Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Catholic Education at St John’s has blossomed during recent times thanks to committed teachers implementing quality pedagogical programs that incorporate differentiation for each individual student within the class cohort. Teachers have negotiated to develop curriculum support documents based on the Australian Curriculum. Consequently, students at St John’s have the potential to make a successful transition to high school with the complete gamut of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

The St John’s Mini Vinnies Charity Concert will be held this Friday evening commencing at 7pm. The program incorporates some highly regarded performers who will entertain locals with song, dance and humour. Each class has accepted the opportunity to perform at this concert and have been busy refining their precise professional performances.

This year our Intensive Swimming program will take place from the 11th Nov to 21st Nov. There will be two swimming groups, Years 4 -7 and P – 3, with lessons commencing at approximately 1:30pm each day and concluding at 2:30pm. Arrangements are as follows:

**School Week 6**
- Prep/1 and Years 2/3 - 11th & 13th November (1:30 pm - 2:30 pm)
- Years 4/5 and Years 6/7 - 12th & 14th November (1:30 pm - 2:30 pm)

**School Week 7**
- Prep/1 and Years 2/3 - 18th & 20th November (1:30 pm - 2:30 pm)
- Years 4/5 and Years 6/7 - 19th & 21st November (1:30 pm - 2:30 pm)

The school swimming carnival will be held on Friday 22nd November. Last year some very capable parents and friends assisted with this program. I would appreciate parents considering if they may be able to offer their support.

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

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**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>13th September</td>
<td>Kindy/Prep/Yr 1 combined assembly</td>
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<td>14th September</td>
<td>High Tea for Suicide Prevention from 9.30am 88 Gullotta Rd, S’wood</td>
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<td>16th September</td>
<td>Music today</td>
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<td>16th - 18th September</td>
<td>3 way conferences</td>
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<td>20th September</td>
<td>Last day of term 3</td>
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<td>21st - 22nd September</td>
<td>K’Bch Fishing comp.</td>
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<td>28th September</td>
<td>Phil McLeod Retirement Farewell</td>
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<td>7th October</td>
<td>Labour Day holiday</td>
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<td>8th October</td>
<td>Term 4 commences</td>
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<td>11th October</td>
<td>First aid course</td>
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<td>21st October</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
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<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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**Tuckshop Roster**

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Three-way Conferences

Confirmation notes were sent home yesterday. Please check times and mark them in your diaries. Three-way conferences are student/parent/teacher meetings that reflect on the term’s work and set goals for next term.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darcy Zammit for achieving two Bronze medals when he recently competed in the regional championship for Little Athletics. Darcy’s two medals were won in U10 70m sprints and U10 100m sprints. Well done Darcy.

Working Bee

Friday 11th October

Two cyclists riding in the Cycle Qld Adventure Tour from Mission Beach to Port Douglas stopped off on Monday to say G’day to students and staff. They commented on how beautiful our school was to an outsider!

Bullying: what role do you play - the bully, the victim, the bystander?

Yes, you read right. They are roles like roles in a play and we can choose to stop acting! Have you ever wondered why some people never seem to get caught up in this stuff? It’s because they don’t become part of the drama.

Let’s set the scene in your head: remember a real time when you were aware that some bullying was really happening. This is not as easy as it sounds because our imaginations are great at tricking us into seeing what we want to see rather than what’s really happening. It may help if you draw pictures or write this down so you can check back.

So, think about who was there and what they were doing. How many were playing the bully? Was there only one victim? Were there any bystanders? Picture what each person was doing or not doing (although doing nothing in this case is still doing). How did they look? What was their body language saying? Play the scene all the way through until the end. Notice how you felt as you watched.

Now, play the scene through in your head again, only this time make one or two small changes, something like the victim laughs at the bullies and says “Whatever”; the bystander/s step up to the victim and invite them to come and sit with them for a while; it doesn’t need to be a big change but just something different that someone does. Remember to picture what each person did or not, body language, the whole thing. Was the ending different this time? How did you feel after this imagining? Again, draw or write it down. It’s not easy to stop playing any of the roles – bully, victim or bystander – because chances are you’ve been playing them for quite some time. But it’s not just the responsibility of the bully to stop. If everyone made even one or two small changes in behaviour, chances are everyone would feel better.

If you are experiencing bullying or witnessing bullying and have not been able to make any changes, you do need to tell someone who can help.

Kindy Corner

Last Thursday the very excited Kindy children, parents and staff departed on their excursion to Spurwood Springs at Mena Creek on Mrs Casey’s bus. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day out, with the children participating in many activities with Dianne and Farmer Tom. After making damper and watching Dianne place them in the coals to cook, the children fed the calf with a large baby bottle. They also took turns to feed the goats, milk the cow, ride on the horse, crack the whip and pat the bull! Tom shared his love of poetry and singing with us all. He put on a skilful and entertaining display with his dogs, sheep and ducks. Thank you to Tom, Dianne and the Kindy parents for a great day out. Cheers, Robyn/Denise
Social Emotional Learning Awards

Getting Along

Locklan - Making good choices and getting along.

Getting Along

Billy - Being especially well behaved and helpful for relief teachers.

Confidence

Nikita - Displaying confidence when speaking in front of the class. Well done.

Persistence

Jennifer - Displaying great enthusiasm towards the variety night skit.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards

Effective Communicator

Tegan - Making great contributions to class discussions.

Designer & Creator

Pavel – Using creative ideas for your health collage.

Quality Producer

Bryce - Making a determined effort to edit when writing your final copy in history.

Community Contributor

Jack - Displaying fine leadership skills around the school and in the classroom.

Reading Awards

50 nights - Buster

150 nights - Dimi, Nicholas T

175 nights - Lachlan E, T.J., Leanne

200 nights - T.J.

225 nights - Nikita, James, Christian

Sergeant Phil McLeod Retirement Farewell

Saturday 28th September at 6.00pm

Silkwood Soccer Grounds

$10 entrance fee for gift

BBQ steak/sausages/drinks available

Black Duck Wisdom

by Maggie Dent

4th Wisdom

Choose where you live and raise your family.

Ducks live on lakes, ponds and quiet patches of water. They do this because they enjoy living in these places and they know it is good for ducks to live in environments that suit them. Humans often live in places that make them sick—too much noise, pollution, electromagnetic radiation, social disharmony, violence, earthquakes and tornadoes. We can make better choices about where we live and raise our young. Staying ‘stuck’ is still a choice. Live where you really want to be.

Grow

Grow is a 12 Step recovery focused program for mental health. The Cairns Grow group meets Monday nights 7.00pm at Centacare, 10 Thomas Street. Grow is free, confidential and could assist with depression, anxiety or any life crisis. Contact Sean 40518204 for more information.