Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Caitlin O’Meara to the position of Prep/Year 1 teacher, commencing in 2014. Miss O’Meara will replace Miss Elise Harisson who will finalise her contract commitments at St John’s this year. I would like to acknowledge and thank most sincerely Miss Harisson for her dedication throughout this year and 2012 as the Prep/Year 1 classroom teacher.

The Cooktown camp was a terrific success thanks to some very resourceful staff and parents. I acknowledge Mrs Jenni Williamson who was instrumental in canvassing and organising the itinerary. The activities ranged from participating in a rainforest walk at Hope Vale, through to exploring our history at the James Cook Museum. The camp not only satisfies our History and SOSE curriculum requirements but also provides an opportunity for the students to celebrate their achievements throughout the year. I sincerely thank the teachers and parents for committing their time 24/7 for four days to support our school camp program.

The commencement of the Intensive Swimming Program has achieved some outstanding results in the past four days. Our few non-swimmers are growing in water confidence, whilst our more accomplished swimmers are challenging themselves in stroke correction and endurance. Our dedicated instructors (teachers, school officers and parents, Kirsten Brooks and Sally Maley) have impressed me with their patience in supporting our developing swimmers. Preparations for our school swimming carnival, due to be held at Kurrimine Beach Holiday Park on Friday 22nd November, are well under way. Parent assistance in time keeping, etc. would be greatly appreciated to ensure the success of this carnival.

Thank you to Tracey and Corey Patterson from Kurrimine Beach Holiday Park who have kindly offered to donate a sausage sizzle for all students and parents at our swimming carnival next Friday!

A reminder that the Parent PD will be held next Wednesday 20th November with Christine Coop at St Rita’s, South Johnstone. This is a terrific opportunity for parents to learn a few tips on successful parenting.

Yours sincerely,

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

“Put your heart, mind and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success!” Swami Sivananda

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

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Typhoon Haiyan Appeal
Yesterday the St John’s Mini Vinnies chapter met to discuss the natural disaster in the Philippines. The executive agreed to relinquish the nursing home visits and direct the bus funds ($600) towards the Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. Additional contributions can be made at the school office.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal 2013
St John’s has commenced collecting donations of non perishable goods such as sweet/savoury biscuits, nuts, tinned vegetables/ham, sweets etc. to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. A collection basket will be located in each classroom. Items are required before 5th December and will be presented to a St Vincent de Paul Society representative at our end of year liturgy on Friday 6th December at 10.45am.

SMCSA Kanga Cricket
Our SMCSA Kanga Cricket Carnival is being held tomorrow at the Silkwood Soccer Grounds. Students in Years 4 - 7 will walk to the soccer grounds and return to school following their cricket games.

School Mass
Next Tuesday, 19th November, the Year 2/3 & Year 6/7 classes will be hosting a School Mass at 9.00am, in the Silkwood Church. Parents, friends and the wider community are invited to attend.

2014 School Book packs
For many years now, St John’s School has sold “Book Packs” to families at the commencement of each year to ensure students have correct standardised materials and also to save parents the added burden of shopping for “back to school” items. The “Back to School Book Pack” incorporates a variety of items purchased at a bulk price including: pens, pencils, colours, glue, exercise books, R.E.A.D. It diaries, display books, scrap books, art products etc specific to each class group. Teachers are currently working on next year’s bookpack orders. St John’s staff prefers all students have the correct and same equipment needed to start a new school year.

2014 Grounds Person
St John’s will require a new grounds person in 2014. The position includes mowing, weed spraying and other general yard duties for 4 hours a week. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Tuckshop
There will be no pizzas available for next week’s tuckshop.

Bookclub
The next issue of bookclub has been sent home. All orders must be returned by Wednesday morning, 20th November to ensure orders return before school ends.

Black Duck Wisdom

10th Wisdom
Competition is over-rated. It doesn’t guarantee health, happiness, peace or contentment in your life! Ducks do what ducks do best. They have no desire to be the world champion duck. They live their lives by being a duck - and don’t care what the rest of the world thinks about them. Many humans devote years of their lives being driven by competition—the need to be the best in their city, country or the world. Sometimes this causes deep emotional, physical and mental anguish and suffering. Sometimes they see little of the people who love them the most. Sometimes they are driven to cheat to achieve their goals. What’s important is not what others think of you - it’s what YOU think of YOU.

Kindy Corner
A combined School/Kindy Assembly will be held in Week 8, Friday 29th November at the school library. This will be the final performance by this group in 2013 and all families are encouraged to attend. The children have been practising hard all term, so please keep this date free to watch your children show their talents. This is also the day the final Sausage Sizzle for the year will be held for school and kindy students. Christmas has arrived early at Kindy with the children being read the Nativity story and starting on their Christmas activities. They also helped to display the Nativity scene and decorate the Kindy Christmas tree. Cheers, Robyn & Denise.
Students on the Endeavour River

Hope Vale Cultural Centre donated a handmade traditional hunting spear to St John’s in appreciation of our students interest in the Indigenous culture

Year 4 - 7 Camp

Students on the Traditional Foods Rainforest Walk in Hope Vale

Camp grounds

Panning for gold on the Palmer River

Windiest lighthouse in the world - Cooktown Lighthouse on Bald Hill

Melbourne Cup Races