Dear Parents & Carers,

The school community celebrated the Feast of Mary MacKillop with a beautiful Mass during the week. The children sang and participated with reverence. Mrs Bottle shared the story of her association with and inspiration from the sisters of St Joseph over many years of schooling. Welcome to Riley Yr 5/6F and Jack Edmonds Yr 3/4H who have joined the St John’s community. Six students will be attending the finals of the Tweed District Public Speaking competition next Friday and we wish them all the best.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) conference in Melbourne this week. This conference looked at the latest developments in research into neuroscience and particularly how our brain works and its impact on learning. Over the next few weeks I will share some of the findings from this fascinating topic.

Tim Bleakley
Principal

Gar den Meet ing

Interested in being part of the planning for our school garden? We are meeting on Monday at 9am on site. Come along and share your expertise. We have applied for special grants and are looking at the best use of this funding.

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<td>Eucharist Meeting 5.30pm</td>
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<td>Thurs 15th</td>
<td>Feast of the Assumption Mass 12.00 Yr 3-6</td>
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<td>Tues 20th</td>
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<td>ST JOHN’S DAY MASS &amp; FUN ACTIVITIES</td>
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Public Speaking

Good luck to our representatives in the Tweed District finals next Friday

Stage 1:
Noni Wright
Francesca Gorman-Coates

Stage 2:
Ysabella Purser
Anaïs Lang

Stage 3:
Charlie Burton
Gabe Grayson
Kids shine with tough love parenting

...research suggests that if parents want kids to develop the characteristics to succeed, then they should default to authoritative or tough love parenting.

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Children with parents that use a tough love parenting approach are best prepared to do well in life, according to a recent British study.

Kids that experience a mix of discipline and warmth are more likely to develop important character traits, such as self-regulation, empathy and application by the age of five than parents that use permissive, authoritarian or disengaged styles.

The Millennium Cohort Study involving 9,000 UK households, found that while family structure and parent income levels impacted on children’s development, it was parenting style that had the greatest influence on outcomes for kids.

An analysis of school results is revealing. One quarter of kids with authoritative parents were in the top 20 per cent at school. Next came permissive parenting with 18 per cent, 15 for authoritarian and 11 per cent of this top cohort going to kids of disengaged parents.

Parenting style is not necessarily fixed. It changes over time according to children’s needs, our well-being and their ages. Common sense suggests parents need to be stricter with some children than with others and there will be times when parents need to adopt a more permissive approach.

Certainly parental mood and well-being contributes to how parents respond to kids. But most parents will default to one style. Recent research suggests that if parents want kids to develop the characteristics to succeed, then they should default to authoritative or tough love parenting.

Here are 10 tough love parenting strategies to use in your family:

1. Set limits and boundaries that expand as kids get older and become more capable. Boundaries make kids feel secure and teach them how to behave well.

2. Use a negotiable style with children according to their age and stage of development. Parents also need to realise that not everything is up for negotiation. There are times when the word ‘no’ needs to be heard as parents act in the best interest of their kids.

3. Use consequences and other tools to teach kids to behave well and develop a sense of personal responsibility. Resist the temptation to let kids off the hook when they do the wrong thing. Firm, but fair, is the key here.

4. Put family rituals, such as shared mealtimes, in place to make sure you interact regularly with your kids.

5. Praise kids for improvement, effort and contribution rather than their ability at school, in sport and other areas of their lives. Focus your positive comments on their participation rather than the results of what they do so kids learn that trying and persistence are important.

6. Recognise cooperative behaviours with positive attention such as praise, physical touch and rewards and minimise negative behaviours through a range of measures such as ignoring and using consequences.

7. Teach kids the skills needed for independence from an early age so they learn to look after themselves. Avoid regularly doing things for kids that they can do for themselves.

8. Adopt an open communication style in your family where kids learn that there’s nothing so bad that they can’t talk about it.

9. Encourage a sense of empathy in children by recognising their emotions and giving them permission and assistance to talk about their feelings.

10. Encourage generosity and kindness in your kids. They do this by sharing toys and other items, helping others and doing chores that benefit their family. This sense of community that authoritative parenting promotes is the real strength of the style.

At a time when a parent’s voice can be drowned out by the din of modern life, this research is a great reminder that it’s effective parenting not media, celebrities or peers that have the greatest impact on future outcomes for kids.

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Mind Mapping Tools for Assignments and Learning

As children get older they need tools to help them organise ideas and share their learning. A mind map is a graphical way to represent ideas and concepts. There are several free and useful tools available. MindMup (www.mindmup.com) is fairly simple and can be added to your Google Drive. Popplet (www.popplet.com) is both web based and available as an app on mobile devices.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you very much to Jenny Barlow, Sedi Dawson, Pina Jordan and Annette de Courcy for all of your help in the library on Wednesday. We now have new books on the shelves and a nice tidy space in the senior fiction and non-fiction. Thank you too Sedi, Annette, Carlie Woodward and Jae Mangleson for also taking some books home to cover. Thank you again! There will be another working bee in the future so please keep an eye out for information in the newsletter.

Premier’s Reading Challenge – ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT

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 student for already completing the challenge Vincent Schembri!

Great effort!

Year 3/4 Guest Speaker – Convicts

A reminder to Year 3/4 about our special guest speaker, Peter Cox, on Monday 12th August (next week). Children in Year 3/4 are allowed to dress up as convicts. Those who would like to get involved can check out some of the images which are linked to the Stage 2 Site http://bit.ly/15d5jkg

ICAS Mathematics Assessment Reminder

Those students participating in ICAS Mathematics assessment are reminded that the assessment is next TUESDAY 13th AUGUST. Practice questions can be found at http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/download-practice-questions

Talented Short Film Maker – Congratulations Louis!

You may remember last term Mr Bleakley organising time in our assemblies for some of our talented short film makers to share their work. One of these students was Louis Askill (3/4CO’D). Not only did Louis share his talents with us but also with the whole world on ABC Open. During the last school holidays Louis was interviewed by ABC local radio about his film. We decided to ask Louis a few questions ourselves to share his experiences with our school community. You can check out Louis’ film at http://bit.ly/1cmktW3. If you know of any other students who are sharing their talents with others let your class teacher know!

Q: What is the name of your short film?
Postcards from Brunswick Heads.

Q: Why did you decide to make your film?
I decided to make my film one of my friends, Raf made a film and I thought I could do it too.

Q: What is ABC Open?
It’s a website that you can upload your films and share them with other people.

Q: What did it feel like to have the radio station call you?
I was a bit scared because thousands of people would be listening to me. After a little I felt really because it was nice to know people were interested in what I was doing and because the interview was over.
Election Day Sausage Sizzle – Saturday Sept 7th 2013

The Class parents are organizing an Election Day fundraiser for St John’s as our school hall is being used for voting on the day. This is a great opportunity to come together and make it a fun family day while raising funds for our school music program.

If you can spare some time during the day it would help share the work load and it could be a chance to meet some new families from your child’s class. Each class group will be allocated a time slot however if you are unable to attend at that time you may choose any of the other times that are convenient. Simply complete the details at the bottom of the page and return to school.

There will be a sausage sizzle, selling, beef and vegetarian sausages, onions, water, soft drinks and poppers. There will also be bacon and egg rolls in the morning from 8am – 10am. Everyone who helps will receive one food and drink voucher. You are most welcome to bring your children with you and sports equipment will be available for them to use inside the school grounds.

The Class Parent group

We will need:

3 – 4 people on the BBQ

6 people serving at the counter.

3 adults supervising the children.

Shifts

7.30 am set up – 10am Year 5/6 Flint

10am – 12pm Kindergarten and Year 1/2

12pm – 2pm Year 3/4 C/O'D

2pm – 4pm Year 3/4 H

4pm – 6pm – pack up Class 5/6 Bottle

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I am able to assist with the Election Day Fundraiser. My preferred timeslot is from __________ to __________ and I would prefer to help with cooking /serving / supervising (please circle)

Name______________________________ Child’s class___________________

Phone______________________________