Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Congratulations to all students for their participation in the school swimming carnival last Friday. Many outstanding achievements were recorded by numerous students who competed in as many as seven different events. Thank you to the parents and Ainslie who supported the carnival via time keeping etc. The BBQ & drinks kindly supplied by the Patterson family were extraordinarily well received and promoted a healthy community vibe!

Our Year 7 students will celebrate their Graduation on Tuesday night at the Kurrimine Beach Motel with family and staff. I am impressed with the effort the senior students have made in their capacity as school leaders during 2013. Again, I am reminded of that something special that our small school has to offer the wider community. The Brooks & Cirstea families will depart St. John’s this year. I acknowledge all families for their active association with our school.

The St John’s Parents and Friends End of Year Dinner promises to be a wonderful celebration of our community’s achievements throughout the year. Children, parents and staff will gather to share a meal this Friday night. Please contact the school office if you are interested in attending.

The Presentation Night promises to be a spectacular of items presented by each class. Student awards will also be presented to culminate the very successful teaching and learning that has occurred in 2013. Students will be acknowledged for a variety of achievements including: Academic Achievement, Academic Improvement, Sportsmanship, Spiritual, Three Saints’ Citizenship Award, Social Emotional Learning

The night will commence at 6:00pm next Thursday incorporating presentations and speeches. The evening will conclude with Christmas Carols and a special visitor from the North Pole. Parents are requested to bring a plate for supper to share with everyone following the presentations.

Next Friday we will celebrate the final day of the school year with Liturgy at 11.00am. I invite everyone from the community to join us in celebrating the end of the 2013 school year and acknowledge our Year 7 graduating students. Parents are requested to please make arrangements for students after the liturgy or before midday to free the staff to make arrangements for 2014 and conduct transition meetings.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Maley  Principal,  M Ed (ICT), B Ed, Dip T
What's Happening in Year 2/3

This term Year 2/3 have been looking at how spirituality contributes to personal identity.

Identity is expressed in terms of the different dimensions of the self namely, physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and relational. We hope to develop our identity positively in relation to these dimensions. Families, schools and the community are crucial in the development of a healthy identity. Our Christian tradition emphasises the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God and the need to love and value each and every individual.

The students are learning how to identify things that nurture or inhibit their spiritual health and personal identity. They have thought about the people that influence them and have completed role-play activities about friendship. They have also learnt about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and what each one looks like, feels like and sounds like in various situations. In addition they have thought about places in nature to which they feel a spiritual connection. These proved to be places of awe, wonder and beauty where students have felt connected to God and nature in a very special way.

Mrs Debbie Daly

2014 Tuckshop Convenor

St John’s will be looking for a new tuckshop convenor in 2014. Please give some consideration to supporting our children with one day of tuckshop each week. The tuckshop day can be negotiated by the convenor. Phone Vera if you would like to put your hand up. Thanks to Angelique for coordinating the 2013 tuckshop activities.

There will be NO TUCKSHOP next week

Library Books/Home Readers Returns

Families are reminded to return all library books to the library for shelving. If books cannot be found they must be replaced or paid for.

P & F Reading Awards

We will be holding the P&F Book Rewards Shop on Tuesday, 3rd December to acknowledge the P & F sponsored homework reading program.

Christmas Hamper

Keep donations of non perishable goods coming in for our Christmas Hamper. Items are required before Thursday 5th December.

Kindy Sausage Sizzle Tomorrow

Tomorrow, the Kindergarten will be hosting a Sausage Sizzle for 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 is appreciated) and returned to the office.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open for parents wishing to purchase new uniforms for students enrolling at St. John’s in 2014, or existing parents who require more uniforms for their children. The uniform shop will open: Friday 24th January 9:00am - 11:00am

You can contact Chrissie on 40656251.

Phone app available in time for cyclone season

A Catholic Education phone app for smart phones and tablets (iPhone and Android) is now available for download. Staff and families are asked to please download this app as it will facilitate instant communication and push notifications in the case of cyclones and any other emergency situations. For those without a smart device, the content will be replicated on the home page of the new Cairns Catholic Education website at www.cns.catholic.edu.au, due to go live in early December. Our school will have its own version of this app in the new year, but until then, please download the Cairns Catholic Education app by searching for ‘Cairns Catholic Education’ in your device’s app store.

Breakup Party

To St. John’s Year 1, Prep, Kindergarten and Playgroup parents/carers & students.

Where: St. John’s School Undercover Sports Complex

When: Tuesday 3rd December 2013

Time: 9am – 11:15am

What to bring

✓ Plate of munchies to share for Morning Tea
✓ Spare clothes, hat and water bottle.
✓ A wrapped book (to the value of $15) CLEARLY marked with your child’s first and last names. Please bring the book in BEFORE the day and pass on to your child’s teacher.

If you bring other children on the day, you are welcome to include a wrapped book for them also.

From Elise, Robyn, Denise and Teleisha

Kindy Corner

As the year draws to a close we would like to thank the many parents and families that have supported the Kindergarten over the year. Support has been generously offered in many forms including completing working bee jobs, helping with fundraising and making donations, collecting recycled items and assisting with craft and gardening jobs. A big thank you to the Parent Committee representatives this year Samantha Ericson, Alfina Barbagallo, Andrea Downward and Lisa-Maree Barba for your contribution.

We wish the Kindy children transitioning to Prep all the best for their future education and look forward to seeing the remaining children return to Kindy on Tuesday 28th January, 2014.

Cheers, Robyn & Denise.
2013 Swimming Carnival - Age Champions

6 Year Boys - Connor  Girls - Tegan
7 Year Boys - Adam A
8 Year Boys - T.J., Girls - Dimi
9 Years Boys - Jye  Girls - Amy
10 Year Boys - Bryce  Girls - Nikita
11 Year Boys - Jacob  Girls - Jennifer
12 Year Boys - James  Girls - Emma
13 Year Boys - Zane

Congratulations to MacKillop House on winning a very successful swimming carnival and to Francis for taking out the War Cry trophy last Friday.

St John's School
Enrolling for 2014

Our purpose is to provide an educational climate that allows students to learn together to achieve their personal best in a united, caring and Christ-centred environment.

Student of the Week

Social Emotional Learning Awards
Persistence
Braith - Persisting and swimming your best at the swimming carnival.
Confidence
Jared - Answering questions with confidence in class.
Getting Along
Jacob - Fitting in well to a new class group.
Persistence
Matthew - Great effort maintaining the fish tank for the Year 6/7 prawns.

Inquiry and Reflective Learners Awards
Designer & Creator
Adam A - Making beautiful Christmas pictures and colouring ins.
Leader & Collaborator
Pavel - Working well with partner and team activities.
Community Contributor
Kent – Being a willing and helpful class member.
Designer & Creator
James - Super effort completing your solar cooker on your own.

Reading Awards
75 nights - Buster  100 nights - Kelsey
125 nights - Hannah, Danaya
150 nights - Adam A, Connor
175 nights - Saskia, Kyle, Bryce, Jacob, Jarred, Adam N, Pavel
200 nights - Saskia, Jared, Kent, Nicholas T, Dimi, Arvind Mitchell
225 nights - Tegan, Dylan, Lachlan E, Leanne, Evan, Alex, Paul
250 nights - TJ, Paul 275 nights - Deja, Paul, Matthew
300 nights - Deja, James

Black Duck Wisdom by Maggie Dent

12th Wisdom
Families of young ones need at least two people who are committed to keeping the offspring fed, cared for and safe.
It takes two adult ducks to successfully & safely take a family of ducks across the road - one at the front and one at the back.
Sole parenting has to be at least twice as hard as having two parents raise a family. The more responsible adults who can help raise children the better - two adults should be the absolute minimum. This other adult does not have to be biologically related—just have a good heart. We can all help sole parents to raise their children!

Fundraiser for Jade
Saturday 30th November at the El Arish Tavern BBQ & Cake stall at 11.30am followed by afternoon tea at 1.00pm. Raffles drawn, donations of cakes and non perishable goods welcome. Phone Paula, Fundraising Group. 0428 341 727 for more information.