



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

www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au



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

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**Kindy to
Year 6**

Term 1 Week 23rd Feb - 6th March, 2015

"It's a good day to have a good day!" anon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

26th - 27th February

- ◆ Principals' Conference Cairns

2nd March

- ◆ Playgroup St John's. 9.00 - 11.00am at the Kindy building

3rd March

- ◆ Kindy Pie Drive orders due today
- ◆ Music with Nathan

4th March

- ◆ Mini Vinnies 1.15pm

5th March

- ◆ Counsellor at St John's
- ◆ Chris Edwards to St John's

9th March

- ◆ Playgroup St John's. 9.00 - 11.00am at the Kindy building

10th March

- ◆ Music with Nathan

11th March

- ◆ SMCSA Netball/Soccer Carnival Year 4 - 6

12th March

- ◆ Counsellor at St John's
- ◆ Chris Edwards to St John's

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

5/03/15	J Elliott
12/3/15	K Casey

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff & Students,

As we approach the half way point of term one I am most impressed with the progress being made by our students. Study habits and routines are now being established and reinforced by staff. Almost all students are reading at home and are having conversations about their day and the learning they have undertaken at school. I thank all our families who are spending time with their children to read with them and ensure they are reading for meaning. I am pleased to hear that the focus on reading for homework is gaining momentum and experiencing significant gains in student ability and confidence.

Last week saw a wonderful start to the season of Lent. Our Shrove Tuesday focus on preparing for Lent was received well by our students. They have accepted the challenge of looking within to find their gifts and talents and how to use them to help others. As we journey towards Easter, our students are looking at ways to be less selfish and consider others in their family and community.

I must congratulate the Mini Vinnie's team for their first major event in 2015. Our Pancake Tuesday event was organised by the Mini Vinnie's committee who raised over \$80 for Project Compassion. A great way to start our Lenten journey and for the Mini Vinnie's committee to gel as a team. Thank you to the parents who assisted the MV Committee with this event.

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy was a beautiful start to the season of Lent and was a wonderful celebration for our school community. It was great to see a number of local parishioners join us for this special occasion. I thank Mrs Wells, staff and students for making this liturgy a success.

With the beginning of Lent upon us I have been following closely the comments made by Pope, Francis. I particularly like the following statements made over the last week. *"Today, Ash Wednesday, begins our Lenten journey of penance, prayer and conversion in preparation for the Church's annual celebration of the saving mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection."*

He explained that in the following days the Church invites each one of us to *"ponder with joy and gratitude God's immense love revealed in the paschal mystery and to live evermore fully the new life we have received in Baptism. This journey of spiritual renewal in the footsteps of Christ,"* explains Francis, *"also calls us to acknowledge and respond to the growing spiritual and material poverty in our midst."*

This Way 

Always Reaching for New Heights



The past few weeks have seen the beginning of two private tuition programs at St John's. We are fortunate enough again this year to offer both music and choric verse tuition to our students during school hours. Both these programs have begun well with a substantial number of students taking on these disciplines. Music is currently on Tuesday and choric verse on a Wednesday.

I would like to remind parents that Carmel Parisi is our School Counsellor this year and is available to students and families on Thursday each week. We are also fortunate to have the services of Chris Edwards in the Teacher Librarian role each Thursday. We are truly blessed at St John's to have such a professional team available to our students. The year is off to a great start and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Yours sincerely, *Scott Whitters* Acting Principal

P & F Special Meeting

A special meeting of parents and friends will be held next Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in order to elect the 2015 committee. All are welcome to attend.

Safe Practices

A reminder to parents who transport children to school, that if you are walking your children to classrooms (P-3) please use safe practices by walking in front of your vehicle and following the path along to classrooms. **DO NOT** walk across the carpark and use the entrance gate in front of the hall.

Congratulations

Best wishes to Terri, Sam and Skye on the safe arrival of their son and brother Tom McIlwain.

Mini Vinnies

On Tuesday 17th February 2015 our Mini Vinnies Team commenced fundraising by selling pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Total funds raised amounted to \$80 which will be donated to Project Compassion. Many thanks to the wonderful Mums who donated ingredients and their precious time to support the students. Also, thank you to the families who purchased the yummy pancakes.

Our first General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 all welcome.

Mrs DeBrincat, Mini Vinnies Team Coordinator

SMCSA Sport

SMCSA Sport this term will be Netball and Soccer. The two carnivals will take place, (weather permitting) on Wednesday 11th March at the Innisfail State College. Students in Years 4 - 6 will participate. Permission notes and tuckshop orders were sent home on Tuesday and must be returned by next Wednesday 4th March. SMCSA raffle tickets will be distributed to all families. Tickets will sell for \$1 each with proceeds from this raffle going towards the purchase of medals and trophies for the association. The raffle will be drawn at the Soccer/Netball carnival. There are two prizes - 1 x \$50Coles/Myer Gift Voucher & 1 x \$50 Meat voucher.

What's Happening in Year 1/2

The Year 1/2 students have had a busy and fun start to the term with each week bringing new experiences. This term the class is learning about Chemical Sciences and this has already involved lots of mixing and melting. The students were fortunate to have Mrs Scarpignato come in and make pikelets in the classroom to help reinforce the learning in Science lessons. This also tied in with the current English unit as the students are learning how a procedure such as a recipe differs in structure from a storybook.

Families have been very helpful in providing information to help students create their own History Timeline. The children really enjoyed sharing their unique history with each other, explaining significant events in their lives from birth to age 5.

Splat the Cat was the main character of a Valentine's Day story read to the class by our Librarian Mrs Edwards. The children loved this story and enjoyed making their own Splat the Cat Valentine's Craft. This week we have been looking at more stories with cats as characters and are comparing these books with nonfiction books about cats.

Ipads are a big hit with the class and the students are really enjoying group rotations in Mathematics and English with Ipad activities included as part of these lessons. We have many apps on our Ipads that reinforce reading, spelling, handwriting, and many areas of mathematics. In addition to these we also have some great apps linking learning in Science and the Arts.
Mrs Debbie Daly, Class Teacher



Bostyn enjoying learning with an ipad



Pikelet making

Kade and his timeline

From Our School Counsellor.....

Calmness

Dear Parents,

Being able to remain calm in different situations is not easy. We all have a level we can reach that makes it difficult for us to think rationally and choose the best response to the situation.

Firstly we need to recognise we are not in the right head space to respond at the moment. Tell yourself you need a few minutes to be able to return to calm before you can respond or comment. This may mean that at the end of this small space of time, your response is, "I will let you know at 2pm...". This space allows you to choose whether you can respond now or whether you need further time to consider the options available. You may even want to talk with your partner or other people who will be affected by the decision. By slowing down this process you are more likely to make a decision that you know is beyond your own feelings "in the heat of the moment".

During this time of thinking, do not get caught in negative self-talk. Don't say things like, "I can't stand this child", "Ruby always ruins my life" and "He deserves whatever he gets". Instead say things like, "Phew, today is a tough day, but I can do this one step at a time", "What's happening today with Ruby?" and "Whatever I seem to be doing is not helping this situation. What can I do differently to help my child learn (respect, boundaries, what 'no' means etc)." You must always remember you are the adult in the situation and you are the one who needs to manage and assist your child to learn positive ways to respond, even when the days are tough and emotions are high.

Yours in Counselling, *Carmel*

Kindy Corner

Thank you to the parents who attended the first Parent Committee Meeting for this year. We are grateful to the parents who took on roles in the new Parent Committee for 2015

- Chair: **Ciel Harvey**
- Secretary: **Katrina Thomson**
- Treasurer/Fundraising: **Kerrie Casey**
- Fundraising: **Maria Rinaudo**

On Tuesday we welcomed Elise to Kindy.

Last week we had to remove one of the shade sails as it has stretched and filled with water. We hope to have the contractor on site soon to fix the problem with the front shade sails. It is important that parents continue to put sunscreen on children before they come into Kindy and that children are wearing sun safe shirts and hats to Kindy. *Regards, Robyn & Denise*



February

16th - Georgia

March

1st - Lauren

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!



Students of the Week

Social Emotional Learning Awards Persistence

Isaac - Working extremely hard on all set tasks.
Keep up the great work!

Persistence

Bostyn - Making a big effort in reading lessons.

Persistence

Adam A - A determined effort in reading rotations this week.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards Designer & Creator

Gina - Consistently displaying leadership and initiative qualities and an enthusiasm for learning.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to Wavey, Lyanna & Jarred on making the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday. These children will now prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation & Eucharist. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Well Women's Clinics – March 2015

(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

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.

Mission Beach Com Health

Thursdays 5th & 26th March Ph 4226 4812

Tully Hospital

Thursday 19th March Ph 4226 4812



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