



# St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



*"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." - Unknown*

**Term 1 Week 10 – 27th March, 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Term 1 draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank staff and parents for working in partnership to ensure the best outcomes for our students. I see many students flourishing, and it is thanks to your efforts.

Earlier this term, we received the sad news of Catherine (Kitty) Watson's passing. Kitty was a teacher at St John's and St John's first lay principal. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Our P&F Annual General Meeting was held this term and I acknowledge the parents who have again taken executive positions on the committee. Congratulations and thank you to **Brett Gaia** (President), **Kevin Tanti** (Vice President) and **Ainsley Tanti** (Treasurer). Currently, the Secretary position is vacant. Any parent interested in filling this position is welcome to speak with me.

Recently, our Year 5/6 students attended a cyber-safety talk at St Clare's School in Tully presented by Susan McLean, Australia's foremost expert in cyber safety. The learnings the students returned with include: "Never give personal information online", "Don't chat to anyone online that you don't know in person", "Don't send pictures of yourself" and "Online friends are not friends". I also attended the parent session Susan presented. There were many important messages that Susan shared, and some stories that would make you quake in your boots. Susan has an informative website, [CyberSafety Solutions](#), which I encourage you to explore.

Our Prep/Year 1/2 students enjoyed a visit from Bravehearts' Ditto last week. Ditto delivered three important messages; we all have the right to feel safe, it's ok to say NO if you feel unsafe or unsure, and nothing is so yucky that you can't tell someone about it. The children had lots of fun dancing with and learning from Ditto.

On Sunday, 5th May, the **Feast of the Three Saints** will again be held on our school grounds. Locals and visitors from across Far North Queensland and further afield are drawn to this celebration. Not only is this an opportunity to showcase the physical aspect of our school, but also the community spirit of our school. Charged with running the BBQ stall at the feast, parents, staff and past students come together to be of service to those who are joining the celebrations. More information about the feast can be found overleaf.

In Term 2, Miss Jo, our school counsellor, is offering parents the opportunity to participate in **Circles of Security** professional development. These sessions will help caregivers reflect upon children's attachment needs and promote secure attachment with a child. Details of the sessions can be found on the back of this newsletter and on our Facebook page. I encourage you to join these sessions if you are able. They are open to all parents and carers in our local community.

School concludes tomorrow afternoon and returns on Monday, 15th April.

Finally, I wish each and everyone of you a **blessed Easter** and a restful break.

Peace be with you,

Linda Gaia, Principal.



## Diary Dates

### Thursday 28th March

- ◆ Assembly & Easter presentation - 2pm

### Friday 29th March

- ◆ Mass at Silkwood 3pm

### Saturday 30th March

- ◆ Mass at Silkwood 6pm

### Sunday 31st March

- ◆ Happy Easter

### Tuesday 16th April

- ◆ Cross Country 9-11.30am

### Thursday 25th April

- ◆ Anzac Day Parade

### Friday 26th April

- ◆ Assembly 8.45 Library

### Tuesday 30th April

- ◆ Cassowary Coast Cross country Carnival

### Sunday 5th May

- ◆ Feast of the Three Saints

### Monday 6th May

- ◆ Labour Day Holiday

### Thursday 9th May

- ◆ Lions Vision Screening - whole school

### Friday 10th May

- ◆ Mother's Day Celebrations

## 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* 



## APRE News

### Justice Squad News

This term the Justice Squad have been very busy raising money for Project Compassion. We sold pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Green Frozie cups for St Patrick's Day and currently we have a Guess the Number of Eggs in the jar competition. The Project Compassion boxes have been coming in and the library is now covered in Veggies and Villages – representing the wonderful contribution our families and staff have made to raising money for Caritas Australia. Money raised for Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to work with communities locally and around the world to **alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice for future generations**. To find out more about Project Compassion visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/>

### Easter Presentation

Our classes are very busy rehearsing for our Easter Presentation, and we look forward to our performance on Thursday afternoon. Please join us if you can at 2:00pm in the 1/2 classroom. Have a wonderful Easter – God Bless  
**Deborah Daly – Assist Principal Religious Education**



## P & F News

We have begun preparations for Feast of the Three Saints which is on Sunday, 5th May. Thank you to Marie Speziali and Tammy Faulks for getting things started with our raffle. Once again, we have great prizes. Tickets for the raffle will be sent home for families to sell in Week 1 next term. A prize for the family that sells the most tickets will be announced then.

The roster for the feast day is currently being prepared. Be sure to let the school office know your preferred time slot as soon as possible. If you are unable to help on the Sunday, help is also required on the Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Monday morning. Please offer your services for one of these days.

I look forward to working with you in the lead up to and on the day of feast.

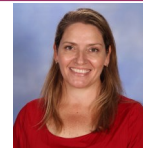
Brett Gaia - P&F President



**After School Club Fun!!!**



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



### Encouraging Kids to Take the Perspective of Others

Most children are not renowned for empathy. When it comes to seeing another child's perspective or understanding their feelings, a very young child's ability to empathise is yet to develop. By the time they are at primary school, understanding that others have thoughts, perceptions and feelings that are separate from their own, along with the ability to explicitly infer these mental states in others, are important developmental milestones for kids to nurture. Researchers at the University of Western Australia undertook a study which found parents who more regularly take the cognitive (thinking) perspective of others are more likely to encourage their child to do the same, and this facilitates a child's ability to take the cognitive perspective of others. The development of cognitive empathy skills enables children to become more responsive to cues about the thoughts and feelings of others, and this heightened sensitivity facilitates sympathy, which motivates prosocial behaviour and positive relationships at school.

### Things you can do to foster empathy and prosocial skills:

- ☐ Discuss book or media stories as opportunities for kids to practise recognising the perspective of others – what do the characters in the story think, believe, want, or feel?
- ☐ Play games where you the parent pull a face or act in a certain way so that kids can identify and empathise with the emotion or body language being displayed. Then give the kids a turn and you do the guessing.
- ☐ Role model tolerance and acceptance of diversity.
- ☐ Talk about how beliefs, thoughts, desires, and emotions can motivate behaviour.
- ☐ Be selective with terminology when assessing inappropriate behaviour of others.
- ☐ Initiate discussions about other kids living with disadvantage and disability.
- ☐ Help your kids to understand that the world doesn't revolve around them – encourage chores and helping around the house.
- ☐ Encourage talk around the 'how would you feel' theme by helping kids discover what they have in common with other people. Encourage them to tell you how they would feel if they were that person being victimised, bullied, or ignored.
- ☐ Raise awareness of ways that kids can help other kids – simple acts of sharing, caring, helping, cooperating.
- ☐ Help kids develop an A-Z of feeling words. Farrant, et al., Infant and Child Development 21 : 175188 (2012).

For further information on nurturing empathy and prosocial skills with your children please refer to the You Can Do It parent newsletter which is available at the front office of school.

Wishing you all a wonderful school break and look forward to seeing you in Term 2

## Kindy News

What a wonderful first term we have had with the Kindergarten children. Our learning over the term has covered life cycles, ocean life, how plants grow, concepts of print, storytelling, map reading, world travel to China and India, signing, personal safety, the letters of our names and counting.

Over the last few weeks we engaged in an experiment to explore the way the seeds in the ground sprout into a plant by germinating bean seeds on wet paper towel. The children were able to eagerly observe the roots develop and then the plant grow! We now have lots of bean plants in our garden and are looking forward to continuing the observation of these plants growing beans. Kindergarten children are natural scientists as they explore and question everything in their play.

We have also had a visit from the Jitta Art team. Freda shared a very special dreamtime story about the willy wagtail, or Jitta Jitta, from a Jirrbal/Mamu artist. The children created their own beautiful bird crafts afterwards and were keen observers of our natural environment when they spotted two Willy Wagtails in our Kindy garden! We also explored further out in the world and looked at one of our family cultures – Punjabi and India. The children looked at Indian buildings, practiced a greeting and counting in Punjabi and ate pappadums. Engaging with and learning about the Aboriginal culture as well as our family cultures is really important to develop respect and understanding of the wonderful diversity of our world and our own country.

This week we have a fun last day of Kindergarten planned where we welcome our families to stay and play for the morning on Thursday from 8:30am – 10:30am. Bring hats and drink bottles and be ready to play! Have a wonderful Easter break. Kindergarten starts back for Term 2 on April 16th. Regards, Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco.

**Enquires call: 42 52 5755 Mobile: 439 924 736**

**Email: [kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au](mailto:kindy.silkwood@cclc.catholic.org.au)**

**Web: [www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/](http://www.cclc.catholic.org.au/community-kindergarten-silkwood/)**





# We have had an exciting last couple of weeks of term!!!!

**Mandaburra Artists  
visited our Upper  
School**

*Ditto from Bravehearts  
visited the Lower School*

**AND OUR PREP CLASS  
VISITED KINDY**



JAMIE GOSLING FOOTBALL ACADEMY PRESENTS

## CASSOWARY COAST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**ADVANCED COACHING FOR ALL  
CASSOWARY COAST PLAYERS AGED 6-14**

**STARTS TUESDAY 16 APRIL  
@ GOONDI BEND RECREATION CENTRE**

**10-WEEK PROGRAM - ON TUESDAYS EACH TERM  
CHANCE TO JOIN OUR ELITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**CONTACT: Jamie Gosling - 0450 181 626  
TIME: 4-5PM AND 5-6PM**

**COST: \$225 per Term or \$800 for 4 Terms**

**REGISTER NOW! [www.jgfa.com.au](http://www.jgfa.com.au)**

**Babinda  
PICTURE THEATRE**

**FUTURE SCREENINGS**

Thu 28 Mar	7.30pm Adults at Kids Price	M
Bob Marley: One Love <a href="#">More information</a>		
Fri 29 Mar	NO SCREENING GOOD FRIDAY	G
NO SCREENING GOOD FRIDAY <a href="#">More information</a>		
Sat 30, Sun 31 Mar	7.30pm Adults at Kids Price	M
Bob Marley: One Love <a href="#">More information</a>		
Fri 5, Sat 6, Sun 7 Apr	7.30pm Adults at Kids Price	PG
Combat Wombat: Back 2 Back <a href="#">More information</a>		

## School Holiday ACTIVITIES

<b>Mission Beach Library</b>	Thursday 4 April - 10:30am (Age 6+)
<b>Cardwell Library</b>	Thursday 11 April - 10:30am (Age 6+)
<b>Innisfail Library</b>	Thursday 11 April - 10:30am (Age 6+)
<b>Tully Library</b>	Thursday 11 April - 2:30pm (Age 6+)

**CREATION STATIONS**  
Available in branch - every day!

*Makerspace*  
available all holidays!

Cassowary Coast  
Libraries

Bookings Essential  
PH: 1300 366 616  
Scan the QR code for our events page  
or visit <https://cassowary.spydus.com>



**Circle of Security  
INTERNATIONAL**  
*Building Attachment Around the World*

**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL**

**Caregiving Professional Development opportunity to  
enhance attachment security and improve relationships for  
parents and children**

**Who:** For parents & caregivers in the Silkwood and  
surrounding community

**Where:** St. John's School, Harold St, Silkwood

**When:** Term 2 Thursday mornings 8:45am - 10:30am  
(9th May; 16th May; 23rd May; 30th May; 6th June)

To register or for further information contact:  
St. John's School on 4065 9530

**Mobile Women's  
Health Service**

**Queensland  
Government**

**Well Womens Clinics**  
(these clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

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.

**Tully Hospital:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April Ph: **4068 4144** (Tues/Wed/Thurs 9am-1pm)  
**Mission Beach CHC:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April Ph: **4068 4144** (Tues/Wed/Thurs 9am-1pm)

**COMMUNITY  
NEWS**