Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you North Byron Farmers Market
A big thank you to Katrina Weier for her hard work in securing a grant of $1000 from the North Byron Farmers Market recently. Katrina and husband Michael have been very busy fine tuning the gardens in the top playground. Thanks to you both for your hard work, it is looking fantastic! If anyone else is free to help at any time please let us know.

Uniform Update
There have been an increasing number of students wearing incorrect sports shoes on Mondays and Thursdays (Sports Uniform days). As stated in our school policy sports shoes must be predominately white. They are still available in stores despite a growing push for brighter designs and coloured laces. If you are unsure please contact the school before purchasing. This is especially important leading up to the holidays when families start to think about uniform purchases for next year. For a complete copy of the school uniform policy please contact the office. St John’s has a beautiful school uniform which most children wear with pride. Please consult the school policy first rather than your own child’s account of what is acceptable to wear. New students to the school are given a short period of time before being required to purchase new shoes. White socks on sports days are to be short (ie. Approx. 10cm above the shoe line and are not to be ankle socks which are barely visible above the shoe. The photos below are a guide which may assist.

Correct school sports shoes and socks

Unacceptable school sports shoes. Ankle socks too short

**please note** that due to the Surf Safe program this week’s Assembly will not be hosted by Yr 3/4H. It will be a general assembly.

Tim Bleakley
Principal
Apart from Nov 1st, we have no volunteers for the rest of the month for the canteen!!

Friday is the busier day and if someone could just come in and help between 11am and 1pm we can keep the canteen running.

Thankyou to John Barlow for the donation of honey!

Please contact Robyn if you can help 0402 758 971

Thank you, - Robyn

What’s for Christmas?
What you buy for your family will have an impact six months down the track! Buying activity based presents will give your children motivation and the means to get up, get active or go outside.

Would your child like:
- New footy boots
- A new netball
- Boxing gloves and focus pads
- A groovy running outfit
- Water pistols
- A kite
- New board shorts
- A Body board
- Something for the bike
- A magnifying glass
- A skipping rope
- A hammer and a saw

What got you up and out when you were a child?

Can you help with the canteen?

Our local firefighters educating the Kinders last week

Myles and Buzz ready to rock

Can you help with the canteen?

Can you help with the canteen?

Can you help with the canteen?

Can you help with the canteen?
HELP WANTED
In H.S.I. E. this term Tear 3/4 are looking at the history of our local area in a unit called “Places, Then, Now and Tomorrow”. In Week 5 (11th- 15th November) we are hoping to conduct interviews with local people who could provide insight into the changes that have occurred in the Mullumbimby area over time.

If you have lived locally for a long time, or have contact with someone who has lived locally, we would like to hear from you. We are looking at getting people from a cross-section of generations so we can compare their reflections. Hopefully we can gather enough ‘locals’ for the children to conduct these interviews in small groups.

Please contact me if you, or someone you know, would be interested in being part of this process. If you are unable to come to the school we can arrange to record your oral history in another way. Please email nodwyer@lism.catholic.edu.au or call the office and leave a message for Naomi if you are able to help us.

Upcoming event: 'Backsliders'.
Sat 16th November.
Venue- St Francis Xavier Hall Crane Street Ballina (Doors open 5.30 p.m.)
The Backsliders are Dominic Turner (Guitarist extraordinaire), Broderick Smith (Oz Rock legend), Rob Hirst (Midnight Oil). Due to the wonderful support of our local community including the Catholic Schools, Friends of Yodifee have raised $29 000 in the last two years. If you feel like a night out and the chance to help us raise money for a handicap-friendly ‘tuk tuk’ for the severely physically and intellectually challenged, send this link to your friends and relatives and purchase tickets.
www.trybooking.com/DMEJ .. help us help them..

Mullum Music Festival
Keep the date free to see our very own ST JOHN’S SINGERS perform at their second Mullum Music Festival.
12.00 Saturday 23rd November at the Mullumbimby High School Hall

St John’s Skoolbag App
We are excited to announce that St John’s now has a more efficient and effective communication tool to share with parents and it’s free! It is the St John’s Skoolbag App.
Skoolbag provides the school with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything you need to know, and it provides you with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

No more lost paper in student school bags! School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App.

Skoolbag is a school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone, and Android devices. Simply search for St John’s Mullumbimby in your App store and add the School Mobile App to your phone, and you can view the schools documents and notifications. We are just starting out so please be patient as we determine the best way to use the application.

Skoolbag is a very flexible school mobile app and offers:
- Unlimited free instant Push Notifications
- Alerts
- Events
- News
- Newsletters
- Information pages
- Permission Notes
- Links to website pages
- Embedded PDF documents
- Unlimited content Categories
- RSS Feeds
- Timetables

More details will be in future newsletters.
Developing conflict resolution skills

Teaching kids to deal with conflict effectively and peacefully is perhaps the biggest challenge facing adults today. Children’s disagreements both at home and at school can be noisy, physical and psychologically hurtful. The approach to conflict resolution learned and practised in childhood often stays for life.

Conflict is part of daily living. Effective people resolve conflict in ways that protect relationships, honour feelings and lead to a resolution. They neither avoid conflict nor do they use power to dominate others or win conflict.

It is useful for parents to provide a process for children to resolve individual differences peacefully and effectively. When two children have a disagreement that is upsetting to one or either then they may need adult assistance to resolve the conflict. One process that is both easy to learn and highly effective is the **Face-Up** conflict resolution process that is a variation on some common processes already in use.

In the **Face-up** process children face each other and maintain eye contact. This helps for greater openness and understanding. It generally requires an adult to be present as a third party so parents may need to stick around to make sure it works effectively.

The steps involved in the **Face-up** process:

1. **Safety first:** To ensure safety and integrity it is important that both children are calm. Give them time and some help to regain control if they are angry or upset.
2. **Feelings second:** Using I-messages children tell each other how they feel about the situation. “I feel awful when you don’t share your toys. I really feel like losing it because it is not fair.” Focus on the feelings and don’t let it get into recriminations or accusations.
3. **Repeat third:** Sometimes this process is enough to get a resolution or at least an apology. Repeat this procedure if necessary so both children feel they have been heard.
4. **Resolve fourth:** State the problem as you see it or as children identify it. Sometimes children just want to state their case and they will make their own suggestion about resolving it. “You can play with my old toys but I don’t want you playing with my new toys for a while. They’re special.” “Okay.”
5. **Make-up fifth:** An apology or an agreement is often enough however sometimes damage may need to be repaired or a follow-up talk from a parent about better behaviour may be appropriate.

Teaching children some simple rules for resolving conflict and a process such as the one above may well be one of the best investments in time and energy that a parent will make.

**Try this...Putting it into practice**

To promote conflict resolution skills in children try the following four strategies:

1. Teach children some simple **rules** for resolving conflict (e.g without hitting and without name-calling).
2. Explain to your children about **I-messages** and identify them when they are used. I-messages state how a person feels about a situation as well as why they feel that way. They are non-judgemental and non-accusatory. E.G. “I hate it when you tease me like that because I feel so silly.” “When you break your promises to me I feel so let down because I get so excited and worked up.”
3. Get children to agree on the **problem** when they come for help to resolve a conflict.
4. Ask children to **tell you** what they did when you notice they resolved a potentially difficult situation peacefully. “Have you guys been going to conflict resolution classes behind my back? How did you work that one out without arguing?” It is quite powerful when children tell you in their own language how they did something.

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