



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"Live a simple life; you will own the most beautiful treasures of the world!" — Mehmet Murat Ildan

Term 1 Week 6 – 5th March 2025

Dear community members,

The vision of Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns is *"to offer every student in every school a world class education enriched by their lived encounter with the Catholic faith."* Among other things, a world class education includes a *culture of collaboration*. Teaching and non-teaching staff at St John's regularly have discussions focused on improving the learning and well-being of students. Our consultants and specialists from Catholic Education Services and external agencies also work with staff for the benefit of our students. The most important group of people we can engage with, however, is parents. Research shows parental engagement is the golden key that can unlock the door to students reaching their potential. Often, it's small things that you can say or do at home that will make a difference. To support you, I will add an **"At Home"** section to our weekly Parent Flyer with a suggestion of what you might like to focus on for the week. Another way to engage with your child's learning is to attend a **Parent/Teacher Interview**. These will be held in Week 9 and I invite all parents to book a time to meet with their child's teacher. Mrs Daly has provided more information overleaf. If you are unable to attend the times on offer, contact your child's teacher to organise a time that is convenient for you both.



I am very excited about our up and coming **Glow Show Art Exhibition**, incorporating a movie night, on Friday 21st March. Classes across the school have focused on **Under the Sea** this term and the evening will be an opportunity for families to view the work the students have completed, with the added bonus of joining together for a family movie. The students are very excited about this event and we hope to see you there.

Today is **Ash Wednesday** which marks the beginning of Lent. We gathered together this morning as a faith community to commemorate this special day. We received ashes on our foreheads as a reminder that we are always able to make amends and turn back to God. This is a ritual that all are invited to join. I was proud of the students' reverence and respect during our liturgy, and I thank the parents and parishioners who joined us.

In the early weeks of this term, students and staff elected our captains for 2025. I congratulate **Erin** (School Captain), **James** (MacKillop House Captain) and **Taj** (Francis House Captain). These students have stepped effortlessly into their leadership roles. Our Justice Squad committee was also selected. Congratulations to **Porsha** (President), **Evie** (Treasurer), **Tilly and Erin** (Fundraising Officers), **Isis** (Media Officer) See more about the role of the Justice Squad overleaf. We look forward to all our senior students taking initiative, making informed decisions and inspiring others this year.

This year, St John's Parish will run the **Sacramental Program** for children baptised Catholic in Year 4 or above. Children joining the program will receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. Reconciliation will take place on Saturday 29th March with Confirmation and First Communion happening later in the year. Mrs Daly has kindly offered to prepare the children for the sacraments. If you know of any families in the wider community who would like their children to join the program, have them call the school office or they can email Mrs Daly at ddaly@cns.catholic.edu.au.

I remind you to keep up to date with upcoming events via Diary Dates (adjacent), the Parent Flyer (weekly), and Facebook (remember to 'Like' our page).

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.

Diary Dates

Friday 7th March

- ◆ Assembly

Wednesday 12th March

- ◆ NAPLAN Writing

Thursday 13th March

- ◆ NAPLAN Reading
- ◆ NAPLAN Language

Friday 21st March

- ◆ NAPLAN Numeracy

Saturday 15th March

- ◆ Sacramental Candidates commitment at Mass 6pm

Monday 17th March

- ◆ St Patrick's Day

Friday 21st March

- ◆ Glow Show Art Exhibition
- ◆ Assembly
- ◆ Harmony Day

Monday 24th-28th March

- ◆ Parent Teacher interviews

Saturday 29th March

- ◆ Sacrament of Reconciliation candidates preparation

Wednesday 2nd April

- ◆ Interhouse Cross Country

Thursday 3rd April

- ◆ Touch Football carnival at Tully SHS

Friday 4th April

- ◆ Assembly & Easter Presentation

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: 07 4065 9530

Always Reaching For New Heights



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

APRE News

Lent

Today, Ash Wednesday begins the Christian season of Lent; 40 days during which many Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. During this time we reflect on how we are asked to live the way God wants us to by praying and acting lovingly to other people. The three traditional elements of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving – which we achieve with Project Compassion.



Project Compassion

This Lent, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion invites us to **Unite Against Poverty** and take action to make a lasting difference. At school,

the students will learn how Caritas Australia helps people less fortunate than us in Samoa, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The students will bring home their Project Compassion collection boxes and all the funds we raise will go towards bringing clean drinking water and great hygiene to communities around the world.



ST JOHN'S **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

For Year 4 students and above – Baptised Catholic

Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Communion

Commitment ceremony on Saturday 15th March at Mass

Preparation morning on 29th March (9:00 to 12:00)

Then 5pm Reconciliation and Mass 6pm.

Confirmation and Holy Communion dates TBC.

Please contact the St John's School Office for details

Phone: (07) 4065 9530

or Email our Assistant Principal – Deborah Daly: ddaly@cns.catholic.edu.au

2025 Justice Squad

Congratulations to our newly elected Justice Squad. Our Justice Squad help to raise awareness in our community about social equity and equality matters by raising money for those less fortunate and doing good deeds.



St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day is a feast day held on **17th March**.

St Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. On this day, students will be encouraged to come to school dressed in green for a gold coin donation. Our Justice Squad will also be selling green frozie cups and green pancakes at break time for 50c each. Proceeds will go to Project Compassion.



Interhouse Cross Country

This event will be held on Wednesday, 2nd April from 9:00am. The order of events will be:

Welcome

11 & 12 year olds

9 & 10 year olds

7 & 8 year olds

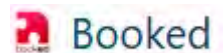
5 & 6 year olds

Presentations

Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Login slips will come home shortly for parents to book an interview time with their student's class teacher in week 9. PTO (Parent Teacher Online) has been rebranded as 'Booked' but the process will be the same as usual. These time slots are 15 minutes and if a longer time is needed, please contact your child's teacher to arrange this outside the booking system.



Deborah Daly, APRE. *Leader of Learning & Teaching*

After School Club Did you know that St John's School has an After School Club available for families who require it? The club runs Monday to Thursday from 3—5 pm. Please contact the office for enquiries.





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

Bullying is someone more powerful saying or doing something hurtful on purpose over and over again (kids helpline 2025). It is repetitive, mean, on purpose behaviour that is **never** okay and not acceptable at St John's School Community. Bullying is not the same as rude, conflictual, or mean behaviour, but still requires our support and response:



♦ Rude behaviour is saying or doing something hurtful that wasn't planned or meant to upset someone. **When we see rude behaviour, call it out "Hey we don't act that way at St John's. Stop being rude."**

♦ Conflict is saying hurtful things on purpose due to heightened emotions as part of a disagreement. **When we see conflict, support regulation and repair relationships through restorative conversations and consequences.**

♦ Mean behaviour is saying or doing something hurtful to someone on purpose once or twice. **When we see mean behaviour, ask ourselves what does that person need to learn? Is it tolerance, self-control or how to be kind? Call it out "Hey be patient / kind / tolerant. This is how we treat each other at St John's."**

Everyone has a right and responsibility to be safe in their community; and it is up to all of us to call out antisocial behaviours and teach each other about what is and what isn't safe behaviour. For further information please consult <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids> and for any

more targeted support please discuss with your Class Teacher, Leadership or me your School Counsellor. **Warm regards, Miss Jo Working Thursday and Fridays.**

Kindy News

Our Kindergarten group is settling in really well and engaging in lots of fun and busy play. We have learnt our group loves social role playing, cooking and craft!

A goal for the term is for the children to begin to recognise their names. We have started by looking at the first letters of everyone's names, exploring the shapes and lines in the letters and practising looking for this letter when the children are trying to find their names.

We have also followed on with the children's interest in the weather – discussing and crafting the various weather we have seen over the term. We had drawings of floods and rain emerging at our drawing table, and collage suns at the craft table. We spent a week exploring rainbows and how they are made, extending to include colour recognition and colour mixing knowledge with experiments, art and songs.

Please make sure you are checking our Term Calendar and emails for upcoming events.

Regards, Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco

Mobile: 0439 924 736

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

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





Rugby / Netball Carnival

Join us at Playgroup

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

Please bring morning tea for your child/ren
Tea/Coffee provided

play matters
Affiliated

For further details call Vera/Tammy on 40659530 or the Kindergarten on 0439 924 736

EVERY FAMILY
AFTER-HOURS ONLINE WORKSHOP!

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

This Triple P Positive Parenting Seminar covers:

- How to encourage emotional recognition and regulation
- How to build children's capacity to manage challenging emotions and stress
- Strategies that encourage growth and learning in children

Monday 10th March
5:30pm - 7pm
Online - ZOOM
FREE for families on the Cassowary Coast, Atherton Tablelands & Mareeba

Bookings Essential
Contact: kate@vpginc.com.au
0488 321 605

Find us on @EveryFamilyCassowaryCoast

VPG
An Australian Government funded children and parenting initiative by VPG
www.vpginc.com.au/everyfamily

EVERY FAMILY

LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG WORRIES

This workshop provides:

- Insight into your child's body and brain when they experience anxiety or big worry
- Understand how we can support our children through transitions while building their skills in managing emotions
- Develop strategies that will help your child through their feelings to find their brave

Thurs 13th March
9:30am - 11am
11 Flying Fish Point Road, Innisfail
FREE

Bookings Essential
RSVP by 7th March
Contact: kate@vpginc.com.au
0488 321 605

Find us on @EveryFamilyCassowaryCoast

VPG
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Spread the word and join us for a relaxing and friendly get-together at Playgroup.

Every Wednesday our fabulous Jess will be ready to welcome you to playgroup. Playgroup operates out of the Kindy building every Wednesday morning (school weeks only). Playgroup also gives mums, dads, grandparents and carers a chance to share ideas and to meet new people. Call 4065 9530 for more information.

BABINDA MUNRO THEATRE

Fri 7, Sat 8, Sun 9 Mar	7.30pm Adults at Kids Price	M
Captain America: Brave New World		More Information
Fri 14, Sat 15, Sun 16 Mar	7.30pm Adults at Kids Price	M
Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy		More Information