Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Congratulations to all students for participating in the 2014 SMCSA Athletics Carnival. I acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our students, parents and staff. St John’s P&F catered for the two day carnival and produced a huge number of meals for the hundreds of competitors and their families. Several positive comments regarding the school and our students’ participation were received! Thank you to our staff who remained on duty throughout the day without taking time out in order to effectively supervise students. In particular, I extend a special thankyou to our wonderful parents for catering for these carnivals.

Today’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Day was an outstanding celebration of cultural diversity at St John’s. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander facilitators supported our initiative which incorporated seven different activities. Mrs Wells collaborated with Miss Priscilla to organise the event which incorporated Kindy children and their families. The Reconciliation Garden was featured during the Acknowledgement of Country. Incidentally, our Reconciliation Garden was referenced for its focus on “bush tucker” and native species.

Thank you to the parents that attended the parent Camp meeting last week. At this stage we have published the follow-up expression of interest form to gauge students’ attendance. We have also asked for expressions of interest from parents interested in attending the camp. We have quite a number of parents who have previously expressed interest. These numbers need to be kept to a minimum for a number of reasons including cost and available seating. In line with the evaluation following the 2013 camp, staff will finalise the parents attending list shortly. Unfortunately some families are yet to return this note leaving the camp in limbo.

The School Information Systems suite of integrated software applications has been successfully integrated into St John’s. I congratulate Mrs Sendra as she works towards consolidating her knowledge and understanding of the various suites of software. This is perhaps the most significant transformation of St John’s administration in one huge leap. I request that parents maintain their patience as we endeavour to iron out the wrinkles.

This Friday I will attend the Term 3 Principals’ Conference at Cairns. In the ever evolving climate of school accountability the agenda for this day is intense and will warrant substantial follow up during the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Maley
Principal, M Ed (ICT), B Ed, Dip T
It's lovely to be back after my family holiday to the USA. Last week I shared stories, photos and videos of our travel with the children. They were excited to see things they recognised, especially the Disney parade featuring all the Disney characters. A big thank you to Denise and Debbie for so capably running the Kindergarten whilst I was away.

This week we have been reading ‘Fantastic Animals’ on Reading Eggs on the interactive whiteboard. We discovered some interesting facts – the elephant is the biggest animal on land and the blue whale is the biggest animal in the world!

On Tuesday we potted our four apple seedlings that have grown from seeds we planted out of our apples from shared fruit. For craft we constructed birds out of recycled materials and glued feathers and wobbly eyes on them. We made an animal rubbing and drew their habitat (sea or forest) around them.

Regards Robyn & Denise

Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond.
This year’s NAIDOC theme honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country. From our warriors in the Frontier Wars, to our warriors who have served with honour and pride in Australia’s military conflicts and engagements across the globe. We proudly highlight and recognise the role they have played in shaping our identity and pause to reflect on their sacrifice. We celebrate and honour their priceless contribution to our nation. Today our students participated in a NAIDOC liturgy led by Prep/1 and Year 4/5. This was followed by a rotation of wonderful activities that were organised by Miss Priscilla. Thanks to Miss Priscilla for all her organisation and also to all of our wonderful visitors that shared their stories and talents.

Prep/Year 1 participate in Tree Day
Each year, around 2500 preschools, kindies, primary and high schools across Australia take part in Schools Tree Day. Students at St John’s have learnt how to plant, and care for the school and local environment. Schools Tree Day 2014 was held on Friday 25th July.

“Prep and Year 1 students joined forces with St John’s volunteer extraordinaire Warren Larkin to plant native trees on the back oval. We appreciate Cassowary Coast Regional Council Nurseries coordinator Judy Murphy for supporting this sustainable environmental program. The students gained a wonderful insight into the vital role vegetation plays in our lives. They also enjoyed the opportunity to get their hands dirty whilst planting the trees.” Miss O’Meara

St John’s Jeans For Genes Day
Thank you to students and staff for the wonderful support of our Jeans for Genes day on Friday, 1st August. Our small school raised an amazing $330. Thanks to everyone for supporting this event and making a difference to Children’s Medical Research.

Winners of SMCSA Raffle
$50 Northern Small Goods voucher donated by Mena Creek State School C Scopelliti
$50 Coles/Myer voucher donated by Mundoo State School Kasey Inskip
$50 Woolworths voucher donated by St. John’s School Saline
$50 Silkwood News voucher donated by Silkwood State School Jaskrat Kaur
$50 Off The Rails voucher donated by St Johnstone State School Charles Manitto

Thank you to all who purchased tickets. Money raised by the Association goes towards the purchase of medals and trophies that are distributed to the students throughout the year.

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following students who competed with merit over the 2 day SMCSA Athletics Carnival.

TJ - 1st High Jump, 2nd 200m & sprints
Dimi - 1st 800m, 2nd Sprints, 3rd Long Jump & 200m
Nicholas T - 2nd Shotput
Arvind - 1st 200m, 2nd High Jump, & Sprints
Jye - 3rd Long Jump
Leanne - 2nd Long Jump
Evan - 2nd Sprints, 3rd Long Jump & 200m
Bryce - 2nd High Jump
Nikita - 2nd High Jump, Long Jump 3rd 800m, 200m
Jacob - 1st Sprints, 2nd High Jump, Long Jump 800m, 200m
James - 1st High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, 800m, 200m & Sprints.
Callan - 2nd High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, 800m, 200m & Sprints.

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Kindy Corner

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Feast of the Assumption of Mary - Mass 9.00am

Tomorrow, we affirm our belief that Mary is in glory, in the presence of God with Mass at 9.00am.

In the 7th Century, a feast day originally called the Dormition or ‘Falling asleep’ of Mary gradually became known as the Assumption of Mary.

The date of this feast commemorated a very ancient harvest festival towards the end of summer, which gave thanks to the Earth Mother for her fertility in producing the harvest.

The Assumption commemorates the glorification of Mary, chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus, the Christ. This week we are encouraged to affirm our humanity and work to enhance the dignity of all people as daughters and sons of God.

(Adapted from Stories and Seasons: Saints and Feasts)

Mary surrendered her life to the great wisdom of God’s love. Let us open ourselves to the Trinity, who also dwells within us.

For the leaders of our Church: that they may have open and listening hearts. We pray to the Lord

For our society: that we may respect and treasure the sacred in our lives. We pray to the Lord

For those of us who are afraid to trust: that we may release our need to control and surrender all our concerns to your wisdom. We pray to the Lord

For women everywhere throughout the world: that they may love as generously as Mary did when she reached out to Elizabeth in her hour of need. We pray to the Lord

For men in all walks of life: That they may respect and honour the women in their lives. We pray to the Lord:

For those who have died: That they may rejoice in glory with Mary and all the Saints as they behold the face of God. We pray to the Lord

Mini Vinnies News

The Mini Vinnies team is busy preparing for our upcoming events. The Father’s Day raffle tickets are being sent home with today’s newsletter and will be drawn at school on Friday 5th September, just in time for Father’s Day on the 7th September. There are 4 chances to win and tickets are only 50c each or 5 for $2.00.

1st Prize – Snorkeling Day trip for 1 adult on board “Coral Seeker” Mission Beach valued at $190

2nd Prize - 1 night family stay at Kurrimine Bch Holiday Park

3rd Prize - $50-00 Fish Tray

4th Prize – Men’s toiletry set

It is a great opportunity to remember your Dad and support a special cause.

The ‘Sleepout’ will be on Friday 29th August 2014 and information was sent home yesterday. All St. John’s students and parents are welcome to attend ‘Sleepout’.

Students from Prep to Year 3, however, must have a Parent/Guardian stay with them overnight.

We will be having our Mini Vinnies Charity Concert on Friday 12th September, so please keep this date free and come and join us for some fun! Many thanks for all the kind donations of food for our Winter Appeal and prize donations for our raffle.

Mrs DeBrincat, Coordinator, Mini Vinnies Team

Students of the Week

Social Emotional Learning Awards

Rylee - Never giving up and always trying your best. Keep up the great work!

Getting Along

Deja - Working well with your partner in maths rotations.

Organisation

Lyanna - Being well prepared for class and completing work on time.

Jennifer - A tremendous effort with the Assumption Mass slideshow and music.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards

Quality Producer

Rose - Writing a fantastic verb poem and independently sounding out your words.

Leader & Collaborator

TJ - Encouraging others during the athletics carnival.

Quality Producer

Lucian - Good effort at writing tasks.

Ryan H - A great overall improvement in presentation of work. Well done.

100 nights - Lachlan E 125 nights - Wavey

150 nights - Rylee, Amelie, Jayden, Sanraj, Evina, Rose.

Book Week is coming next week.

Book Week will be celebrated next week. This year’s theme is Connect to Reading. Book week hopes to encourage students to connect to stories and written texts and expose them to new experiences and knowledge through their involvement and exposure. This year students will have the opportunity to come dressed as a book character for next week’s Friday assembly. So get your thinking caps on and look through the dress up box at home and let’s have fun!

P & F & X Factor!

Calling all those talented parents and friends.

Do you have a talent that you’d like to share at the variety night concert on the 12th September? Perhaps you’re a line-dancer or yodeller, love stand-up comedy, or have always thought you should dance the lead in Swan Lake? So dust off those bag pipes, harmonicas and ukuleles, and get a group together. Call Julie on 0417 492 644.

Silkwood Junior Soccer Draw 16th August

U6 - 3.15pm  U8 - 3.00pm

U9 - 1.00pm  U10 - 3.00pm

U11/12 - 1.00pm  U13/14/15 - 1.00pm & 2.45pm