Dear Parents & Carers,

Children came back to school on Tuesday full of energy and enthusiasm for a big term. We welcomed four new students to St John’s and said good bye to two families who have moved from the area. Sadly we say goodbye to Noah and Mia Keemink. We say hello and welcome to Charlotte, Lucy, and Miah Foster and Jasmine Jordan.

On Monday staff worked together on the new National Curriculum with the English and Science curriculum commencing in 2014. On Wednesday we held a very productive meeting with parents interested in the school garden. This group is planning some major work on the top playground with a water tank, shed and new garden which will provide a wonderful practical learning environment for the children. Any other parents/grandparents or carers who would like to be a part of this group would be most welcome. A Working Bee at the school is being planned for this term.

School photos

School photos have been distributed today. Please contact Advanced Life Photography directly on 1300 728 972 if you did not receive your photo order. Order forms for the School Choir photo are available at the office.

School Assemblies this term

Our school assemblies are usually held every second Friday at 2pm in the hall and are always interesting. It is a chance to celebrate success and come together as a school community in our beautiful school hall. Please come along if you are able to join us on the following dates.

Regards,

Tim Bleakley
Principal
**Technology Talk**

This week we bring you some updates on cyber safety. The Federal Government has been updating their Stay Smart Online website. This site contains useful help for parents and children for understanding cyber safety. This link is for the Kids and Teens section of the site [http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/kids_and_teens](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/kids_and_teens). We recommend you spending some time on this site seeing what is available and also spending some time with your children working through the activities.

**YouTube Education**

Some of you may not be aware that YouTube has recently created a site devoted to Education. The videos contained in this section are carefully monitored to ensure they are educational. YouTube has become one of the most important sources of free digital resources in the world. Teachers at St John’s regularly use YouTube to enhance learning experiences. Our YouTube channel is continually growing as we locate and store videos relevant to our learning activities. Digital and multimedia literacy is an important aspect of the Australian Curriculum so it’s a great resource for parents to understand as well. [http://www.youtube.com/education?category=K-12](http://www.youtube.com/education?category=K-12)

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is getting close to the closing date. All Reading logs need to be lodged online or be given to Miss Crouch by Friday August 23rd. Congratulations to the following students for already completing the challenge: Patrick Kee, Rosie Davis, Frankie Gorman-Coates, Bella Griffiths, Geordie Render and Quinn Farren. Fantastic effort!

**School Library**

We are looking for volunteers to help out in our library with covering books and labelling books for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. If you are interested in helping out during the term please email Vanessa vcrouch@lism.catholic.edu.au to let her know.

**CANTEEN NEWS:**

There have been some small changes to the canteen price list:

- Sausage rolls and Cheese & Spinach rolls are now $2.30.
- The Smooze drink is no longer available.
- All chips are now $1.20.
- Spaghetti Bol and Fettucine Pesto are no longer available.
- Lasagne is still on the menu.

Yummo!

**FOOD BANK**

As previously mentioned in our newsletters we have established a Food Bank to provide support through prepared meals and food to families of the school in times of hardship or sickness.

Our aim is to:
1) collaborate the donations of supplies and prepared food from the school community.
2) Prepare food, if required with donations from school community.
3) with information provided by class parents, teachers and principal, the food bank group will direct distribution of food supply.

If you are able to assist with the Food Bank please contact Carlie Woodward on 6680 3648 or 0427 165 487 or email: carliewoodward@gmail.com
At Monday’s staff development day, the teachers at St. John’s were engaged in Professional Development. The focus for the day was the NSW Australian Curriculum, which will be rolled out in several phases, the first being Science and English in 2014. The new curriculum is an exciting and huge change for all teaching staff across NSW, and its innovative way of approaching relevant content with exciting and engaging pedagogy is designed to take our schools further into the 21st century.

On Monday, we looked at the ways that different types of texts, including visual, digital, multimodal and printed will play a huge part in our new English curriculum. We also delved deeper into our new Science curriculum, specifically looking at the Design Process and the Working Technologically realm of our new curriculum.

All of the staff agreed that it was a valuable day of learning, but that there is a lot that we still need to do to ready ourselves for this dramatic change in what our classrooms will begin to look, sound and feel like as a result of the new curriculum. But we are not alone. We are lucky to have the invaluable support of our Education Services Team at the Catholic Schools Office in Lismore who provide our Leaders of Curriculum and Leaders of Pedagogy with excellent professional learning which we can then use to prepare our staff for the on-the-ground changes that are to come in our school.

From time-to-time, you may notice that teachers spend entire days away from the classroom attending Professional Development days. As teachers, it is part of our professional obligation to engage with ongoing learning about what we do. We are lucky enough to be supported by a Catholic Schools system that provides plenty of opportunities for quality professional development for teachers.

Teachers are engaged in learning about a range of very important educational issues especially, at the moment, the new Australian Curriculum. Because of these opportunities for professional learning, our teachers remain up-to-date with current research-based knowledge which they then bring back to St. John’s and embed in their planning and teaching. We are highly committed to the professional development of our teachers at St. John’s.

When teachers are away at these days, a casual teacher is employed to take the class for the day. As we always have notice of professional learning days, there is time for the usual classroom teacher to prepare for the day in collaboration with the casual teacher so that the normal learning program and class routines continue. I have worked hard this year to build up a team of quality casual teachers who are excellent practitioners, with a sound knowledge of the curriculum and the 21st century learner and who, most importantly know our kids at St. John’s well.

There will be more opportunities for our parents to find out about the new Australian Curriculum in NSW later in the year. In the meantime, please keep your eye on our newsletters for links and further information and don’t hesitate to contact me should you have particular questions about the new Australian Curriculum at St. John’s.

-Kate Salmon
Assistant Principal /Leader of Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum and Teacher Professional Development

The Australian Curriculum and Teacher Professional Development Fundraiser Raffle

1st Prize: Side of Beef value $480
2nd Prize: Chicken Tray value $100
3rd Prize: Side of Lamb value $80
4th-10th Prize: Mystery Prizes

Drawn on Sunday 18th August

Tickets $2 each, or three for $5, available from the school office.
Casino Knockout 2013:
Gabe Grayson, Dylan Marriott, Harry Barlow (Co-Capt), Bayden Crompton, Abraham Esau, Marcus Hannon, Jyah Santos, Raf Gorman-Coates
Heath Godbee-Johnson, Brodee Emery, Adrian Platt, Lachie Mitchell (Co-Capt), Bryce Holmes, Reuben Eadie, Rumi Hagedoorn-Storey.

Casino Knockout 2013:
Last term on the 20th of June our Open Rugby League team went to Casino for the rugby league carnival. Casino knockout was an enjoyable day for everyone the players, the parents and our coach Mr Flint.
Our first game was against Ballina the team that won last year. We played with a great team spirit but unfortunately we lost in a very hard fought match; 12:8. Three tries to two.
In our second game we played Kyogle. We improved as a team and managed a convincing win 12:4.
In our third match we played Woodenbong. It was a hard and brutal game - finally we just beaten 8:4
Overall it was a great day, everyone did their very best, looked after each other and remained positive even when things weren’t going our way.
-Greg Flint