Dear Parents and Carers

**Time for Homework!** Thanks to all for replying to the Parent Homework Survey distributed last week. To date there have been over 250 very varied responses which is wonderful. If you haven’t had a chance to contribute, do so by Monday. It will take a bit of time to ‘crunch’ the data but when this is done, we will give feedback on the results and the overall sentiment. We will also use this data to inform us in developing a Homework Policy that is the right balance between developing academic achievement and a realistic view of modern home life.

**Basketball News.** After discussions with Principals from across the Diocese, the Catholic Schools’ Office and Coffs Harbour Basketball Association it has been decided that from the next season (beginning Term 3), the school will no longer be taking an organising role for weekend basketball. Whilst the school supports kids being active in a social team based sport, the increasing demand of time and staffing needed to sustain a weekend out-of-school activity has necessitated the decision. Mary Help of Christian’s Sawtell are also adopting this approach. Some transition arrangements will be formulated in the near future to ensure any child that wants to play will have an opportunity to do so.

**Super Sports.** Congratulations to our Swim Team who have excelled in Lismore at the Diocesan Championships. Nine students and the Junior Girls and Senior Boys Relay Teams made it through to the Polding round competing against the best athletes from Catholic schools in the Northern half of the state. Not only did the children compete well but I have also heard great reports of sportsmanship. Also congratulations to our Polding representatives in basketball, tennis and softball.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews.** This week the first round of Parent-Teacher interviews were held, five months earlier than last year. This change was designed to assist in good home-school communication and for teachers to gain a better understanding of each child. As lots of research shows, kids achieve and grow more when parents and teachers work together in partnership. The next round of interviews will be held in July, after half yearly reports but if you have any concerns before then, do not hesitate to make an appointment. Similarly if you missed this round, contact the teacher to make another time in the next few weeks. Thanks go to the teachers who have had a big week with up to 25 interviews on top of the normal load in the late summer heat.

**Temperament.** Next week Mary Help of Christian’s Primary School have a guest speaker to talk about “The Temperament God Gave Your Child” and an invitation has been extended to all of our parent community. Wednesday 9 March at 6:00 pm. Contact MHOC for details.

Grace and Peace
PARISH MASS TIMES
Coffs Harbour  Saturday  6:00 pm
       Sunday  8:00 am  6:00 pm
Woolgoolga  Sunday  9:00 am
Coramba 1st & 3rd Sunday  10:30 am
Glenreagh 2nd & 4th Sunday  10:30 am

CATECHETICAL NEWS
Hello. My name is Sharon de Dassel. I have recently joined St Augustine’s Primary School as Leader of School Evangelisation and as a Year 2 Teacher. While I am not new to the area, having lived in the Sawtell Parish for the last 18 years, I am certainly blessed to be joining the St Augustine’s community. I look forward to the wonderful experiences that working in a vibrant, faith-filled community has to offer and am excited to be contributing.
Sharon de Dassel—Leader of School Evangelisation

Incitare
Incitare is a one-day retreat experience on Tuesday 15 March for Year 6 students from parish primary schools based in regions of the diocese to celebrate their faith at a diocesan level. The retreat will be a chance to bring students together to meet like-minded peers and to celebrate with other young people who witness their faith. The activities will be a mixture of large and small sharing groups as well as celebrating a liturgy together. The program has been geared to meet the needs of these Year 6 students.

It is hoped that the representatives attending this day will be able to return to school and be able to share and enrich others.

2016 STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS
The Commissioning Mass for staff of St John Paul College, St Augustine’s School and St Francis Xavier School will be held on Sunday 6 March in St Augustine’s Church at 6:00 pm. All welcome.
Paddy Dent - Leader of Catechesis
Sharon de Dassel – Leader of School Evangelisation

P & F NEWS—MEETING
The next P & F Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March at 7:00 pm in the LARC. All welcome. Come along to hear about what’s happening in your child’s school.

2016 NORTH COAST HOTEL GROUP
ST AUGUSTINE’S P&F GOLF DAY
More than fifty teams played on the day and we were blessed with near perfect golfing weather greeting the ‘early birds’ who teed off at 7am. Unlike last year the good weather held throughout the day.

Come 5:30pm there was flurry of activity at the 19th as scores were tallied, raffles were drawn and prizes handed out along with the customary speech by Golf Day supremo, Pete Martin.

As day turned into early evening more than a few players raised a glass reflecting on a great day’s play.

A big thank you to Pete Martin and his Golf Committee for the huge effort in putting the event together and again we secured fantastic support from the Coffs Harbour Golf Club as well as our corporate and individual sponsors.

All the news, list of winners and list of corporate and individual sponsors in our next Newsletter!

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School Photos will be taken on Tuesday 15 March. Photographers have provided envelopes with relevant information for order and payment and these have been sent home. Please return your child’s school photo envelope to the class teacher. Family photos need to be ordered and purchased prior to photo day.

The class and individual photos will be timetabled around cohort rotations for Year 1 and Year 2. Please be aware that it’s very difficult to pinpoint an exact time for photos. Photographers start with Kindergarten and call for classes as they are ready.

Students should wear full school uniform on the day.

The Year 6 group photo will be taken at 2:00 pm on Monday 14 March in the hall. Year 6 students participating in the cross country trials on Monday should wear their sport uniform for the trials, then change into their full school uniform (which they will need to bring with them) for the photo at 2:00 pm.

Due to a number of Year 6 students now attending Incitare, the Year 6 class photos will also be taken after the Cross Country Trials on Monday 14 March. Any Yr 6 student involved in Incitare will also have their sibling photo on this day.
CANTINE ROSTER
07.03.2016
Mon  G Franklin, L Seccombe
Tues  J Armytage, R Morrison, C Williams
Wed  K White  HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!
Thur  M Eden, M Martinez, C Williams
Fri  P Crawford, P Duffy, H O’Rourke, K Van Ryswyk

14.03.2016
Mon  K Wilkinson, L Wood
Tues  G Bull, R Kennedy
Wed  T Sanders  HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!
Thur  M Felton, R Felton, C Thompson
Fri  J Arnold, J Arragon, L Budd, P Crawford,
     E Dow, A Stagg

CANTINE NEWS
Canteen helpers are always required. Help is needed for three hours from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon once every four weeks (especially Wednesdays!).

SUSHI WEDNESDAYS!!!!
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

SUSHI WEDNESDAYS
YUM! Sushi Wednesdays are off to a successful and very busy start! Many thanks go to our extra canteen volunteers who came in on Wednesday to wrap, pack and distribute our sushi orders to classes - we couldn’t have done it without you!

COMING EVENTS
MARCH
7  Catholic Schools Week
8  P & F Meeting in the LARC 7:00 pm
9  Dance Fever
11 Yrs 3-6 Swimming program
     Yrs 1 & 5 at Parish Mass 9:15 am
12/13 Mothers’ & Daughters’ Weekend
14  School Cross Country Trials
14  Year 6 group & class photos after
     Cross Country
15  SCHOOL PHOTOS
16  Dance Fever
18  Newsletter
     Diocesan Winter Sports Trials at Grafton
     Yrs 3-6 Swimming program
     Yrs 2, 3 & 4 at Parish Mass 9:15 am
21  ICAS Digital Tech & Science competitions closing date
23  Dance Fever
27  Easter Sunday
30  Dance Fever

APRIL
1  Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival
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
     Whole School Assembly
8  STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—
     NO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL
26  First day of Term Two for students
29  Casual clothes day for Mothers’ Day stall—
     gold coin donation please

SCHOOL CALENDAR
Access to our school Calendar is via ‘Moodle’ on our website page.
Click ‘Quick Links’, then click on ‘School
SPORT NEWS

St Augustine’s Cross Country trials
Cross Country trials will be held from 9:00—11:00 am on Monday 14 March at Brelsford Park (students will walk to the event with teachers and the first event starts at 9:30 am). Should your child qualify for the Zone event, they will receive permission notes the following day. Notes are to be returned to the school office as soon as possible. If you are able to come along and help, please arrive at Brelsford Park between 8:45am and 9:00am and report to a staff member.

Lismore Diocesan Representative Trials – Winter Sports
Twenty-two students will represent the Clarence Zone at the Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports trials in Grafton on Friday 18 March. Students will be trialling for football, hockey, netball, rugby league and rugby union. Parents are to make travel arrangements for children to get to the venue for the trials.

Good luck to:
Football - Dempsey Bennett-Stanton, Jacob Field, Marcus Field, Zavier Hardes, Lachlan Marle;
Netball - Lily Betland, Ella Clark, Amy Devitt, Ruby Kirkland, Ella Robinson, Diaz Voglsinger;
Rugby League - Zac Knott, Lachlan Mifsud, Reid Stephens;
Hockey - Jack O’Callaghan.

Lismore Diocesan Representative Trials – Australian Rules Football
Four students attended the Lismore Diocesan Australian Rules Football trials last Friday in Grafton. Congratulations to Tom Walsh and Riley Dagger who have been selected to represent the Lismore Diocese at the Polding trials in Newcastle on Tuesday 5 April.

Polding Representative Trials – Summer Sports
Congratulations to the following students who were successful at the recent Summer Sports trials: Trinity Kachel (basketball), Centaine O’Carroll (basketball), Gabrielle Kolic-Clarke (softball), Benjamin Langler (softball), Deanna Watkins (softball), Connor Hennessy (tennis).

St Augustine’s School Sport
Students in Year 3 - 6 commenced the swimming program today. The ‘Learn to Swim’ aspect of the program is split between two venues. Emerging swimmers will visit the Coffs Harbour Aquatic Centre, while the intermediate and advanced swimmers will attend the Coffs Harbour War Memorial Olympic Pool. Students will be focusing on the ‘water familiarisation’ aspect of the PDHPE syllabus.

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

Put it in your diaries
Monday 14 March – St Augustine’s Cross Country trials
Friday 18 March – Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports trials
Friday 1 April – St Augustine’s Swimming Carnival (Year 3-6)
Tuesday 5 April – Polding Aussie Rules Football trials
Wed 6 April – Clarence Zone Cross Country trials
Wed 6 to Thurs 7 April – NSWPSSA Swimming trials

Sport Enquiries
Mrs Erin Bennett (Sports Coordinator)
ebennett@lism.catholic.edu.au or 6652 1204
Ms Kristy McDermid (Sports Administrator)
kmcdermid@lism.catholic.edu.au or 6652 1204

Yours in sport,

Erin Bennett – Sports Coordinator
Kristy McDermid – Sports Administrator

St Augustine’s Swimming Squad at the Lismore Diocesan Representative Swimming Trials in Lismore last Wednesday.
SPORT NEWS
LISMORE DIOCESAN SWIMMING TRIALS
Congratulations to Riley Betland, Lucy George, Archie Budd, Cooper Marle, Lachlan Marle, Lily Betland, Nicholas Caldwell, Chloe Caldwell and Rory Beech who have made it through to the Polding Swimming Carnival in Sydney to be held on 31 March.
Congratulations also to the Junior Girls relay team of Lucy George, Alexis Felton, Chloe Caldwell and Clare Kelly; and the Senior Boys relay team of Nicholas Caldwell, Archie Budd, Rory Beech, Lachlan Marle who also won their events.

Fr A J Casey & Benefactors’ Bursary Trust
In 1995, Fr Anthony Casey, who had previously been a parish priest in St Augustine’s parish, Coffs Harbour, set up a Discretionary Trust Deed, known as the Fr A J Casey and Benefactors’ Bursary Trust, with a vision of helping families experiencing economic hardship with tuition fees at St John Paul College.

Each year, the bursary is awarded to a student (or students) from a deserving and practising Catholic family attending St Augustine’s and/or St Francis Xavier Primary School (St Augustine’s parish feeder schools to St John Paul College). A bursary recipient may also be eligible for ongoing assistance with school fees in subsequent years at St John Paul College.

Fr Casey hoped that St Augustine’s parishioners would generously donate to the Trust fund so that many needy students could be assisted in obtaining a Catholic education at St John Paul College.

The Trust account is held at the Diocesan Investment Office (DIF) and all donations are very gratefully accepted. The account details are as follows:
Account Name: Fr A J Casey & Benefactors Bursary Trust
Account Number: 4557

Deposits may be made at any DIF agency. Thank you.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Our school has moved to a new electronic attendance software which includes the ability to send and receive an SMS directly to the system. From Monday 22 February 2016 if your child is absent from school an SMS will be sent to one of the mobile phone numbers we currently have in our database. We will send the SMS at approximately 9:30 am each day. Usually we will only send one SMS per child.

You are able to respond directly to the SMS with a reason for your child’s absence and it will be recorded as sent. We request that this is done by 3:00 pm on that day.

If more than one family member is absent from school on a particular day you will receive more than one SMS however only one SMS response is required from parents, provided it adequately explains the absence of all children.

SMS messages are now considered legitimate forms of communication and as such a follow up phone call or note is not required. However, if you are unable to respond to the SMS then the school does require some form of communication such as a phone call or note to explain absences.

The text of the message will be as follows:

<name> is absent from school today. Please confirm, with reason for absence, by return SMS by 3:00 pm today. Thank you, St Augustine’s Primary School.

If you have recently changed your mobile phone or other contact details please inform the office staff immediately.
SKOOLBAG

Great news! St Augustine’s School has its own app. We have engaged the services of a company called Skoolbag to provide us with the technology to update information for families, link to our newsletter and calendar as well as providing e-forms to send in absentee notes. It also has the ability to send alerts for upcoming events or reminders e.g. for sports notes or in case of emergencies, such as cyclone activity. It is free at the App store or equivalent for Apple and Android devices, searching for ‘Skoolbag Coffys’ or there are more detailed instructions below. This won’t replace other forms of school communication e.g. emails or Facebook, but will be another way for us to ensure everyone is well informed.

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Android Users
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! Like
Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
LARC Matters – Week 6

I have been thrilled with the number of students using the LARC so far this term. It is an exciting place to be!

Each Monday I will announce the previous week’s Library borrowing winners. This is a most prestigious accolade and I encourage all classes to strive to win it. Year 6 borrowing has been impressive, however your stats are not included as your system is different this year.

Week 5 Library Borrowing Awards
Kindergarten - A tie! KR and KZ both on 91%
Year 1 - 1M 88%
Year 2 - 2W 96% Overall school winners!!!!
Year 3 - 3B 88%
Year 4 - 4P 93%
Year 5 - 5H 79%

Forgot your library bag? This sometimes happens…..Just pop in to the LARC the next morning and we will return your books and help you to borrow your new books.

Early Bird Reading
Congratulations to all the students from Year 1 to Year 3 who have been busily reading each morning. Early Bird reading runs each Tuesday- Friday mornings from 8:30am. There is always a teacher or older student waiting to listen to you read and you even get a sticker for all of your effort! Teachers and parents/carers please encourage this as it is a great opportunity for students to read, read, read.

Keep reading, Mrs Loader

BOARD GAMES
If you have any board games that you would be happy to donate to the LARC they would be kindly accepted. Many students enjoy playing these during the lunch break.

LYLE CAMPBELL PARENT LIBRARY
We welcome parents and carers to take a browse through the Lyle Campbell Parent Library at the back of the LARC resources. There are some quality resources here for parents to borrow. Come in and have a look!
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.

Thank You.

You are invited to an ecumenical evening of

**TAIZE**

Music, Candlelight, Scripture, Silence, Prayer

Tuesday 15 March at 7:30pm
St Augustine’s Catholic Church
Gordon Street

ALL WELCOME

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Do you love to **SING**?

Taize music consists of short, beautiful canons and chants sung in 2 or 3 part harmony. Join us for a rehearsal to prepare for the Taize evening.

Tuesday 8 March 7pm - 8:30pm
Curran Centre (on the southern side of the St Augustine’s Catholic Church car park)

For more details call: Maria: 0408 401 405
St Augustine's Enviro Warriors News

Today Mrs Catling along with Samson, Kieran and Emma from Year 6, delivered our recycled sculpture to Park Beach Plaza for public viewing with the help of Michael Plummer and his van.

We have been very busy creating this sculpture to share our message about keeping our Red, Yellow and Green bins happy. Our sculpture is about protecting our Coffs Coast and ensuring it remains beautiful and a place we love to live in. We can do this by reusing, recycling and reducing waste by using the Red, Yellow and Green bins correctly. Keeping our bins 'happy' through their correct use is the main message of our Enviro Warriors - this is reflected in our logo and is a natural theme for our sculpture.

You can view our sculpture in person over the next four weeks starting tomorrow at one of three spaces in the Plaza - in front of IGA, Big W or the main court near Boost. The winners of the competition will be announced early in April and public voting will determine the winner. The top three voted schools will win a share of $10,000.

Voting opens at 9:00 am on Wednesday 9 March and closes at midnight on Thursday 31 March 2016. Voting is via the Park Beach Plaza Advantage+ App.

Who is the girl in the hat?

Visit our sculpture at Park Beach Plaza to find out.

![Image of children with sculpture]

Student Reflections: Which part do you like the best?

The best part is the red, yellow and green bins - Ella Klinkers 4H
I like making the banana trees and making Ellie Enviro - Daniela 1C
The thing I like the most is the tin lady because she is cool - Mykenzie 3A
My favourite part was making the banana trees - Ager 2W
I really like the clouds - Max 1C