Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff & Students,

Welcome to the final school newsletter for this year and my final correspondence as Principal of St. John’s for 2014. It is with great sadness and trepidation that I transition for 12 months to St Gerard Majella in Cairns. As the year, and indeed my time in Silkwood comes to a close, it is appropriate to reflect upon not only this year, but also the previous six years. St John’s has endured difficult times that have included Cyclone Yasi, the loss of parents and extreme flooding to blossom as a school offering quality education. I am affirmed that St John’s will maintain its current strategic direction with the continuing faithful presence of Mrs Lucy Wells in the position of Assistant Principal Religious Education during 2015.

St John’s has provided the foundation for the formative development of many families’ schooling, including the Maleys. St. John’s School and Kindergarten and the local area will forever be etched into my family’s memories. My family and I also persevered with the community as we struggled to recover and rebuild following the devastation of Yasi in 2011. This shared experience, although negative, will forever connect and internalise us with the people of St. John’s and the Silkwood region.

I have been blessed to have served St. John’s and wish to thank Fr Kumaradhas and the dedicated hardworking staff of St John’s that have provided the scaffold for the school’s significant success and many diversified achievements. The delightful students and supportive parents I have worked with during the last seven years have sustained me and my family. I pray that you individually, and as a school community, continue to live the school motto of “Always Reaching For New Heights”!

The last few weeks have presented many events that demonstrate the true character of our school community and the calibre of the young people and adults who constitute it. The St John’s staff wish our parents, friends and students a happy and safe Christmas holiday.

Please remember to wear your seat belts and think safety if travelling on the road during this busy time. School and Kindy will recommence on Tuesday 27th January, 2015.

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

“Reflect upon our present blessings - of which every person has many - not on our past misfortunes, of which everyone have some!” Anon.
Good Bye and Farewell
We farewell our Year 6 & 7 students - Zane, Jacob, Jordan, Chad, Nicholas, Bethany, Ryan, Evan, Nikita, Olympia, Matthew, Amelia, Lachlan, Callan, Jennifer, Bradley & James who will be leaving St. John’s to attend secondary schooling. Farewell also to the Bishop, Bradshaw, Camilleri, Formosa, Frumento, Hogg and Taifalos families who will be leaving our St. John’s community. Though these families may be moving to new schools, our St. John’s community will always welcome them here.

2015 Book packs
2015 bookpacks will be ordered next week. These will be available in bulk for teacher distribution at the beginning of next year, therefore the packs will remain at school. Payment of $45.00 per student book pack will be invoiced in Term 1 fees.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will be open for parents wishing to purchase new uniforms for students enrolling at St. John’s in 2015 or existing parents who require more uniforms for their children. The uniform shop will open:
- Friday 5th December 8.30am - 11:00am
- Friday 23rd January 9.00am - 12:00noon
- Tuesday 27th January 8.00am - 9:00am
You can contact Michelle on 4065 2344.

Swimming Carnival Age Champions
Congratulations to the MacKillop house who came out on top with points, although Francis had the best war cry on the day! Age champion results are as follows.
- 5 Years - Rylee & Kade
- 6 Years - Evina & Callum
- 7 Years - Deja & Kyle
- 8 Years - Wavey & Ryan
- 9 Years - Dimi & TJ
- 10 Years - Amy & Jye
- 11 Years - Nikita & Bryce
- 12 Years - Jennifer & Jacob
- 13 Years - Callan

Calendar of Events
Thursday 4th December - TONIGHT
⇒ Presentation Night at the Undercover area commencing 6:00pm. Children are required to begin arriving around 5.30pm. Parents are requested to please bring a plate to share for supper.

Friday 5th December
⇒ Kindy Pupil Free Day
⇒ Uniform shop will be open from 8.30am to 11.00am for uniform purchases
⇒ Mass 11.00am. Please join us in celebrating the end of the 2014 school year and acknowledge our Year 6 & 7 graduating students. This is a special time for our community as we give thanks for the year that has been.
⇒ 12.00noon. School will end. Parents are invited to come and collect their children.
Parents are requested to make arrangements for students to be collected at midday so staff can conduct transition meetings.

Mini Vinnies News
Yesterday’s trip to Tully Nursing Home via stop over at Tully Men’s Shed and QCWA was wonderful. We had first hand view of what happens at these venues and how valued their work is in our community. The students entertained the residents at the home with song, dance, music and drama. They really appreciated our visit. The residents of the home have contributed so much to our community in the past so it was only fitting to bring them Christmas joy. All the students at St. John’s made Christmas cards and hanging mobiles which were presented to the residents as gifts to be displayed in their rooms. Thank you to Mr. Maley, Mr. Russell and Mrs. Williamson for all your support and all the staff and students for your contribution to our trip to Tully.

Through the kind donations of our school and parish families we have reached our target of 100 items, plus more for our Christmas hampers. Tomorrow at our final school Mass we will hand over these hampers to Mr Lou Crema representing Tully SVDP plus $550 to assist the needy at Christmas time. Thank you to all for your kind support throughout 2014 and on behalf of the Mini Vinnies Team we wish everyone a happy Festive Season. Mrs DeBrincat, Coordinator

Christmas Mass Times
Wednesday Vigil - 24th December
♦ Tully - 5.30pm
♦ Silkwood - 6.00pm
Thursday 25th December
♦ Mission Beach - 7.00am
♦ Tully - 9.00am

Happy Birthday!
5th - Callum 6th - Rose
7th - Owen **DECEMBER**

Age Champions & Runners-Up