

St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance" - Eckhart Tolle **Term 4 Week 8 – 22nd November, 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is difficult to believe that this is the last newsletter we will produce for 2023. We have had a wonderful year filled with many celebrations and now the end of year vibe is in the air. Be sure to mark next week's events in your calendar. The children love to have their parents and other family members attend our special events and they are of great significance.

Our first whole school event will be our **Christmas Concert** on Thursday morning beginning at 9:00AM. Each class has been working hard to learn their part and this Friday, we begin whole school rehearsals in preparation for next week.

The **Christmas Fair** will follow the Christmas Concert. The Christmas Fair is an initiative of the Justice Squad. The purpose of the fair is to raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This appeal supports local families. Every class contributes to the fair by making inexpensive gifts which they then sell at the fair. A list of items available for purchase will be published early next week.

On Friday 1st December at 9:00AM, we hold another very important whole school event; the **End of Year Mass**. At this special Mass, we formally farewell our Year 6 students: Oakley, Max, Luke, Jake, Ned, Billy, Claire, Noori, Audrey, Sean, Clayton, Scarlett and Tayla. The students will receive their graduation certificate and Year Book as a sign of officially completing primary school. We will finish our year off with the hotly contested handball finals.

I remind parents that school finishes at **12 noon** on Friday 1st December. The only bus service running will be the Mission Beach/El Arish bus. The No. 4 Branch and Kurrimine Beach buses will not collect students at this time so other arrangements need to be made to pick up students. If you have any questions about any of our end of year events, please contact the office or your child's class teacher.

Be sure to read the information overleaf. There are two items I wish to highlight. Firstly the P&F Executive and volunteers. It takes a village to grow a child and your contribution to our school community is greatly appreciated. I thank you all. Secondly, the St John's Chess team. Your ability to play this game as strategically as you do inspires me. I congratulate you on your win.

At the end of my first year as principal, I thank all in the school community for your support, patience, trust and encouragement. It has been a pleasure working with families and the St John's team to provide the best educational outcomes for our students. They are our most precious gifts, and their learning and well-being is always at the centre of what we do, both seen and unseen. God has held me in this community for many years, and my love for it continues to grow.

I wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe over the break and I look forward to seeing you and your children again in 2024. A reminder that school resumes on Tuesday 23rd January, and this will be a three day week with Australia Day falling on the Friday.

May God's Blessings Be With You,

Linda Gaia, Principal

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PO Box 252, Silkwood Q 4856

Always Reaching For New Heights



www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au
www.facebook.com/StJohnsSilkwood



Diary Dates

**Wednesday 22nd
November**

♦ Playgroup at Kindy
9-11AM

Friday 24th November

♦ Pre-Prep Transition and
Bump-Up morning
8:45AM to 10:45AM

Saturday 25th November

♦ Parish Christmas Party

Tuesday 28th November

♦ Playgroup/Kindy/Prep/
Year 1 and 2 Christmas
Break-up 1:00PM

**Wednesday 29th
November**

♦ Uniform Shop 8:30AM
to 9:30AM

♦ Report cards sent home
with children

**Thursday 30th
November**

♦ Christmas Concert

♦ Christmas Fair

♦ Miss Natasha's music
students to perform

Friday 1st December

♦ End of School Year
Mass 9:00AM

♦ Handball Finals

♦ School Year concludes
at 12:00 noon. Please
arrange to collect
children.



End of Year and Graduation Mass

Students are currently preparing for the **End of Year Graduation Mass**. I hope all our families will be able to attend this special end of year celebration where we give thanks to God for the year that has ended and farewell our graduating students. Mass will commence at 9:00AM, Friday 1st December.



Justice Squad – Christmas Appeal

Last week, our Justice Squad launched the **St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal** and it is wonderful to see donations are starting to come in. We are gratefully receiving non-perishable food items and toiletries as contributions to this cause. In addition to these items, families might like to send in "good as new" or new toys. If wrapped, please write the gender and age that the gift is appropriate for.

Advent

On Sunday 1st of December we enter the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, not just for Christmas celebrations and holidays, but for the great feast of the Incarnation (Jesus being born).



Semester Two Reports



Semester 2 School Reports will be uploaded onto the Parent Portal next Wednesday by 3pm. Paper copies of these reports will be sent home in envelopes with the eldest student in each family as well.

Please look out for these in the homework folders and do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs Gaia or the class teacher if you have any questions regarding the end of year reports. A folder of assessments will be sent home with each child to accompany these reports. Well done students for all your hard work this year.

Deborah Daly, APRE, LLT

November Birthdays

Scarlett, Abby, Evie & Jake



December Birthdays

Sanoor, Max, Tayla, Porsha, Charlotte T, Isis, Wyatt & Benson

Second Step Awards

Each week, **students learn skills** to help them get along with peers, manage emotions, and succeed in school and throughout their lives.

Prep – Lakey & Rachael

Year 1/2 – Alessia & Gabby

Year 3/4 – Emily M. & Tyler

Year 5/6 – Audrey, Sean & Billy

Principal's Award - Claire

Reading Awards 100 Nights - Gabby

Reading Awards 250 Nights - Emily M.

Magic 100 - Kelsea & Rachael

Magic 300 - Logan



St John's Parish Christmas Gathering

All El Arish and St John's Parishioners and their families are invited to the annual Parish Christmas Party this Saturday night following the 6:00PM Mass at Silkwood. This is always a fun night to catch up with friends, listen to some live music and put your dancing shoes on. Fr Kerry's 50 years of ordination will also be celebrated. Please bring a plate for a shared supper.

Thank you!

As the school year draws to an end, it is a timely reminder to reflect and be thankful to the many volunteers that have given freely of their time to ensure our students and school community have the best opportunities available to them.

Thank you to our **tuckshop volunteers** who have served the students with all their tuckshop requirements every Friday with a great smile!

Thank you to **Amy in the Uniform shop** ensuring all our students' uniforms needs are catered for.

To our **P&F Executive - Brett, Kevin, Helen and Ainsley**. A very big thank you for taking on these extra roles in your busy lives to ensure St John's School has every opportunity to accessible to our students. **Special mention to Ainsley** who has coordinated many of our school's fundraising events this year.

And of course to the many **parents, grandparents and friends of St John's** who have helped to sell tickets, flip steaks on a BBQ, sell pies, make and sell lamingtons or help make our 75th School Anniversary a great success,

'THANK YOU!'

Without these many hands, St John's would not be such a success. May you all enjoy a restful holiday break away from school routines. Merry Christmas.

Playgroup, Kindy, Prep & Year 1/2 Christmas Party

We invite all families of these children to come and celebrate at our end of year party on Tuesday 28th November. **The afternoon will commence at 1:00PM** in the school Undercover area. We may also have a special guest for the afternoon. If parents intend on bringing any extra siblings, please remember to bring an extra wrapped gift for the big fellow to hand out!

Congratulations!

A huge **congratulations** to our **St John's Chess Champions!** A most intense day of strategic thinking with 48 games played between students from Good Counsel Primary, St John's and St Rita's schools resulting in **Billy, Sean, Max and Erin** reclaiming the trophy for St John's for another year! Well done!



From your School Counsellor...

As the end of school year approaches I wish every single one of you a warm and positive Christmas break. Where possible find time to appreciate each other and foster connection and belonging with your loved ones.

For children and adults, connection can feel positive, negative, or more often a mix of both. Finding, building, and sustaining connection that makes us feel we belong can be a challenge for many of us, especially in tough times when we might need it most. And when we are caring for children, we have their ideas and needs for connection and belonging to consider as well. To help your parenting and support your family to navigate everyday life, along with the tough times when the odds are stacked against you please refer to the emerging minds website: <https://emergingminds.com.au/families/connection-and-belonging/> which shares wonderful articles, research, tips and tricks to foster connection and belonging.

If times become challenging, know you are not alone, and help is available. Reach out to family and friends, or seek free and local supports such as:

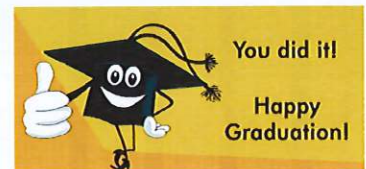
- ⇒ Innisfail Community Support Centre: www.csci.org.au
- ⇒ Parentline | Phone Counselling Service | 1300 30 1300
- ⇒ Kids Help line | For Kids and parents | 1800 55 1800
- ⇒ Reach out for Parents <https://parents.au.reachout.com/>
- ⇒ Mamu Health Service <https://mamuhsl.org.au/>

Wishing you peace and happiness.



Yours in counselling, Miss Jo

Wishing our 2023 school graduates many blessings as they leave their primary education behind and look forward to making new friends at new schools. Be Bold; Be Courageous; Be your best!



Kindy Corner...

Last week our Kindergarten group went on our annual excursion to Splash 'N Dunk at Wongaling Beach. Everything about this morning was fun and exciting! The bus ride there and back, being out and about with our friends, and of course the water park! Thank you to the parents that could come along, it was a really lovely morning.

Next week is our last week of Kindergarten for 2023. On Tuesday we will head over to St John's school for our combined Christmas Party at 1:00PM. All families are welcome to come along to this and we will have an extra special guest with Santa attending.

Please remember Kindergarten has our **last day on THURSDAY 30th November**. We finish off the year by asking families to come in at 1:45PM for a short end of year ceremony and some cake ☺. We look forward to ending the year with these fun events.

Have a Wonderful Week! Miss Cheryl



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



**Now St John's
is even more affordable!**



From 2024, it's even easier to send your child to St John's School, Silkwood.

2024 Tuition Fees		
	For Year	Per Term
1 Student	\$600	\$150
2 Students	\$1020	\$255
3 Students	\$1260	\$315
4 Students	\$1680	\$420

Our new, simple fee structure means there's a place waiting for your child at St John's - for just \$3 per day!

And there are further discounts for two or more children.

To apply for a place for your child at St John's School, or to find out more, please visit our website or contact one of our friendly staff.

Please note:
- No additional Health Care or Pension Concession discounting is available.
- Excursions and camps will be billed to families separately and are not included in the fees above.
- Stirling discounting is capped at 30% for 3+ students in all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns.

www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au
4065 9530
secretary.silkwood@cns.catholic.edu.au



Enrol For 2024

St John's is a welcoming community committed on imparting over and above an academic education by developing fundamental values in every child to reach their full potential in an ever changing world!

From 2024, St John's is even more affordable for all families! Our new fee structure (\$150 per term), will ensure all families wishing to access a Catholic Education will be catered for.

Buses collect children from Mission Beach, El Arish, Kurrimine Beach, Silkwood, No. 4 Branch and Walter Lever Estate areas.

Not Catholic? Don't worry, you don't have to be Catholic to access a Catholic Education.

Come in and see what St John's has to offer! Call 4065 9530 or visit our website to complete an online enrolment.

Look for this button on our website
www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au/enrol



Wishing all families in our community a great Christmas season!

**Innisfail Fitzgerald Rotary Club
& Innisfail Christmas Crew's**

STREET PARTY

Innisfail Town Centre



Lighting of the Tree
AND
Christmas Crackers
RAFFLE

From 4pm

SATURDAY 2nd December

Everyone Welcome!

CHRISTMAS Candle Making

Monday | 4TH | December
9:30AM - 11:30AM

Spaces are limited
Bookings Essential!

For more information:
Community Support Centre Innisfail
13-17 Donald Street, Innisfail
07 4043 8400

SILKWOOD CLAY TARGET CLUB TOGETHER WITH SILKWOOD AMBULANCE COMMITTEE
PRESENT

SILKWOOD CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SILKWOOD CLAY TARGET CLUB
RAFFLES

SUNDAY 10TH DEC - GATES OPEN AT 5PM

BRING A CHAIR OR A RUG
FOOD AND DRINKS AVAIL TO PURCHASE
CASH ONLY

SANTA ARRIVING BY CHOPPER

LIVE MUSIC BY BEERBODY
PICCOLLO

**CHRISTMAS
Ornaments**

Everyone welcome!

Join us for an afternoon of
Christmas ornament making!

**TUESDAY 5TH DEC
1:00PM - 3:00PM**

For more information:
Community Support Centre Innisfail
13-17 Donald Street, Innisfail
07 4043 8400

**Christmas
Cards**

Join us for a Christmas card making workshop.
Everyone is welcome!

**Wednesday 6th Dec
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Spaces are limited so bookings are required!

For more information:
Community Support Centre Innisfail
13-17 Donald Street
07 4043 8400

**CHRISTMAS
EARRINGS**

JOIN US FOR A FREE EARRING
MAKING WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY 7TH DEC
1:00PM - 3:00PM**

SPACES ARE LIMITED. BOOKINGS REQUIRED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE INNISFAIL
13-17 DONALD STREET, INNISFAIL
07 4043 8400

**Christmas
Stocking Craft**

Fri | 8th | Dec
9:30AM - 11:30AM

Decorate and stitch
together your own stocking!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

For more information:
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07 4043 8400