Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Recent professional reading has reinforced my belief that teachers are our greatest in-school asset. What they know, do and care about affects opportunities and outcomes for all young Australians. Teachers work tirelessly to make a significant impact on their students. In order to create successful learners at St John’s, education should instill the desire, skills and capacities to learn continuously, so that our students can take advantage of opportunities and face today’s and tomorrow’s challenges with confidence.

I have noted many students enjoying the "Game of Kings", commonly known as chess, during recess time. The challenge of chess enhances students strategizing and forecasting skills whilst raising IQ’s, preventing Alzheimer’s, exercising both sides of the brain, increasing creativity and improving memory! Anyone interested in a game?

Parents would be familiar with our diagnostic data collection which has informed our learning support program in the past. The revised student appraisal process will enhance outcomes for all students. This process will promote the identification of the diverse learning needs of all students, from the gifted to students experiencing learning difficulties. We aim to ensure consistency of support offered to all students.

Next Wednesday at 9.00am we will be celebrating an Ash Wednesday Liturgy. This day marks the beginning of the Lenten season. All parents/carers, friends and parish community members are invited to attend.

The SMCSA Soccer/Netball Carnival will take place on Friday 14th March at the Innisfail State College. A bus is currently being organised to transport St John’s students in Year 3 to 7 to and from this event. A note detailing an outline for the day and requesting permission will sent home on Monday. Raffle tickets have been sent home today and will be drawn on the day of the carnival. Proceeds of this raffle go towards providing medals and trophies for carnivals.

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

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

“Honesty is the first chapter of the book of Wisdom!” T Jefferson

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuckshop Leader</th>
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<td>6/03/14</td>
<td>P Bromilow &amp; J Elliott</td>
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**St John’s School Website**
http://www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au/

Have you perused our school website lately? Recently, St John’s has uploaded our school library catalogue on the web. You can locate this button on the right hand side of the website home page. This is an important tool that can be used at home to research information on assignments. There is also extra links to various useful websites such as Britannica Online, Cassowary Coast libraries and also a google safe search. Next term students will engage in literacy lessons that will develop their research skills using these on line resources.

**Catholic Education Cairns Websites**
http://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/

This website is the website parents will use to access information about Catholic Education, Cairns. However, now there is a new weebly website: http://cnsonline.weebly.com/ On this website you will see a tab called Digital Citizenship. Under this you will see each year group and a section for teachers, student and parents. These tabs give parents a wealth of information for helping children use the internet safely and productively.

There is also information about mobile phone use, cyber bullying prevention tips for parents, a cyberSmart Guide for Families, online gaming advice and an easy guide to socialising online to name just a few.

cyber[smart:]

The teachers’ tab gives similar useful information for teachers to incorporate into their lessons and the student tab has activities and advice for students which parents and teachers can guide the children through.

This website will be constantly updated and is one for teachers, parents and students to check regularly.

Debbie Daly, Curriculum and IT Support Teacher.

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**Kindy Corner**

At our parent committee meeting last Thursday the following parents took on executive roles –

**Committee for 2014**

- Chair/Secretary: **Gabbie Lucan / Terri Rosendahl**
- Fundraising/Assistant: **Teleisha Babsek / Lisa-Maree Barba**

Thank you for offering to help with the committee this year.

The children are busy working on their ongoing projects at the Kindy including their ‘Charlie and Lola’ people and their Rainbow Kindy family poster. They are also learning about mixing the primary colours to make secondary colours. The focus colour for Weeks 5 and 6 is blue. We have had some interesting blue items for Show and Tell. We have also started practising our songs for the combined Assembly in Week 8.

Last Friday we had a fun time when we visited the Prep/Year 1 classroom for shared activities with our friends at the school.

Regards, Robyn & Denise

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**Tuckshop Coordinator**

Thanks to Peta Bromilow for putting her hand up and giving the Tuckshop Coordinator’s role a go in 2014. This year tuckshop will be **every Thursday commencing next week**. Orders are to be sent on a brown paper bag into the office by Tuesday so perishables can be purchased for Thursday. Helpers are now required. If you would like to be included on the tuckshop roster, phone Vera 4065 2193 or Peta on 0429 896 125 The tuckshop menu for has been included with the newsletter.

**Shrove Tuesday**

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day will be celebrated next Tuesday (4th March). This day is the day preceding the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday). Pikelets will be on sale for 3 for $1, with all proceeds to Mini Vinnies. Please write orders on a brown paper bag, clearly marking your child’s name and year level. Correct change is appreciated. Return orders to the office by Tuesday morning. Gluten free pikelets will also be available.

**Wildlife Presentation**

Adrian Hogg, a wildlife ranger with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and Ranger Sarah from National Parks and Wildlife, visited school on Tuesday and presented an informative and practical session on living with wildlife. The wildlife talk was a valuable educational tool in trying to prevent negative interactions between wildlife and people that may result in potential harm to humans. The basis of the talk demonstrated safe and unsafe practices and behaviour, particularly in relation to crocodiles and cassowaries in our local area.
Mrs Lucy Wells was acknowledged for 20 years of service to Catholic Education at St John’s assembly last Friday. Lucy has committed herself above and beyond the call of duty consistently at St Clare’s School Tully, St Rita’s Babinda and recently St John’s. Parents often refer to Lucy as selfless in her approach to students, staff and parents. Her professionalism in her current role as Assistant Principal Religious Education at St John’s is widely acclaimed and appreciated by all who are blessed with Lucy’s care and concern.

Congratulations to our new Mini Vinnies executive members for 2014. They are:

President: Bradley Patterson
Vice President: Ryan Hogg
Secretary: Amelia Finna
Treasurer: Evan Nielsen
Fundraising Officers: Olympia Taifalos & Nicholas Frumento.

On Tuesday we held our first general meeting. Our executive members conducted the meeting in an efficient and professional manner. Great fundraising ideas were raised. A follow-up meeting will be held in the next fortnight to finalise a program of events for this term and for the year ahead.

A special thank you to the Nicholls family (Cameron the music teacher) on their cash donation to St. John’s Mini Vinnies.

Mrs DeBrincat, Mini Vinnies Coordinator

Black Duck Wisdom by Maggie Dent

16th Wisdom

Never travel long journeys on your own - always have company.

When ducks go on a long trip like a migration to a warmer climate they always travel with company. This ensures a safer and faster trip. Life is a long journey and is best travelled with company - preferably with people you love and trust. Take turns at leading the way and take turns at resting and letting others lead the way. Remember, being alone and travelling alone for long periods can be unhealthy, emotionally and spiritually. Humans are social creatures and benefit from close connections within units called families within larger units called communities.

P.S. This of course does not include long trips in cars with children. For their safety it is often best to leave them home so to stop them asking a million times “Are we there yet?”

Bishops Silkwood Butchery

♦ Honey Soy Chicken Mini Roasts $3.50/each or 4- $12.00
♦ Lean diced steak $7.99/kg
♦ Crumbed steak $8.99/ kg
♦ BBQ sausages $3.99/kg

Open until 5.30pm Phone: 4065 2211