Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

The 6th Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Education Conference provided Miss Priscilla and myself with current knowledge and understanding of; Indigenous readiness for school, engagement and connections, attendance, literacy and numeracy and pathways to real post-school options. From a St John’s perspective, the conference reinforced many of the curriculum initiatives that are currently implemented. Our consistent focus on robust pedagogical differentiation caters for all students in our care.

Yesterday, students from St John’s performed with merit in the 2013 Innisfail Choral Verse Speaking competition. This was a great opportunity for students to develop their speech and drama skills. Our students were outstanding in achieving many individual and group commendations. Senior students achieved 2nd place with their poem titled “The Lizard” whilst our junior students were placed 3rd with their presentation of “The Human Fly From Bendigo”. I congratulate Mrs. Tina Patane and our staff who have worked tirelessly during the past seven weeks to prepare our students for this competition.

Recent parental feedback on our website acknowledges the extensive amount of information that is available for parents 24/7. Parents are advised that we attempt to upload all permission notes to streamline parent/school communication processes.

Welcome to Buster McDowell and his family from Kurrimine Beach. Buster is known to many students and has made a smooth transition into Year 1 at St John’s.

I am confident that the NSW mighty Blues will rise to the challenge and dominate the QLD cane toads with a display of brilliance in next week’s first State of Origin Rugby League match. Perhaps after eight long years NSW will seal the series in 2013…..

Yours sincerely,

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

“Turn those dreams into ACTION …action turns into results… sooner or later you will be living the dream!” Anon
The Year 6/7 students are very excited that they have completed their NAPLAN tests for this year. They should be proud of the effort they put into preparing for these tests. In particular, they were impressive in their persuasive writing task, where they were required to write about a hero and convince the reader that their hero should win a special award. Our Year 6/7 students chose all sorts of different people. We had parents, grandparents, magicians and even computer game characters referenced by our class members.

The Year 7 students are celebrating after receiving their pen licenses. Students were compelled to convince Mr Russell that they were writing at a level where mistakes were being kept to a minimum and that they are capable of maintaining high standards in neatness. Some of the students were a bit hesitant to say goodbye to their pencils after writing with them for the best part of 7 years, but they are also excited about the challenge. A few boys in the class actually shed a tear or two!

This term students have been busy in Science learning about different rocks and completed a “Who Am I” activity where they got to present a rock to the class. Year 6 students will branch out to look at Earthquakes whilst the Year 7’s will examine some famous rock formations found in Australia such as Uluru.

In History, students have learnt about mapping in the Holy Land and are discovering where significant stories in the Bible have taken place. The 7’s are also busy learning about Ancient Egypt and what can be learnt from artwork that has been around for thousands of years. The 6’s have been looking at Australian democracy and how this has evolved after Federation in 1901. The highlight has definitely been the political opinions that have been shared from some of our students on how well, or not so well, the current government is going in Australia. I think we could have some budding politicians in this Year 6 class group!

Finally, our Maths board games have finally been completed and students should be proud of the effort they put into these, and the knowledge they have learnt on the complex topic of fractions. Well done to all students on a fantastic effort. These were presented at assembly last week.

Mr Stuart Russell, Year 6/7 class teacher

Interhouse Cross Country
Our annual Interhouse Cross Country Carnival is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday 31st May at the Silkwood Soccer grounds. Parent helpers will be required on the day to fill checkpoint positions around the Maryborough Sugar cane field. If you are able to assist in any way please register your interest with the school office. Vehicles that are equipped with UHF radios would enhance the students’ safety around the course. Due to the recent weather we suggest parents pack an additional set of school clothes and shoes for your children to wear following the race.

Book Fair
If you haven’t had a chance to visit our book fair, there is still time! There is a wonderful selection of novels, picture books and reference books available to purchase. Please note that we convert the commission from the book fair into books for the library, so the more sales, means the more books purchased for the library. Remember St John’s is also taking part in a National Family Reading Month competition where all students have the chance to WIN 1 of 25 BOOK PACKS VALUED AT $250 each, PLUS the winning students’ schools will each receive $1000 in Scholastic Rewards!

Whole School Mass
A whole school Mass will be held next Tuesday 4th June at 11.15am with Fr. Tony. Following Mass parents and parishioners can stay on to have a cuppa and meet Fr. Tony.

School/Kindy Photos
Tuesday 11th June has been set for photo day. Envelopes will go out next Monday and must be returned on or before photo day. Sibling photo packages will also be available upon request at the office.

Kindy Corner
The shelves have been completed in the Kindy storeroom. Thank you to Rick Ericson for his handywork. Now we can organise our resources and craft materials in the storeroom.

Next Friday 7th June is the Sausage Sizzle for the school and kindergarten children.
Cost: $4.00 meal deal - 2 sausages on bread and a fruit juice popper. Orders to be written on a brown paper bag (correct change appreciated) and returned to the office. Silkwood Butchery have kindly donated the sausages for this fundraiser. Thanks David.

Cheers, Robyn & Denise
Hi Everyone, just an update on what's happening in the Social Scene! Friday 21st June is our Social Night. We will be hosting a BBQ dinner and a disco for the kids. There will be more info closer to the event, but please keep the date available and accept this as my Personal Invitation. Also, our annual CENT SALE will be held on Saturday 10th August, and preparations are in full swing. Any donations of non perishable grocery items, or families wishing to donate a prize would be very much appreciated. Please contact either Kristy Anderson or myself for any queries. Many thanks once again, I look forward to seeing you all soon. Love and Blessings, Chrissie Babsek

Pastoral Support Service - Silkwood to Cardwell
Pastoral Support Services offers a pastoral care service of emotional and spiritual support in times of crisis [bereavement, health and aging]. Pastoral care visitation is available in hospitals, aged care homes and with people in their own homes. A pastoral carer is trained in effective listening skills, the service is confidential and the pastoral carer has the time to spend with someone who is struggling with an issue in their life. If you or someone you know is in need of support, your local pastoral carer is Gail Bromell [contact 0419682183]. This service is available from Silkwood through to Cardwell. Please be aware that where and who Gail visits is confidential information.

Silkwood Junior Soccer - Draw 1st June
U6 - 2.30pm U7 - 3.00pm U8 - 2.00pm
U9 - 1.50pm U10 - 1.15pm U11 - 1.00pm
U13/14/15 - 1.00pm Ph 40652244 after 9.30am on Sat to check for cancellation.

Japanese at St John’s

Konnichi wa Minasan
This term, students have been busily preparing family trees to showcase their knowledge and understanding of the different family titles used in Japan. At present all classes have started their draft of their family tree demonstrating their creativity with their unique designs. The students have been asked to interview their family members and find out some valuable facts about each member. Some of the questions might involve: “What animal do you like?” “What colour do you like?” or “What grade are you in?” The Year 6/7 students have been asked to interview not only the members in their immediate family but also to include Grandparents possibly Aunties and Uncles or pets. Mrs Sarah Payne

Young Performers Results
Congratulations to all students from St John’s who competed in the Young Performers competition. The competition ran very late yesterday, however the children were extremely patient and resilient. Results:
- Year 3 & Under Set Poem - 3rd
- Year 3 & Under Own Choice - HC
- Year 7 & Under Set Poem - 2nd
- Year 7 & Under Own Choice - HC

Individual results are as follows:
- Lachlan Elliott - Merit Medal Tiny tots section
- Adam Nielsen - 3rd Own Choice, VHC Set Poem
- Leanne Nguyen - 3rd Set Poem, VHC Bible Reading
- Kent Nielsen - 2nd Own Choice, HC Single Character Portrayal, VHC Set Poem, 1st Bible Reading
- Lauren Elliott - VHC - Own Choice, 1st Single Character Portrayal, 1st Set Poem, 3rd Bible Reading
- Gina Andrijevic - HC Own Choice, HC Set Poem

Please stay safe and remember
✓ Stay away from locomotives and cane bins.
✓ Don’t play around railway lines.
✓ Never walk between cane bins.
✓ Never go on to a cane railway bridge.
✓ Never walk behind a train – the driver will not see you.

If you have to cross the railway tracks:
✓ STOP and look both ways, LISTEN and only cross when it is safe.
✓ OBEY Flashing Light signals and Give Way signage at road crossings

Cane harvesters will commence crushing season operations in designated areas on Sunday 2nd June.