



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



"A small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day!" Anon

Term 2 Week 6 – 29th May 2026

Dear community members,
I am thrilled to share our new Vision and Mission statements with you.

Vision Statement

Educational excellence and care that nurtures hearts, empowers minds, and inspires lives.

Mission Statement

In partnership with families and the community, we provide an education inspired by the life of Jesus Christ. Guided by His teachings, we nurture each student to grow in faith, knowledge, and purpose, empowering them to become the very best they can be.

These statements have evolved through rigorous consultation with staff, students, parents and parish. I am especially grateful to Fr Kerry (Parish Priest) whose wise guidance ensured our statements - together with our Gospel values of Faith, Community, Compassion and Respect - are true to our mission as a Catholic school.

I wish to acknowledge the **wonderful efforts of our families** in the lead up to, on the day of, and the day following the Feast of the Three Saints. The BBQ stall ran flawlessly on the feast day thanks to all who helped in any way. I also make special mention of the **Silkwood Catholic Women's League**, who gifted our Parents & Friends a generous donation through the sale of cakes (delicious and homemade), coffee and tea. We are most grateful.

On Wednesday, Ruby, Ryan, Chelsea and Saxon travelled to Tully to participate in the **Student Empowerment Forum** facilitated by Catholic Education's Identity and Encounter team. The students joined senior students from St Clare's, Tully and Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail to refine a draft document - the Student Empowerment Framework - before it is finalised and rolled out across all schools in our Diocese. Our students contributed thoughtfully throughout the day, and the efforts of all involved will undoubtedly result in a robust framework.

Our Parents and Friends Committee have begun planning an exciting social evening for our families, featuring a disco for students and trivia for adults. Branded "**Brainwaves & Boogies**", the night is sure to be a hit and a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another. Families are encouraged to add Friday 19th June to their calendar's and join the fun.

I look forward to catching up with families at our Parish/School Mass next Saturday night (Mrs Daly has provided details overleaf) and at our Interhouse Athletics Carnival on Tuesday, 23rd June. Until then, stay safe and well.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



Diary Dates

Saturday 6th June

- ◆ Parish/School Mass

Thursday 11th June

- ◆ Reader's Cup
- ◆ Assembly

Friday 12th June

- ◆ Feedback survey closes

Wednesday 17th June

- ◆ Mary MacKillop Activities

Friday 19th June

- ◆ FAMILY SOCIAL EVENT - **BRAINWAVES & BOOGIES**

Tuesday 23rd June

- ◆ Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 24th June

- ◆ Reports available

Friday 26th June

- ◆ Last day of term 2



CONTACT DETAILS

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Parish School Mass

Please join us for our combined Parish/School Mass in Week 7, on **Saturday 6th of June**. Following Mass there will be a cuppa and a shared plate as we come together as a community of faith. Please bring a plate.



Sacramental Program

At St John's we offer a sacramental program on alternate years, so our next program will be 2027. Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation will be offered to all baptised catholic students from Year 3 onwards. If you are interested in having your child baptised this year in preparation, please see Tammy in the school office.

Justice Squad Winter Appeal – Collecting Now!

Please consider donating blankets, warm clothing, non-perishable food items or toiletries to our St Vincent de Paul Winter appeal. Donations of items can be dropped off to the school.

National Simultaneous Storytime was held on Wednesday. Our students joined over 2 million other children around the world listening to "Luna Roo, the Kangaroo Baller" being read aloud. The students then completed activities relating to the story.



Deborah Daly,
APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching

Reader's Cup 2026

Best of luck to Ruby, Victoria, Chelsea and Jorji who will be competing in this year's Readers Cup in Cairns on **Thursday 11th June**. Readers Cup is a state-wide event where a team of four or five students read sets of books and then compete with other teams to answer quiz questions. Winners from Cairns will then compete in a state final. Last year 887 teams entered the competition! Readers Cup is organised by the Qld Branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia.



Safety on Sugar Cane Railway

The crushing season is about to get underway in this area which means cane trains will be operating all around our region.



Please be **CANE TRAIN AWARE!** Remember, cane trains run **24 hours, 7 days a week!**

Class in Focus - Year 3/4

The Year 3/4 class has been really enjoying their science lessons this term! They have been investigating the properties of rocks, minerals, and soils and have learnt that minerals are the building blocks of rocks. They have also discovered that the different characteristics of rocks depend on the minerals they are made up of. Investigations included testing the properties of rocks, growing their own crystals, and separating a soil sample to create a soil profile.



Sweeter Schools

St John's has entered the Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming - Canegrowers Innisfail Sweetest Schools Competition. Students will grow their very own plot of sugar cane and display it at the Innisfail Show next year!

Last week Natalie and Ilanah tested the soil quality with the students and explained soil health and nutrition.

The students were given billets of sugar cane to plant in the purpose-made garden bed. The ladies explained how sugar farming has changed over time, from manual to mechanical production. It was a fun experience that allowed the students to interact and learn more about the evolution of the sugar industry. The students were amazed to learn that sugar cane can be used to make a range of products from green electricity to biodiesel to packaging, plastics and even jet fuel!



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

Healthy Screenshot Habits



Living in a digital age has benefits and risks for children and parents. Devices can be fun and an important tool for learning, but the challenge is to manage our children's screentime and to keep them safe online.

What is a healthy amount of screentime?

There is evidence that more than 2 hours of screentime per day is linked to depression in some children (University of Queensland, 2022). However, some screentime is necessary for children to feel socially included, particularly when they can't see their peers in the holidays. It's up to every family to decide how much screentime to allow at different ages. Parents should set limits that take account of their child's needs for sleep, exercise, creative play and time with others. These are all important for healthy development.

Key Steps to prevent problems with screen time include:

- ◆ Be a good role model and use devices responsibly.
- ◆ Have some rules and responsibilities around screentime and how devices are to be used.
- ◆ Keep up to date with new technology.
- ◆ Be conscious of child safety.
- ◆ Put away devices at mealtimes and bedtime.
- ◆ Set some digital-free areas and times.
- ◆ Keep track and praise responsible behaviour.
- ◆ Show an interest and talk with your child.
- ◆ Check content is appropriate - regularly.
- ◆ Encourage your child to take a break every 20 minutes.
- ◆ Use logical consequences if rules are broken.
- ◆ If problems continue, hold a family meeting.
- ◆ Talk about the problem and why it's happening.
- ◆ Develop a plan to promote healthy habits.



For further advice or information visit the safety commission website or Triple P Parenting.

Kindy News



We were so happy to host the Under 8's play morning again this year and hope everyone enjoyed coming to Kindy to have a play! The Kindergarten curriculum is firmly based around play based learning, and this fits perfectly with the Under 8's week aim of highlighting the critical role of learning through play for early childhood development. Alongside the play opportunities we also welcomed Mango Tree Face Painting who had everyone looking very special and Fulton Farm for cuddles and pats of their farm animals.

With the weather improving (thank goodness for the sunshine) we have been able to get into our veggie garden, where we found our cucumber plants growing so well, and about to produce lots of cucumbers. The children were able to have a really good look at the way that the plants flower and then produce the cucumbers. We will use these to make tzatziki. The children also found our basil plants growing well, with plenty of leaves to make a pesto. Growing and using produce with the children is a valuable life lesson and may encourage them to try new things. Regards Ms Cheryl & Mrs Greco



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National Simultaneous Storytime



Celebrating Under 8's Day with the Kindy

