Dear Parents/Carers,

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated this year across NSW and the ACT from 10 March to 16 March. The theme for 2013 is ‘Every Child Counts’. This year, more than 614 Catholic schools will take part in the celebrations, involving about 261,000 students. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day, and to celebrate the many achievements of our students.

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to offering children in our school the opportunity to follow Jesus as members of the Catholic community. Our school is always open for parents to visit and help out in the classroom and witness the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place, as well as the many other exciting opportunities that St John’s provides for its students. We also focus on the ways in which our school supports the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our wider community.

Next Friday, March 15th at 2pm, will be a special Assembly at school celebrating Catholic Schools Week and hosted by Yr 3/4C. We will also be inducting our new school leaders. We would love to see you there.

Regards,

Tim Bleakley
Principal

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Important Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>School Assembly in the Hall 2pm (hosted by 5/6F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>School Forum Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>School Assembly (hosted by 3/4C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Diocesan Winter Sports Selection Trials, Grafton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sacrament of first Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SCHOOL FETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Important Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cross Country at Pine Ave Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sports Report: Week 6

Congratulations to Hayden Mangleson (Hockey) and Lachie Mitchell (Rugby League), who have been selected to represent Tweed at the Diocesan trails next Friday 15th March in Grafton. Marcus Hannon is trying out the Diocesan AFL team today in Woolgoolga- we wish him the best of luck.

Two of our swimmers Chloe Lang and Frankie Gorman-Coates are off to Coffs tomorrow to compete in the Diocesan Swimming Championships- we wish them all the very best.

A date and location has been set for our school cross country: Tues 9th of April at Pine Avenue Fields. The 11yrs and older run 3 kms and 10yrs and under run 2 kms. If you can find some dry ground I encourage everyone to start preparing for the cross country.

-Greg Flint
Demand on the canteen is great as more than half the school population is ordering lunch on a regular basis.

Donations of fruit and nutritious snacks for the counter are always welcome.

Volunteers are still needed on a regular basis. Please contact Robyn on 0402 758 971 if you can volunteer either this term or next term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>CALENDAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technology Talk
We hope you had a chance to check out the apps and websites from last week. This week we have a couple of useful apps.

School A to Z available in both Apple and Android format this FREE app was released by the NSW Department of Education in 2012. It has section called Spelling Bee and Maths Monkey (times table practice). It also has a fantastic glossary of terms and a homework help section. The homework sections requires a connection to the internet. This app is suitable for students up to about Year 10. They are now releasing paid versions of Maths Money and Spelling Bee.

Word Sort Wizard is a paid Apple app ($3.99). It is a comprehensive way of practicing spelling and word sorts. Though it does have a cost it is extensive and suitable for K-6. There is also a website that can be accessed at http://www.wordsortwizard.com. If you have any questions or feedback please email vcrouch@lism.catholic.edu.au

Kate Salmon, Assistant Principal
This year, I have accepted the position of Leader of Curriculum at St. John’s for 2013.

As Leader of Curriculum, or “LOC”, it is my job to support the Principal in the educational leadership of the school community. My role is in partnership with the Leader of Pedagogy, Vanessa Crouch, to develop and maintain our school as a centre for quality teaching and learning.

As LOC, part of my job is to analyse student assessment data from various sources across all year levels K-6. We gather this data from various sources, including standardised assessments such as NAPLAN, and assessments which are marked according to teacher-developed rubrics and criteria in the form of work samples from each Key Learning Area. With this data, we then develop a plan for our school which focuses on strengths and areas for development in student learning with a view to improving learning outcomes at St. John’s.

I am excited to have the position of Leader of Curriculum at St. John’s in 2013. We are part of a dynamic community who is constantly working to improve learning outcomes through collaborative planning and goal setting.

In 2014, we will begin to implement the new National Curriculum for New South Wales. Already, we have begun preparations for this positive change in our school and it is my responsibility to make sure that staff, students and the wider school community are ready and confident in dealing with this big, but exciting change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any enquiries about curriculum or teaching and learning at St. John’s
-Kate Salmon  ksalmon@lism.catholic.edu.au.

Guitar lessons
Local guitarist Matt Holland is available for lessons at school during class time. For more information see Mr Bleakley.
Fete News

Time for the kids to start saving their pocket money, only 2
weeks to go! Class parents have been meeting and planning
for the big Easter Fete. Thank you all our generous sponsors;
there has been a wonderful response from the community. See
the list on the back page. There is still time to help out in any
way you can. Remember everything we make will be going
towards new adventure equipment for our playground. We
have some photos with examples of equipment in today’s
newsletter to give us an idea of what we can aim for. If you
haven’t completed the forms below, and you are able to help,
please do so.

Wanted for Fete
Plants for plant stall
Bottles or jars
Second hand goods for the White Elephant stall

Can you help with the raffles?
We are seeking people who can assist with the selling of raffle
tickets in Mullum main street on Friday 15th March from 9-
12.00 and at Ocean Shores shopping centre on Saturday 16th
Please contact Lynette if you can spare some time.

Mufti Day  Our 2nd Mufti Day for the term will be on Tuesday
19th March. Children are asked to bring in an Easter egg or
Easter themed gift to be used for the fete. Thank you for your
support.

Last Craft Afternoon! Next week is the final craft afternoon
so that we can get a price list together and see exactly what we
have. Could crafters please get their stuff in to Lynette by end
of next Tuesday?

Raffle Returns
This week’s prize for the raffle book returned goes to Bayden
Compton. Extra raffle books are available at the front office.

Q. How is the money raised from the fete going to be
spent?
A. We are planning on purchasing more adventure playground
equipment to keep us fit and active at lunchtimes.

EXPECTEDIONS FOR THE
NEW YEAR

The back to school season is a good time to consider what you
expect of your children. Having expectations that are high—yet
also realistic—is essential for school success. Think of a balloon.
If there’s no air (like no expectations), it’s flat. If you put in too
much air (expectations that are too high and impossible to meet),
the balloon bursts. Finding the right balance of expectations will
stretch children to grow without frustrating them.

Tips for Younger Children. Help children develop predictable
routines around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nu-
tritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regu-
lar time, and getting enough sleep. Children are more likely to be
successful when their routines help them thrive.

Build on your children’s interests. They’re more likely to meet
high expectations when they’re doing things they enjoy.

Talk with your children about the goals you’ve set and
achieved in your life. Explain how you overcame obstacles to
meet your goals.

Expect bumps along the way. Achieving high expectations is
not like climbing a ladder where each step is a step up. Expect
setbacks and doubts. They’re all part of the process. The key is to
work through the difficulties along the way.

Encourage children to grow and develop at their own
pace. Don’t compare your child to other children. Some are early
walkers. Some are late walkers. Both are normal. Follow your
child’s lead.

Watch out for pressures that you place on your child because of
your preferences rather than your child’s needs. For example, not
all sports-mad parents are going to have sports-mad children.

Give young children extra time to practise new things. Expect
the process to be bumpy and slow. Be encouraging and don’t
expect perfection.

Have high expectations for homework and schoolwork. Make it
easier for your children to do their homework every day by sit-
ting next to them. You can do your own project or work and be
available for questions.

Help children break large, difficult tasks into smaller, more
manageable tasks. This is called ‘chunking’ and can build confi-
dence as they achieve each part.

Find activities that get your children excited. Encourage them
to set goals and to have fun at the same time.

© Principals Digests www.principalsdigests.co.nz

WOULD YOU LIKE
TO RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

Send a subscribe request to: sjpmull@lism.catholic.edu.au

or contact the office.