Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

I must commend the students for the wonderful way they have committed themselves to achieving their personal, academic, sporting and social goals during the course of 2013. A special thanks is also extended to our very dedicated staff who have committed themselves beyond the reasonable call of duty time and again. I would like to particularly acknowledge and thank most sincerely Mrs Payne and Miss Harisson for their dedication to St John’s. Both teachers have very optimistic futures as educators of society’s impending leaders.

I look forward to seeing our parents and friends at tonight’s presentation evening which is planned to commence at 5:50pm. This year we have a nativity focus at our presentation evening. I remind parents that tonight is our end of year celebration and encourage the supervision of non school children. Students will be required to remain seated with their class during the presentation.

After spending another enjoyable year as Principal of St John’s, my determination for the school to progress as a quality educational institution has been reaffirmed. The periodic challenges that arise are negated by the terrific support the community has extended to me and my family. Consequently, I am eager to continue my professional journey with the staff, students, parents and friends at St John’s School Silkwood in 2014.

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 28th January, 2014.

Yours sincerely,

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

Term Dates 2014
Term 1 - 28th Jan - 4th April
Term 2 - 22nd April - 27th June
Term 3 - 14th July - 19th Sept
Term 4 - 7th Oct - 5th Dec

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas!”

Calvin Coolidge
Farewell
We farewell our Year 7 students - Zane, Christian, Mitchell, Emma, Paul and Jack who will be leaving St. John’s to attend secondary schooling. Farewell also to the Brooks, & Finna/Cirstea families who will be leaving our St. John’s community. St John’s acknowledges Kirsten for her active representation of our school at State, Diocesan and local level of governance.

In addition to the Brooks & Cirstea families, the Dodds family will also be departing St. John’s this year. Though these families may be moving to new schools, our St. John’s community will always welcome them here.

Thanks
As the school year draws to a close it is extremely important to thank the many parents and community members that make valuable contributions to our school community each week. Special thanks to our tuckshop rostered volunteers, Mrs Angelique Scarpignato our tuckshop co-ordinator, Mrs Gloria Casey our tuckshop facilitator, Mrs Robyn Taifalos our Book Club co-ordinator and Mrs Chrissie Babsek our Uniform coordinator, Mrs Kathy James our school and kindly volunteer, and Mrs Sally Maley, Mrs Kirsten Brooks, Miss Ainsley Balke and Mrs Renate Habermann, as our Intensive Swimming Program facilitators and also the many parent swimming spotters. Thank you also to the many parents who have contributed this year in classroom activities. These volunteers provide vital extra curricula support for our children. St John’s values your contribution and thanks you for your efforts.

Thursday 5th December
♦ Presentation Night at the Undercover area commencing 5:50pm. Children are required to begin arriving around 5.40pm. Parents are requested to please bring a plate to share for supper.
♦ Kindy Pupil Free Day

Friday 6th December
♦ Kindy Pupil Free Day
♦ End of year Liturgy at 11.00am. Please join us in celebrating the end of the 2013 school year and acknowledge our Year Seven graduating students.

Parents are requested to make arrangements for students to be collected at or before midday to avail staff to make arrangements for 2014 and conduct transition meetings. Teachers will return to school early next year (Wednesday 22nd January) to participate in several days of professional development whilst students are on holidays.

Condolences
Our sincere condolences to the Brooks family on the sad passing of Robert’s father.

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.

As 2013 draws to an end we are very pleased to report that our St John’s Mini Vinnies Team has had another amazing year! We have been operating for three years now and each year seems to reach greater heights in our achievements. This year, in 2013 we raised an amazing $1541. These funds have been used to cover fundraising costs, the Winter Appeal, make blankets for infants in Mongolia, “Assist a Student” program and the sleepout night, which raised awareness of our homeless people in Australia and also collected $590 towards this worthwhile cause. The Black Friday Charity Concert was a huge success and highlighted that we have many talented people in our school and community. With this fundraiser the Mini Vinnies team donated $600 towards the Philippines Typhoon Appeal. Finally, on Friday we will hand over our Christmas food hampers to the Innisfail St. Vincent de Paul Society and a cheque for the balance of our fundraising efforts. I wish to thank our Executive members for all their contributions and especially giving up their time to make our team so successful. A special thank you goes out to our Staff, Parents and Friends of our community for all their support in helping us to achieve our goals.

Mrs Vicki DeBrincat, Co-ordinator

Christmas Mass Times
Tuesday Vigil - 24th December
♦ Tully - 6.00pm
♦ Silkwood - 8.00pm

Wednesday 25th December
♦ Mission Beach - 7.00am
♦ Cardwell - 9.00am
Black Duck Wisdom by Maggie Dent

13th Wisdom
Nothing is more important than the health and safety of your young. Ducks can become very scary if they feel their young are threatened. They also keep a very close eye on their young at all times. Humans need to be much more vigilant in keeping their children safe. Some of the biggest threats in the world are hard to defend—the worldwide web, paedophiles, the distortion of the truth in the media, junk food, scary movies and bullying. Your child’s safety needs you to be vigilant and very careful at all times!