Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Last Thursday and Friday I had the opportunity, together with Leanne and Naomi to attend the Future Schools Conference in Sydney. There were a large number of our colleagues from across the Diocese in attendance as well. (You can view the agenda for the two days by visiting http://www.acevents.com.au/futureschools/agenda.html).

An interesting question around what does the future school look like was explored, particularly by Stephen Heppell (www.heppell.net) with some themes that affirm the direction our school has undertaken over the past few years.

In short the themes of globalisation, personalisation and differentiation were explored in contexts of innovative learning spaces. In fact, much of the conference could have been speaking specifically about St Augustine’s.

One of the schools being showcased at the conference was Stonefields Primary School from Auckland, New Zealand (http://www.stonefields.school.nz/). Evidence from Stonefields, and others, highlight that having flexible spaces alone is insufficient to improve learning (or change teaching practices). While we can configure learning spaces to provide students with areas for group discussion and collaboration, individual learning, large-group presentation of information and one-on-one support we need to have lots of content options and activities that students can be engaged in that will allow them to learn and reflect in ways that make sense to them. That’s where our differentiated approach kicks in.

To give an example, I was visiting Year Four during a maths block where the children were working in small groups with targeted maths activities. The choices of the maths activities were derived from their initial maths pre test, which housed a number of key concepts. Children who had difficulty with a particular concept made a ‘bee line’ to the activity that would help them master that concept. There were 100 children engaged and on task learning what they need to learn to move forward in their learning journey. Building independent learners.

However, one of the key messages for me from the two days at the conference was on how other schools were leveraging technology to meet the learning needs of the students for both the here and now and, more importantly, into the future.

While it is suffice to say that there were many great things happening in schools the common thread seemed to be sewn around devices, applications and students making choices.

Which brings me to an important parent workshop. As you know we have scheduled a parent workshop on our eLearning plan for Wednesday 25 March, in the hall at 7:00 pm. I encourage all parents and carers from Kinder to Year Six to come along and participate in the conversation. We plan to have a series of workshops where groups of parents will work on different focuses (eg cyber safety, school policy, ICT skills, devices, etc) with the view of collating our community’s view to help formulate future planning and decision-making.

There are some exciting activities happening around our school at the moment. We look forward to seeing you at the parent workshop to share a few of them with you.

Best Wishes
Jake Madden
Principal
CATECHETICAL NEWS

LENT
We adore you Oh Christ!
If you have gone onto KnowledgeNet, you would have seen the Stations of the Cross, which have been the focus for our cohort morning prayers. There are 14 stations, which mark Jesus’ journey to Mount Golgotha.
The children have also been visiting the St Augustine’s Church to look once again, at the Stations of the Cross. Many people nowadays see Lent as the time for just giving up things like chocolate, but really it is about giving up Sin. It is about coming closer to the Lord and making him a part of your lives.
Here is the website address to see a video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAuB-3V46zk&list=PL_ohRkIDyvE-LnB7lKXkJF_KhxUpj6V0sW&index=3

PERPETUAL ADORATION
This week, Year 1 visited the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, where Perpetual Adoration takes place. The children are always very reverent and say a quiet prayer as they sit in sacred silence. The children’s comments were quite inspiring as they walked back to school. “God spoke to me in my heart.” “I felt God around me when I prayed.” “How does God fit inside the Blessed Sacrament?”
If you are passing and perhaps want to spend a quiet moment with the Blessed Sacrament you are welcome at any time. It does not matter if there is already someone there, you may join in the sacred silence.

ST AUGUSTINE’S STATUE
Our new statue of St Augustine was blessed today by our Parish Priest, Father Paul Winter. The statue is a gift to our school by the Year 6 students of 2012, supported by the wider school community. Thank you to Father Paul Winter, Mr John Walker and especially Fr John Casey for organising the making of the sculpture and its transport from Vietnam. Thanks also to Mr Glenn Legge for installing our statue. Visit our newly blessed St Augustine in the rose garden (near the Admin Office).

P & F NEWS

St Augustine’s 2014
CITY CENTRE QUALITY INN
Charity Golf Day

QUALITY INN
CITY CENTRE
22 Elizabeth Street
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Telephone: 6652 6388

Sunday 30 March at Coffs Harbour Golf Club
4 Person Ambrose with Morning (7am) start (Afternoon spots all taken).
If you are able to help on the day (or for information), please contact our Golf Day Coordinator, Steve Ryan on 0402 898571.
All welcome to come along to the presentation in the evening. Full club facilities available including the Lakes Bistro which will be serving meals on the night.
The Golf Day raffle prize is a wonderful bike to the value of $550 donated by Alistair Scotford and Ventoux Cycles. Please return raffle tickets to school by Friday 28 March.

Stephen Appleton—P & F Committee President

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Paddy Dent - Leader of School Evangelisation
Mary Machatsch – Leader of Catechesis
2015 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT PERIOD
On Wednesday 7 May at 7:00 pm in the school hall we will be holding our annual enrolment information evening for families considering our school for their child’s learning. Please spread the word!!

To help us prepare for the launch of our enrolment period we are currently looking for parent testimonials for our school prospectus and other enrolment materials.

If you’d like to be considered for a testimonial please email your thoughts by Friday 28 March to: sarcoffs@lism.catholic.edu.au

Parent testimonials are a common strategy for sharing thoughts on our school and I encourage you to send in a sentence or two on why you chose St Augustine’s for your child.

2015 JPC YR 7 ENROLMENTS
The John Paul College enrolment period for Year 7 students in 2015 opens on Monday 12 May and closes on Friday 30 May. Enrolment forms will be given to Year 6 students on Monday 12 May.

A Birth Certificate must accompany a submitted Enrolment Application.

CANTEEN ROSTER
24.03.2014
Mon  G Franklin, S Kendall, S O’Reilly, L Seccombe
Tues  T Blundell, M Murphy, R Saunders
Wed  L Trotman, K White
Thur  K Gilliland, J Golding
Fri  B Dougherty, P Duffy, J Roach, K-A Van Ryswyk, L Zawadzki

31.03.2014
Mon  E Joyce, R Mott
Tues  G Bull, R Kennedy
Wed  M Bulloch, J Jenkins
Thur  C Blackett, M Felton, R Felton, N Smith
Fri  D Budd, L Budd, P Duffy, B Guest, J Roach, M Roberts

CANTEEN NEWS
It is wonderful to the children making healthy lunch choices at the Canteen. We are now baking muffins weekly, (assorted flavours) for $1.00 each. Thank you to Jodie Jenkins for cooking our first big assortment, yum!! We would also like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who help out regularly. We all love seeing you. To all parents and carers—please feel free to drop in and lend a hand at any time. Your help is very much appreciated. Check the Canteen news board for specials and new ideas.

Barbra Symons & Alicia Betland—Canteen Managers

UNSW ICAS COMPETITIONS
CLOSING DATES:
Computer Skills Comp - Wednesday 9 April
Science Comp - Wednesday 9 April
Writing Comp - Friday 2 May
Spelling Comp - Friday 2 May

Payment and notes to be sent to the office by these dates please.

Late entries will not be accepted.

COMING EVENTS
MARCH
25  Yrs 3/4 Chicken Burger Day
Parent Workshop—Digital Citizenship 7:00 pm in the hall
Yr 1 Learning Journey 9:00 am in classrooms
Yr K Breakfast 7:30—8:15 am
26  Dance Fever
27  Yr 5 Liturgy 10:20 am in the Church
28  Yrs 3-6 Swimming program
Yrs K & 6 Buddies Liturgy 10:20 am in the Church
29  Yrs 3-6 Interschool Dance Off (see page 11)
30  Quality Inn City Centre Golf Day

APRIL
1  Yr 1 Breakfast 7:30—8:15 am
2  Dance Fever
Yrs K-2 Dance Fever Spectacular 2:00 pm at school
3  Yr 4 Learning Journey 12:00—1:30 pm
4  Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival
Yr 2 at Parish Mass 9:15 am
Newsletter Day
8  Yrs K-2 Chicken Burger Day
9  Clarence Zone Cross Country Carnival
10  Stations of the Cross
11 Staff Development Day—no children at school
28 Staff Development Day—no children at school
29 Children return to school
Resurrection Liturgy

MAY
2  Mufti Day for Mothers’ Day Stall
6  Yr 2 Breakfast 7:30—8:15 am
P & F Meeting 7:00 pm in the Library
7  2015 Yr K Information Evening 7:00 pm in hall
9  Mothers’ Mass 9:15 am in the Church
Mothers’ Day Stall

PLEASE NOTE
Friday 11 April and Monday 28 April are Staff Development Days. The school will be closed on these days. OSHC is available for children who are enrolled into OSHC.
SPORT NEWS
LISMORE DIOCESE WINTER SPORTS TRIALS
Good luck to our Winter Sports children who travelled to Grafton today to trial for the Lismore Diocese Winter Sports teams. The sports are Rugby League, Netball and Football (Soccer).

LISMORE DIOCESE SWIMMING TEAM
Congratulations to the following children who have now qualified for the Polding Swimming Trials to be held in Homebush on Friday 28 March.


St Augustine’s is very proud of your achievements.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
This year St Augustine’s has trialled a new swimming program for our Year 3-6 students. So far this program has been extremely successful for the children who can swim and the children who have not been exposed to a lot of water safety.

A big thank to the parents who attended the pools, supporting and assisting our children. It is greatly appreciated.

The Aquatic Centre will be sending home notes to many of our children encouraging them to invest some time into their swimming for their own safety. It has been wonderful to watch the children become confident and learn how to get themselves to safety in the case of an emergency. We hope your children have enjoyed this program.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The St Augustine’s Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 4 April. A permission note will be sent home next week.

The school swimming carnival is not a carnival where children qualify for the next level, it is a fun day where every child has the opportunity to score points for their house colour.

We believe the swimming program for the last four weeks has suitably prepared our children for our school carnival, we are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Dan Hammond
Sports Coordinator

EMAIL ADDRESSES
If you know of any parent/carer who is not receiving our school emails with Newsletters and notes, please ask them to contact the office and supply us with a current email address.
SUSTAINABLE LIVING—YR 4
Our Year 4 cohort is currently working on a learning module titled ‘Sustainable Living’. As part of this learning module we decided to enter the 2014 Coffs Harbour City Council Sustainability Grant. The process was timely for our cohort and provided a real life and meaningful learning experience.

All the Year 4 students worked in groups of three or four and then each group came up with extremely good ideas. We then presented these to our peers and teachers. One group was chosen as our cohort's proposal and we submitted this. The proposal we chose was new water saving bubbler nozzles. We have noticed how difficult the current bubblers are to use and also how much water they waste every day. We were successful in winning the sustainability grant and now have $1500 to purchase 11 new bubbler heads for our school.

The people who made this possible are Year 4 Teachers and students, Mr Madden, Mrs Madden and Mrs Feltis. The group that was successful consists of Jacob Field, Holden Stubbs, Jarrah Vanderpoel and Benjamin Langler. These four students worked extremely well together and they came up with the brilliant idea of water saving bubblers.

Participating in the Coffs Harbour City Council sustainable school grant was a great way to learn about how our school can help the environment and encourage the rest of Coffs Harbour.

Kiahni Wainwright 4D
Rory Beech 4M
Trinity Kachel 4B

YEAR 4 LEARNING JOURNEY
The Year 4 Learning Journey will be held in the Year 4 Cohort room on Thursday 3 April from 12:00 noon until 1:30 pm. All parents are welcome to visit the classrooms during this time.

RYANS BUS SERVICE
FACEBOOK PAGE
After an accident on the Pacific Highway south of Woolgoolga recently, Ryans Bus Service was inundated with phone calls from parents - however if you ‘like’ their Facebook page, parents/guardian/children and schools receive up to date information on delays and bus changes. Facebook details are: www.facebook.com/ryansbusservice

DADS’ DAY OUT
St Augustine’s ‘Dad’s Day Out’ at the Hoey Moey - Saturday 22 March, from 2:00 pm.

The P & F would like to call on all St Augustine's dads to assemble at the Park Beach Hotel Motel on Saturday 22 March at 2:00 pm. The purpose of the afternoon is the annual social get together so St Augustine’s dads are able to welcome the new Kindergarten dads to the school.

Cool refreshments available at reasonable cost.

Enquiries - Stephen Appleton, P & F President 0457 860070 / sappleton67@yahoo.co.uk

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
TERM 1 MUSIC ACCOUNTS
Accounts for Term 1 are due today. Please make payment as soon as possible.

Any student who has an outstanding account from 2013 will not be able to participate in the program this year. Please pay any outstanding accounts.

For any enquiries, please contact Dot Trevaskis or Sione George at the school office.
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

After School Care
A friendly reminder - it is essential to advise OSHC if your child/ren is booked to attend After School Care but is absent from school and/or not attending for that day. Please notify Educators by calling 0417 666 494 before 1:00 pm. This will alleviate Educators spending additional time looking for your child at roll call.

Active After School Care Sports
Active After School Care Sports has only got a couple of weeks left run and we have had great feedback from the children, which we hope that they have shared with you.

Vacation Care
Vacation Care is only 3 weeks away!!! The program is out and available from the school office and the OSHC room. Please get you’re booking sheets in, we don’t want anyone to miss out!! We are getting excited about the April school holidays as we are planning many new and wonderful activities for the children to do.

Donations of any newspapers, shopping bags, craft material or Easter craft ideas/materials would be very much appreciated by OSHC (please drop them in to the OSHC room).

Invoices
Invoices are regularly being posted out and sent home via children. These need to be bought up to date. It is important that the account is not in arrears, especially from the 2013 year. It is vital to the operation and continuation of the service provided that the fees are paid and the accounts up to date. As part of the enrolment and the accounts payment policy in the enrolment application it is important that accounts are to be finalised within seven days. Future bookings may not be taken where fees are in arrears. Your attention to this is appreciated.

NB: Bookings for Vacation Care or future After School Care Bookings will not be accepted if fees are in arrears from the previous term.

NEWS!!!
We have a new email address for OSHC for any bookings, changes, queries or messages:
cofhp-oshc@lism.catholic.edu.au

CONTACT DETAILS:
Sarah (Coordinator OSHC)  
cofhp-oshc@lism.catholic.edu.au 0417 666 494

Linda (Administrator OSHC)  
lrick@lism.catholic.edu.au 6652 1204

YEAR TWO AND YEAR THREE FAMILIES

School Holiday Get-Together for Year 2 and Year 3 families at Jr Superstar Sports Gymnastics and Trampoline Park, Hogbin Drive.

Wednesday 23 April 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Group Booking Special Price: $10 per child for first hour and $8 for the second hour.

RSVP’s appreciated (but not essential), so that we can give Jr Superstar Sports an idea of numbers.

RSVP to Rebecca Guy 0404 908861 (Year 3 Level Parent)
Carol Cowling 0417 277814 (Year 2 Level Parent)
**The Sprint Run**

In PE we are now working on the ‘Sprint Run’ as our next Fundamental Movement Skill. A video has been put on the KnowledgeNet Noticeboard so you can take a look at home. As adults it is easy to make the assumption that ‘running’ is a natural skill, however there are many components that can be taught to improve the efficiency and speed of the sprinter.

**Skill components:**

1. Lands on ball of the foot.
2. Non-support knee bends at least 90 degrees during recovery phase.
3. **High knee lift (thigh almost parallel to the ground).**
4. **Head and trunk stable, eyes focused forward.**
5. Elbows bent at 90 degrees
6. **Arms drive forward and back in opposition to the legs.**

( Introductory components marked in bold)

There are many games to play that involve sprinting over various distances, but the keen sprinter might like to get the good old stop watch out and time themselves...or Mum, Dad, the dog. They might even critique your running style! Enjoy.

**Safe and Healthy Lunchboxes**

In most cases, food is stored in lunch boxes for several hours, so the lunch box needs to stay cool.

**Food safety suggestions include:**

Choose an insulated lunch box or one with a freezer pack, or include a wrapped frozen water bottle to keep the lunch box cool.

Follow hygienic food preparation methods. This is especially important when food will be stored in the lunch box for many hours before eating. Perishable foods such as dairy products, eggs and sliced meats should be kept cool and eaten within four hours of preparation. Don’t pack these foods if just cooked. First cool in the refrigerator overnight.

**Alex Shaw—Coordinator**
The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register
The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and is supported by Vision Australia and Guide Dogs. It is the first national register of children in Australia with vision impairment. The Register has been collecting data since 2009, and this data is providing important information about the types of eye disease and vision disorders children have and the support they need. The data is also used by service providers and researchers. Data is stored securely and no child can be identified in any way when the data is released.

Families are invited to register their child (aged 0-18 years) if they have vision impairment in both eyes which has been diagnosed by an eye specialist or ophthalmologist. Registration can be completed by contacting Register staff on (02) 9872 0303, or by visiting the VI Family Network website at: www.vifamilynetwork.org.au

The website also provides information on eyes and vision; family support; education and related issues; braille and low vision aids; technology supporting vision impairment; newsletters from Australian low vision agencies and support groups, useful websites; and news and events that might interest families across Australia.

Sue Silveira Research Fellow, Renwick Centre
Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
sue.silveira@ridbc.org.au
(02) 9872 0248

What's New In The Sustainable Garden
Have you noticed things changing and growing in our Sustainable Garden?

We would like to thank Bunnings Coffs Harbour for their wonderful donation of potting mix and punnets of seedlings for our Sustainable Garden. We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic business helping us to keep our sustainable garden growing.

A huge thank you from all the children and staff of St Augustine's Primary School.

Miss Lyons and Mrs Plummer
HEAD LICE
There has been an outbreak of head lice at school. Please check your child’s hair this weekend and treat if necessary.

Information can be found at www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice

LARC MATTERS

At St Augustine’s the main page for LARC information and tools is our Oliver OPAC page. To locate the link it is on the school home page and this link takes you straight there.

Most importantly, this page is used to locate information in our LARC. There is a search space at the top of the page to type in the author, title or topic that you are looking for. It then shows you resources that are available in the LARC.

Also on the LARC page there are usually messages, links to author web pages or book reviews, information about research tools such as search engines, maybe a voki, youtube, QR code, or many other various items. These things change so check back in from time to time to see what is going on in our LARC.

If you have a QR reader on your smart phone or iPad you can scan the QR code below to take you straight to the LARC OPAC page. Have a look and see the types of things that are on the page. You never know what you might find.

See you in the LARC,
Mrs Madden
DRAMA

Two weeks ago I was very lucky to attend a professional development course in Sydney! The NSW Drama Conference showcased many of their talented educators in workshops which catered to many areas of the elements of drama. I worked alongside some fantastic actors and teachers. The skills, technology, movement, literacy and text ideas were fantastic. Primary school drama is starting to develop and take off in many schools across our state. It was so good to spend time and share thoughts with others who do what I do!

From this conference I am hoping to work with our Year 6 cohort in making Stop Motion Movies using our school ipads. This will be a great challenge for our very creative and technologically minded Year 6 cohort. All of the Year 6 children will be involved in this process.

When we involve students in media we gain three important concepts:

♦ Students are passionate about their world and their place in it.
♦ They have a high technological understanding.
♦ We all learn best by doing. (Davey, 2005)

I am looking forward to commencing Drama Club soon and as preparations really begin for our school musical "The Wizard of Oz" things in the creative arts area of our very talented school will be very busy. Thanks to those who have already offered to help.

Julie McCabe, Drama Teacher

Parish Schools Board Coffs Harbour Sawtell

A reminder to those who have elected to pay school fees by lump sum or by three instalments - payments were due by 1/03/14

Please remember, if you are using our direct debit facility, these payments were automatically activated and deducted from your account on 1/03/14. Weekly, fortnightly and monthly direct debits will continue to be deducted on due dates.

For those not using our direct debit facility, please ensure that payments occur by due dates or call urgently to make an alternative payment arrangement on 6651 0000, as payment by due dates is a condition of continued enrolment.

Please feel welcome to call if you have any queries or need to discuss any issues concerning your school fees account. All enquiries are strictly confidential.

Thank you,
Cathy Sheridan (School Fees Manager)

Parish Office Coffs Harbour

Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5.00pm; Friday 8:30am-3:30pm (including school holidays)

Email: admin@parishschoolsboard.com.au
Website: www.parishschoolsboard.com.au
DANCE FEVER SPECTACULAR
FOR YEARS K-2 STUDENTS
The Years K-2 Dance Fever Spectacular will be held at 2:00 pm at school on Wednesday 2 April. All welcome to come along.

DANCE FEVER INTERSCHOOL CHALLENGE
FOR YEARS 3-6 STUDENTS
DATE Saturday 29 March 2014
TIME Doors open 5:00 pm for a 6:00 pm start, finish 9:00 pm
VENUE Sportz Central, 74 Bray St, Coffs Harbour.  66512501
COST $5.00 per person (including children competing)

For the Hip Hop dance, could children please bring a red shirt to wear over their clothing or a red hat.

HARMONY DAY
Today we celebrated Harmony Day which recognises the cultural diversity of our country, the traditional owners of this land and celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of Australian society.
KINDER BUDDIES 2014

On March 6 our Kinders had their first chance to meet and get to know their Year 6 Buddies. We encourage this relationship to help Kindergarten children settle quickly into school life and routines within the school.

SAVE THE DATE:
Kinder/Year 6 Buddies Liturgy at the Church
FRIDAY 28 MARCH at 10:20am