



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.
Robert H. Schuller

Term 2 Week 6 – 28th May 2025

Dear community members,

Welcome to Week 6 of Term 2. Following a hectic start to the term, we have now settled into a consistent rhythm of learning. It's wonderful to see enthusiasm and dedication from our students and staff.

On Monday, I was lucky enough to observe our **pre-service teacher, Miss Millard, teach a fluency lesson**. Fluency is the key to strong reading comprehension because it allows children to focus on understanding the meaning of a text rather than struggling to decode individual words. When children read smoothly and with expression, they can engage more deeply with stories, absorb information more easily, and develop confidence in their reading abilities. I was impressed with Miss Millard's process and proud of the focus the students gave to the lesson. Sadly, we will farewell Miss Danielle Millard at the end of this week. We thank Miss Millard for the time and dedication she has given to our students this term and we wish her all the best.

Since our last newsletter, we welcomed the news that Robert Francis Prevost would be our **new Pope, Leo XIV**. Pope Leo said his main reason for choosing to take the name Leo was because of Pope Leo XIII's commitment to social issues and workers' rights during the industrial revolution. Leo said that the world now faces new challenges to workers' rights, and humanity more broadly, due to the rise of artificial intelligence. We pray for Pope Leo XIV as he begins his papacy.

Students, parents, and staff now have the opportunity to **complete the Feedback Survey**. This survey provides an opportunity for community members to express their opinions and provide feedback on various aspects of education. The feedback provided is invaluable in understanding the experiences, needs, and expectations of respondents, allowing staff to make informed decisions and improvements. All community members who receive a link via email are encouraged to complete the survey before Friday, 13th June.

We have some very exciting events coming up over the coming weeks. I am looking forward to travelling to Innisfail with **our choir to compete in the Young Performers competition next week**.

Next Saturday, we have the opportunity to join together for a **Parish/School Mass**. This is always a special mass as student take a lead role, and there's always wonderful treats at the shared supper that follows. All families are invited to attend.

St John's feast day falls on 27th December, making it impossible for us to celebrate our namesake as a school community so this year, we are going to celebrate St John on Wednesday 25th June. Teachers will spend time this week refreshing and updating their understanding of St John, before beginning preparations for what I'm sure will be an exciting celebration.

On the final day of this term, we will host our **Interhouse Athletic Carnival**. During P.E. lessons, students have been learning how to move their bodies efficiently to achieve their best results in each event. It has been wonderful to see their dedication and enthusiasm as they work to refine their skills. I look forward to celebrating the students' growth and successes at the carnival. I hope to see you there.



Diary Dates

Friday 30th May

- ◆ Assembly 8:45am in the hall

Friday 6th June

- ◆ Young Performers - selected students from year 4-6

Saturday 7th June

- ◆ Sacramental program preparation day
- ◆ Whole School Parish Mass 6.00pm

Monday 9th June

- ◆ Prep Vision Screening

Tuesday 10th June

- ◆ Confirmation

Thursday 12th June

- ◆ FNQ Reader's Cup

Saturday 21st June

- ◆ First Eucharist

Monday 23rd June

- ◆ 800m Yr 9-12

Wednesday 25th June

- ◆ St John's celebration

Friday 27th June

- ◆ Interhouse Athletics Carnival
- ◆ Last day of term 2

Monday 14th July

- ◆ Term 3 commences



CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: 07 4065 9530

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.

Always Reaching For New Heights



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

APRE News

Parish School Mass - Please come along to Mass on Saturday 7th June at 6:00pm. We will have a cuppa and a shared plate following Mass as we come together as a community of faith.



Sacramental Program - Dates for candidates:

Preparation Day: Saturday 7th June

Confirmation: Tuesday 10th June

First Eucharist: Saturday 21st June

Justice Squad Winter Appeal – Collecting now!

Please consider donating blankets, warm clothing, non-perishable food items or toiletries for St Vincent de Paul.

The Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday, otherwise known as Ascension Sunday. This commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended, body and soul, into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of His Father. The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven marks the completion of Jesus's earthly mission.

Deborah Daly, APRE.

Leader of Learning & Teaching

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Tully Sugar Mill who recently celebrated 100 years with a great festive weekend. Our students participated in a colour-in competition. Well done to **Abby (1st), Logan (2nd), and Ruby (Merit)** who gained prize recognition for their efforts.

Sports Update

Our Interhouse Athletics is set to proceed on **Friday 27th June**. This is always a great display of sportsmanship and fun for the kids. The 800m races for students 9-12 years will be held on **Monday 23rd June at 2:00pm**.

National Simultaneous Storytime was held last Wednesday with over 2 million other children around the world listening to "The Truck Cat" being read aloud. The students followed this by completing activities relating to the story.



Kindy News



Thank you to all who attended our Under 8's play morning. What a fun busy morning it was with the P/1/2 class as well as families from our community coming in for a play, which included biscuit decorating, necklace threading, group collaging, face painting, bike riding, swinging and so much more. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did!

Over the last few weeks at Kindergarten we have investigated

the life cycle of butterflies and were able to observe real caterpillars that will one day become Cairns Birdwing butterflies. Combining these real-life observations alongside of story books, figures, sequence cards and using our Interactive whiteboard we were able to explore this life cycle in ways that suited everyone.

Our Kindergarten group has also travelled across the world all the way to Italy and Sicily to explore where the Three Saints came from and learned more about the country. The children looked at and created their own Italian buildings like the Leaning Tower of Piza, used the colours of the Italian flag to collage, made our own Mt Etna volcanoes in the sandpit and



created delicious Italian food; pasta and pizza! Exploring different cultures of the world can broaden our children's understanding and respect for diversity, which is such important learning.

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

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

Remember our Kindergarten photos are being taken on June 5th from 9am.

Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco

Keeping our children safe online

From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jess.

Our children are living in a digital age and as they increasingly use online applications to learn, interact, play, and engage, they are **developing an understanding** of the world around them at a

rate that is exponentially faster than in previous years. With these advances comes a greater risk of being exposed to content that surpasses their developmental needs and understanding. The [esafety commission reports](#), that nearly half of 9-16 years olds experience regular exposure to inappropriate content online through accidental and purposeful means. **St John's School is committed to keeping our children safe online** and all learning applications in use at school or suggested at home by the school, have been thoroughly vetted by our online policies and procedures.

When **accessing content online at home**, the initial issue arises when using search engines on social media, gaming platforms, Youtube or even Google. **Children often search innocent topics and yet** mistakenly, can be lead down a path of videos, chats, images, articles, and other content that may be violent, inappropriate, explicit, and/or harmful. Children can become confused, scared, shocked, or sometimes intrigued, which are all normal reactions. This **can be prevented by activating the 'safe search filter'** which limits search results to child-friendly images and content.

The second issue is that once this **inappropriate content is found**, either by accidental or purposeful means, the device or application begins to create an algorithm for your child's preferences and displays similar content, at an alarming rate. One video viewed of their favourite Youtuber or movie character, may result in similar yet more disturbing content and place your child at an increased risk of viewing harmful content when next online.

The answer is **not** to remove all access to online platforms, as children require these provisions for their learning and development in the modern world we live, **but rather to engage in conversations with your children** around online safety and to access assistance if your child has viewed content that has negatively impacted them.

The **esafety commissioner website** has a wealth of information for parents and children regarding online safety and recommends the use of **Parental controls**. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/parental-controls>

They can be set up to do things like:

- **Block** your child from accessing specific websites, apps or functions (like using a device's camera, or the ability to buy things).
- **Filter** different kinds of content — such as 'adult' or sexual content, content that may promote self-harm, eating disorders, violence, drugs, gambling, racism, and terrorism.
- Allow you to **monitor** your child's use of connected devices, with reports on the sites they visit and the apps they use, how often and for how long.
- Set **time limits**, blocking access after a set time.

If a device or program is shared by multiple members of your family, you should be able change the tool settings to reflect each user's age and skills. If you require further assistance the [Kidshelpline](#), **Community Support Centre Innisfail**, and [esafety websites](#) have an extensive amount of information for both children and families.

The Community Support Centre Innisfail is holding a free "Keeping our kids safe online" information session to help them form healthy digital habits on **20th June at 10:30am**.

To book, call 4043 8400.

Regards, Miss Jess

What is your child's device learning about them?

Have open communication with your child
Be aware of what your child is viewing and be a safe place for conversation if they view something that made them feel unsafe.

Use safe search filters
You can select filters that will keep search results to child-friendly content to avoid your children viewing inappropriate material

Lock your phone or device
You can use the settings already on your phone to lock the screen when your child is viewing something so they cannot accidentally navigate away from this site.

Understand the risks
Every device is creating an algorithm based on your child's searches and will continue to present like information to them even if this content is beyond their development.

Keep up to date with new information
Innisfail community Support Centre running a free online safety information session on 20th June

The infographic includes illustrations of a child using a laptop, a computer monitor with various icons, and three children standing together.

Fun Under 8's Day!



RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

A Triple P Parenting Seminar

This workshop covers:

- The importance of school readiness
- School readiness skills
- Activities for preparing children for school

Wed 4th June

9:30 - 11:00am

Online via Zoom

FREE for parents & carers in the Tablelands & Cassowary Coast areas

FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT VANESSA
0437 818 623
vanessa@vpginc.com.au



Find us on @EveryFamilyTablelands

VPG

An Australian Government funded children and parenting initiative by VPG



Fri 30, Sat 31 May, Sun 1 Jun

7.30PM Adults at Kids
Price

THE ACCOUNTANT 2

Fri 6, Sat 7, Sun 8 Jun

7.30 pm Adults at Kids
Price

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning

ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

This workshop will cover:

- Basics of teen mental health
- Recognising signs and symptoms
- Strategies to support your teen's mental health
- Conversation starters (how to address mental health)
- Professional supports available in the region

Monday 16th June

5.30pm - 7pm

Online via Zoom

FREE for parents & carers in the Tablelands & Cassowary Coast areas

For more information or to register your interest please contact Vanessa on: 0437 818 623
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Find us on @EveryFamilyTablelands

VPG

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www.vpginc.com.au/everyfamily