Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new year of school life and a particular welcome to all our new families. It has been an exciting beginning with two new staff members, Mrs Amanda Bottle and Miss Vanessa Crouch and the return of Mr Greg Hayes from Ballina. This is an early newsletter to inform of you of some important upcoming meetings and gatherings. From next week our newsletter will be distributed each Thursday.

New Kinders
There has been much excitement today with our new Kinders here for their first day. Mrs Salmon has done a wonderful job over the past week spending time with each student for their Best Start Assessment. This will greatly assist Kate with her planning and programming for the children as she begins to build a positive relationship with each child. Welcome to all our Kinders and their families:

Mohan Aldred-Sutherland
Archie Allen
Jackson Annarino
Jackson Brooker
Dallas Browning
Denzel Browning
Ava Every
Cairo Garrett
Alankar Hagedoorn-Storey
Katja Jarvis
Ethan Johnston
Noah Keemink
Oceane Lasser
Sarah Lorkin
Oliver Lyne
Lachie Maclean
Lonnie Maher
Jed McDonald
Malte Neumann
Marlo Neumann
Ruby Ritchie
Kaelan Taeni
Holly Walpole
Anjali Wright

Regards,

Tim Bleakley
Principal

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**Important Dates**

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<td>Fete Meeting 2pm in the staff room</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Titans visit school for Bullying</td>
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<td>Nominations for winter sports due</td>
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<td>Canteen open</td>
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<td>PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT</td>
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<td>7pm in the classrooms</td>
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<td>School Forum meeting in staff room</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<th>March</th>
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<td>22</td>
<td>SCHOOL FETE</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**NEW BELL TIMES**

Supervision begins at 8:25am

School begins at 8:50

Fruit break at 10am

Recess from 11am to 11:25am

Lunch from 1pm to 1:45pm

School finishes at 2:50pm
Class selections
A great deal of thought, planning and research goes into choosing classes and teachers for each new year. Academic ability, personalities, friendship groups, previous combinations and previous teachers are all taken into account before finalising on the class for the year. If a parent has a particular reason for asking for a special provision for class selection (rather than personal preference) it is important that this is put in writing to the Principal prior to the Christmas holiday break and it will be considered.

Children are often unnecessarily anxious about the unknown teacher or their perception of a particular style of teaching or personality. I have had several discussions this week reassuring parents of the integrity of the decision process and the confidence I have in all the staff at St John’s. Due to its potentially disruptive and undermining effect it is very rare for classes to be altered once the new year has begun. We are continuing to strive to provide the best possible teaching and learning in a caring environment in the Brunswick Valley.

Parent Information Evening
The most important meeting of the year for all parents is the Parent Information evening to be held next Monday the 11th February at 7pm in the classrooms

This is the first opportunity for you to hear your child’s class teacher discuss their vision for the year and outline routines and procedures to best assist your child and their individual needs. Please come along if you are available. There will be child minding available in the school library from 7pm until 8.30pm.

SPORTS NEWS
Tomorrow Wed 6th we have a visit from the Titans NRL school education squad who will give a presentation on bullying for years 3,4,5 & 6.

Monday the 18th of Feb is the Tweed schools Zone Swim Carnival held at Murwillumbah.

Thurs 7th of Feb children to return nominations for Zone Winter Sports.

-Greg Flint
Sport Coordinator

St John’s School Forum
The School Forum will be meeting next Tuesday 12th Feb at 7pm in the staff room.

All welcome!

School Canteen News
Thank you to Robyn Eden who has volunteered to be our Canteen coordinator for this year. Robyn takes over from Lee Dale who generously gave her time for two years and did a wonderful job in making our canteen a clean, healthy and well organised service. Thanks Lee.

Robyn has some fresh ideas for the canteen and we are once again seeking help from those who can give their time a few days a year. Grandparents are especially invited to become a part of the roster. Please remember that by law, children are not allowed in the canteen.

Contact Robyn on 0402 758 971 if you can volunteer on Fridays or Mondays.

A new price list for the canteen will be sent home on Thursday.

*** please write canteen orders on a brown paper bag and clearly mark your child’s name and class.***
FETE NEWS

6 weeks to go...
It has been several years since the school held a Fete so there is plenty of buzz around about our upcoming Fete on Friday 22nd March. For those keen to be involved in the planning there is a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2pm in the meeting room. Come along and be a part of the fun.
All welcome!

IF you can't make the meeting, but would still like to be involved, please contact Lynette Kee by emailing lacreagan@hotmail.com

Tuesday Craft days for Fete!

Parents are welcome to come together in the craft room to make things for the fete and get crafty!
Weekly from 1pm in the art room.
Contact Lynette Kee for more info.
Email lacreagan@hotmail.com

Fete Sponsors @ 21 January 2013
Amanda Bannatyne Local Food Hampers
Chincogan Mechanical Repairs
Commonwealth Bank Mullumbimby
FDB’s Ocean Shores
Inner Magic Hair, Beauty, Body
John & Jenny Barlow
Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop
Mullumbimby Golf Club
Mullum Music Festival
Ocean Shores Butchery

Thank you for your generosity

Who else would like to be involved?
Follow us on Facebook at:

St Johns Mullumbimby Easter Fete 2013

Piano Lessons

Piano tuition for children and adults. In school time or outside of school hours.

Phone: Judy 0401 629 748

CANTEEN ROSTER

Please fill out the reverse side
Preparing your child for school or pre school

The early days of a school year can be hard work for some kids – it’s hard for some kids to stick to the rules and routines of school.

During the holidays children need to be able to tune out from school. A break from school is good for your child’s mental health as well as giving them an opportunity to recharge their batteries. As holidays draw to a close it is useful to turn your child’s attention to school and help him or her get ready for the year ahead. Some kids are excited by the prospect of going to school or pre school, whereas others are somewhat less thrilled that holidays are over and its back to reality. Here are some ideas to consider:

• Be positive about the year ahead, even if your child is apprehensive about some aspect of the coming year. Children often pick up the cues of their parents so your attitude to school or pre school, your child’s teacher and learning can set the scene for a positive year ahead. Often children’s fears and concerns about a particular grade level or class disappear on the first day.

• In the days leading up to the start of school or pre school begin to readjust children’s routines in line with the routine they will experience when they start school. In particular, bedtimes and wake up times should resemble those of the school year.

• Children can participate in the purchase and preparation of uniforms, books and stationery for the coming year. School starters may even wear their uniform prior to the first day.

• Encourage discussion of school in a matter of fact manner and talk about possible friendships they may renew or begin. Give children practice in becoming more independent at home particularly if they are in the early years of school.

• Be on time on the first day. This is important for children to help settle into class and not disrupt others or themselves. The start of the day is the most important part of the school day. A word of warning: Don’t be surprised if some young children are less than perfect when they come home from school in the first days of term. The early days of a school year can be hard work for some kids – it’s hard for some kids to stick to the rules and routines of school. They often blow off some steam in the relative security of home. Be prepared for your patience and understanding to be stretched a little. It’s good to remember that many kids save their worst behaviour for their parents!!

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SHIM JANG TAEKWONDO

Fridays 4:30-5:30pm

New class opened at Ocean Shores Community Centre. All ages welcome, parents and children can train together. An excellent way to increase fitness and self confidence.

1st degree black belt instructor, CHRISSY BUTLER.

phone 0402 823 261

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CANTEEN ROSTER

YES, I am able to volunteer in the Canteen on Fridays and/or Mondays. The days/dates that I am available are: _________________________________.

Name: ________________________________ Phone: ________________