Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

The St John’s Sleep Out for the homeless was held last Friday night. The Sleep Out was exceptionally well attended by 21 students, parents, staff and Mr Lou Crema, the President of SVDP at Tully. The experience provided students, parents and staff with the opportunity to connect on a personal level with the issue of homelessness by sleeping out for one night, whilst raising $673 in funds. In hilarious circumstances, several “typhoid infested” bandicoots visited the peacefully sleeping (some snoring) participants, which created a huge commotion for participants roughing it on cardboard.

Special thanks is extended to Mrs Vicki De Brincat for organising the fruitful sleep out.

Last Friday we held our Book Week Assembly. Sticking with tradition, students presented some very creative literacy focused presentations related to the theme which, this year, was “Read Across the Universe”. I was thoroughly impressed with the different class presentations. Thank you to you all and a special thanks to those parents who joined us for the assembly and Mrs Sendra for creating the interactive display.

At present there are a few outstanding jobs that we are aiming to complete at a working bee scheduled to be held on Friday 11th October (1st Friday of Week 1, Term 4). St John’s is often recognised for its immaculate condition. The list of jobs incorporates many tasks that are beyond the parameters of the normal cleaning regime and includes; window cleaning, pressure cleaning, weeding in several gardens, painting Prep/Year 1 playground equipment, painting small storage shed, fixing gate, attaching brackets in the sports shed etc. Please note that we appreciate how busy parents are, and encourage parents to perhaps allocate a time that suits their family which may not be on the scheduled date. Feel free to contact the school office to find out what needs to be done.

Yours sincerely,

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

“Happiness is not the absence of problems but the ability to deal with them!”  Unknown

Term 3 Week 8 – 29th August, 2013
Monday Music lesson rescheduled
Cameron will be unable to attend St John’s next Monday, but will be here on Wednesday for music lessons.

Fathers’ Day Mass
Next Tuesday, 3rd September, students of St John’s School will be attending a special Fathers’ Day Mass with Fr. Tony at 12 noon. Parents, grandparents and the parish community are welcome to attend.

First Aid Course
Staff will be updating their First Aid qualifications on Tuesday 10th September from 3.00pm to 6.00pm in preparation for next term’s swimming program.

3 Way Conference - 16th to 18th September
Three-way Conferences for Prep to Year 7 will be conducted during Week 11 this term. Parents will have the opportunity to book a fifteen minute time slot to participate in a conference with their child and teacher. Student portfolios will be distributed at the three-way conference. The portfolios show samples of your child’s work throughout the year. A letter will be sent home next Monday, where parents will be able to book their appointment time. Every attempt will be made to accommodate preferred times, however this is not always possible.

Parent Skills Week
Last week Year 2/3 were very excited and privileged to have several parents visit the classroom to demonstrate their special skills to the students.

Mrs Habermann talked about bee keeping and the class enjoyed tasting her honey. Mrs Hogan kindly donated some strawberry plants to the class and showed them how to plant them. The class are looking forward to more demonstrations and are grateful to the parents who have taken time out of their busy schedules to visit the class.

Debbie Daly, Class Teacher

Headlice
There have been a few cases of headlice reported. Please check your child/ren’s hair for headlice and treat accordingly. Treatment must be administered weekly until all eggs have been destroyed.

SMCSA Softball / T-Ball Carnival
Tomorrow children in Years 3 to 7 will compete in the SMCSA softball T-Ball carnival. The day is based on participation rather than competition. Please ensure your child has their water bottle with them and that you have applied sunscreen on them before leaving home. Parents are welcome to attend.

Next Thursday 5th September the Kindy children, staff and parents will be attending our excursion to Spurwood Springs at Mena Creek. Permission forms are due in tomorrow and payment will be required on Tuesday. The cost is $11.00 per kindy child and adult.

Next Friday 6th September the Kindy parents are organising a Sausage Sizzle for School and Kindy students. The meal deal is $4.00 which includes a popper and two sausages on bread.

Cheers, Robyn/Denise

Catholic education policy priorities
Catholic education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1,706 Catholic schools across Australia. Catholic education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students.

For further information please visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au
Thank you to the 21 students plus staff and parents who participated in our Mini Vinnies Sleepover on Friday night. We raised $673 from sponsorship donations. The cooperation of students and their behaviour was very pleasing. The support by staff and parents was awesome! A special thank you also goes out to President of SVDP Tully Lou Crema who was our guest speaker and slept out overnight with us which made our experience even more rewarding. Please keep Friday 13th September free to attend our Mini Vinnies Charity Concert for a night of fun. The funds raised will help us to visit the old age homes next term.

Vicki DeBrincat  Coordinator

Amazing Support from a School in Australia

Earlier in the year we published a picture from a Queensland newspaper showing a group of children at St John’s School in Silkwood. They knitted squares and sent them to IWAM to be made into blankets for the baby bundles that are delivered to the maternity hospitals in Ulaanbaatar.

Diana O’Brien, Kate Carey’s mother, recently made her second visit to Mongolia bringing the squares with her. Many of these had been made into blankets and have since been delivered to the hospital along with the 19 flannelette cuddle rugs, 11 jumpers and beanie sets, 26 beanies, 5 baby jackets, 22 pairs of booties, 6 jumpers and 11special care jackets. These wonderful donations have come from one small community in Australia endeavouring to make the lives of some babies here in Mongolia a little easier. Diana also brought with her a letter from the principal of the school to IWAM. It reads:

“This has been a wonderful opportunity for the children of St John’s School, Silkwood to understand that giving isn’t necessarily money, but more the giving of their time, talents and love! It has given the children a wonderful opportunity to develop a new skill. May the recipients of these blankets have a healthy and warm start in life.”

To all the children, staff and parents of St John’s School we would like to thank you for your wonderful contributions.

These photos show Kate’s parents delivering baby bundles using the items they have brought with them from Australia.

Black Duck Wisdom by Maggie Dent

2nd Wisdom

Focus on what is and stay in the present moment

Ducks live for the moment. When they are hungry they eat. When they are tired they sleep. When they feel like paddling they paddle. When the weather gets too cold for them they migrate to where it’s warmer: Simple.

Humans waste valuable time and energy worrying about the past and ‘what has happened’ and the future ‘what might happen’. Living more in the ‘now’ can help us all to worry less, stress less and be more content in our lives.