: kindy.silkwood@cclcc.catholic.org.au

Kindy to
Year 6

Term 1 Week 9th Feb - 13th Feb, 2015

“Love is when the other person’s happiness is more important than your own!” *H Jackson Bronn Jnr.*

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

DATES TO REMEMBER

13th February

- ◆ Playgroup St John’s. 9.00 - 11.00am at the Kindy building
- ◆ Kindy Parent Mtg 8.45am

16th February

- ◆ NQ Cowboys visit
- ◆ Soccer clinic follow up

17th February

- ◆ Music with Nathan

18th February

- ◆ Ash Wednesday Liturgy 9.00am

19th February

- ◆ School Counsellor to St. John’s
- ◆ Chris Edwards to St John’s

23rd February

- ◆ School fees due
- ◆ Playgroup St John’s. 9.00 - 11.00am at the Kindy building

24rd February

- ◆ Music with Nathan

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

19/02/15	P Bromilow & K Anderson
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Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff & Students,

I would like to thank the St John’s community for their patience last week as we endured a major server crash. All of our IT systems were severely affected and required enormous support from our Head Office to bring us back online. We are still experiencing some issues related to the crash and appreciate your continued patience.

Congratulations to all of our Prep students who have successfully completed their first few weeks of school. It has been a large learning curve for all the Preps, however, I have been impressed with their classroom application and desire to learn. The start to the year has been a smooth one and we would like to thank all parents and carers of all children for their efforts and ongoing support in ensuring that the children are learning ready when they start school.

I would like to congratulate the following two students on their successful campaigns to become House Leaders for 2015. Once again, we had a strong field of applicants who prepared wonderful speeches and presented themselves admirably.

**Francis House
MacKillop House**

**Bryce Maley
Liam James**

I would like to thank the many families who were able to make it to the Parent Information Sessions last week. These sessions are designed to ensure parents are well informed about day to day class and school activities, routines and learning. We all know that children receive the best education when parents and staff work as a team. Parents’ enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school, as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly learning environment and celebrate our achievements. We hope that, throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God’s presence in their lives.

St John’s School has a new mobile

number 0418 888 672



Continued

Always Reaching for New Heights



P & F Update

The P & F AGM was held on Tuesday afternoon where various reports were tabled outlining the 2014 school year. Listening to these reports made me very aware about the level of commitment provided to our school by the P & F. They are truly an integral part of the success of our school and have worked tirelessly to provide vital resources. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing executive community, their efforts are greatly appreciated by our whole school community.

It is with much disappointment that I inform you that we received no expressions of interest for Executive Positions on the P & F for 2015. This means that our P & F is currently non-operational until further notice. I encourage anyone who may be considering a P & F position to speak to me at your earliest convenience. I am well aware that many parents do not have the time to commit to after hours meetings, however, do have time to assist the various endeavours undertaken by St John's throughout the year. I hope and pray that your support for our school continues and that families put their hand up to help when and where you can.

Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies is once again up and running thanks to the kind support and leadership of Mrs Vicki DeBrincat. Mini Vinnies will be proactive in fundraising for people less fortunate as well as promoting important values such as compassion and empathy throughout our school. I would like to congratulate the following students for their executive appointments to the Mini Vinnies committee for 2015.

President: **Lauren Elliott**
Vice President: **Owen Holly**
Secretary: **Kent Nielsen**
Treasurer: **Alex Trevor**
Fundraising: **Jemma Azzopardi**

Handy Hints

For many students, 'promotion' into a new year level can be an anxious time, particularly when this is coupled with change of class or teachers. It is important that as parents you are recognisably supportive in the first few weeks of 'transition' while children settle into new routines and accustom themselves with different expectations and teaching styles which vary from teacher to teacher, and class to class. A positive working partnership between home and school is absolutely vital in ensuring that a shared sense of responsibility is geared towards always maintaining what is best for each and every child. I ask you all to help out in maintaining this positive spirit so that the year will progress fruitfully.

The most important step you can take to help your child learn is to be an active participant in your child's education. Active participation includes: talking to your child about their day, hearing young learners read and making sure kids go to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep.

The second step is to become involved in your child's school. This is harder than ever due to work and other commitments, but you can still be positively engaged in the life of your child's school even when you work.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Whitters Acting Principal

What's Happening in Yr 3/4

The year 3 and 4 students have made a flying start to 2015. The students were very excited to move all the way over to the upper school block and have transitioned very well into this area.

In the classroom students have been starting new and exciting units in all Key Learning Areas and learning rules and routines of the class.

Highlights in the classroom this term will be for the year 3 students learning about life in Australia in the 1850's. This unit will culminate in us having a school day where we go without the comforts of today and set up the classroom as close to a Mary Mackillop school in 1856 for a day.

The year 4 students will be busy learning about life in ancient Australia for the Indigenous Australians and what changes occurred when first contact was made with Europeans. So far their highlight has been the pikelet experiment in maths where they worked out quantities of ingredients needed to cater for 8 people. The next challenge will be to work out the extra ingredients required if the crowd grew by 2 and a half times!

Another exciting learning task has been a drama unit in the Arts key learning area. So far the students have gone out of their comfort zones to act and sing in a variety of roles such as pirates, motor bike riders and even goats. The final assessment where students will act out a narrative with animals as the characters should be fantastic!

Mr Stuart Russell, Year 3 and 4 Class Teacher

Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday (17th February)

Next Tuesday the Mini Vinnies team will be raising money for project compassion by making and selling pancakes. A note was sent home to families requesting orders for pancakes be returned by tomorrow. Pancakes with Jam/Honey/Syrup/Cream will sell for 50cents each. Orders are to be written on a brown paper bag with correct money enclosed.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Due to other pressing commitments by Fr Hillary, our Ash Wednesday Mass has been changed to a liturgy to be held at 9.00am. Parents, friends and parish members are welcome to attend next Wednesday 18th February in the Church.

Safe Practice

Parents are reminded to give way to buses when entering or departing from Harold Street. Please DO NOT parallel park along Harold Street. 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.

School Fees

School fees were emailed out to all parents (with email addresses) on Monday 9th February and are due for payment on or before Monday 23rd February. School fees can be paid by EFT, BPay, Direct Debit, Cash or Cheque. There are also options to pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly or in one lump sum. Please see Vera if you would like to set up payment via direct debit. If any family may be experiencing difficulty, please make an appointment to meet with Mr Whitters. Kindy fees will be issued next week.

From Our School Counsellor....

Return to Routines

Dear Parents,

As the holidays seem like a distant memory of the past, it is important that we return to having routines for ourselves and our children. The holidays are a time when we can eat at different times, go to sleep and wake up at different times and enjoy each day as it happens. This is a wonderful time to enjoy a less structured day.

Once school has returned, this changes. There are sports to start, school to attend on time, homework to complete and lunchboxes to pack. With all these activities starting again, it can be great to help us restructure our day. However, it also means we have to be at places at particular times and this can be frustrating for everyone.

It takes time to adjust back into a routine for yourself and your children, but the more time we spend not returning to our routines, the harder it will for children to settle into their class and commence their work for the year.

Some tips for returning to a routine are:

- ✓ Make sure you give yourself and the children enough time to get ready.
- ✓ Give children timeframes. For example in 20 minutes we need to leave the house. Don't wait until there is only 5 minutes to go before you leave to start preparing, as this is bound to cause arguments.
- ✓ Make a game of being the first to get ready.
- ✓ Praise your children when they do things on time.
- ✓ And most importantly.....be a good example for your children. Yours in Counselling, *Carmel*

February

9th - Georgia

★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

Students of the Week

Social Emotional Learning Awards
Confidence

Lila - Confidently identifying numbers more than and less than. Keep up the great work!

Persistence

Sanraj - Making a big effort to work hard this week.

Getting Along

Pavel - For setting an excellent example on how to cooperate with classmates in a positive and mature manner.

Persistence

Bryce - A determined effort with this week's difficult spelling words.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards

Designer & Creator

Jarred - Creatively producing the elements of design.



Tuckshop

This is an urgent plea for more volunteers to assist with the operation of the tuckshop each day. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact Vera at St. John's as soon as possible. We cannot operate the tuckshop without sufficient numbers of volunteers, so any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Kindy Corner

This week we welcomed Quade, Gurnoor and Jake and their families to Kindy. We now have thirteen children enrolled at the Kindy. Tomorrow is the first Parent Committee Meeting for the year. We generally have two meetings each term where the committee plans fundraising and social activities for the Kindy. At the first meeting we will provide further information about the Kindy and call for nominations to fill committee positions. Last year the positions were chair/secretary and treasurer/fundraiser and four parents took on these roles.

We have been extending the children's varied interests with projects, library books, internet research and discussions. The Kindy airport is looking impressive with the tarmac, runway, planes and buildings being constructed. We are also in the process of planning ways to convert the home corner area into a vet clinic. The fish tank has also been set up ready for some colourful fish. Thank you to Mr Whitters and Max's family. Our garden area is ready for planting. Thank you to Luke and Larissa Zammit for filling the gardens with soil ready for the new year. Thank you also to Warren for all his work cleaning the gutters, paths and general maintenance at the Kindy.

Regards, Robyn and Denise

The Graham Academy of Dance

Introducing - **JFH Classes (Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop)**

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Mondays 4:00pm

For more details Contact Karen or Nicole

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John & Barbara Kemastis
60 Rankin St, Innisfail Qld 4860 ABN: 24065183824
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