Dear Parents/Carers,

It was a beautiful Mass yesterday as we celebrated Mother’s Day with the school community. As always, Fr Anthony spoke encouragingly and several children had the opportunity to share their thoughts in Mass and on a special video presentation on ‘Why I love my Mum’.

Thank you to Mrs Bottle for her organisation of the liturgy and to the Parent Forum who organised the lovely morning tea in the school grounds after Mass. Thank you to all those who were able to attend. Fr Anthony commented that it was the biggest crowd of Mums that he had seen at the school and it was a very special gathering.

The school grounds are in wonderful condition after all the rain and the children are enjoying the open space and picturesque natural setting. We are currently researching ideas for more playground equipment for the children with funds raised from the fete. Ideas will be on display at school so please come and share your thoughts.

We continue to pray for our Confirmation children this week as they prepare for their special night on Wednesday 22nd May.

NAPLAN
Next week, Students in Years 3 and 5 will sit their NAPLAN assessments. The National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It assesses Reading, Writing Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

An information flyer has been sent home with the newsletter today for families of students in Years 3 and 5. It contains important information about the NAPLAN assessments, including the timetable for next week. Please contact Kate Salmon should you require any further information about NAPLAN.

We will be thinking of our Year 3 and Year 5 students as they participate next week.

Regards,

Tim Bleakley
Principal
**Canteen News**

Banana Smoothies (banana, milk, honey) are proving so popular we would like to continue making them but we have run out of bananas! Donations gratefully received.

Also donations of apples are appreciated as we have an “apple slinky” machine.

The roster is looking bare at the moment. Please help only if you can spare a couple of hours.

To volunteer for the canteen please contact Robyn Eden on 0402 758 971

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**Uniform Reminders**

We have a ‘NO HAT NO PLAY’ policy. Students without a school hat who are wearing a non-school hat are required to have a note from home explaining the reason for the change.

Jewelry is not allowed, however students who have pierced ears may wear sleepers or studs.

Hair accessories and ribbons should be in school colours, white, light blue, navy blue.

Dyed hair is not permitted and shoulder length hair should be tied back for health reasons. (boys and girls)

Students are not to wear coloured nail polish.

Uniforms can be purchased from our Uniform Shop. Order forms can be found at the front desk. The shop is open from 2.30 to 3:30pm each Wednesday afternoon.

Thank you,
Tim Bleakley

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**Assembly Tomorrow @ 2pm presenting…**

**Film Premieres!** Come along and see the creative work of our budding film makers:

- “Tech Decks” by Adrian, Hayden, Bayden, Gabe and Heath
- “Brunswick” by Louis
- “Mt Bayside” by Lucy
- “God” by Dylan & Teagan
- “J-Exit” by Lucy & Brodee
- “My Holiday” by Myles

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**Music, Music, Music**

<table>
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<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>Matt Holland</td>
<td>Mon/Tues</td>
<td>0431 114 907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drums</td>
<td>Stu Eadie</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>6684 2659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Judy Nicholls</td>
<td>Mon-Wed</td>
<td>6684 2225</td>
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**Missing prize Winner**

The winner of the fete raffle for the Mullum Music Festival tickets has not come forward as yet. If anyone knows who was drawn out as winner on the night please contact the school or we may need to have another draw!

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**GOLFING MUMs - GROUP LESSONS**

**THURSDAY 9:30—10:30am**

Contact Nikki @ Mullum Pro Shop 6684 2273

*Also...Save the Date: St John’s Golf day 18th August — more info to come later.*

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**Good Luck to our Zone Cross Country representatives tomorrow at Murwillumbah Showground**

The bus leaves at 8:45am, so please make sure you are at school by 8:40 am.

-Greg Flint, Sports Coordinator

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**TERM 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>13th May</td>
<td>Lee Dale, Jennifer Lalor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>17th May</td>
<td>Robyn Eden, VOLUNTEER NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>Kim Hennessy, VOLUNTEER NEEDED</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>24th May</td>
<td>Pina Jordan, VOLUNTEER NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>27th May</td>
<td>Andrea Petersen, VOLUNTEER NEEDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>31st May</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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It’s called Mother’s Day, not Parent’s Day

Mothering is different to parenting. Being a mum is emotional, instinctive and a job for life!

There’s a massive difference between being a mum (or dad) and being a parent.

‘Parenting’ is a twentieth century term that suggests that raising kids is a gender neutral activity. It’s a managerial, almost scientific term that has given rise to a huge industry. In Western countries, millions of parenting books and magazines are sold each year, parenting columns appear in most newspapers, and new television series appear every year focused on the modern notion of parenting.

The problem is that when we refer to ‘parenting’ we tend to remove the heart and emotion from the task. We obscure the fact that it is mothers and fathers who are doing the child-rearing, rather than mere parents.

Parenting means different things to different people. For many people the term ‘parenting’ is code for behaviour management – particularly taming toddlers and their close cousins, teenagers. A broader and more thoughtful definition includes teaching kids positive values and attitudes, developing a range of skills that equips them for adulthood, and ultimately preparing kids to be parents themselves one day.

I often point out to audiences in parenting presentations how being related to our kids can stop us from being great parents. We all know how our neighbour’s kids should be raised, but somehow it’s harder to raise our own. That’s because the hopes and dreams of motherhood (and fatherhood) can somehow get in the way of rational decision-making.

Mothering is emotional and instinctive

And that’s the thing. Being a mother is not always rational, as parenting is often made out to be. There is a great deal of emotion attached to the role of mother. This emotion drives you to fight hard to protect your children, work assiduously to right any wrongs on their behalf, and exhaust yourself looking after their physical and psychological well-being.

Being a mother is instinctive. In the information age we need to be careful we don’t deny the intuitive nature that mothers bring to their child-rearing. The nature of mothering infers nurturance, protectiveness and longevity. Mothering is relational rather than rational. You may grow out of parenting by making yourself redundant but mothering is something you never grow out of. You are a mum for life.

Kids want their mothers, not their parents

Kids of all ages say, “That’s my mum!” They don’t say, “That’s my parent!” (They may say that when they are annoyed or embarrassed by you, but that’s another story.) Boys and girls of all ages generally love their mothers unconditionally, whereas they merely put up with their parents, particularly during adolescence. They can live without their parents, or so they think, but deep down they know they can’t live without the one person who has a blind spot for them, overlooking all their faults. That person, of course, is their mother. When kids of all ages get into emotional difficulty or their life becomes too hard, they generally go looking for their mums. They only look for their ‘parent’ when they want some money, or want someone to get them out of a jam! Raising kids is about mothering (and fathering) ... rather than parenting. That’s why we have Mother’s Day (and Father’s Day) rather than Parent’s Day. I hope you have a good one!

What is the Parish School Forum?

On Tuesday evening seven dedicated parents from the school came together for the twice a term Parish School Forum meeting. The Forum is a team of interested parents who are chosen to represent the school and parish community to provide that valuable link between home and school. In larger schools smaller teams are used for different aspects of the functioning of the school.

At St John’s we also have Class Parents who nominate themselves at the commencement of the school year to assist the class teacher. The parents in this Committee help out in the classroom assisting teachers on a regular basis and on special occasions. Their aim is to promote effective communication between teachers and parent and between parents. They assist the teacher where possible and welcome all new families to the class.

Functions of the Parish School Forum are to:

- listen to families and seek ways to serve their authentic needs through appropriate support and education.
- provide a network to disseminate and exchange information within the school community.
- ensure that Catholic Church teaching on discernment, collaboration, partnership, co-responsibility and the common good are practised in the life of the parish school community.
- promote a co-operative partnership between parents, teachers, students, administrators, clergy and the wider community.
- advise the principal and parish priest of the views of parents and staff.
- provide appropriate nominations for parish and local community groups as needed.
- nurture the spiritual lives of all those involved in the Parish School Forum.

At this week’s meeting some of the issues raised were:

- purchasing new playground equipment
- school uniform regulations
- school signage
- worthwhile homework software programs
- as well as the regular Principal’s report, Treasurer report
- Feel free to come along and join in the discussion at our next Forum meeting on 11th June. For any suggestions or offers of assistance please contact your Class parents or alternatively put a suggestion in the Forum Suggestion Box at the front desk.

Please note: For all student related concerns the first port of call is always the classroom teacher. For further discussion or clarification please contact the Assistant Principal Mrs Salmon or Mr Bleakley.
**NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge**

St John’s is participating in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) this year. Students who have indicated they would like to be involved have received a Reading Log record sheet which also includes an explanation about the challenge and some of the rules. Further information can be found at:


or scan the code here with a QR reader to take you directly to the website.

At the website you will also find the book lists and more detailed rules. All students who complete the challenge in the allotted time receive a certificate.

Those who complete the challenge every year for 4 years receive a special certificate. We are in the process of marking books in our school library with stickers which will indicate the books are part of the PRC. Children will also be reading some books in class. More details about PRC will follow in future newsletters.

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**Technology Talk Week 2**

Recently some parents have been asking about ways they can help their students at home with spelling. There are many options available with modern technology. On our class iPads we have several apps which help.

Little Stars – Word Wizard (available in the Apple Store)

A useful website http://www.ozspeller.com/ can help students of all ages to practice spelling with a variety of words. There is also a keyboard typing tutor available.

In the current world of technology many parents may be concerned about cyber safety. The NSW Department of Education website School A to Z has a great deal of support for parents. This site is http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology.

**Public Speaking**

We are very excited to announce the dates for the St. John’s Public Speaking Competition this term. The finals of our competition will be held in Week 8 of Term 2 and will determine the St. John’s representative team that we send to Tweed Heads next term for the Regional Public Speaking Competition.

Heats for our school competition will be held at a Stage level. Teachers may require that students speak on a certain topic which fits in with their learning for this term, or leave the topic selection up to the students- stand by for more information about this from your class teachers.

The best four speakers will be chosen from each stage- Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten), Stage One (Years 1 and 2), Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6). They will go on to compete in the school finals, to be held in Week 8 on **Thursday, 20th June** (Years K-2) and **Friday, 21st June**. The finals will be held in the afternoon - times will be confirmed closer to the date.

There are some multimedia resources and further information on the St. John’s Moodle site (access via the school website with your student login details). Please see Kate Salmon for further details about public speaking.

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**School online calendar reminder**

A reminder that our online school calendar is continuously being updated with important events and dates. Access the calendar via the St. John’s website http://www.mbyplism.catholic.edu.au/

Kate Salmon is the calendar administrator, so please contact Kate if there are any important dates that need to be added.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?**

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

or contact the office.