



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"Focus on the step in front of you and not the whole staircase!" Unknown

Term 1 Week 10 – 2nd April 2026

Dear community members,

I had the absolute pleasure of joining with students, families and staff for our **Rainforest Glow Show and Movie Night** last Friday night. The Glow Show was sensational, showcasing all the art work created by students across the school. Australian birds made from bottles, frogs on lily pads, ferns and vines and a loong snake took their place on the stage, and awe filled the room when the lights were turned on. I deeply appreciate the teachers and school officers who support our students with their own creativity and talents. A big thank you, too, to our teachers who spent their afternoons last week setting up the display. Thank you to our amazing parents who prepared and ran the BBQ. Finally, thank you to our whole school community for honouring the students' efforts by attending this remarkable event.

I am pleased to announce that, from next term, we will be implementing the **Smiling Mind** program across all year levels. Smiling Mind is an evidence-based program that supports students' social and emotional learning and mental fitness through curriculum-aligned lessons. **Educating the whole child is a priority** at our school, and this program will help equip our students with the skills they need to manage challenges, navigate pressures, and thrive in life. I would like to sincerely thank Miss Jess, our School Counsellor, who successfully secured a grant to enable our school to access this valuable program.

Congratulations to all students who achieved our **homework reading target** this term, and those who extended themselves beyond the target. These students earned extra play, and a book for the latter group. Reading is a highly valued skill and is a most important indicator of the future success of a child (OECD 2002). Reading is a skill that must be taught and practised. For this reason, reading homework is important. For older students who have acquired reading skills, fluency becomes key, and again, practise improves fluency. Home reading can also provide **opportunities to connect with your child**. Consider making the 15 minutes before lights out a time to snuggle up with a good book. Children don't always have to do the reading. Adults can sometimes do the "heavy lifting" for them. I strongly encourage you to instil healthy reading habits for your children by setting good reading routines for them, including during the holidays.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to thank our families for the strong partnerships that support our school community. We are grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing this partnership as we journey together.

Finally, I wish you all a blessed and joy-filled Easter. May this sacred season bring renewal, hope, and peace to you and your families.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd April

- ◆ Easter Presentation
- ◆ Last day of term 1

Friday 3rd April

- ◆ Good Friday - Mass 3:00pm Silkwood

Saturday 4th April

- ◆ Easter Vigil Mass 6:00pm Silkwood

Sunday 5th April

- ◆ Easter Sunday Mass 10am El Arish

Monday 6th - Friday 17th April

- ◆ School Holidays

Monday 20th April

- ◆ Term 2 begins

Friday 24th April

- ◆ Interhouse Cross Country

Saturday 25th April

- ◆ ANZAC Day

Sunday 3rd May

- ◆ Feast of the Three Saints

Thursday 7th May

- ◆ Mothers' Day morning

Friday 8th May

- ◆ Peninsula Cross Country

Sunday 10th May

- ◆ Mothers' Day

Tuesday 19th May

- ◆ Under 8's Day



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Always Reaching For New Heights 

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Curriculum News

This term, we were very impressed by our Year 3 and Year 5 students' attendance and effort during the **NAPLAN testing** period. Testing went relatively smoothly and we now look forward to the results arriving. This data will be scrutinised to help us improve our delivery of the curriculum and to differentiate targeted support strategies.



Our teachers have reported that daily structured Literacy Blocks are continue to progress well in classrooms. This is our second year of following this specific format of instruction. Every class has a set structure of differentiated learning which includes all elements of English. Students benefit from routine and repetition as they continue to develop their literacy skills.

Justice Squad News

This term the **Justice Squad** have been very busy raising money for Project Compassion. They have sold pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and Green Frozie cups for St Patrick's Day. The Project Compassion boxes have been coming in, and the library windows are full of light bulbs representing money raised to help villages in Fiji install solar lighting. The Justice Squad thanks the wonderful contribution our families have made to raising money for Caritas Australia.

Money raised for Project Compassion allows **Caritas Australia** to work with communities locally and around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice for future generations. To find out more about Project Compassion visit the Caritas Australia website.

Easter Presentation

Our classes are very busy rehearsing for our Easter Presentation, and we look forward to our performance. . Have a wonderful Easter – God Bless

Deborah Daly, APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching

All Welcome
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

FEAST OF THE THREE SAINTS

Sunday 3rd May 2026 Harold Street, Silkwood, North Queensland

Traditional Italian Food
Music & Dancing till 9 pm
Rides & Amusements

Schedule of Events

10 am	ITALIAN MASS: Concelebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Balvo & Bishop Joe Caddy & Fr. Kerry Crowley. Unveiling of the Three Saints. Eulogy of the Three Saints. Hymns by Saint Alfio Choir.
12 noon	Entertainment, Barbecue, Italian Sausage, Ravioli, Arancini, Grilled Fish, Pizza, Chestnuts, Granita, Gelati, Italian Biscuits, Sweets, Tea & Barista Made Coffee.
2 pm	Three Saints positioned on Yara, followed by Solemn Procession, Rosary and Hymns. Procession accompanied by Cairns municipal band.
3 pm	ENGLISH MASS: Concelebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Balvo & Bishop Joe Caddy & Fr. Kerry Crowley, followed by the Blessing and Veneration of the Relics of the Three Saints.
4 pm	Cannoli stall opens, Entertainment & Festival Foods Continue.
7 pm	- Dynamic Fireworks Display - Music and Dancing till 9pm

FREE ENTRY
EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Entertainment by: Tony Gagliano & Michelangelo Riviera from Sydney
Jumping Castles for the Children

www.feastofthreesaints.com.au

Class in Focus - Year P/1/2

It's been a busy term in Prep/1/2.

In **Art**, the students learned paper mache' and created their own rainforest birds. They were so proud of their final products. In technology they created dioramas where they created their own rainforest complete with the different levels of the rainforest and animals.

In **Religion**, the Preps learned how people pray.



They created their own crosses and shared thoughts on how they would use their cross to pray. Some responses were:



- "I'm going to use it to make the sign of the cross. I used the gems because it reminds me of diamonds and emeralds. I used gold because God's favourite colour is gold. That's because his name starts the same letter."
- "I would use it do the sign of the cross. I used some gold so it looks beautiful. I put some gems on to look pretty. People pray all around the world."
- "I could hold it up and pray. I put lots of sparkles and some ribbon. It looks pretty. Crosses have to look pretty."



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

The **World Happiness Report** was published last week with its theme on social media and happiness. It has been shown that young people's happiness is falling in English-speaking countries due to heavy social media use and lack of social connections in real life. Although children under the age of 16 are restricted from accounts on some platforms, the evidence that this alone will help, is yet to be determined. An informed and proactive community is required to support children, as they lack the executive functioning to limit their own screen time and navigate the challenges social media presents, for their developing brains.

Here are three ways you can put happiness first and create a healthier, more intentional relationship with social media for ourselves and our children:

Step 1: **Choose: Be mindful of if, when and how much you are on social media.**

Give your mind space to think, keep the bedroom phone free, try a 'digital sabbath'.

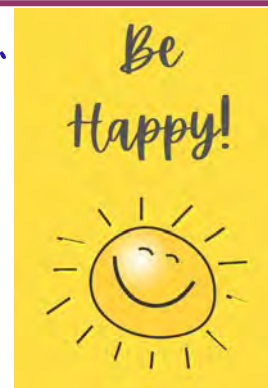
Step 2: **Connect: Don't let scrolling be a substitute for real connection.**

- Join a group of like-minded peers in the community or at school like playgroup, where new social connections can be found and supported offline.

Make plans offline, get excited about your next adventure with loved ones.

Step 3: **Curate: Personalise your experience to support your wellbeing.**

- Follow plenty of positive accounts - bloom scroll, don't doom scroll.
- Share and amplify uplifting stories, messages and ideas, be aware of misinformation.
- Develop critical digital literacy skills so you can better determine what is real and helpful and be more self-aware of what is causing comparison and anxiety.



Kindy News



Over this term we have taken an interesting journey exploring our natural world; from investigating egg layers and non-egg layers, considering nests, learning about habitats and creating our own craft habitats for animals that live in our local area, including crocodiles, butterflies, cassowaries and turtles! Along the way we have had some amazing show and tells – a snake skin, gecko eggs, bird and wasp nests, and even some real life visits from family pets including guinea pigs, rats and a friendly snake. Within this learning we aim to help the children to become aware,

knowledgeable and respectful of animals in their environment.

We have also been working hard in our garden, planting and caring for seeds, watching them sprout and then moving them into our veg and herb garden. So far we have planted cucumbers, zucchini, capsicum, tomato, basil and parsley. We love having a garden where we can grow our own produce, use it in cooking experiences and share it with our families. When children grow their own food they are learning important lessons in sustainability and healthy eating.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter and term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2. *Regards Ms Cheryl & Mrs Greco*



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Check out the P&F Monster raffle! There are some fabulous prizes to win. Tickets available from school families, Kindy or at St John's!




Preparations for the Feast of the Three Saints are well under way! As always, our P&F monster raffle has some exciting prizes to win! Thank you to our sponsors for these kind donations. **Prizes will be drawn at the Feast of the Three Saints on Sunday 3rd May.** A schedule of the day's events is inside this newsletter. The Feast of the Three Saints is a celebration of faith, culture, great food and community. Come along and experience the day.

Viva St. Alfio!

St John's School P&F Raffle 2026




1st Prize - Kuranda Scenic Railway return family fare - Value \$212.50
 2nd Prize - Paronella Park family pass - Value \$181
 3rd Prize - Hartley's Creek family pass - Value \$120
 4th Prize - Herberton Historic Village family pass - Value \$116
 5th Prize - Mamu Skywalk family pass - Value \$100
 6th Prize - Teitzel's IGA Tully voucher - Value \$100
 7th Prize - Kuranda Koala Gardens & Bird World family pass - Value \$97.50
 8th Prize - Cairns Aquarium 1 adult, 1 child - Value \$91
 9th Prize - Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas 1 adult, 1 child - Value \$79
 10th Prize - Crystal Caves family pass - Value \$65
 Plus other prizes from Roscoe's Pizza Place, Mungalli Biodynamic Farmhouse Cafe' and Murdering Point Winery.

\$2.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$10
 Drawn - 3rd May at the Feast of the Three Saints.







