



# St. John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has not tried anything new!" Albert Einstein*

**Term 1 Week 6 – 3rd March, 2021**

Dear Parents,

Our Director of School Effectiveness - Mrs Lea Martin visited last Friday and thoroughly enjoyed talking to each class. Director Martin was **very impressed with the students' manners and level of respect, engagement in learning and knowledge of curriculum content.**

Recently, I was pleased to receive feedback from Government departments and Catholic Education Services regarding our **diligence in personalising learning to our students.** I commend teachers who do such extensive planning in this area, and thank parents for always supporting the school. I am very **proud of our partnerships in working together to provide the best opportunities for your child/ren.**

Last Wednesday staff spent time reviewing our use of **Blended Learning** in classrooms. Our students are embracing **the way technology is integrated in all areas of the curriculum.** For our Year 2 to 6 students, Google Classroom is the hub for online learning. Here teachers can set activities which students work through at their own pace, reviewing materials as needed and receiving feedback. The range of activities in this space is astounding – from **Spelling and Maths, to Art and Science, and now Italian!** Having **individual devices allows students to take part in collaborative online activities,** such as sharing ideas using JamBoards and competing against classmates in online quizzes.

Students in Prep/1 and Year 2/3 have been busy this term learning to use various apps on their ipads. Including SeeSaw and Reading Eggs and Maths Seeds. Our Year 2/3 class were excited last week to meet Sphero, our class robot, as part of their learning in digital technologies. All classes are using Essential Assessment Online for learning in Mathematics. This forms part of our **focus on blended learning in 2021, which seeks to combine the best of face-to-face teaching with online learning.**

Take the time to read inside the newsletter the wonderful **intervention our early years students** are doing to develop those very **important handwriting skills.** Most impressively, they are having a fabulous time!

**Congratulations to our St. John's Rugby League team** who make their debut on Friday at the Carnival. The team was very competitive. **Congratulations to the B-Grade Netball team** who won their division. The **C-Grade** was for younger students who were **learning the game of netball.** These girls had a **great day** too! **Clayton, Sean and Cooper** have been selected to represent the **Southern Zone Under 10/11 Rugby League team.**

*May The Grace of God Be With You, Mrs Bryan, Principal*



## Diary Dates

### Thursday 4th March

- ♦ 3-4pm Touch Football Training

### Friday 5th March

- ♦ 8:45am - 9:15am Assembly
- ♦ Music Lessons with Natasha

### Tuesday 9th March

- ♦ GCC visit to Year 5/6 class
- ♦ 3-4pm Touch Football Training

### Wednesday 10th March

- ♦ 9:00am Upper school participating in Reef Guardian Webinar
- ♦ 9 - 11am Playgroup

### Thursday 11th March

- ♦ 1:30pm - 2:00pm Chess Club launch
- ♦ 3-4pm Football Training

### Saturday 14th March

- ♦ Good Counsel College Open Morning

### Tuesday 16th March

- ♦ 3-4pm Football Training

### Wednesday 17th March

- ♦ St. Patrick's Day
- ♦ 9 - 11am Playgroup

## CONTACT DETAILS

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[www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au](http://www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au)

[www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood)

*Always Reaching For New Heights*



## Project Compassion

Project Compassion provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate faith, love and generosity as we support Caritas Australia in their work for justice and peace, such as the support given to 39-year-old Margret, a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the **challenges** it poses to education and employment. Apart from the difficulties the students all have, the school also faced water shortages - with not enough to supply to staff and students with safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables.

Then Tropical Cyclone Harold damaged the school and its vegetable garden, amidst the threat of COVID-19. Staff and students rely on the vegetable garden to provide food for their meals.



With Caritas Australia's support, the school installed water tanks, provided cyclone-proof building materials and helped to implement COVID-19 prevention measures. Margret's school now has enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more, with plans to boost food security, through increased

agricultural production.

Around 60% of people in rural areas in the Solomon Islands don't have access to piped water, while about 80% don't have access to latrines or toilets. (UNICEF, 2019) Watch a short film about Margret's story at <https://vimeo.com/491922168>.



"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)

## Justice Squad News

On Shrove Tuesday we held our first fundraising activity for 2021. A special thanks to Mrs Agnes Tait (parishioner), parents, staff and team members for helping to make 220 pancakes served with jam and cream. We are **grateful for all the donated ingredients and generous support** from our School and Kindy families which helped in making this day a success, raising \$119 which will be donated to Caritas. Watch this space for our next fundraising activity and prepare for something green!

*Justice Squad Team*

## Year 4 Science - Understanding Erosion

The Year 4 students are currently exploring how to create landscapes and build an environment to withstand severe weather conditions.



APRE  
News



## Update School Details

The last few days have brought home the **importance of maintaining up-to-date contact details** with families, so please ensure phone numbers, and school emergency contacts always remain current at school.

## Sport Review

For parents who are new to St. John's we have two sporting zones in the Cassowary Coast Region. The Southern Zone is represented from Silkwood to Cardwell. The Northern Zone is represented from Silkwood to Babinda. St. John's is part of the Southern Zone. Mrs Bryan and myself are heavily involved in the organising of carnivals for this zone and also hold positions on the Cassowary Coast District Sports committee. We are both very passionate about our sport and love to see the students enjoying their sporting opportunities.

Firstly, **well done to our swimmers** for representing St. John's at the Southern Zone Carnival. **Place getters were; Max 3<sup>rd</sup> Breast, Savannah 3<sup>rd</sup> Breast, Finn 3<sup>rd</sup> Breast & Free.**

Last Friday, upper school students attended the Rugby League and Netball Carnival at Tully State School & St. Clare's. Congratulations to the B-Grade netball team who won their division. The girls in the netball C-Grade learn to play division also had a great day. The Rugby League team 9-10yrs made a sensational debut. They were very competitive in all games and picked up a win too. Thank you to Mrs Bryan for preparing the girls' netball teams and Mr Ford for coaching in my absence at the carnival. We now move our focus to preparing for the touch football carnival at Tully State High on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Parents are welcome to attend. Training will be held each Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3pm-4pm with myself and Mrs Bryan. *Mr Russell*

## Second Step Superstars



**Emily P** - Focussed attention on Maths goals.

**Isabella** - Focused attention on Sunset Maths addition.

**Myllinda & Evelyn** - Focused attention on writing goals.

**Wyatt & Marly** - Focused attention on solving problems in Maths.

**Montana** - Listening to and acting on feedback.

**Savannah** - Showing Resilience

## Sport Awards

**Clayton** - Identified as a Junior Rugby League player with potential.

**Sean** - Selection in Southern Zone Junior Rugby League team

**Cooper** - Selection in Southern Zone Junior Rugby League team

**300 Magic Words** - Isis, Porsha



## Pre-Writing Skills for Learning

Learning to write involves many little skills. Arm, hands and fingers need to work as one. They need to move from big movement patterns into small intricate ones. Vision and hands also need to work together. The team at St. John's School are very committed in supporting their students in gaining these necessary developmental skills to ensure writing is a fun and engaging activity. The Prep and Year One team invited me to work as part of their team in incorporating a range of fine motor and



visual activities into their daily routines. We have had a great time in developing appropriate activities into their learning time. The photos show some of the great gains the students have shown.

*Ms Michelle Molan, Occupational Therapist, CES - Student Wellbeing & Diversity*

## P & F News

Thank you to the parents who attended our first P & F meeting for the year. It's great to see the year has commenced with a positive vibe. At the meeting it was decided to host a monster raffle to kick start our fundraising. Prizes are currently being sought and more details will be available shortly.

*Brett Gaia, President*



**SATURDAY 13 MARCH**

**GOOD COUNSEL ON SHOW**

**10AM - 12.30PM**

*Come & Experience the Difference!*

**INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS AND DEMONSTRATIONS EVERY HALF HOUR**

- ✓ COLLEGE TOURS
- ✓ SPORTING CLINICS
- ✓ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY - DRONES
- ✓ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY - ROBOTICS
- ✓ INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS
- ✓ SCIENCE
- ✓ MATHS PATHWAYS
- ✓ HEALTH & FITNESS
- ✓ DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
- ✓ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- ✓ BARISTA COFFEE

**WIN 1 of 2**

**2022 ACCOUNT REMISSION VOUCHERS VALUED AT \$500**

ENTRIES AT DISPLAYS  
WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT

**P&F STEAK AND SAUSAGE BURGERS**  
**MEET THE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**ENROLMENTS 4063 5300**

[www.gcc.qld.edu.au](http://www.gcc.qld.edu.au)

## Kindy News



Thank you to the Kindy and playgroup families who have donated the Woolies seed packs! We have begun planting them together and already have some sprouts appearing. This is a rich learning experience for the children to observe and engage with – being able to plant the seeds, watch them grow, add them to our garden and then use some of the produce to cook with, or to decorate our yard! We are currently collecting milk and juice containers with handles, to create hanging pots with them.

Continuing on with our term goal to encourage literacy engagement and story retelling, this week we focused on the Three Little Pigs story, and provided resources with our playdough to encourage engagement from the children. The children had pigs, a wolf, sticks, rocks and small wooden blocks to use in this area. As well as a fun literacy experience, this was a great STEM provocation to encourage the children to build the strongest little pig houses they could. We were able to observe great storytelling, imagination, experimentation and collaboration from the children.

We have begun decorating frames and putting up our family photos in our room. These photos give the children a sense of belonging and connection between home and Kindy, and the children love looking at their own family and seeing all the members of their friends' families. If you haven't already, please send in a family photo.

*Thanks, Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco.*







Swimming



Rugby League



Netball



Classroom Fun!

