



# St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



*"Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen!" Johaann W..* **Term 1 Week 2 – 1st February, 2023**

Dear Parents,

What an amazing start we have had to the school year. Each classroom is humming with busyness as students engage fully in their learning. It is wonderful to have the students back.

We welcome our new students. In Prep we welcome **Kelsea, Gianah, Tayda, Sarnoor, Nathania, Abby, Hailey, William Kohen, Lakey and Logan**, and in Year 4 we welcome **James**. We also welcome their families. We are delighted that you have joined our school community. Another special welcome to **Mrs Murphy** who is completing her 4th year placement as a pre-service teacher. Mrs Murphy is working in the Year 1/2 class supervised by Mrs Daly and Ms Irvine. Of St John's, Mrs Murphy says, "Beautiful school, beautiful students, beautiful staff, beautiful facilities." Personally, I couldn't agree with her more. We are certainly very blessed.



I would like to thank our teachers for their commitment to professional learning. In the week prior to school resuming, teachers engaged in learning around topics such as Religion, Reading and Mathematics. Their focus on learning, with the goal of offering all of our students "a world class education enriched by their lived encounter with the Catholic faith" (Cairns Catholic Education Community, Strategic Directions, 2021-2025) is admirable.

Another of our professional learning days was focused on the "Clarity" work which began last year. This project will continue this year. Clarity is an approach to teaching and learning, focused on improving the outcomes of all students. This year, Case Management Meetings, putting "Faces on the Data" and Learning Walks and Talks will be incorporated into the schedules of teachers and leadership. **Case Management Meetings** require teachers to share their ideas on how to improve the work of a selected students. Usually, these suggestions can be used for many other students both within the student's class and across the school. Putting "**Faces on the Data**" allows teachers to examine the data of each student in their class and target their teaching groups of students according to needs. When leadership undertake a **Learning Walk and Talk**, they can ascertain the effectiveness of the processes teachers are implementing in their classrooms and identify areas that require increased focus. I am excited to pick up the work already completed around "Clarity" and work with teachers and school officers to move the project forward.

A reminder that **Parent Information sessions** are being held next week. Check your Parent Flyer for details.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our **Opening School Mass** next **Wednesday at 9:00am**. This Mass is a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new students and introduce our 2023 captains and student leadership team. A **Welcome Morning Tea** will follow the Mass. I hope you can join us.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to lead St John's as Acting Principal for the next six months. I look forward to your ongoing support.

Regards,

Linda Gaia, Acting Principal.

## Diary Dates

### Wednesday 1st February

- ◆ Playgroup at Kindy
- ◆ **Monday 6th February**
- ◆ 3:00pm Year 3/4 Parent Info session
- ◆ 3:30pm Year 5/6 Parent Info Session

### Wednesday 8th February

- ◆ Opening School Mass 9:00am followed by morning tea at the tuckshop.
- ◆ Playgroup at Kindy
- ◆ 3:00pm Prep Parent Info Session
- ◆ 3:30pm Year 1/2 Parent Info Session

### Friday 17th February

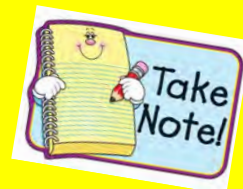
- ◆ Netball and Rugby League carnival in Tully Class 4-6

### Wednesday 22nd February

- ◆ Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00am

### Wednesday 1st March

- ◆ Innisfail Sports Spectacular Class 4-6



## CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: 07 4065 9530

Mobile: 0418 888 672

Harold St, Silkwood, Q. 4856

[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*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,  
**Beginning of Year School Mass**



Our first school Mass for 2023 will be held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – at 9:00 am**. Please join us as we pray for God's blessings this school year and commission our 2023 school leaders. We will also welcome all our new students at this mass so it will be a very special event.

**Parish/Whole School Mass**

Our first Parish/Whole School Mass will be held on **Saturday 18th February at 6pm**. The Mass will be hosted by Year 5/6, with a shared cuppa afterward – please bring a plate. At this mass we have another very special event as Mrs Parisi will be received into communion with the Catholic Church – everyone is welcome. Please add this event to your calendars.

**Sacramental Program**

The Sacramental Program is due to commence this term, and this is specifically for all children in Grade 4 and above. Please telephone the school or email me to enrol your child in this program.

([ddaly@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ddaly@cns.catholic.edu.au)). If you know of any other children in our parish who would be interested in joining the Sacramental Program please let their parents know. God's Blessings for a wonderful 2023

*Debbie Daly, Acting APRE*

**Term 1 Sport**

This year I will be taking the students for their regular Health & Physical Education lessons each week. I look forward to working with them each week to increase their love of sport.

This term is already shaping up to be exciting and busy in the world of sport! Yesterday afternoon most schools were represented in a meeting of Cassowary Coast School Sport held at St John's to discuss the many sporting opportunities available to students of the Cassowary Coast.

Students in Year 4 to 6 will have the opportunity to participate in both Netball or Rugby League with a Gala day planned for the 17th February in Tully.

On 1st March the students in Years 4 to 6 will participate in a variety of sports planned in the Cassowary Coast Sport Spectacular in Innisfail. Finally, this year's Interhouse Cross Country Carnival is being planned to be held towards the end of the term.

*Mr Gary Recklies, HPE*

**Tuckshop**

Tuckshop will commence on Friday this week and will run the same format as previous years. (Details are on the menu flyer.) The menu has been revised and sent out to all families. If any mums/dads can spare a few hours on a Friday morning and would like to go on the tuckshop roster, please call the school office on 4065 9530.

**Student Absences**

Parents/Carers are reminded that they must contact the school to communicate student absences before 8:30am. This can be done via the parent portal, telephone or sending an email to [secretary.silkwood@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:secretary.silkwood@cns.catholic.edu.au).

**Check and Update Personal Details**

Parents/Carers are reminded to update their personal details with any changes of address, telephone numbers or emergency contact numbers or media consent. **It is essential this information is kept up-to-date in the event of an emergency at school.** If any of this information has changed, please advise the school office.

**Uniform shop**

Our uniform shop is opened every Tuesday morning by Amy from 8:15 to 8:45am for uniform requirements.

**Second Hand Uniforms** - We ask families who have second hand uniforms that are no longer being used to consider adding them to our second-hand clothing pool. Thanking you for your continued support.

**P & F 2023**

The P & F committee held their first meeting for 2023 yesterday afternoon. Minutes have been emailed out to all families for reading. The **AGM is planned for Monday afternoon, 27th February in the school library**. This will be followed by a general meeting. Our meetings are friendly and informative and all families are invited to attend.

**Student Care Insurance**

All students at St John's School are covered by Student Care Insurance for an accident or injury at school or in any school related activity such as inter-school sport or a school camp. It covers expenses such as medical costs, emergency transport, travel, home tuition and school fee relief.



*Birthdays*

*Tyler, Ned, Tayda, Sophia, Erin*

Spread the word and join us for a relaxing and friendly get-together at Playgroup. Every Wednesday our fabulous Helen Belbin will be coordinating our playgroup sessions. See flyer below:

**Join us at Playgroup**

Where: Community Kindergarten Silkwood  
 When: Every Wednesday (School Weeks)  
 Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

Please bring morning tea and a hat for your child/ren.  
 Coffee/tea provided for parents/carers.

For more information contact Vera / Helen: 4065 9530 or the Kindergarten on: 42 52 5755

Share your experiences! Make new friends! Have fun with your children!

**Come Play!!**

Playgroup \$2.00 per session



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

Welcome back to School for 2023! **'Growth begins at the end of our comfort zone'**.

I hope you have had a welcome holiday break and are ready to resume the rhythm of school. I am excited to be returning as your School Counsellor this year and will be available Wednesdays and Thursdays in 2023.

Returning to a structured day with time frames, lunches to prepare and tasks to complete can bring challenges and adjustments for all of us. Be kind to yourself and your children as we all adjust to the timetable of school days. Take a breath, find tolerance within, role model patience and kindness to start the year with a positive smile. 😊

With renewed adjustment, big emotions can emerge to test our resilience. This is natural and expected. There are a range of automatic and unconscious reactions that are best supported with acknowledgement and acceptance. When you see those big feelings emerge in your child, take time to connect before correcting, name those feelings, give space and guidance, so children feel heard and reassured. Messages of safety, bravery and reassurance are important right now. True resilience begins when we can learn to embrace those 'big' feelings, followed with opportunities to tame them. Author Neale Walsch wisely tells us that *'Growth begins at the end of your comfort zone'*. So, let's embrace the challenges ahead, no matter how uncomfortable they can seem. 2023 is going to be wonderful.



Remember support is available from the wonderful staff at St John's. Talk to your teacher, support staff or myself if you have ongoing concerns.

Warm regards,  
Miss Jo,  
School Counsellor

*"Resilience is not about overcoming but becoming".*

Sherri Mandell

**KiNDY**  
for all

**Making kindy cheaper from 2023**

From 1 January 2023, the Queensland Government will introduce new kindy funding to give every child a great start. Kindy will be cheaper for many families and for some it could be free – it doesn't matter if your child attends a sessional kindy or a kindy program in a long day care.

**Find out how much you can save**

- 1 See if you're eligible for Kindy plus – Kindy may be free!
- 2 Are you receiving Family Tax Benefit? Kindy is cheaper!
- 3 Jump online to learn about kindy savings, find your nearest kindy and confirm eligibility upon enrolment.



Discover cheaper kindy!



**What is kindy and when can my child start?**  
Kindergarten is a Queensland Government approved program for children who are at least four years of age by 30 June. The Queensland Government kindy funding is for children who attend a kindy program for at least 15 hours a week or 30 hours a fortnight over 40 weeks a year.

## Kindy News



**Welcome to our 2023 Kindergarten Year!**

We've had a wonderful first week with our Kindergarten group. Kindy is all about learning through play and our Kinder children have already been so busy with all sorts of play.

We like to start the year off by ensuring everyone feels comfortable and secure at Kindy. We are currently sharing and displaying photos of our family – a wonderful part of our room environment that stays up all year, and allows the children to share their family members with their friends, and also to look at and gain comfort from if needed. If you haven't sent in family photos yet please do!

We are also helping all the children to begin to recognise their name. We have a poster on our fridge where the children can find and add their names every day. We also offer their name cards when they are doing art and either write their name or encourage them to have a try of this. We've got name cards on our mail pockets in our room, and are busy decorating name posters to use during our Kindy days! When we are writing the children's names we use a capital letter to start, and then lower case letters for the rest of the name. It is wonderful if families can do the same at home to have consistency in how their children view their names.

We have a few spaces left in our Kinder group, so if you have a friend or family member who has been thinking of enrolling please let them know. This year the government has various funding strands to help families out with the cost of Kindergarten.

Regards, Ms Cheryl.



# Welcome



**2023 TRANSFORMATION MODE ON**

**Get fit // Have fun**  
St John's School Silkwood

**Move + Groove Fitness Class**  
**TUES 3:30-4:30PM**

**Adults \$10 / Kids join in FREE**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

 **SJF Club MEETING**  
**6pm Wed 15th FEB 2023**

**All people, players, potential coaches or anyone with interest encouraged to attend.**