



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Term 3 Week 6 – 20th August 2025

Dear community members,

Today, our Year 5 and 6 students travelled to Cairns for the **Australian Catholic Education Conference Mass** at the Cairns Convention Centre. Our students joined with 1000 students from across the diocese as well as over 1400 delegates made up of Catholic Educators, leaders, clergy, parents and others from the broader Church involved in Catholic education. It was a privilege to be a part of this significant event and one that I hope remains as a fond memory for our students.

I will remain in Cairns for the remainder of the week to attend the next two days of the conference. With the theme '**hope, anchored in faith**', the conference will focus on the strategic vision and mission of Catholic Education across three key areas—Faith, Excellence and Access. There is an excellent range of speakers and presenters including Professor Dylan Wiliam (Emeritus Professor, UCL Institute of Education), Dr Steve Constantino (Family Engagement Expert), and Dr Simon Breakspear (Educational expert and founder of Strategic Schools). I have no doubt I will pick up many pearls of wisdom which I look forward to sharing.

Our whole school reward system has been very well received and it is wonderful to witness students from across the school receiving tokens for behaviours that align with our school values of **Faith, Community, Compassion and Respect**. With the focus on finding "playground saints" for the first half of the term, we have now expanded our search to include the classroom meaning students have even more chances of receiving tokens. I thank all staff members for embracing and diligently working with our reward system. Their efforts make this system successful and fills students with pride when they receive a token.

We have a long line-up of important events happening over the coming weeks. I make special mention of the following:

- ◆ Next week, I will host an **Open Morning** for parents interested in enrolling their children at St John's in any grade, Prep to Year 6. Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a family can make and we encourage parents to join us for the Open Morning to ask questions and meet the staff who make our school the wonderful place that it is. Details of the Open Morning are overleaf. Please spread the word.
- ◆ Next Friday, students in Years 4 - 6 are invited to attend the St Vincent de Paul Sleepout. The Justice Squad has been resolute in ensuring this event is held this year. The evening will focus on building our understanding of homelessness and will help raise funds which will be donated to St Vincent de Paul.
- ◆ Our Dance Showcase to be held on Friday 12th September has morphed to include celebrations for Father's Day. Be sure to lock this evening into your calendars. All family members and extended family are welcome to join us from 5:30pm. More details will be advertised closer to the event.

As we hurtle towards the end of the term, I remind you to keep up-to-date with events via our Facebook page, and for parents, via our weekly Parent Flyer.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 20th August

- ◆ Year 5/6 attending AEC Conference in Cairns

Friday 22nd August

- ◆ Assembly 8.45am

Wednesday 27th August

- ◆ St John's Open Morning

Friday 29th August

- ◆ Premier's Reading Challenge concludes
- ◆ St Vincent de Paul Sleepout Years 4-6

Friday 5th September

- ◆ Pupil Free Day
- ◆ Kindy Open Morning 9-11am

Friday 12th September

- ◆ Line Dance Night & Father's Day Celebrations

Wed 17th September

- ◆ NAIDOC Week Activities

Thursday 18th September

- ◆ Jim Graham Rugby League Cup –selected students Year 5/6 - Innisfail

Friday 19th September

- ◆ Mary Mills Netball Carnival -selected students Year 4-6 - Cairns



CONTACT DETAILS

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Harold St, Silkwood, Q. 4856

Always Reaching For New Heights



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



APRE News

Students enjoyed our day of celebrating Mary MacKillop on 4th of August. The day focused on showing compassion for others. Students made bookmarks for our local nursing homes, lollipop flowers for our kindy friends, and older students helped younger students with tennis. It's so nice to see our students living out our values like this.



Our Parish School Mass on Saturday 9th of August was very well attended and a lovely evening overall with special prayers for Fr Hilary. The dancing in the hall afterwards was fun, and we shared supper with families, parishioners and Father Kerry. If you have not been to a Parish School Mass before, please look out for next term's date and come along.



The Assumption Mass for Mary was last Friday, and students showed their love and respect for Mary by placing either a heart or flower at her feet before the mass began.

This week, our Grade 5/6 class will travel to Cairns on Wednesday to participate in formation experiences and a mass at the Convention Centre as part of the opening event for a 3-day Catholic Education Australia Conference. This should be a very interesting and memorable experience for them.

We are holding a sleep out for grades 4-6 on Friday 24th August, so please look out for information coming very soon. This is to raise awareness about homelessness.

Last week's Science Week event was a lot of fun with students learning about patterns in nature, the senses and water filtration. The fun continues this week with Book Week activities, and I can't wait to see all the students' favourite books coming in to be shared with classmates.

Deborah Daly, APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching

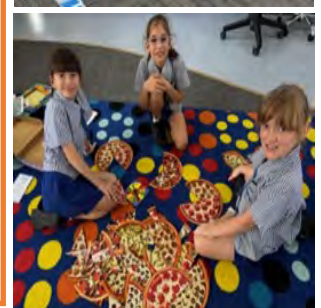
Class in Focus - Year 3/4

Hands on Activities in 3/4

In Science this term Grade 3/4 have been learning about different states of matter. This has involved some very interesting experiments changing liquids to solids or gases, and solids to liquids. This week's experiment involved testing different coloured crayons to see which colour melted the fastest.

Learning about fractions in Mathematics always lends itself to fun activities and Year 4 have been extending their understanding into decimals.

The class are really looking forward to showing off their dances at our Dance Night in Week 9!!



Join Us

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING 2025



Wednesday, 27th August

9:00 am – 10:30 am

INVESTING IN THE
FUTURE OF YOUR
CHILD TOGETHER

\$ Discounted fees continue
in 2026



Buses from Kurrimine
Beach, No 4 Branch &
Mission Beach/El Arish



www.stjohnssilkwood.qld.edu.au

4065 9530



Harold Street, Silkwood

Silkwood Catholic Community Kindergarten

Open Morning

Come and explore our beautiful Kindergarten,
meet the teachers, learn about how our Kindergarten
runs and have a play.



When: Friday 5th September: 9am—11am

Where: 5 Harold Street, Silkwood

Please bring a hat, drink bottle and a snack

For enquiries and enrolment

Phone: 0439 924 736

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

From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jess. Peer friendships are an essential part of our children's lives and quality friends have been proven to support growth and development, as well as improve academic performance and general wellbeing. Therefore, helping children to learn the social skills to both develop and maintain these friendships is important at both school and at home. We can assist our children to understand healthy friendships by:

- Modelling kind and trusting friendships- children observe social interactions of their parents and teachers and learn how to interact, negotiate challenges, support each other, and foster loving and caring bonds that can endure the test of time.
- Help children have self-awareness of their behaviours and feelings when surrounded by different friends, to better understand and identify a 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' friendship. If they find themselves feeling sad, isolated, angry, or confused, after spending time with some friends, then this person may be an unhealthy friend and spending less time with that person is ok. Surrounding themselves with people that can make them laugh, are trustworthy, and respectful, is important for their self-esteem and growth.
- Help children to confront friendship challenges in respectful conversations, where they explain the scenario in a calm manner and how that friend made them feel. Help them to suggest changes that may help this friendship to become stronger through a better understanding of one another and their boundaries. Teach them to listen and understand other's perspectives to develop empathy and compassion. **Not all friendships need to end when there is a disagreement, it can be an opportunity to learn.
- Friendships change and this is ok. Just because our friends may find a new interest or hobby, change their behaviour, or even find a new friend, does not mean that they are no longer our friend as well.
- Every friendship is different and so are we. We all have different ways of communicating and feeling and playing. Acknowledging and accepting difference and celebrating the uniqueness of ourselves and others, is essential to finding and keeping true friendships, that can complement one another.
- Find 'your people' and be the best friend you can. True friends will love and accept you the way you are, without asking you to change to what they need or think is 'cool.' Be yourself, be kind, be brave.

Regards, Miss Jess

Kindy News

We view our Kindergarten children as scientists every single day. They are always exploring, questioning, hypothesizing and trying ideas as they play, and always learning. However during Science Week we dive a bit deeper into science to encourage that inquisitive nature children always have, and to broaden their understandings of different concepts.

This year for Science Week we started off with a fun science session at St John's with Mrs Gaia and the Preps. Exploring the reaction between bi carb and vinegar was lots of fizzy fun and the children came back to kindy keen to explore further. Over the week we used these ingredients on other experiments – to see if we could blow up a balloon with them (we could!) and to observe what happens when they combine in oil.

As the theme for Science week involved 'decoding the universe' we also looked up to the stars and explored our solar system, the planets and astronauts. From the children's discussions we may have a few budding astronauts within our group.



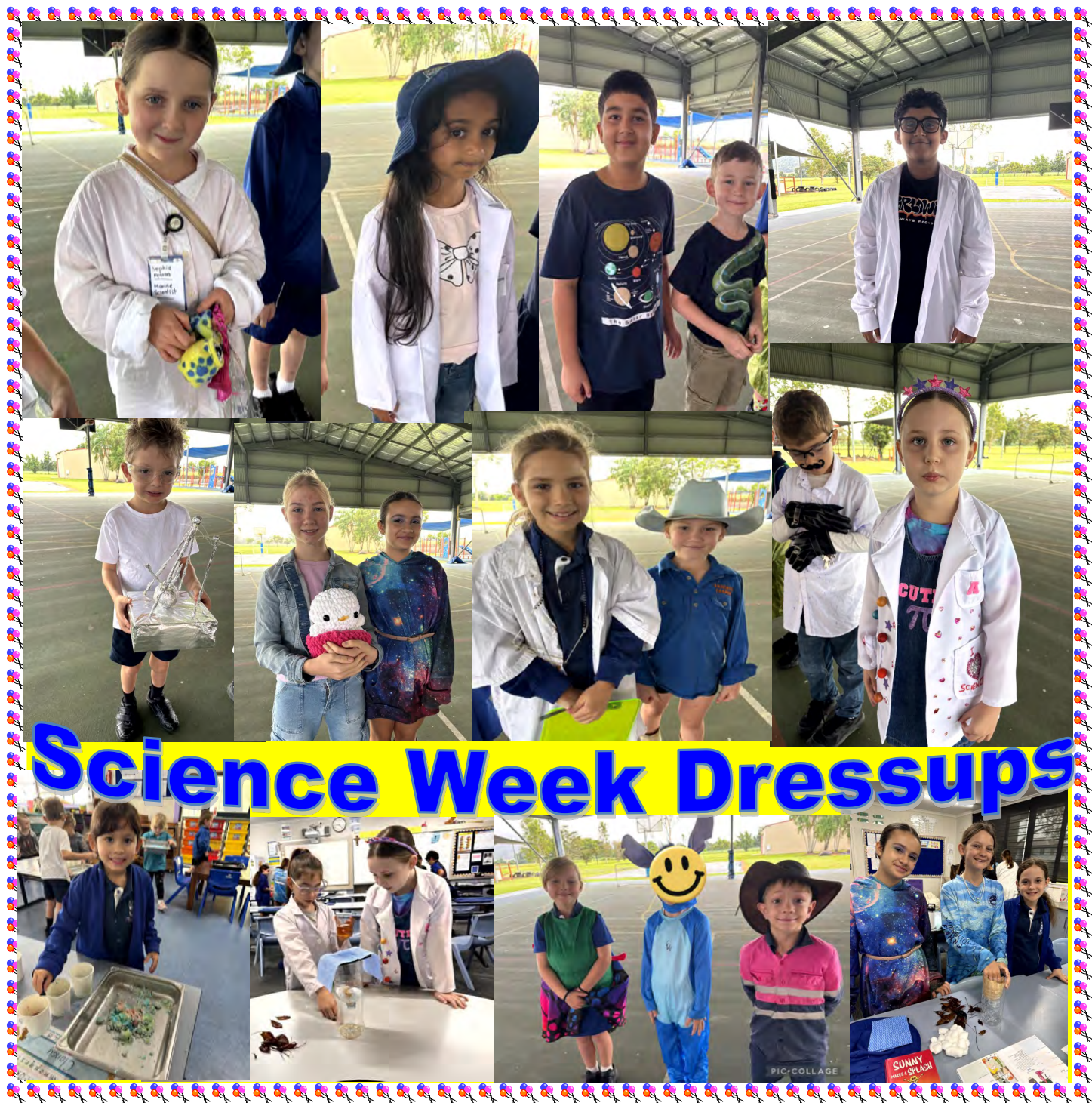
This week we are moving onto Book Week experiences. The Kindy children dressed up for this event yesterday and we are looking forward to sharing our favourite books with one another, and doing lots and lots of reading!

Mobile: 0439 924 736

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

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

Regards Ms Cheryl & Mrs Greco



Science Week Dressups



ONLINE WORKSHOP!

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

Friday 22nd Aug
1:30pm - 3pm
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**

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

TULLY & SURROUNDS

Find us on  **@EveryFamilyCassowaryCoast** **PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES WITH 0-5YR OLDS**

Every Family Cassowary Coast

- Parenting support
- Parent workshops
- Information & referrals or just a chat

0488 321 605
 kate@vpginc.com.au
 @EveryFamilyCassowaryCoast
 @everyfamily_vpg

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Supply Friends Program 8:30am - 10:30am 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Connect Tully Tots 9am - 10:30am 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Lower Tully Program 10am - 11am 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Cassowary Kids 10am - 11am 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Little Elders Program 10am - 11am 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605
Play Friends Program 11:30am - 12:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 11:30am - 12:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	St John's Community Program 11:30am - 12:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 11:30am - 12:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Play Friends Program 11:30am - 12:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605
Play Friends Program 1:30pm - 2:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 1:30pm - 2:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 1:30pm - 2:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 1:30pm - 2:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605	Canberra Kids 1:30pm - 2:30pm 141 Victoria St, Tully 0488 321 605
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TERM 3 2025

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BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

INNISFAIR - TERM 3 2025

Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) supports parents and carers to:

- Learn more about their own parenting style
- Identify important messages they want to tell their children
- Learn about brain development in children and its influence on their thoughts, feelings and behaviour
- Understand the meaning behind children's behaviours, and how to respond to children's underlying feelings and needs

3 WEEK PROGRAM
Thursdays Aug 28th Sept 4th & 18th
9:30-11:30am
11 Flying Fish Point Rd, Innisfail Estate
\$ FREE

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
 RSVP by Aug 22nd
 kate@vpginc.com.au
 0488 321 605

Find us on  **@EveryFamilyCassowaryCoast**

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