



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"The key to success is to focus on goals, not obstacles!" anon. Term 4 Week 1 – 5th October, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4 and I hope all families enjoyed the break away from school routines. This term St John's welcomes Mila to the Prep/1 class, Kade to the Year 2 class and Oakley to the Year 5/6 class. We hope you have a fantastic Term 4.

In the final week of last term we had Part 1 of our 5 year school review with experienced reviewer Mr Trevor Gordon who works for the Australian Council of Educational Research and completes reviews at State, Catholic and Private schools across Australia. Mr Gordon is past Principal of Biolela State High, Mareeba State High and Cairns State High.



As a specialist working for the council, he assessed and rated St. John's School against the National School Improvement Tool. The National School Improvement Tool is the key tool which all schools in Australia are reviewed against every 5 years. Mr Gordon used a Rugby League analogy to summarise our rating against the National School Improvement Tool: *"St John's is like Johnathan Thurston who used the 'SHOW and GO' strategy to become one of the best halfbacks the world has seen!"* St. John's has outstanding **SHOW**. Our **classrooms and grounds** are **outstandingly presented** and the school is outstandingly resourced. Further to this, and most importantly, we have plenty of **GO**. The **culture** is simply **outstanding** and an outstanding rating is considered **WORLD'S BEST**. The dedicated staff have a very strong understanding of the Australian curriculum and are advanced in analysing student data and catering for individual difference with student learning. He further stated that the parents are incredibly happy with the school. Mr Gordon concluded that the **staff, parents, students, and community should be very proud!**

Five-year commendations (areas of excellence) include:

- ⇒ *The commitment of all staff to the enactment of the school's Mission to being both Christ and child centred and providing excellent teaching to the students of St. John's.*
- ⇒ *The strong sense of belonging and pride in the school, the high morale, and the genuine sense of optimism and energy in staff.*
- ⇒ *The high level of skills evident as teachers provide high quality learning for composite classes with students with a wide range of learning needs.*
- ⇒ *The implementation of a comprehensive Behaviour Support plan resulting in a learning environment where there are minimal disruptions to learning and children are engaged in meaningful learning.*



On another note, many **memorable moments were created** on the Year 5/6 camp and our amazing Kurrimine Beach First Nations NAIDOC Conservation excursion last term.

Good luck to Max and Audrey on their piano recital exams!

Regards, Mrs Peta Bryan, Principal.

Diary Dates

Monday 10th October

- ◆ P&F meeting
3:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 12th October

- ◆ Year 3 & 4 excursion to GCP for Bell Shakespeare Company
- ◆ Playgroup at Kindy building 9-11am

13th October

- ◆ Year 7 Orientation day at GCC

14th October

- ◆ Assembly 8:35am

18th October

- ◆ Water Confidence Classes Tully 1pm-2pm

21st October

- ◆ Water Confidence Classes Tully 1pm-2pm

25th October

- ◆ Water Confidence Classes Tully 1pm-2pm

27th October

- ◆ Assembly 2:30pm

28th October

- ◆ World Teachers' Day
- ◆ Day for Daniel-wear red
- ◆ Swimming Carnival Tully Pool 9:30am-2:15pm

29th October

- ◆ P/1 hosting Parish/School Mass 6-7pm



CONTACT DETAILS

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www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au

www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood

Always Reaching For New Heights 



Religious Education News

St Francis of Assisi is well remembered for his care for nature and nurturing plants and animals. Pope Francis renews this call and asks us to do the same as we continue to grapple as to how to be stewards of our precious

planet. Visit www.laudatosi.org for more information.



October is a special month for two reasons: firstly traditionally as Catholics, we pray the rosary as a prayerful intercession to Mary the mother of God. Secondly Catholic

Missions hold their fundraising and awareness activities through this month. Our students have been blessed by [Catholic Missions](#) and given a set of Mission Rosary Beads, as a way that we can support these very worthy causes praying for those working to provide equity and an end to poverty. We will also be asking for a contribution towards the Catholic Missions through our special Soctober appeal. Stay tuned for details.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



I would like to say **thank you** to the P&F committee for contributing towards this year's Year 5/6 camp expenses. I must say that the camp was absolutely amazing and ACTION packed and I thank

Mrs Bryan, Mrs De Buck and Mr Recklies for providing this opportunity for our kids.

I also understand the kids really enjoyed the Kurrimine Beach NAIDOC excursion as well. Thank you P&F for also approving to cover the costs for this learning experience.

Our next P&F meeting will be held **next Monday 10th October 3:15pm**. Agenda items include: Lamington drive, Nature Play/Corridor update, swimming carnival, battery muster. If you have additional items for agenda, please email secretary Helen by Friday 7th October 9:00am on hmcculloch@cns.catholic.edu.au.

Brett Gaia, President



DID YOU KNOW?

That St John's School has achieved an **OUTSTANDING** result in the area of school culture that reflects learning.

This fact has come from the 5 Year Review Document. St John's was rated against the national school improvement tool. This assessment was completed by the Australian Council of Educational Research

Library News



Does your child have difficulties choosing books to read? Or have they exhausted a series by one author and aren't sure what to read next? Tell them to head over to our new Student Picks wall in the library! These are books read by and recommended by our students. Please make sure your child has a library bag for borrowing this term.

Sport News

What great weather for swimming! There has been a slight change to our water confidence classes with Tuesday 11th October (Week 2) being cancelled due to the continuation of the school 5 year review. All other dates remain the same and are listed on front page of this newsletter. I am very excited to experience a St John's Swimming Carnival as Mrs Bryan and Mrs Belbin say it is fabulous! The Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 28th October.

Mrs Bryan, Mr Leon and I will be busy this term preparing the kids for the Billy Slater League Tag Carnival held at Callendar Park on Friday 18th November. We say a big good luck to Max Belbin who travels to Brisbane next week to compete at the State track and field games in discus. We are very proud of Max who has stepped up his training regime. Finally, we have our handball and chess competitions at the end of term so get training & strategising. The game of chess is a battlefield and I am also looking forward to this. This is an exciting term with so many opportunities for the students!

Mrs Magnanini, HPE

Justice Squad

The Justice squad is looking for donations of old socks, t-shirts and recycled plastic bags which will be used for a Socktober activity later in the term. These can be dropped off to the school office.



From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jo.

Welcome back to school for Term 4. We kick off the term with the annual awareness of Queensland Mental Health Week (QMHW). An opportunity to check in with ourselves and have a conversation with a friend or family member about the importance of our Mental Health.

The theme for 2022 is **'Awareness, Belonging, Connection'**, reflecting the important factors that help people maintain positive mental health and wellbeing. It is all about connecting with the people in our lives and creating space for conversations about mental health and wellbeing.



8-16 October 2022



Mental health promotion is all about creating environments that promote and sustain positive mental health for everyone. Good mental health affects every aspect of our lives. It is widely accepted that there is no health without mental health. Good mental health not only enables individuals to enjoy meaningful and productive lives, but it also benefits communities and the economy. The benefits are felt across generations.

"Childhood and adolescence are critical stages of life for mental health. This is a time when rapid growth and development take place in the brain. Children and adolescents acquire cognitive and social-emotional skills that shape their future mental health and are important for assuming adult roles in society." – [WHO](#)

Imagine if all children were taught about mental health from a young age! How to cope with big emotions; what helps make us feel good; the importance of taking time to engage in these activities; and what to do when times are tough.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF WELLBEING

Research shows there are six actions we can take to improve our moods, build resilience, and boost our mental wellbeing. The building blocks of wellbeing below are from the Queensland Government's Dear Mind initiative, and you can find examples of self-care activities at <https://mentalwellbeing.initiatives.qld.gov.au>

- ♦ **Get healthy** — Being active and eating well is good for your mind and body.
- ♦ **Keep learning** — Learning new things can be fun and boost confidence.
- ♦ **Show kindness** — Practising small acts of kindness, volunteering time, or simply helping a friend in need can help you feel more satisfied with life.
- ♦ **Connect** — Spending time with other people is important to everyone's mental wellbeing.
- ♦ **Take notice** — Paying more attention to the present and the world around you can help you relieve stress and enjoy the moment.
- ♦ **Embrace nature** — Connecting with the outdoors and taking care of the planet is the best recipe for world wellbeing.

FOR 24/7 COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Kids Help Line – 1800 55 1800

Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467

Alcohol & Drug Info Services (ADIS) – 1800 177 833

Queensland Health — 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) These numbers are either free or the cost of a local call.

Kindy News

Welcome back to Kindergarten for Term 4. We have a very busy nine weeks of term with our Kindergarten group. Please check your emails and OWNA for our calendar, as well as also reading the whiteboard when you come into Kindy. This will keep you up to date with all of the things that we are doing.

This term, as well as following the interests that arise from the children, we will be working on letter recognition, sounds, numbers and counting out. We also will look at representative drawing skills and higher order thinking in relation to these drawings. We are introducing 'questions of the week' and will also be thinking about our community.

As well as our usual planning, play and learning, Term 4 is also about transitions, both for our children heading off to school next year and for those children heading into Kindergarten in 2023. This term we will have fortnightly meet-ups with the P/1 students, engaging in various activities with them including library time, nature play and assembly. We have our Kindergarten class teamed up with a Prep or year 1 buddy to help our group develop relationships over at St Johns and to really encourage a smooth and comfortable transition for those children heading to Prep at St Johns next year.

For our 2023 class we are currently taking enrolments! Parents and guardians looking to enrol their children in kindergarten or pre-kindergarten next year (3 and 4 year old's) are invited to complete an online enrolment or call on 42 52 5755. If you have family or friends who have Kindergarten aged children, please send them our way. We have a few dates set aside this term for our 2023 class to come in and have a play with us. Kindergarten is so fun and has so many benefits for children. We are really looking forward to this term.

Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco

Enquires call: 42 52 5755

Email: kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au

Web: www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/



Year 5/6 Camp



DID YOU KNOW?

That 100% of parents agreed: **"St John's School (Silkwood) is a welcoming community where everyone is treated with respect."**

Enrol Now For 2023

Online: www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au/enrol

