



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"Strength doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't!" R Rogers

Term 3 Week 10–17th September 2025

Dear community members,
Welcome to the end of Term 3. We have had many wonderful things to celebrate this term.

Let me start with our **Dance Showcase** which incorporated a celebration for our **dads** and those who are like fathers to us. Our focus for dance this term was line dance. We are blessed to have wonderful teachers who embrace the teaching of this discipline. I congratulate the students for their focus and attention while learning the dances. Their performances were evidence of their efforts. I thank the many parents, grandparents, extended family members and friends who joined us. The children loved performing for you and your attendance is confirmation that what they learn at school is important. **Thank you one and all for making the night sensational!**

This term, we underwent our **3-Year Peer Review** which provides an opportunity to investigate a focus question which has emerged from our school priorities. Our focus question was *"To what extent do the school values impact on student behaviour, learning, and engagement?"* Overwhelmingly, it was evident that the school values are having a **positive impact** on student behaviour. It was **affirming** to know that the work we began last year as part of our School Annual Improvement Plan is paying off. These actions will have a flow-on effect to student engagement, and we are now implementing strategies specifically targeting learning.

We have great **NAPLAN** news! Our Year 5 students achieved **greater growth** in **Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy** than the National average. This is an excellent result for our students and testament to the strong foundations our teachers lay for them. Well done!

Today, students celebrated **NAIDOC Week**. We are grateful to the **Mandubarra Rangers** for joining us for these celebrations again this year. The Rangers engaged the students in Arts and Crafts, a Dance workshop and a Ranger information session; wonderful opportunities to learn about **First Nations culture and histories**. Thank you to Miss Priscilla for working with the Rangers to organise the day.

We have several of our senior students finishing the term off with a good dose of sport. Tomorrow, our rugby league enthusiasts will join students from our sister schools for the **Jim Graham Cup** in Innisfail. On Friday, a team of netballers from Years 4 -6 will travel to Cairns for the **Mary Mills Netball Carnival**. I wish all players well.

Looking forward, Term 4 will be here and gone before we know it. We start with our Water Confidence lessons and **Swimming Carnival** early in the term, a three-day **camp** for our Year 5/6 class midway through the term and our **Christmas concert** at the end of the term. This year, we will also host a **Christmas Fair**. The fair is an opportunity for students to make and sell items, with all profits going to charity. Parents are reminded to check the weekly Parent Flyer for calendar updates.

As we head into the two-week break, I encourage you take time to **enjoy the gift of your children**. Miss Jess has provided suggestions to get you started overleaf. Importantly, stay safe. **I look forward to welcoming you back next term.**

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal. Harold St, Silkwood, Q. 4856



Diary Dates

Thursday 18th September

- ♦ Jim Graham Rugby League Cup –selected students Year 5/6 - Innisfail
- ♦ Assembly 8.45 am

Friday 19th September

- ♦ Mary Mills Netball Carnival -selected students Year 4-6 - Cairns
- ♦ Last day of term

Tuesday 7th October

- ♦ Term 4 resumes
- ♦ NO After School Club

Thursday 16th October

- ♦ GCC Year 7 2026 Orientation Day

Friday 24th October

- ♦ Swimming Carnival



CONTACT DETAILS

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

Always Reaching For New Heights 



APRE News

This term we held a **Sleepout** to raise funds to support homeless

people. This is an event that we hold every other year and is on offer to students in Years 4, 5 and 6.

The night was a lot of fun with a presentation on homeless people; activities focusing on gratitude and a movie.

We were so pleased that Mr Lou Cremer, from **St Vincent de Paul**, was able to attend to speak to the students and share supper with us. We had some wonderful soup and sausage on bread. After the movie the students had milo and biscuits then slept under the roof of our undercover area. The **Justice Squad** are pleased to announce to our community that the Sleepout raised almost **\$1500** for St Vinnies! Well done to everyone, and we thank our community for supporting this event.



Curriculum News - Reading

This week, students who have read for a minimum of 35 nights during the term were rewarded with an extra 30 minutes of outside play. Students who have read 50 nights will also receive an extra prize.

The **Premier's Reading Challenge** has now closed, and shortly we will receive certificates to present at assembly. Well done to all our keen readers!

Pupil Free Day. On 5th September our teachers spent the day undertaking professional development on the latest research on teaching reading. It was a very interesting and a most affirming day.

Deborah Daly, APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching

MTSS-E

Over the past 18 months St John's School has been working through the training for Tier 1 of the **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support-Engagement (MTSS-E)**. This involved establishing a team to oversee the setting up of whole school systems and practices to enable a unified approach to student engagement by all staff. This also included focusing on universal, **evidenced-based teaching practices** and making sure procedures and routines are clear to staff and students and are followed.



The aim of this process has been to **improve student engagement** which, in turn, improves their learning. Engagement is a **multi-dimensional concept which includes social-emotional, behavioural and cognitive engagement**. This has included building relationships and positive connections with our students. We have worked on putting together systems and practices to support positive behaviour and authentic student engagement.

The **Whole School Token Reward system** has been central to recognising and acknowledging students for their efforts in showing behaviours that reflect our school values and positive behaviour matrix. The system has several layers of acknowledgement for students receiving tokens including individual and whole class rewards. We have 5 students who have earned 10 or more tokens by the end of last week, making them our Super Saints - **Evie, Taj, Gabby, Ruby, Michaela and Kisara**.

Congratulations to all students for working to earn tokens this term, in the playground and classrooms.

Mrs Robyn Parisi, Leader of Diversity

Class in Focus - Year 5/6

This term, Year 5/6 have been exploring changes to the Earth's surface, with a focus on weathering and erosion. Students carried out two hands-on experiments: one demonstrating weathering by shaking rocks and sugar cubes, and the other testing erosion mitigation strategies to understand how and why erosion occurs.

In Maths, students conducted chance experiments to explore the likelihood of different events.

We've loved seeing their enthusiasm for hands-on learning and Ms deBuck and I are especially proud of their creativity and effort in dance.

Miss Bruschi, class teacher



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



As the holidays approach it is important to make time for family happiness. This does not need to involve extravagant and expensive trips or adventures, but taking small moments to practise gratitude and see the simple, daily joys, that

make our lives special. Children are examples of how to more effectively notice what makes us happiest and during the holidays you are encouraged to talk with your children, look at the clouds, dance in the rain, laugh, love, and enjoy a break from the busyness of our usual lives. Practising self-care can show our children that it is okay to be kind to ourselves, relax, and take space when we feel we need it. It is an important regulation tool as noticing our feelings and identifying our needs is sometimes difficult with work, school, home, sport, and life pressures. I have included a September Calendar of selfcare for ideas and as a family connection activity. Follow the days or choose a different one depending on your time and schedule, as well as what your family needs in that moment. Have a wonderful holiday break and looking forward to term 4.

Regards, Miss Jess



Kindy News

Over the last few weeks we have explored our wider community, creating



a map of all the small towns from Murry Upper to Innisfail. The children first added their own photos onto the map close to where they live, and then, thinking about the things they see around their homes and while out in the community, they drew pictures onto the map. Some of the pictures included houses, schools, cow paddocks, pets, crocodiles, shops and restaurants. While we added photos and drew on the map, we were able to discuss all the things we see in our wider community and help to build on each child's sense of belonging to both

our Kindy and St John's community, as well as their home and town communities. Next term we will continue using this map as a tool to help in the transition between Kindergarten and Primary School.



We have also had interests in all things living – insects, sea creatures, babies and plants. In our explorations of living things, we discovered our Kindergarten children have a wealth of knowledge that they shared with one another and also things they wanted to know more about, including pollination, where turtles lay their eggs and interesting facts about seahorses. Building on interests and encouraging curiosity and questioning is a strong part of our planning. It allows us to incorporate our Kindy curriculum into topics that the children are most interested in. Have a safe and fun holiday. We look forward to a busy Term 4!

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Regards Ms Cheryl & Mrs Greco



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Innisfail Library
Peg Puppets
 Wednesday 24 September
 10.30am - 11.30am

Bobble Heads
 Wednesday 1 October
 10.30am - 11.30am

Cardwell Library
Mini Worlds
 Wednesday 24 September
 10.00am - 11.00am

Creation Station
 Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October
 ALL DAY

Mission Beach Library
Music Makers
 Tuesday 23 September
 10.00am - 11.00am

Creation Station
 Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October
 ALL DAY

Tully Library
Embossed Foil Art
 Thursday 25 September
 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Puzzle Piece Photo Frames
 Thursday 2 October
 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Bookings Essential
 To book scan QR code, call or visit your library

What's on at your library? **1300 366 616**
cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/libraries

Cassowary Coast LIBRARY & MUSEUM SERVICES



Parent Workshop: Supporting your student with reading

GRIFF LINC
 LITERACY IN CONTEXT

This **free** online session will focus on supporting **middle years students** with their **reading**.

If you have ever felt puzzled over how to **support your child's reading**, then **this workshop will offer you a variety of helpful strategies**.

The session will include ideas that align with the Griff LinC approach:



Wednesday 15 October 2025

5pm-6pm

RSVP [here](#)

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY



Dr. Frances Hoyte



Dr. Kylie Bradford



Dr. Deb Brosseau

For more information about Griff LinC see: