Principal’s News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At St John’s, we are currently developing and evolving Positive Education or, in other terms, Felicity. The Oxford Reference Dictionary tells us the following about the word felicity:

1991: The state of being happy; happiness in mood; that which causes happiness; the source of happiness.

Felicity is “surrounded by joy and happiness”. Joy is often defined as a vivid emotion of pleasure, of extreme gladness – something that causes joy – to gladden. Taken together, joy and happiness create felicity as rendering, being, causing an overwhelmingly glad heart.

Reflection by a 17 year old asylum seeker in detention on Christmas Island:

“If only you could feel how much it hurts to be locked up behind the fence.
If only you could know how my tears are falling down every moment.
If only you could know how much it means to me to be a normal person,
Like any other – like people outside the fence.
If only you could see how lonely I am without my family and knowing they are not safe.
If only you could hear me out and listen to why I came.
If only you could feel the pain inside my chest.
If only you could see how many times
I wake up in the middle of the nights,
my blue bag to Nauru waiting at my door.
If only you could see how many dreams I have for my future.”

It is remarkable and inspiring that during trying times, people are able to adopt a positive attitude. It demonstrates not only capacity but also a willingness and courage to choose to do so.

St John’s students of the 21st century are encouraged to celebrate life with the same felicitous spirit.

Let us then, within our own ‘Circle of Friends’ demonstrate our own attitude and action of felicity throughout 2016 – and for all our life.

16 December 2015 marked the beginning of the ‘Year of Mercy’.

Pope Francis calls each of us in a special way this year:

“The call of Jesus pushes each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see how much generosity everyone is capable of. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house that welcomes all and refuses no one.”

During 2016, we must continue to open our hearts and skills to all who have a need – especially the young and families. Thus, felicity and mercy will be foremost in our understanding and actions.

Events in this month

Tuesday, March 1
Years 7 & 8 Immunisations

Tuesday, March 1
Qld Arts Council, Prep - 6, 11am - 1pm

Tuesday, March 8
P & F Meeting - 6.15pm

Tuesday, March 8
School Board Meeting - 7.30pm

Friday, March 11
Grandparents/Relatives Day
**Current NEWS!**

**Kids’ Gardening Initiatives at St John’s School**

Last year, a Kids’ Gardening Club started up as a 15 minute alternative lunch time activity for Years Three - Six students during their Second Break on Fridays. This activity is an opportunity for students to get to know, and contribute to, our beautiful natural learning environment at St John’s. We were also lucky to be joined by a few helpers from the Seven - Twelve year levels.

Students’ tasks included transplanting self-sown seedlings from around the grounds and propagating cuttings for the Moonlight Fair “Ka-Bloom” Garden Stall. The Green House was a useful resource for the students to store and maintain their plants. Kids’ Garden Club members were also an active part of last year’s St John’s Annual Working Bee held in September.

We have accumulated some gardening equipment from being involved in activities such as the National Tree Day initiative at Roma Bush Gardens. Hand shovels, watering cans, student-sized garden forks and some collection baskets were rewards from the Woolworths Earn & Learn initiative. Thanks to everyone who collected the stickers over the last couple of years! Kids’ Garden Club members also had success with entries in the Rose and Flowering Plants category at the Red Cross Flower Show.

Gardening Club will kick off again next week but on **Mondays** this year. We will meet at the flag pole after eating time at First Break. If you already have a set of gloves and your shirt, please bring those with you.

Happy gardening,

*Mrs Anne Moloney*

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**Industrial Action**

St John’s will experience slight industrial action on Thursday, which will have very little, if any, effect at St John’s (despite local media reports). Please refer to the letter sent to parents last week. A copy is on the school website.

*Regards*

*Nicholas Lynch*

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**Reflection**

Gandhi wrote once, “Anything you do may seem terribly insignificant, but it is terribly important that you do it.” Too often we dismiss the spiritual significance of the unusual act - the visit to hospital, the conversation with a stranger, the quotation you write down to email or pass onto a friend. A life of value is not a series of great things well done, it is a series of small things consciously done.

*Yours sincerely*

*Nicholas Lynch*

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**EALD NEWS**

*(English as an Additional Language or Dialect)*

St John’s is a very multicultural school and we embrace welcoming new families to our school. This year we have number of students from different countries and cultural backgrounds including:

- Philippines
- India
- South Africa
- Indonesia
- Sri Lanka
- China
- Denmark
- Zimbabwe
- Iran
- Korea
- New Zealand

Next term as a whole school, we will be hosting Harmony Day where we will celebrate our cultural diversity at St John’s. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. More information regarding a date will be advised soon.

“Diversity: The act of learning how to positively understand, accept and support both multiculturalism and individual differences working together.” Ty Howard

*Lisa Kynoch*

*EALD Teacher*
In Year One, we have been enjoying reading every day! The students have been listening to fairy tales and then completing different activities to do with the story including sequencing the story, drawing the main parts and writing sentences about the story. The students are working towards creating their own story boards with pictures and sentences. As well as traditional fairy tales, we have been reading fairy tales with different endings, different characters or different settings to the traditional stories. One of our favourites has been ‘Goldilocks and the Three Koalas’ by Kel Richards. In the story, Shirley (Goldilocks) was lucky to have her mobile phone when the koalas came home and found her in their house!

Most days of the week, we also break in reading groups. The students have the chance to read a book from their reading level in a small group with an adult. We have been very fortunate to have many parents, school officers and Mrs Mulligan from the leadership team help us during this time. It is great time for students to practise their reading strategies and gain a better understanding of the text they are reading.

Students are also encouraged to read for their own enjoyment. All students visit the library once a week and are able to borrow their own choice of books. Our classrooms also have many books that the students are encouraged to read at different times throughout the day.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the students develop their reading skills over the year.

Mark Brennan, Claire Angus and Toni Densley
**NEWS**

**FANFARE**

Fanfare provides a wonderful performing experience for students and I encourage all ensembles to participate. Ensembles will be adjudicated according to the division in which they have nominated. This allows all ensembles, even beginners the chance to achieve a Gold Award.

**DDSW Regional Heats**

Tues 17 May Kingaroy Town Hall;
Wed 18 May Toowoomba Rangeville Community Church 362 Mackenzie Street;
Thurs 19 May Toowoomba Rangeville Community Church 362 Mackenzie Street;
Fri 20 May Warwick SHS Hall; and
Tues 24 May Roma State College (Senior Campus) Jubilee Hall.

**DDSW Regional Final**

Wed 01 June Toowoomba Rangeville Community Church 362 Mackenzie Street.

Fanfare nominations close next Friday 26 February.

**IMMUNISATIONS**

The new dates for the Years 7/8 vaccinations are March 1, May 17, October 11.

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**Year Six Science**

The Good, the Bad and the Fungi!

Year Six Science this term is all about micro-organisms .... the good, the bad and the fungi! We have marvelled at these microbes under microscopes and cultured some pretty scary looking specimens in our petri dishes! We looked at yeast in action when we made our own bread rolls and tested the effectiveness of our handwashing techniques at removing microbes.

At the moment, every cupboard and spare centimetre of bench spare in our classrooms is taken up with our mould experiments. We have designed our own investigations to find out how moisture, light and temperature affect the growth of mould.

This week, the fun continues when we start to look at food safety and the role micro-organisms play in our kitchens!

*Michelle Chinnery*

*Year Six Teacher*

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**Year Three Maths**

This term, our focus is on four digit numbers. To enhance our understanding of four digit numbers, we have been looking closely at place value and engaging in experiences to help us understand and identify the place value of four digit numbers. We have been practicing writing numbers in standard form, expanded form and word form. In class, we have also been playing ‘Lava Lake’, a fun game that allows us to develop a greater speed of recall for basic number facts. It is really important that we are able to quickly recall our doubles and rainbow facts. These basic number facts will help us solve bigger addition and subtraction problems. This term we will also look at money and how we can represent money values in various ways. We will be learning how to calculate change from $1.00. If you are interested in supporting your child’s learning at home, having your child practise counting your loose change is a great and fun way to enhance your child’s understanding of money and its value!

*Ms Wright*

*Year Three Teacher*
Year Ten Drama

Our cohort of Year Ten Drama students are currently studying Theatre for Young People and the play ‘Juice’. The play centres on a group of teens at the end of Grade Ten. It explores the issues of rites of passage, initiation, ritual and risk.

The students are exploring how they can transfer the play from page to stage. They are employing a range of techniques to gain a greater understanding of the characters and events and ensure their portrayal and re-creation are believable.

The play will be performed in the style of realism. However, as the play is not told following chronological time and relies heavily on multimedia, it will provide many challenges and staging difficulties for the students.

The scenes being performed will be enhanced by carefully considered lighting and sound designs, operated by other class members. All their hard work will culminate in a live performance to an audience of young people from St John’s.

Mrs Nerva  
Drama Teacher

Senior Business

We are almost half way through a very exciting term one! The Senior Business students have started the year enthusiastically. The Cert 2 in Business students are busy working on administration tasks for the school musical - The Wizard of Oz. We have also implemented a new project this year that will see the students putting theory into practice with the introduction of the new “Business Assistant” program.

In BCT, Years 11 and 12 students are exploring the concept of “International Business”. Students are working in teams to research a country of their choice that they believe would be a viable option to expand a travel agency. Students have been learning about a wide variety of international business facets including communication, culture, religion, time zones, business meetings and etiquettes to assist them in preparing a convincing multimodal presentation.

Ashleigh Baker  
Teacher
ST JOHN'S Swimming Carnival

St John's School Age Champions:

Under 10          Luke Padbury & Lily Cameron
Under 11          Brayden Crawford & Brydi Taylor
Under 12          Hugh Fowles & Emily McNulty
Under 13          Toby Taylor & Haylee Cherry
Under 14          Lucas Crawford & Hannah Hughes
Under 15          Cooper Tucker & Caitlin McNulty
Under 16          Riley Henningsen & Ella O'Brien
Open              Thomas Campbell & Kathleen Smith

Roma & District Age Champions:

Under 11          Brayden Crawford & Brydi Taylor
Under 12          Hugh Fowles & Emily McNulty
Under 13          Toby Taylor & Haylee Cherry
Under 14          Lucas Crawford & Sarah Upton
Under 15          Cooper Tucker & Caitlin McNulty
Under 16          Jamie Crawford
Under 17          Thomas McNulty

The students who represented R&D on Friday 19th February at Miles:

Brayden Crawford, Emily McNulty, Brydi Taylor, Thomas McNulty, Toby Taylor, Haylee Cherry, Eleanor Sands, Lucas Crawford, Cooper Tucker, Daniel Padbury and Jamie Crawford.

House points: T - 578, X - 512, M - 336

Danielle Gillam
Sports Coordinator
THERESIAN TIGERS’ TERRIFIC TRIUMPH!

We are all so glad that Team Theresian is back in action for a new school year! We hope that everyone is well rested and is ready for what the following terms will bring for our House. Our Dean of House, Miss Jones, and the House Prefects; Tom, Katie and Janice, would not only like to welcome back any new and existing students, but also introduce you to our newly elected Theresian student councillors: Luke Padbury (Year Four), Jefferey Lunney (Year Five) and Briony Burns (Year Six). We are so excited that these young people have taken interest in the role of leadership, and we are looking forward to working with them throughout the year.

Theresian has started this year very successfully by taking home the trophy from the Swimming Carnival. We started off the day in a great way with all the students from Theresian showing much enthusiasm and even better initiative with those coming early to help set up our House area. The effort shown by the Theresian House was incomparable, with all age groups filled with Theresian students. The participation shown was also an excellent sight as everyone was in the pool at some stage to gain points for their House and enjoy the day. Overall, Theresian competed to a high standard and achieved the very best, 1st place for the 2016 Swimming Carnival. Due to the points gained from the Swimming Carnival, we are in the lead and well on track to taking home the House Cup, however, this will only be possible if everyone does their part by handing in Points Cards and also keeping our House area clean! Keep up the great work Theresian!

Get excited as Term Two is Theresian’s term to fund raise! As thrilling as this current term already is, Term Two will be filled with exciting events that students, friends and parents can all attend. We expect to have a primary disco, secondary movie night, a pizza day, frogs in a pond, hot chocolates, milkshakes and everyone’s new favourite, the annual showcase for you all to look forward to. What better way to spend your free time in the 11 week term? So get keen Tigers as Term Two is coming up fast.

-JTK
Welcome back to Reading: the Books sure Missed You, has been our creative theme this term to entice our student readers to pick up a book, check it out and enjoy a new reading experience. We believe that creating an inviting environment to draw attention to new release books and special collections is a key ingredient in promoting one of life’s great joys – “a good read”.

Stories like Nino’s Octopus, Leo the Seahorse and Shark in the Dark read to students in Years One – Three have complemented and inspired interest in the Underwater World display of nonfiction books. Likewise, the New Year New Books display has been effective in helping students from Years One – Nine to find their favourite new release or connect with the latest new reads.

A Blind date with a Book, our theme for Library Lovers’ Day on February 16 was also a great hit. Students from Prep to Year Nine flocked to the library to check out an unknown book wrapped in brown paper with red or pink hearts, to spark their interest in reading other fiction titles from the library collection.

What we do know, is that students at St John’s love to read a range of classics, modern mystery and adventure and anything funny. Some of our top most requested books and authors are:

1. Roald Dahl collections
2. Thea Stilton series
3. Andy Griffiths Treehouse series
4. Liz Pichon’s Tom Gates series
5. Anna Fienbery’s Tashi series

What we love to do, is to promote the library collections in a variety of ways to connect student readers to a wider reach of information, to stimulate their imagination and to help them develop the pleasure of reading.

Jenny Eeles
Teacher Librarian
**Teacher Profile**

**Zara Croaker**

Tell us a little about your background prior to coming to St John’s?

Last year, I lived and worked in rural NSW at St Joseph’s in Walgett teaching Years Five/Six and Kindergarten. Prior to becoming a teacher, I attended university in Armidale graduating with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Sociology. However, I returned to university in 2014 to complete a Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning. I am currently studying a Certificate in Special Education at USQ in Toowoomba.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I am passionate about shaping and supporting students of the future.

How did you feel about your first day of teaching?

On my first day of teaching, I felt extremely nervous and excited. My biggest worry was incorrectly pronouncing a student’s name during roll call.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job as teacher is witnessing students having a light bulb moment when they understand key concepts. I also love having the opportunity to share the journey of learning with young students.

What interests do you have outside of school?

Outside school, I spend a lot of my spare time with Labrador Duchess and partner Hamish. We spend a lot of time travelling and seeing family.

What are you most excited about in 2016 at St John’s?

I am looking forward to seeing how my Prep students grow and develop throughout the year and the upcoming performances of The Wizard of Oz. I’m really excited to be the official make-up artist; hopefully my craft skills from Prep will come in handy.

**Stacey Lewis**

Tell us a little about your background prior to coming to St John’s?

I completed a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of New England and have spent several years teaching in country NSW, Northern Territory and England.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I have a passion for learning and see teaching as a challenging, creative, and meaningful way to connect with children, helping them to see and reach their own potential.

What is the best part of your job?

What I love best about being a teacher is that each day you have the opportunity to excite a student about learning, support them in their personal growth and with challenges they may face, and celebrate their successes. Having students share the impact you have made on their lives is a gratifying and humbling experience.

What interests do you have outside of school?

I play hockey and indoor volleyball. I love travelling and exploring new places.

What are you most excited about in 2016 at St John’s?

I am looking forward to further developing student and parent relationships and being involved in community events that St John’s and Roma have to offer.
NEWS RELEASE
Tuesday, 23 February 2016
Industrial action at some schools in the Surat Basin

Toowoomba: Tuesday, 23 February 2016, Catholic schools within the Diocese of Toowoomba are expected to remain open on Thursday during the latest stop-work action in enterprise bargaining negotiations.

Dr Patrick Coughlan, Executive Director for Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools, said: "We have consulted with our Principals and have been advised that all schools will remain open, despite full-day strike action by some staff.

"We are aware that some of our schools have provided advice to parents to keep their children at home if possible but all our schools will provide supervision should parents have no other options.

"Some schools will provide limited programs or supervision but importantly, all our schools will be open, which minimises disruption to parents and students."

"Toowoomba Catholic Schools employ 127 teachers in Dalby, Tara, Roma and Mitchell. There are 72 school officer and support staff. Of these, less than a quarter of the Surat Basin schools staff voted for industrial action."

Dr Coughlan said: "This matches the anecdotal evidence we have that the majority of staff are keen to resolve the bargaining process in a reasonable and considered way.

"We respect the rights of employees to take this industrial action but employers have tabled a fair offer in these negotiations."

Thursday will be the eighth stop-work action in the enterprise bargaining negotiations, which began in March last year.

Employers continue to offer an annual wage increase of 2.5 per cent – the equivalent to the most recent increase paid to state school teachers.

Earlier this month, the union changed its demand from an across-the-board increase of 3.25 per cent to an amount varying from 2.53 per cent to 4.48 per cent in the first year depending on a teacher’s classification.

"We believe that our offer is fair in the Queensland schools environment and comes with a commitment to back pay staff" Dr Coughlan said.

"The union’s continued comparisons to New South Wales are not relevant. For example, both states have different starting and finishing times across the year.

"We’re working in the Queensland marketplace. Employers have always maintained that they will match any increase provided to Queensland’s state school teachers to ensure a level playing field across the state."

For those parents and caregivers who have not yet been notified by your school the individual arrangements they have in place for Thursday we urge you to contact your school principal.

“A key focus for all of our schools is to be leaders in the provision of an inclusive and contemporary Catholic education. We want students to leave our schools prepared and empowered to take the next steps in their life’s pathway. I feel very privileged that our schools are the school of choice for so many,” said Dr Coughlan.

For further information, please contact Kirsty Hogarth, Communications and Marketing Officer via email at kirsty.hogarth@twb.catholic.edu.au or phone 4637 1408.

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St John’s Swimming Carnival 2016
Looking forward to participating in the 2016 Swimming Carnival

Marian Cheer Squad

2016 Swimming Carnival Timekeepers
MARCH 3RD
MEET AND GREET

If you could please RSVP for catering purposes it would be greatly appreciated

Family name ________________

Number attending ________________

Meet and Greet Thursday 3rd March

St John’s Parents and Friends Association, along with St John’s School, would like to warmly invite all new St John’s parents to join us at a “Meet and Greet” morning tea at the school, in front of the Tuckshop (beside the Big Shed), On Thursday 3rd March 8.30am to 9.30am

St John’s Catholic School
In the next issue

**Prep - Year Six**
- Prep - Oral Language
- Year Two - Writing
- Year Five - Maths
- Performing Arts - Choir

**Years Seven - Twelve**
- Year Ten - Maths
- Year Twelve - Religion and Ethics
- World Day of Prayer
- Xaverian House Report

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this land, the Mandandanji people, and show our respect for their ancestors and traditions.
**The Competition**

Entry is NOW OPEN in the 2016 Schools Writing Competition! Students all over Australia are invited to enter their Poems or Short stories, and battle it out for the great cash prizes on offer. This year – there is no theme!! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and get their creative juices flowing to write on ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE. Students from ALL GRADES are welcome to enter - Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Enter online at www.write4fun.net OR email to enter@write4fun.net OR fax to (07) 5574 3644 OR post with entry form details to Write4fun P.O. Box 2734, Nerang DC, QLD 4211: Entry is FREE and all entries must be in by Thursday, 31st March 2016.

**The Rules**

- Only one entry per student - either a Poem OR Short Story.
- Entries to be typed or neatly handwritten.
- Poems must not exceed 16 lines and Short Stories must not exceed 500 words.
- Entries must be in by Thursday, 31st March 2016.
- Entries must be the original work of the author.
- Co-written entries will be disqualified.
- Entry form details must accompany each entry.

**The Book**

Poems and short stories entered into the competition will be considered for inclusion into our 2016 Write4fun anthology! Those selected will have the opportunity to purchase the edition at a discounted rate. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners will receive a complimentary copy of the book. “We are very excited to be sponsoring this competition,” stated Julie Woods, Managing Editor for Write4Fun. “Reading and writing seem to be taking a back seat these days to computer games and evolving technology! Our hope is that competitions such as these inspire the students to be creative with words once more and have fun doing it!”
QUEENSLAND POLICE RECRUITING SEMINAR

ROMA RECRUITING SEMINAR
ROMA POLICE STATION
42 QUEEN STREET ROMA

THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016
7:00PM - 8:30PM

Come and speak with Recruiting Officers about the hundreds of exciting and rewarding careers available within the Queensland Police Service. Information will be provided on the selection process, the academy, pay and conditions, and you’ll learn all you need to know about becoming a QUEENSLAND POLICE OFFICER.

Bookings Required
Reserve your place now!

1 300 BE A COP
www.policerecruit.com.au