Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Improving the educational opportunities and performance of St John’s students is the main focus of our school. The quality education offered at St John’s provides students with the skills they need to participate as productive, creative and responsible members of society.

Congratulations to Mrs Vera Sendra on the completion of her Diploma of Management which was conferred last week. It is a credit to Mrs Sendra juggling work, home and study to successfully complete a Diploma. In addition, Mrs Sendra has currently enrolled in a Diploma of Business……..what a busy lady. St John’s staff look forward to being even more highly organised!

Years 3, 5 and 7 students have completed language conventions, writing, reading and numeracy components of the NAPLAN testing regime. From all reports, the examinations were as expected. Parents are reminded that they can anticipate receiving feedback later in the year.

Next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I will attend the 6th Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Education Conference at Cairns. I anticipate gaining current knowledge and understanding on; Indigenous readiness for school, engagement and connections, attendance, literacy and numeracy and pathways to real post-school options.

Last week Mrs Payne attended the APRE retreat which was held at Mission Beach. I am sure Mrs Payne relished the opportunity to have some quality time out with her APRE colleagues to establish professional networks.

The SMCSA Cross Country will be held at the Silkwood Soccer grounds tomorrow commencing at 9:30am. I would appreciate a few parents with UHF radios to assist with the supervision of competitors at checkpoints around the course. Parents are advised that a change of school clothes may be necessary. Please let me know if you can assist.

I extend a warm welcome to Father Tony Lumukso OSA. Students from St John’s had the opportunity to meet father Tony on Tuesday afternoon at the sacramental preparation meeting.

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

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I hated every minute of training, but I said “Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion!”
Muhammad Ali

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TERM 2 WEEK 5 – 16TH MAY, 2013

18TH MAY
♦ Mass/Anointing & cuppa Silkwod 6pm

20TH MAY
♦ Playgroup at Kindy
9.00am - 11.00am
♦ Encyclopaedia
Britannica workshop for parents 2.00pm
♦ P & F Mtg 3.00pm

21ST MAY
♦ Under 8 Cultural day celebrations at Kindy
♦ RREAP Parent PD at Mena Creek State SchI

22ND - 24TH MAY
♦ Qld ATSI Conference Cairns

24TH MAY
♦ Peninsula Cross Country

26TH MAY
♦ Peninsula Soccer

27TH MAY - 3RD JUNE
♦ Scholastic Book Fair

29TH MAY
♦ Young Performers

11TH JUNE
♦ School & Kindy photos

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
22/5/13
A Scarpijgato & S Andijevic
What a wonderful time we are having in Term 2 in our exciting, busy and focused classroom. All learning revolves around words and reading and we are using this specifically in our writing focus on persuasion. The students are developing their skills in vocabulary and well-structured writing which is followed by using their homework spelling words in complex sentences. Mathematics continues the use of number with fluency in multiplication and now division. The Year 4/5 class is also looking at fractions in more detail, while all students will also be looking at Probability and Chance.

Who was the first person to discover Australia? Not Captain Cook! The Year 4 students are delving back in history to answer this question, so consequently they have needed to become far more familiar with the map of the World. Following this fascination, the Year students are doing a character study on an individual from the early colonisation of Botany Bay. The budding Scientists are chemists in the making this term! We are experimenting our Material World.

Year 5’s topic is What’s the Matter? Sounds like SEL – but it’s Science! Solids, liquids and gases, looking at atoms and molecules but also to solve the mystery - Is toothpaste a liquid or a solid? Mrs Williamson

Event: Mrs Williamson P & F meeting agenda - Monday 20th May
- Three Saints Evaluation
- Cent Sale
- Parent Professional Development opportunities
- Uniforms
- Sports Shed funding

Qld Catholic Education Commission Visit
Tracey Sanders and Carmel Nash accompanied by Paul Cazzulino will visit St John’s as part of the QCEC visit to the Cairns Diocese on Monday 20th May. These visits to schools enable QCEC members to meet with school personnel, witness some of the wonderful achievements of our Catholic school communities and to hear and see firsthand the challenges facing our community.

Professional Development for Parents
1. Monday, 20th May at 2.00pm (1 hour before the P & F meeting). Mrs Fran Hughes will present a session on Encyclopaedia Britannica.
2. Tuesday 21st May at Mena Creek State School 9.00am - 2.00pm. Refer next page of newsletter for details.

Tuckshop Menu change
There is a slight change to our tuckshop menu. Taco pockets will change to nachos (mince, corn chips and cheese)

Mini Vinnies News
Knitters, we are ready to begin making our blanket to send to Mongolia. We have four weeks to complete our blanket and put together two other blankets with the previously completed squares which have been donated to us. Students will meet in Year 4/5 room on Tuesday during lunch break to commence our project. If you require Mrs Williamson to begin your square, please call to see her on Monday. We thank Mrs Diana O’Brien for taking the time to tell us all about Mongolia. Mongolia is one of the poorest countries in the world and the climate is very cold, especially during winter. Temperatures can get as low as -58 degrees Celsius. By providing blankets and baby clothes to new born babies at the hospital they get to go home having warm clothing. The local Mongolian people are very poor and without these donations have to take their babies home wrapped in newspaper.

We are still collecting any unused stationery items eg. Note/scrap books, pencils, rulers, etc to send on to needy children. Please leave donations at the school office.

Mrs DeBrincat, Coordinator, Mini Vinnies

Multicultural Morning
Next Tuesday 21st May, the Kindergarten will be hosting an Under 8’s day from 8.30 -11am. The focus this year is "Celebrating community - sharing music, movement and culture. Think locally!" Our multicultural morning will include a didgeridoo demonstration, bocci, food tasting, making home-made pasta and Indian rice, sharing stories, weaving and painting. Kindy families are invited to spend the morning at Kindy with their children. The Prep/Year one class will be joining us for the morning activities at the Kindy and then returning to the school for Morning Tea.

Bring a plate of family multicultural food to share.

Didgeridoo demonstration
Weaving
Story telling
Food tasting

Cheers, Robyn & Denise
Ascension of the Lord - 12th May

On Sunday 12th May, many Catholics celebrated the Ascension of the Lord. On this day we remember Jesus gathering his disciples around him and charging them with the ministry of going out, not only preaching the good news, but being good news people to everyone everywhere.

Jesus then disappeared from their midst and was taken up into heaven. The apostles were left wondering what was to happen next. Jesus told them that they would receive the Spirit soon, to help them in their ministry. They were frightened and confused.

There are times when we are similar to the disciples. We’re really not sure of what it is that Jesus asks of us. Sometimes we lack the courage to take a stand for justice and peace. It is in those times we need to seek the Spirit’s help, through prayer and somehow find the willingness to follow in Jesus’ way.

We too await the Spirit in our lives.

Pentecost - 19th May

This Sunday (19th May) is a day of celebration. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles as tongues of fire. Pentecost is not just the end of the Lent-Easter season, it’s a beginning. The Holy Spirit sends us out to continue the mission of Jesus. Pentecost reminds us that our Risen Lord is still with us as we work together to live his Gospel teachings.

The Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage to be missionaries and united them in one body. The Holy Spirit gives us the confidence to be who we are, where we are and why we are. This feast tells us that through our diversified gifts, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can change our world for the better.

A fantastic video that explains this event can be seen at the following website:

http://bustedhalo.com/video/pentecost-in-two-minutes

Come Holy Spirit!
Fill our hearts with your gifts
and kindle in them the fire of love. Amen.

Poor behaviour or what!

Vision and hearing problems can often be overlooked and mistaken for uncooperative behaviour. Vision and hearing problems can present as poor concentration, headaches, not engaging in learning and socialising, being unable to copy from the board, not using proper word sounds or yelling.

It is recommended that all children have their vision and hearing tested at their four year health check so that problems can be identified and treated early. If your child missed having their vision and hearing tested, or you have noticed your child displaying some of the above behaviours, it may be time to have their vision and hearing tested.

Children can have their vision tested at any of the local or visiting optometrists in your community. This test is bulk billed to Medicare, so therefore is free of charge.

Your child can have their hearing tested at their General Practitioner, local Community Health Centre or visiting audiologists.

For more information visit:

vision-research.com/Early_Screening.html or contact

Kathleen Dryden, Primary School Health Promotion

Kurrimine Kuppa will be held on Friday 31st May 2013 from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. at the Kurrimine Beach Progress Hall. Come and enjoy lots of friendly fun and good food.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated.