Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Last week, St John’s School Leaders enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a leadership day at Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail. Caritas Australia organised the day through the Catholic Education Office in Cairns. The program was titled “Just Leadership” and provided our students with valuable skills in communicating and getting along with others. It also offered students ways to demonstrate leadership in their own schools and communities, and initiate action for social change.

During the past week I have had the opportunity to visit all of the classrooms and engage the students in dialogue in their own classroom habitat! I am elated that our new prep students have settled in extremely well. This year St John’s has a major focus on Literacy pedagogy. In particular, teachers and school officers have a coordinated approach to enhancing students’ outcomes in writing and spelling. To support this process, Mrs Daly will be trained in explicit teaching in her role as Curriculum Support Teacher. In turn, Mrs Daly will facilitate staff meetings to convey the knowledge to the entire staff.

Years 4-7 students are currently busy honing their kicking, catching and throwing skills in preparation for the SMCSA soccer/netball carnival which is due to be held on Friday 14th March.

Next week I will be attending the first Principals’ Conference for the year. Naturally, there are many new challenges for the year ahead from an administration perspective including the transition of our Years six and seven students to secondary in 2015. Workforce planning for 2015 has indicated that there will be only slight changes to our current class structure. The good news is that we will potentially be able to maintain our current level of staffing allocation with four separate cohorts.

The St John’s Cent Sale has developed into the major annual fundraiser for our school. In fact, last year’s Cent Sale raised in excess of $8300! I encourage all parents to consider their contribution to St John’s and the potential for taking on a coordinator’s role or alternatively making themselves available for this significant fundraiser. Please find attached a Cent Sale letter for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Maley
Principal, M Ed (ICT), B Ed, Dip T
From the President...Hello and welcome to the Parents and Friends of St. John’s School. As you are aware, our annual AGM was held last Tuesday. May I take this opportunity to thank the previous committee members for their wonderful contribution. I would also like to welcome all new and existing members to their relevant tasks. It is through the dedication and contribution of all parents, both past and present, which has made this school the success it is today, and I congratulate you all. I look forward to your continued support and would like to ask for your assistance with our challenges throughout 2014. I believe we have been given a “gift” at St John’s, with highly effective leadership, teaching and support staff who work very hard at keeping parents in the loop, combined with a positive and generous P & F. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, you are welcome to give me a call on 4068 5644 or 0417 492 644. Thank you.

Julie Elliott, P & F President.

Collection of children at school
If you have a friend or family member collecting your children and they are not on the enrolment list of designated contacts you must either send in a note advising who will be collecting your child from school or phone the office advising the same. Your child will not be released unless the school has been advised. A reminder also, that if you are collecting your children from school earlier than 2.55pm for appointments etc, you must come to the office and sign them out.

Sport
SMCSA Sport this term will be Netball and Soccer. The two carnivals will take place, weather permitting, on Friday 14th March. Students from Years 4 - 7 will participate and possibly some Year 3 students may be required to complete team numbers.

Kindy Corner
Next week the focus colour will be changing to blue so please help your child find a blue item for their Show and Tell. The children are now confidently finding yellow and red items in their environment. Last week children and staff at the Kindy were blessed with several acts of kindness. Thankyou to the Year 2/3 class, Lila and Deja, Miss Priscilla and Desiree for your thoughtfulness and for embracing the concept. Our first parent committee was held this morning. Thankyou to the parents who attended. We hope all parents and staff can work together to achieve great things for the children at the Kindy.

Regards, Robyn & Denise
In 2014 I will be St John’s SEL co-ordinator. I have extensive experience in this role having held the position of SEL co-ordinator and Parent Education Facilitator at various times over the last 12 years. For those parents who are new to our school community and may be asking what SEL is, I hope the following will be helpful.

**Social Emotional Learning is taught explicitly during SEL lessons at St John’s.** We also use the language of SEL constantly in our behaviour management strategies and general interactions with students.

SEL is a process for helping children and adults develop the fundamental skills for life effectiveness. SEL teaches the skills we need to handle ourselves, and our relationships, and our work, effectively and ethically. These skills include recognising and managing our emotions, developing caring and concern for others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively and justly. They are skills that allow children to calm themselves when angry, make friends, resolve conflicts respectfully and make virtuous & safe choices.

We would like the young people, entrusted in our care, to acquire these lifelong capabilities in order to be successful in school, experience well-being, have positive relationships with others and the community and become responsible and ethical citizens of the world.

*It is this that will lead students to have ‘life in its fullness’ (Jn10:10).*

Mrs Lucy Wells

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**Black Duck Wisdom**

**by Maggie Dent**

**15th Wisdom**

To really enjoy life do what your body enjoys that does not create pain, injury or death. Ducks fly, paddle, duck dive and nest. Ducks do not dig tunnels, push over trees or sprint at 100km an hour. They simply do what ducks are created to do - be a duck.

*Many humans do things that are risky, dangerous or just plain stupid - competing in iron man triathlons, base jumping off very tall buildings, swimming with sharks and jumping out of perfectly good aeroplanes are examples of thinks some humans do. Maybe pain, stress and sheer terror feel good - RIGHT*

P.S. Of course this does not include teenagers who hold their own place in the annals of time for being completely stupid quite often! They simply defy any logic ever known to man.

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**Student of the Week**

**Social Emotional Learning Awards**

**Confidence**

**Georgia** - Enthusiastically participating in all class discussions and activities. Great Job!

**Confidence**

**Dylan** - Reading with confidence and answering comprehension questions accurately.

**Getting Along**

**Lyanna** - Always being a very positive and happy class member.

**Organisation**

**Callan** - Super effort in homework and spelling.

**Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards**

**Quality Producer**

**Hannah** - A fantastic effort on your backyard safari research task. Well done!

**Community Contributor**

**Deja** – Always being willing to help organise and assist the members of your groups.

**Quality Producer**

**Lauren** - Excellent narrative writing skills.

**Active investigator**

**Nicholas** - Making a positive start to your assessment task.

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**St Vincent de Paul Society**

**good works**

Thank you to all the students who nominated themselves for the various Mini Vinnies’ executive positions for 2014. Positions will be announced at assembly tomorrow morning. There have been some great suggestions for fundraising this year. Our first general meeting will be held next **Tuesday 25th February in the 6/7 room at 1.15pm** with the main topics of discussion being projects for 2014. All students and teachers are welcome to attend.

*Mrs DeBrincat, Mini Vinnies Coordinator*

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**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.

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cardwell</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th March</td>
<td>4063 6600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tully Hospital</td>
<td>Wed 19th March</td>
<td>4068 4144</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Bch Comm Hlth</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>4226 4812 / 0428 781 421</td>
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**Kurrimine Kuppa** begins again for 2014 on 28th February, 10.00 to 11.30 am at the Progress Hall, Kurrimine Beach. All welcome; gold coin donation appreciated.

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**Bishops Silkwood Butchery**

- Crumbed lemon chicken fillets $8.99/kg
- BBQ Sausages $3.99/kg
- Honey Soy Pork Chops $7.99/kg

Open until 5.30pm Phone: 4065 2211