Dear Parents and Carers

Palm Sunday is celebrated this weekend marking the start of Holy Week. During the days leading up to Good Friday, Catholics from all over the world will be contemplating the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The children will be entering into the week learning not only the details of the Easter story but how this translates into hope for all people. This year is a little unique for the students as the school holidays are separate from Easter and the focus after the four day break will be on the Resurrection, celebrating God’s triumph over death and life for all. If you would like to come to Mass over Holy Week and Easter, check out the times on the Parish website: http://coffscatholic.com/

Playground 1 - Sandpits. The next stage of improving the playground involves creating sandpits and help is needed. We are seeking people with the tools and skills to help create the new play area, ideally in the school holidays. An email was sent earlier in the week however if you would like more details give the school a call.

Playground 2 – Do you have a spare boat? Another part of the playground will be 2 or 3 small boats anchored into the ground for children to play on. If anyone has an old spare ‘tinny’ or similar that they would love to donate to the school, contact the office.

Playground 3 – Drafting a plan for a deck. Again, we’re asking for help from the school community to assist in drafting up a plan for the decking area around the Pine tree. If you can assist in providing a plan so that we can then get quotes, it would be appreciated.

Homework Survey Update. As you can imagine there was a great diversity of opinion from the parent community around the role and value of homework. To summarise briefly, the results came in pretty much even for all questions! The number of parents wanting more equalled the number wanting less. Too hard or too easy? Again, about even. Online or paper and pen? Even. Creative or revision? About even. Some parents (17%) reported significant stress as a result of homework at home and expressed the need to cater for different ability levels. Reading, Spelling and Maths were identified as key focus areas. The next step is to formulate a policy and procedure that considers the results of the survey, quality research and professional input. Thanks to all parents who responded to the survey.

Easter blessings

Peter Watts
Principal

YEAR K 2017 ENROLMENTS

There will be an information night for parents on Wednesday 4 May at 7:00 pm in the hall. If you or anyone you know would like to enrol their child at our school next year please let them know.

The enrolment period commences on Monday 9 May and closes on Friday 20 May. Enrolment forms are available at the office and are to be returned by Friday 20 May with the original Baptism Certificate, and copies of the Birth Certificate and Immunisation Certificate. Original Baptism Certificates will be photocopied and returned.
CATECHETICAL NEWS
PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES
During Lent children have been collecting funds for the Missions. Please return the Project Compassion Boxes to school before Easter. Thank you for support.

Holy Week
Palm Sunday this weekend signals the commencement of extremely significant week for all Catholics. Holy Week for us here at school will see the students involved in a pilgrimage on Holy Thursday.

Incitâre
A group of Year 6 students took part in this day last Tuesday, along with Mrs Frawley. By all accounts it was a wonderful day reflecting on and sharing their faith journeys to this point. The children who were able to participate in the experience are looking forward to sharing with their classmates in the future. They are also grateful for the opportunity to share this encounter with other regional schools, St JPC facilitators and teachers. We will look forward to fanning the flames of Incitâre in our school.

Harmony Day
What is Harmony Day?
Harmony Day is held each year on 21 March. It’s a day to celebrate our cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The message of Harmony Day is everyone belongs.

This message follows on nicely from Catholic Schools week, ‘I belong, You belong, We belong’.

At St Augustine’s this week we have celebrated and discussed Harmony Day. The theme for 2016 is ‘Our diversity is our strength’.

This year there is a focus on three key areas that help to explore the theme:

♦ coming together to celebrate our cultural diversity
♦ sharing the economic benefits of our productive diversity
♦ highlighting how innovation in a multicultural Australia contributes to our shared future.

Here are some, ‘Did you know’ facts?

- Over the last 70 years seven million migrants have made Australia their home.
- Almost half of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was.
- People from more than 200 countries make up our Australian community and 300 languages are spoken in our homes.
- Apart from English the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Tagalog/Filipino, Spanish and Hindi.

Paddy Dent - Leader of School Evangelisation
Sharon de Dassel – Leader of Catechesis

Holy Week & Easter Liturgies

Holy Thursday 7pm St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga
7pm St Augustine’s, Coffs Hbr
Good Friday 3pm St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga
3pm St Augustine’s, Coffs Hbr
Holy Saturday 7:30pm St Augustine’s, Coffs Hbr
Easter Sunday 7am St Augustine’s, Coffs Hbr
7am St Paul’s, Glenreagh
9am St Augustine’s, Coffs Hbr
9am St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga
Please note: No evening Mass on Easter Sunday

P & F NEWS
MEETING
The next P & F Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 April at 7:00 pm in the LARC. All welcome.

NORTH COAST HOTEL GROUP GOLF DAY
See pages 6 & 7 for all the Golf Day news.

ALBANY STREET DRIVE THROUGH
Less than 50% of cars are using the ‘family name’ sign on their sun visors. Having your family name displayed on your car’s sun visor greatly accelerates pick up times as it allows staff to identify approaching vehicles and organise students to be ready. If you are not using the family name sign please consider doing so. Phone the office on 66521204 and we will make a laminated sign for you.

NOTE: This is a drive through zone.

Please remember not to queue through the pedestrian crossing or along Albany Street. Rangers have been active each week in this area. Heavy fines apply.
**CANTEEN ROSTER**

21.03.2016  
Mon  K Apps, T Branster  
Tues  J Armytage, J Bourne, N Savige, C Williams  
Wed  P Cruz, M Murphy, M Santana, R Soto  
Thur  N Ferrett  **HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!**  
Fri  **Good Friday**  

28.03.2016  
Mon  Easter Monday  
Tues  G Bull, N Foggiafo  
Wed  J Golding  **HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!**  
Thur  K Allen, K O’Carroll, H O’Rourke, L Rowthorne  
Fri  T Blundell, J Cutler, A Goode, A Stephens, S Winkler

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Canteen helpers are always required. Help is needed for three hours from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon once every four weeks. Grandparents are very welcome also. If you are able to help in the Canteen on any day please call us on 66521204.

**SUSHI!!!!**

Sushi is now available on Wednesdays at the Canteen! Orders can be handed in to the Canteen on **Tuesdays** (preferred) or on Wednesday morning by 8:50 am.

**Container:** (6 pieces—suitable for small children):  
Avocado $3.00  
Cucumber $3.00  

**Rolls:**  
Chicken teriyaki & avocado $3.00  
Tuna & cucumber $3.00

**SAVE THE DATE—20 and 21 MAY!!**

The **Women. Food. God.** retreat was held last year and was a huge success. Preparations are well under way for this year’s gathering. Sisters from the Missionaries of God’s Love will join us once again for a weekend of formation, fellowship, food and fun. Please save the date—registration details soon. (Friday 20 May 6pm-9pm and Saturday 21 May 9am—4pm)

**COMING EVENTS**

**MARCH**

21  ICAS Digital Tech. & Science competitions closing date  
23  Dance Fever  
25  Good Friday  
27  Easter Sunday  
30  Dance Fever

**APRIL**

1  **Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival**  
4  Yr 4 Excursion to Sealy Lookout  
5  P & F Meeting in the LARC 7:00 pm  
6  Clarence Zone Cross Country Dance Fever Showcase  
7  **LAST DAY OF TERM ONE FOR STUDENTS**  
8  **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—NO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL**  
25  Anzac Day March  
26  **First day of Term Two for students**  
29  Casual clothes day for Mothers’ Day stall—gold coin donation please

**MAY**

2  ICAS Writing & Spelling Comp closing date  
4  Yr K 2017 Parent Information evening  
6  Mothers’ Mass & Morning tea  
Mothers’ Day Stall  
9  Yr K 2017 Enrolments open  
10  NAPLAN for Years 3 & 5  
17  ICAS Digital Technologies competition  
20  Yr K 2017 Enrolments close

**Ryans Bus Service**

Reminder: Ryans Bus Service cannot take items in our school buses that cannot fit in the child’s school bag, or cannot be held safely in their lap without interfering with other children. We have had previous issues with children tripping and falling over large items such as guitars/surfboards/boogie boards in our buses. Skateboards must be in the school bag or strapped to the school bag for safety reasons.

We are unable to use our luggage bins due to WH&S for school children.

This has been company policy for over 10 years.
**SPORT NEWS**

**St Augustine’s Swimming Carnival**
Our Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 1 April at the CH War Memorial Olympic Pool. This is a fun sport house carnival for all Year 3-6 students. If you are available to be a volunteer helper, please arrive at the Coffs Harbour War Memorial Olympic Pool between 9:00am and 9:15am and report to a staff member.

**St Augustine’s Cross Country Trials**
Earlier this week, two hundred students participated in the Cross Country trials. Younger students completed a 2km course, while the older age groups completed a 3km run. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help on the day.

The following students have qualified for the Clarence Zone Cross Country trials to be held at Sawtell Reserve on Wednesday 6 April:

The permission slip and money are to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 23 March.

**Lismore Diocesan Representative Trials – Swimming**
Congratulations to Hastings Zone on winning the Paddy Dent shield at the Lismore Diocesan Representative Swimming trials that were held in Lismore on Wednesday 2 March.

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the Polding Swimming trials to be held in Sydney on Thursday 31 March:
Lucy George, Chloe Caldwell, Alexis Felton, Clare Kelly, Lily Betland, Riley Betland, Cooper Marle, Nicholas Caldwell, Archie Budd, Rory Beech, Lachlan Marle. Special mention also goes to Lily Betland (11 yrs girls Runner-Up Age Champion) and Rory Beech (12/13 yrs boys Age Champion).

Good luck to our team!

**Lismore Diocesan Representative Trials – Winter Sports**
A group of our students represented the Clarence Zone at the Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports trials in Grafton today. Full results in the next Newsletter.

**Dates for your diary**
Friday 1 April – St Augustine’s PS Swimming Carnival (Years3-6)
Tuesday 5 April – Polding Aussie Rules Football trials
Wednesday 6 April – Clarence Zone Cross Country trials
Wednesday 6 to Thursday 7 April – NSWPSSA Swimming trials

Erin Bennett – Sports Coordinator  ebennett@lism.catholic.edu.au
Kristy M’Dermid – Sports Administrator  kmcdermid@lism.catholic.edu.au

**BEACHSIDE RADIOLGY COFFS OCEAN SWIMS**

**Sunday 3 April 2016 at Coffs Jetty Beach**
This is a locally-run, community event with all proceeds going to local charities including Surf Clubs and Disabled Surfers Assoc. Olympian Brooke Hanson will be starting all the events, handing out prizes and signing autographs.
Go to: www.villagesports.com.au for more information and to enter.

SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2016
**Students’ Lunches**

We are finding some children are having difficulty opening the packaging when eating their lunch.

Some helpful tips to consider:

- Reduce the amount of packaging by using specially made lunch boxes that have separate compartments – helps the environment!
- Ask your child to open the package at home first to see if they can manage it on their own.
- **Please don’t send in cans of tuna or other ring-pull cans.** These are dangerous due to the sharp edge and children have cut themselves opening them.
- Yoghurt in tubs and containers can be very messy. Look for ‘spill-proof’ food.
- Water is the best drink to send to school.
- Packaged snacks are usually high in sugar and salt. Chips, Twisties, Shapes, etc have a lot of artificial flavouring. A healthy sandwich, fruit/vegies and a snack for recess is a much better option for most students!

![Healthy School Lunch Ideas](image)

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**Sacrament of Confirmation 2016**

Our seven week program of preparation will be starting soon. To be ready for confirmation a child must be baptised, be attending Mass with their parent/s every Sunday, and be between the ages of 8 and 15.

Enrolment forms are available for collection in person from the Parish Office during office hours from 7 March until **5pm Tuesday 05/04/2016**. Parents/Guardians wishing to enrol a child **must bring photo ID of both parents and the child’s Baptism Certificate** before an enrolment form will be provided. A cost of $15 per child is payable on collection of forms.

**Important Program Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6/04/16</td>
<td>Parent Information &amp; enrolment Meeting (Parents only) – Curran Centre 7:00 pm. Parent/Guardian must attend in person with the completed enrolment form to complete the enrolment process. <strong>NOTE:</strong> No enrolment forms will be available on the night &amp; <strong>no proxies</strong> will be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>26/04/16</td>
<td>Program Commences – various locations and times to be advised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun</td>
<td>30-Apr/ 1 May/16</td>
<td>Commitment Rite for candidates all Sunday Masses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>15/06/16</td>
<td>Confirmation Rehearsal for all candidates, St Augustine’s Church, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>21/06/16</td>
<td>Meeting with Bishop for all candidates, Curran Centre, 5:30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>21/06/16</td>
<td>Sacrament of Confirmation for all candidates, St Augustine’s Church, 7:00pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For further information, please contact Fr Frederick Basco on 66510000 or fbasco@coffscatholic.com
THANK YOU!!!

Congratulations to Peter Martin and his committee and volunteers who helped make the 2016 Golf Day such a wonderful success.

A big thank you also to all our sponsors who are listed on the next page. Please support the businesses who support our school on a regular basis - without their backing the day would not be as successful!

Over $14,000.00 was raised on the day.

GOLF DAY WINNERS

Gross Winner: Jade Hair
Gross Runner-up: Steve Ryan
Mens Nett 1st: Smartline
Mens Nett 2nd: Confidentially Yours
Mens Nett 3rd: Global Lubricant Distributors
Mens Nett 4th: Swimplex
Mens Nett 5th: CNW Electrical
Mixed Nett 1st: The Hopefuls
Mixed Nett 2nd: Coffs Coast Motors
Mixed Nett 3rd: The Bretts
Junior Winner: Marto Juniors
Bradman: Advanced Mechanical Services

Major Raffle

1st: Ventoux Bike Brad Beech
2nd: AMart Table Tennis Finn Benson
3rd: AMart Go Pro Jamie Weber

SCHOOL MUSICAL—‘ALICE IN WONDERLAND’

WANTED—COSTUME DESIGNERS AND COSTUME MAKERS!

This year our school musical, "Alice in Wonderland", will be performed in September. If you have an interest in costume design and/or costume making or even if you can do basic sewing please contact Julie McCabe on the email address below.

Are you able to help create props and set scenes? These will all be very simple and mostly made from cardboard, paper and paint.

Helpers will also be needed closer to the performances for make-up and hair etc.

All helpers please email Julie McCabe at: jmccabe@lism.catholic.edu.au
Contact Numbers

Below, please find contact numbers for your information

St John Paul College
Ph:  02 6653 3155
Fax: 02 6658 1954
Email: jpcancoffs@lism.catholic.edu.au

St Augustine’s Primary School
Ph:  02 6652 1204
Fax: 02 6651 3230
Email: sapcoffs@lism.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier Primary School
Ph:  02 6654 1981
Email: sfxpwool@lism.catholic.edu.au

Mary Help of Christians Primary School
Ph:  02 6653 3122
Email: mhocawtell@lism.catholic.edu.au

Contact Appropriate School For:  Late to school, absences, missed bus, any matter relating to your child’s education and wellbeing etc.

St Augustine’s Parish Office
Ground Floor Curran Centre, 12 Gordon Street, PO Box 2450 COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Ph:  02 6651 0000
Fax: 02 6651 2897

Contact For: Church related enquiries, Sacramental programs, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Mass times etc.

Parish Schools Office
1st Floor Curran Centre, 12 Gordon Street, PO Box 2450 COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Ph:  02 6651 0046
Fax: 02 6651 2897

Contact For: School fee related enquiries, payment of fees, billing for school fees, school fee contract interviews etc.
Parents paying school fees by three instalments (and not using our Direct Debit Request facility) - **the first payment was due by 1/03/16.**

Please call on 6651 0046 urgently if you have missed your payment or are unsure of your payment plan agreement.

For those using our direct debit facility and paying via 3 instalments, your first instalment was automatically deducted on 1/03/16.
St Augustine’s Enviro Warriors Need Your Vote!!!

Have you voted for our sculpture in the Recycled Sculpture Competition?
You can vote via the Park Beach Plaza App,
via the Park Beach Plaza website
or by using the following web address:

http://bit.ly/1U5h8Rp

You can vote once a day until April 1, 2016.
Play equipment a huge hit!

The Stage 1 playground equipment has proved a huge hit with our students. After the initial excitement it has become an integral part of daily play for many students. Our focus with the overall playground development is to provide our students with a wide variety of places to explore, imagine and play.

Stage 2 - Sandpits
Expressions of Interest

The Playground Committee is keen to get moving with our Stage 2 development of a sandpit/play area. We are calling for Expressions of Interest from parent professionals who would like to tender for this stage. This would involve the build and landscaping of the sandpits to meet the safety and design requirements of KIDSAFE Australian Standards.

A draft concept for the sandpit/play area is pictured (right) with the next Playground Committee meeting on Tuesday 22 March at 5:30pm. Please register your interest with the school office on (02) 6652 1204 or email on: sapcoffs@lism.catholic.edu.au

Row boats???

Does anyone in our school community know of where we might obtain 2 to 3 old boats that could be used as play equipment? We are hoping to include these in future landscaping as detailed in the original concept plan.

Please contact the school office if you have any ideas... (or boats)!!