



# St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new" Albert Einstein* Term 2 Week 6 – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

French composer, Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918) said that music is not in the notes, but in the spaces between them. I would say the same is true of our lives. Without moments of quiet, be it in times of prayer, meditation or simply sitting still in silence, our lives become a constant clang of noise, and nothing sounds beautiful. Currently, we are in the space between notes at school, and I am enjoying the time to reflect on the notes that have just been played (Three Saints and Mothers Day) and preparing for the notes yet to come (Dance Showcase and Athletics).



The **Dance Showcase** will be an exciting display of the work students have been doing in The Arts. This year our theme is **World Dance Party: Celebrating the Cultures from our Silkwood community**. The evening will begin with a shared meal and families are asked to bring a plate of food to share, preferably from their cultural background. Tea, coffee and dessert will be provided. All are welcome to join the evening.

On Saturday, several of our students will prepare for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist through the **Parish Sacramental Program**. They will receive the sacraments next Tuesday (Confirmation) and Saturday (First Eucharist). I wish **Erin, Tilly, Jorji, Emily P, Cooper and Porsha** the very best in their preparations for these sacraments which will complete their union with the Catholic Church. I remind all families that they are welcome to join the children at these community events on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6:00PM and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 6:00PM.

Last week, students were issued with their Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) Reader Record Form which is due back on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August. The PRC aims to improve literacy and to encourage children to read for pleasure and learning. At St John's, we strive for **100% completion rate**; that is, for every child to complete the challenge. Parents are encouraged to keep their children focused on this target and support them as needed. For further information about the PRC, contact your child's teacher or visit the PRC website at [readingchallenge.education.qld.gov.au](http://readingchallenge.education.qld.gov.au).

Our enrolment process for 2024 has now begun. Families interested in enrolling their child in Prep (children born 1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019) or another year level at St John's are encouraged to visit or call the school office on 4065 9530. Alternatively, visit the Enrolling tab on our school website and enroll/register your interest by selecting Apply Online. I am very proud of our school community. We are welcoming to all, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. We promote positivity and resilience and encourage our students to live by our school motto, "Always reaching for new heights". Our staff are dedicated to providing the children in their care with a quality and fulfilling education.

What a wonderful concert we experienced today. Michael Mangan definitely did not disappoint. The hall was filled with such joyous energy and the smiles on the faces of the children were a true indication of their appreciation of Michael's talents. Michael shared his excitement at finally getting the opportunity to visit to St John's personally.

May God's Blessings Be With You,  
**Linda Gaia, Principal**

### Diary Dates

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May**  
◆ P & F Pie Drive finishes

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
◆ Reconciliation Week

**DATE CLAIMER:**  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
◆ Readers' Cup - Cairns - selected students

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
◆ Dance Showcase from 6pm

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
◆ Athletics—High Jump Finals Selection and 800m Races

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
◆ Interhouse Athletics Carnival

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
◆ P & F Pie Drive Pies arrive at school

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
◆ 75 Years Celebration - St John's School. Also celebrating 22 Years of Early Learning!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Well Women's Clinics

- ◆ Mission Beach CHC, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023, for appointments please phone 4016 1447
  - ◆ Innisfail Hospital, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, for appointments please phone 4016 1312 / 4016 1435
- Service includes Cervical Screening Tests (Pap Smears), Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women's Health Nurse.  
These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients



**SILKWOOD STATE SCHOOL**

# DISCO

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6.00pm to 8.00pm**  
**FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE**  
Sausage Sizzle, Softdrinks & Glow Sticks FOR SALE

**THEME: FLURO** (bright colours)  
**Dance Battle – Boys Vs Girls**

All primary school aged children welcome.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
**Come along and join the colourful fun!**

### Circle of Security

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security Parenting Program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

**Learning Objectives of the Training**

- ◆ Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read emotional needs
- ◆ Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- ◆ Enhance the development of your child's self-esteem
- ◆ Honour your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure

**Presented by:** Community Support Centre Innisfail  
**Location:** 13-17 Donald Street Innisfail (big orange building)  
**When:** Weekly: 4 X Friday from 9<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
**Times:** 9.30AM – 11:30AM  
**Cost:** Free (light snacks provided)  
**To Register:** 40438 400

Silkwood/Kurrimine Beach Red Cross Branch

# CENT SALE

**Saturday 1st July 2023**

**Kurrimine Beach Motel**  
**Doors open 12 noon**  
**Draw Starts 1.30pm Sharp**

Afternoon Tea  
Raffle Lucky Door Prize  
\$5.00 Admission Fantastic Prizes

## All Welcome

*Always Reaching For New Heights*

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





## Upcoming Feast Days

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of **Our Lady Help of Christians**. The tradition of this advocacy goes back to 1571, when the whole of



Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians when Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary.

This weekend we celebrate **Pentecost** which marks the end of the Easter season. It is called the birthday of the Church as it was from this event that the disciples went forth to spread the good news and establish the Church.

The following Sunday, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Holy Trinity**. The simple and profound truth at the heart of Trinity Sunday is that 'God is Love'. God, therefore, cannot be alone. Love requires someone who loves, one who is loved, and the fruit of that love. If God is love, then God the Father is the one who loves, God the Son is the one who is loved, and the fruit of that love is God the Holy Spirit. Humans struggle to make sense of the Trinity, of three in one. That is why we say the Trinity is a mystery, as no-one can fully understand it.



The Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be are two prayers that connect us with the Trinity.

**Sacramental Program** – The sacramental program continues this weekend with a day of learning on Saturday. Next week we will have a Confirmation Mass on Tuesday at 6:00PM– all are welcome to attend and there will be cake and a cuppa afterwards. The final **Sacrament of First Eucharist** will be the following Saturday during the normal 6:00PM Mass.



**Deborah Daly**  
Acting APRE, Leader of Learning and Teaching

## It's Official!!!

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Mr Bill Dixon, CES Executive Director, announced that Mrs Linda Gaia had been appointed officially to the position of Principal of St John's School Silkwood. Mr Dixon said in his announcement-



*"Mrs Gaia is currently the Acting Principal at St John's and has held this position since the commencement of 2023. During Mrs Gaia's long association with the Cairns Diocese, she has also carried out the roles of Acting Principal, APRE, Learning Support Teacher and Classroom Teacher. Mrs Gaia holds the qualifications of Master of Religious Education, Graduate Certificate in Catholic Education and Diploma of Teaching. She has demonstrated commitment and service to St John's School and parish community over many years."*

**Congratulations!**



This is exciting news for our school community so please join us in congratulating Linda on this outstanding career achievement.

## P & F Spotlight!

### St John's School Pie Drive

Pie Order Forms are due back by this Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Please support the P & F and order some delicious Tully Pies from the St John's School families.

Tully meat pies are 800g each. Beef pies are made with meaty chunks and mince, and they only use chicken breast in the chicken pies. All ingredients are locally sourced. Mmmm yummo-

- ◆ Plain Beef- \$16.00
- ◆ Bacon & Cheese- \$16.00
- ◆ Creamy Garlic Beef- \$16.00
- ◆ Coconut Beef Curry- \$16.00
- ◆ Beef Stroganoff- \$16.00
- ◆ Roast Chicken & Bacon- \$17.50
- ◆ Lamb Shanks & Country Vegetables- \$19.00
- ◆ Apple & Blueberry Crumble Pies- \$16.00
- ◆ French Apple & Custard Tart- \$16.00
- ◆ Apple Pie- \$14.00

A handy addition to have in your freezer for those "What's for dinner?" nights.



**Birthdays**  
Cody, Gabriella & Jorji



## Mothers Day...

We had a wonderful day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, celebrating all our wonderful Mothers, Grandmothers and Care Providers. There are some beautiful photos on our Facebook page of the day. A special thank you to Mrs Margaret Fontana for potting and donating Mothers Day pot plants for the Kindy, Prep, Year 1 and 2 children to give to their Mothers. We really do appreciate this generous donation.

## Second Step Awards

The social-emotional well-being of all St John's students is a high priority. Each week, **students learn skills** to help them get along with peers, manage emotions, and succeed in school and throughout their lives. Students who display these skills are recognised through our second step awards.

- Prep** – Hailey, Kohen
- Year 1/2** – Piper, Scarlett M.
- Year 3/4** – Isabella, Emily M., Isis
- Year 5/6** – Noori, Audrey

**Principal's Recognition**— Our Cassowary Coast Cross Country Team

### 200 Sight Words

**Year 1/2** – Alessia

### Reading Awards 50 Nights

- Prep** – Lakey, Gianah, Nathania
- Year 3/4** – Jorji, Tyler, Sophia, Tilly
- Year 5/6** – Jake C.

### Reading Awards 100 Nights

- Prep**– Abby
- Year 1/2** – Harlee
- Year 3/4** – Emily M., Evie, Lara
- Year 5/6** – Wyatt, Sean



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



The loss of a loved one is a sad event that every family will experience at one point. It is important to remind ourselves that grief is our natural emotional response to the loss of another. Our lives are often shaped by loss and change as we adjust to the circumstances. Some of these challenges impact upon us in a significant way and for others they seem easier to adapt to.

### Why is this you might ask?

There is no right or wrong way to deal with sadness and loss, we each will manage this differently depending on our past experiences, our faith, beliefs, and of course, our culture. Often specific rituals allow us to feel comforted and find peace with the loss. It can be tougher when there are some losses from our past that sneak into the present when we are confronted with another loss. This is true for both adults and children.

So, what can you do to support your children if there is a sudden loss or change through the death of someone they had a connection to? Here is a helpful brief guide with some ideas of practical ways to support your children, family, and friends.

### So how can you help? Remember you are your child's best resource:

Acknowledge your child's feeling with empathy e.g. "I can see you feel sad/upset and this is okay". Reassure them that you love them, they are not alone, and they can talk to you whenever they need to. A simple hug to let them know you understand is often enough.

- ◆ Be factual with information that is appropriate for their age. Never be dismissive, give information when necessary, but resist being sucked into requests for more details about events. This is often your child's way to make sense of the loss. For example, you can respond with a statement saying, "This is all we know, and I can understand why you are trying to make sense of this". Again, use empathy and offer them a hug.
- ◆ There are also good times to check in with children in a way that is not too probing or confronting. It could be "How is your sadness today?" Thumbs up, thumbs down signals avoids the pressure to find words and keep the enquiry brief. Ask if there is anything you can do to help if it is a thumbs down; stay away from offering solutions at this time. This lets them know you are there when they feel the need to share if they can.
- ◆ With older children and teenagers, it's also okay to give them some space when they need it. Sometimes it helps to just sit together quietly, or to offer a simple hand squeeze or gentle hug.

### Things we know are important at time of loss and change:

- ◆ Try to keep normal everyday routines going as much as possible to provide a sense of security in a time of change. This is important for children of all ages.
- ◆ Support your child to say their goodbyes to the person who has died. If there is no service they can attend, then other things like lighting a candle, letting off balloons / or flowers down the creek, saying a prayer or poem or planting a flower or tree.
- ◆ At this time there is great value in spending some 1:1 time with your child to help them feel safe and relaxed. A short period of quality time with them can allow them to feel supported and connected to you.
- ◆ Importantly, please encourage them to keep doing the activities they enjoy. You can reassure them that it's okay to still feel happiness, and that this does not take away from how much they care about the person they've lost. Children often need reassurance on this.
- ◆ A gentle reminder that some children and adults may find it hard to express their sadness in words and instead their behaviour can present as withdrawn, angry, irritable, guilty, numb, physically unwell, unable to concentrate, or unable to sleep. If any of these behaviours begin to interfere with your child's day to day ability to cope in a persistent way then it is recommended you seek support.

### Further information on this topic can be sourced through the links below:

- ◆ <https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-grief/>
- ◆ <https://childhoodgrief.org.au/how-we-help/kids-grief/>

"Little by Little we Let Go of Loss, But Never of Love" – Unknown



Yours in Counselling, Miss Jo

## Kindy Corner...

This year we are very fortunate to have artists from Jitta Art in Innisfail visiting our Kindergarten and sharing various aspects of their culture with us.



Our first visit last week was from Aunty Moana who shared some of her beautiful artwork Aunty Moana told us three dreaming stories from around our local area that had been passed down to her, that her artwork depicted. She then gifted us colour-in pictures of the different animals in the stories. We also practiced saying their names in the Gulngay language. Learning about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures is a really important part of our Kindergarten and Early Childhood Curriculums, and we are so fortunate to have these workshops with local artist.

Have a wonderful week, Miss Cheryl

