Dear Parents/Guardians, Teachers & Students,

Welcome to the start of the 2014 school year and the continuation of quality Catholic Education at St. John’s School. St. John’s teachers and school officers have worked tirelessly during the past few weeks to prepare the school and teaching programs that will both challenge, engage and stimulate your children’s learning.

St. John’s would like to extend a warm welcome to the Giarraffa, Grewal, Lee, McTaggart, Rosendahl, Zammit, Glasson, Hogg, James, Bishop and Holly families. We also welcome Miss O’Meara in the Prep/Year 1 classroom, whilst Mrs Wells replaces Mrs Payne as APRE and comes very highly regarded! We pray your time with us will be rewarding and hope you will all enjoy striving to achieve our school motto of “Always Reaching For New Heights”.

Teachers will hold Parent Information sessions next week to promote an effective home and school partnership. Refer to times inside this newsletter.

The Years Six and Seven students will present their leadership speeches to our community next Friday morning at assembly in the Year 2/3 classroom at 8.50am. Staff and students will have the opportunity to vote for their favoured School Captain, School Vice Captain and Sports House Captains following the speeches. Parents are welcome to attend and support their children. I extend an open invitation to all parents and friends to attend the St John’s P & F sponsored MEET and GREET morning tea at the tuckshop following the assembly. Also, don’t forget to mark the 2014 P & F AGM on your calendars (Tuesday 11th February). This organisation is instrumental in supporting our classroom curriculum and extra curricula pedagogy.

The 2014 school leaders will be presented with their P & F sponsored shirts and their respective badges at the beginning of the school year Mass at 9.00am on Monday 17th February.

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

Term 1 Week 1 – 30th January, 2014

“A good decision is based on knowledge and not numbers!” Plato
Parent Information Sessions
Information sessions for the 2014 school year have been set for next week. This is an opportunity for new and current parents to meet their child/ren’s teachers and for teachers to disperse information that will help set the standards and expectations (including homework) for the year ahead.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/Year 1</td>
<td>Monday 3/02/14</td>
<td>3:05pm sharp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Tuesday 4/02/14</td>
<td>3:05pm sharp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Wednesday 05/02/14</td>
<td>3:05pm sharp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Thursday 06/02/14</td>
<td>3:05pm sharp</td>
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<td>Kindy</td>
<td>Thursday 07/02/13</td>
<td>8:45am sharp</td>
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</tbody>
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Electronic Roll Marking
Teachers will once again record student attendance electronically at two times during the school day, 9.00am and 1.00pm. This highlights the importance of parents contacting St John’s to register absences before the school day.

Position Vacant - Tuckshop Convenor
St. John’s is looking for a new tuckshop convenor for 2014. Our community sincerely thanks Angelique Scarpignato for her dedicated service during 2013. This position involves coordinating and preparing tuckshop for children of the school and kindergarten for one morning a week. Tuckshop does not necessarily have to be held on a particular day, but at the new convenor’s discretion. Ring Vera for any further information, 4065 2193.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop is operated by Parents and Friends and will be opening every Friday from 8:00am to 8:35am for any uniform requirements. For new parents, the uniform shop is located opposite the Prep/One classrooms.

Music Lessons
Our music tuition program will continue at St. John’s in 2014. For new parents, St. John’s has an extra curricular instrumental program for children who wish to take part. To register your child’s interest, complete the letter that was sent home yesterday.

Library
Our school library houses a wide selection of resources both fiction and non-fiction that may be borrowed by parents and students. Students may borrow 1 to 3 books per week, depending on their ability and requirements. Library books must travel home and back to school in a library bag. Parents, please remember that when library books arrive home, they are the responsibility of the student. Any damages to these books will be incurred at the parents’ expense. If parents would like to borrow resources from our school library, please see Vera.

New Year Prayer
This new year,
like a new born child is placed in our hands,
as the old year passes away,
the days and weeks and months to come
are pure gift;
they carry God’s blessing.
As a blessing, we welcome them.
Our hope for the year that has been
is that all that was good in it, remain with us
and all that was harmful, be left behind.
Bless us, O God,
and bless the time and seasons
yet to come.
Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart;
and fill this new year with your kindness,
that we may reflect this in our own spirit,
to all who pass our way.

Change of Personal Details
At the commencement of each year, parents are reminded to update their personal details with any changes of address, telephone numbers or emergency contact numbers. It is vital that this information is kept up-to-date in the event of an emergency at school. Children will not be released to any adult unless they have been marked on your enrolment form as a contact name, so please ensure these names remain current. If you have amendments complete the attached form and return by next Tuesday, 4th February.

End of school day procedures
A reminder that children being collected by their parents at the end of the school day must be marked off the roll in front of the administration office before they are allowed to proceed to their cars. Please refer to the safe practice diagram on the next page.

My name is Lucy Wells and it is my privilege to take on the role of APRE (Assistant Principal Religious Education) here at St John’s for 2014. I also have the wonderful role of share teaching Year 4 and 5 with Mrs Williamson.
A little about myself. I live in Tully with my husband and two daughters. Stephen and I also run a business in Tully. I have 20 years teaching experience with 9 years in administration. Last year I took a year’s leave from teaching and have returned, very excited about working with the St John’s community.
I would like to thank everyone for the very warm welcome that I received yesterday and I look forward to meeting all of you over the course of the next few weeks.

Lucy Wells

From The APRE

End of school day procedures
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Parking and Collection of Children

To ensure pedestrian safety, visitors to the school are requested to park nose to curb as marked in the school car park. At the end of the school day students travelling home by car must be marked off the roll in front of the administration office by the car duty teacher BEFORE they are allowed to proceed to their cars. Parents and students should travel on the walkway on the school playground to gain safe access to the car park. All other driveways should be left clear for emergency entry or exit.

Please remember:
♦ Parents/Guardians should use the walkway above the retaining wall and behind the fence as a walkway to and from the undercover veranda when picking up children. This can be accessed via the ramp near the administration building or via the clearway.
♦ Parents/Guardians are to park and exit their vehicle and escort their child/ren back to their vehicle via the safety zone in front of the car parks.
♦ Parents/Guardians are requested to park on a ninety degree angle in the car park and reverse back towards the parish hall.

♦ Everyone is requested to leave the drive through area in front of the Three Saints office area clear. We treat this drive through area as a no standing zone in case of emergency.
♦ The first bay closest to the school under the skillion off the church is to be left vacant at all times.