Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Carly Steele from Catholic Education Services will present a one hour parent information session next Wednesday afternoon at 2:00pm in the meeting room focused on spelling strategies. All parents are encouraged to attend.

St John’s students will participate in our School Cross Country Carnival to be held at the Silkwood Soccer Grounds next Friday 28th March at 9:30am. Parents who are available to supervise the course at the Cross Country Carnival are asked to contact the school. The older students will compete in 2km and 3km races around the MSF canefields. Therefore, parents located around the course with UHF radios will promote communication and safety for our students. At this stage no parents have offered their time to support the supervision of our students around the course!

In the case of wet weather, students are requested to bring a spare set of clothes and shoes, either to run in (instead of their uniform) or a spare uniform to change into following the carnival.

NAPLAN tests (Year 3, 5 & 7) are due to be held on the 13th, 14th and 15th of May 2014. St John’s teachers are presently providing additional opportunities for students involved in these tests to consolidate their knowledge and skills. Parents are encouraged to discuss these tests with their children and assist their child’s learning at home. Parents are reminded to maintain routine during this examination time and support their children’s concentration levels by providing a healthy breakfast, recess and lunch.

Shared Services Project – is an exciting digital collaboration between Cairns and Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) that will roll out over the next two years and revolutionise how we do business! St John’s will be walked through each stage, step by step, with a continual flow of information, training and support to the various groups and individuals as it is needed. The beauty of our partnership with BCE is the benefits to be gained from BCE’s experience in supporting their staff to use these systems in over 130 schools for the last four years.

At last week’s P & F meeting our 2014 Annual Plan was ratified. I acknowledge the P & F forum for providing the support to set our core strategies and processes in place. The Annual Plan directly references the 2012 five year Strategic Renewal Plan.

Yours sincerely,

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

"A wise person knows there is something to be learned from everyone!" Anonymous

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

27/03/14  P Bromilow & K Anderson
Three Way Conferences
Parent notes for three way conferences scheduled for next week have been sent home today. While every attempt has been made to accommodate all parents, some adjustments have been necessary to accommodate everyone. If this does not suit, please phone the office and arrange for an alternative timeslot.

What's Happening in Year 2/3
In Year 2/3 the students have been engaged in Science, learning about animal life cycles and animal classification. Year 2 were very excited to take home a pot containing their mealworms last week. In class, students have watched the larvae change into pupae and finally into beetles. Year Three have been learning how to group animals into vertebrates and invertebrates, mammals, crustaceans, insects, birds, fish, annelids and arachnids.

In mathematics we have been working hard on computation strategies and now have a very helpful set of posters in our maths area that remind us of the strategies learnt in Year 1, 2 and 3.

Story writing in English has been a great success with all students writing very exciting and imaginative stories featuring mermaids, dinosaurs, monsters, magic puddles and mysterious worlds!

We hope we will see lots of Year 2/3 parents at Friday’s parade this week as the class is going to be showing what they have learnt about Churches in Religion. They will also be showing shoebox Church models that they made in small collaborative groups.

Mrs Debbie Daly, Class Teacher

P & F Social Volley Ball Match
When: Friday 28 March 6.30pm
Where: St John’s School
$1 Sausage on bread / $3 Steak Sandwich. Please bring a salad or dessert to share
RSVP to the school office (40652193) for catering.

Position Vacant - P & F Secretary
Due to work and family commitments Mrs Debbie Daly has resigned her position of Secretary for the P & F Assoc. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Daly for her dedicated service during the past year. I would appreciate all P & F members considering what role they can fulfil this school year. This provides an opportunity for others to step up and take their turn at the executive position of Secretary. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee for further information. Julie Elliott, P & F President

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
This day is a chance for parents, teachers and students to take a stand together against bullying and violence and say BULLYING, NO WAY!

What to do if you are being bullied
You have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are being bullied, here are some ideas about what you can do.

• Talk to a friend - they can help you tell a teacher or your parents or /uni0062e/g425er/uni002E
• Talk to your parents - tell them all a/uni0062out what's /uni0062een happening/uni002E If you don't want to do this in pu/uni0062lic, make an excuse to see the teacher a/uni0062out something else, for example your homework/uni002E
• If you can't talk to someone face-to-face go online at Kids Helpline http://www.kidshelp.com.au/ or call a Kids Helpline counsellor on 1800 55 1800.

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Mrs Debbie Daly, Class Teacher

Kindy Corner
Last Thursday, 13th March, I (Robyn), attended a workshop in Cairns with other Kindergarten teachers from the region. The workshop was presented by the Queensland Studies Authority and focused on the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines (QKLG). Sessions during the day included the QKLG principles and learning areas, inclusion, teacher decision making, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspective, intentional teaching strategies and transition statements. Time was also provided for reflection and future planning for our individual services.

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Committee meeting this morning. Also, thanks to Teleisha and Lisa for organising our first Sausage Sizzle and Silkwood Butchery for donating sausages.

The focus colour for the final two weeks of Term 1 will be purple.

Family members are invited to the Combined Assembly and Easter Bonnet Parade on the final day of Term 1, Friday 4th April at 9am.

Regards, Robyn & Denise
Mini Vinnies News

Following our General meeting on Thursday 13th March it has been decided to have some Easter fun! On Friday 4th April 2014 (last day of Term 1), students are invited to wear free dress (sun safe with no gold coin donation required) and make an Easter Bonnet which will be paraded at Assembly. Prizes will be given for the best creations in each grade. Once again we will be having a “Guess the Easter Egg Jar”. Guesses will cost 50 cents and can be made at first lunch break during week 10. The winner will be announced at Assembly. Our Kindy friends will be joining us and putting on a special performance plus we also have a Special guest visitor. Following second lunch break we will be having novelty races to finish off the term. All funds raised will be donated to Caritas. Hope you can join us!  Mrs DeBrincat (Coordinator)

Archie’s story - Philippines

A place where I belong

For most of Archie’s life, he lived with his parents and nine siblings in a one-roomed house beside a flood-prone river in the Philippines. In 2012, a resettlement program supported by Caritas Australia helped Archie’s family move to a safer house and take part in skills training.

“No words can describe how happy we were when we moved to this beautiful place. It was a dream come true. Caritas Australia has changed our lives. We are so thankful and happy that we are living in a safe community. I can see myself being able to send my younger brothers and sisters to school. Thank you Caritas Australia.” Archie

weekly-stories

With your help, we can achieve our goal of building better lives for the poorest of the poor around the world.

Help Wanted

Kylie Canty is a Mum to 2 children, a girl (10 years) and boy (12 years). Last weekend, their South Mission Beach home burnt down and unfortunately the family had no insurance. A local appeal has commenced to help this family. Mrs Daly has offered to deliver any clothes or items our families are able to donate. These can be dropped off at the Year 2/3 classroom. Anyone requesting details of how else they can help are asked to contact kyliecantyfundraiser@gmail.com or Vicky Wiltshire at Mission Beach Holidays and Rentals. Cash donations can also be made via the Bendigo Bank who are receiving on the family’s behalf.

Thank you

Black Duck Wisdom

by Maggie Dent

Every day is a new beginning.

How you begin it is up to you. Those of you who drag a lousy yesterday (kicking and screaming) into a new day—don’t blame anyone but yourself for the nature of your life.

Those of you who choose to see each new day through the eyes of a child—may you be blessed with laughter and lightness every day of your life.

There is no such thing as an ugly duckling. That was an urban myth created by swans!