



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out Term 4 Week 6 –12th November 2025
Robert Collier

Dear community members,

What an amazing time I had at our Year 5/6 camp last week! We travelled to Camp Paterson in Mareeba for three days of action packed fun. The students completed several activities including an obstacle course, mini-golf and archery. They had a full day of water activities including canoeing, raft building and Water Wipe Out, the inflatable on-water obstacle course. The focus of all the activities was team work. We were joined by students from St Rita's South Johnstone and St Rita's Babinda. I was proud of all the students. They showed persistence and resilience and excellent behaviour. A special **thank you to Miss Bruschi** for being a consistent support for our students over the three days. Many wonderful memories created.

Our annual **Book Fair** is open this week from 8:15am—8:35am and 2:45pm—3:15pm. Our theme this year is '*Paws for reading*' and students had the opportunity to come dressed as an animal today to celebrate reading, as well as St Francis who was a lover of nature. It is wonderful to see the students excited about books and wanting to read. We take great pride in the supports we put in place to help our students grow, and it is affirming when we receive feedback such as this from a parent who was thrilled to see their child reading a chapter book **independently**:

"I know that this incredible progress hasn't happened by chance—it's the result of your consistent encouragement, tailored strategies and belief in my child's potential. Your ability to meet my child where my child is at, celebrate each success and foster a love of learning has built my child's confidence in ways that go far beyond academics."

Be sure to visit the Book Fair and browse the collection. It is a great opportunity to purchase some Christmas presents, too.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our **Parents & Friends** who have continued to be a constant support over the year. We have many parents who contribute to the working of our school, from tuckshop, to the uniform shop, to social event organisers, to sport helpers, just to name a few. The financial contributions the P&F make to ensure students are able to engage in sporting, cultural and academic experiences cannot be overlooked. I am truly grateful to each of you, and I invite you all to gather on **Saturday 6th December** at the King Reef Resort from 3:00pm to celebrate your contributions to our beautiful school. It will also be a final opportunity to farewell Mr Brett Gaia as President of the P&F after 8 years at the helm.

As we head into the last three weeks of the school year, I remind you to keep up-to-date with the many important events that will be happening, and if anything is unclear, please reach out for more details.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



Diary Dates

Thursday 13th November

- ◆ Open morning
- ◆ Assembly at 2.15pm in the library

Friday 14th November

- ◆ Billy Slater League Tag Carnival—Year 5/6

Wednesday 19th November

- ◆ League Start program continues 3.15 - 4.15pm

Thursday 20th November

- ◆ Pre-prep morning
- ◆ Lamington Order –pick up

Wednesday 26th November

- ◆ League Starts program continues 3.15 - 4.15pm

Friday 28th November

- ◆ School Disco – Christmas theme
- ◆ Parish Christmas Party after mass

Tuesday 2nd December

- ◆ Kindy/prep/1/2 breakup
- ◆ Year 6 Graduation

Thursday 4th December

- ◆ Christmas Concert and Christmas Fair - 9.30am

Friday 5th December

- ◆ End of year and farewell Mass 10.30am
- School concludes 12:00pm

Saturday 6th December

- ◆ P&F Thank You Get Together - King Reef Resort



CONTACT DETAILS

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APRE News

Thank you to all parents and students who attended our final Parish School Mass of the year. It was a lovely mass, and all the students



did us proud, reading clearly and helping with singing. The theme of the mass was All Saints' and All Souls' day, and Fr James reflected on these two important days in his homily.

We were able to say special prayers for the dearly departed.

The Justice Squad are currently selling Zooper Doopers for 50c every Tuesday and Thursday at second break. All funds raised will go towards our St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. As part of this appeal please consider sending in non-perishable food items, or a wrapped gift for a child (labelled girl or boy and age). Our donations will be given to representatives from St Vincent de Paul at our end of year Mass in Week 9.



This semester, we have seen many students recognised at assembly for upholding the school values of Faith, Respect, Compassion and Community.

Students who have received more than ten

reward tokens have been named "Super Saints" and have their photos up on the wall in the hall. We have also had special days dedicated to the Saints that we associate with each value. This week, we had a special day for St Francis who we associate with Respect for others and the environment. Students spent time caring for our outdoor spaces and completing fun activities connected to nature.

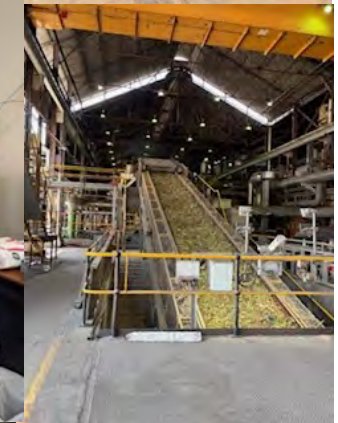


Deborah Daly, APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching



Class in Focus - Year 3/4

This term, Grade 3/4 went on an excursion to the Tully Sugar Mill. They had a very interesting safety and information talk before beginning the tour. It was fascinating to see the whole process of sugar production - beginning with watching cane trains arriving at the mill and ending with raw sugar.



After the tour we went to The Pocket in El Arish to have our lunch, see the animals and eat Gelato. It was a great day out!



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

Respectful Relationships

I have been working across the school teaching our students the foundational skills for interpersonal relationships with their peers. These healthy relationships are important for children's development, academic performance, and mental wellbeing now and into their futures. With the knowledge and skills to build and maintain respectful relationships as well as the ability to think critically and challenge harmful attitudes and unfriendly behaviours, we can hopefully promote problem solving and communications skills as well as how to access support when required.

We are focussing on: Understanding ourselves, managing our emotions, setting boundaries, healthy and unhealthy friendships, resolving conflicts, interacting online, bullying, mean on purpose, upstanding behaviours, and encouraging a personal awareness that develops everyone's capacity to engage in respectful, kind, and compassionate relationships with each other. Providing children a voice in their learning is essential and I encourage all families to continue to communicate with our children so we can model, learn, and grow together as a community.

Regards, Miss Jess

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Kindy News

Our Kindergarten group has embraced the holiday season and had lots of fun starting to decorate our Kindy classroom. It is such an exciting day when we get out the Christmas decorations

and decorate our classroom Christmas Tree together. Over the last week we have also created a life-sized nativity area for the children to interact with which they are enjoying using and adding to every day.

This time of year is also about helping the children feel confident in their transition to Prep in 2026. Our dramatic play area is currently set up as a classroom, with books, pencils, letters, numbers and uniforms to wear as well. The children take turns being the students and the teachers and explore the things they might do in Prep in a safe and secure environment.

We have our end of year excursion to the Splash Pad at Mission Beach coming up on the 21st November. Please check OWNA for the permission form to read and sign. All families and younger siblings are welcome to join us for this fun morning.

Lastly keep in mind that our last week of Kindy is busy with some fun events. On December 2nd we have our combined St John's Primary and Kindy Christmas Party in the morning. On December 4th we have our graduation get together at Kindy starting at 1:45pm. Please also remember that our last day at Kindy is Thursday December 4th.

Regards Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco



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