Dear Parents, Staff and Children

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Besides being our school Centenary year, our 2009-2013 School Strategic Plan is in its final year and our school will shortly commence a process of Review and Development. Such a process is designed to provide the Principal and staff with a structure to lead their school community in creating the culture and practice of continuous improvement, with students and their learning at the centre. The process will culminate in the development of the 2014-2019 five-year strategic management plan. The plan is a published document that will further encourage us to provide an excellent Catholic education for your children and it requires the assistance of the whole community.

This is a positive process and we are encouraging you to participate.

In the months ahead as we work through the Review and Development process you will be asked to contribute your thoughts, impressions, hopes and expectations on aspects of school life. We will use a variety of means to seek the response of staff, parents and students to the questions put forward for discussion. These will be in the form of an online survey (early Term Two) and parent workshops (mid Term Two).

The information gathered will be used to develop school goals. These goals are meant to provide direction for us as we work together to provide the best possible Catholic education for our students.

The goals will be clear and challenging but achievable and reflective of the community’s desires. Each year, subsequent to the Review and Development process, an Annual Plan will be published that selects the nominated goals from the five-year Plan for attention during the course of the year.

I invite every parent in this community to fully participate, for it is only with everyone’s cooperation and good will that this process will be successful.

In Catholic schools parents make the difference. Your participation will ensure this Review and Development process will be the success it deserves to be.

Peace and Best Wishes
Jake
PARISH MASS TIMES

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

CATECHETICAL NEWS

Cohort Visits
Father Shelwin has been visiting our learning spaces each week. This week he visited Kindergarten and Year 1. Father was asked all sorts of questions, as you can imagine, and he also got the opportunity to join in the learning. The children love when Father comes into the classroom and although they see him at Mass on Sundays, it is a fun way for children to get to know him even better.

Fasting or Feasting?
Within our Catholic tradition, the period of Lent (40 days before Easter) is acknowledged as an invitation to reflect and take some time to see what our life’s direction has been, and to evaluate that, in the light of our Christian vision - living life in the spirit of Jesus as outlined in the beatitudes (attitudes of being).

For many years there was a heavy emphasis on ‘fasting’ and ‘going without’, yet may it be possible that ‘fasting’ and ‘feasting’ could go hand in hand.

Perhaps we could:

- Fast from judging others – Feast on the recognition that everyone is made in the image and likeness of our God.
- Fast from words that ‘diminish others’ – Feast on the words that ‘build up’ and ‘strengthen’ one another
- Fast from negative anger – Feast on optimism
- Fast from hostility – Feast on non – resistance
- Fast from emphasising differences – Feast on the reality that we have our source of being in the one God.
- Fast from concern about self – Feast in compassion for others
- Fast from a life without God – Feast on prayer

Teaching Me To Pray
When I was a small child, I would tell my mother when I was troubled. She, wise woman, would answer, “Well, I cannot do anything about that. If you are hungry, I can give you something to eat. If you are sick, I can give you some medicine to make you better. But I can’t do anything about you and your friends having a fight. Go into your room and talk to God about it.”

It was not until years later I realised that my mother had been teaching me to pray!

Lord, often I don’t know that I am praying; I am distressed, or even happy, and I don’t realise that the cry has gone up from my heart. And when I do set out to pray, often I don’t know what I’m praying for! I say, ‘Please’, or ‘Help’, but I can’t put words on the yearning that is in me.

Jesus, remind me that prayer is not a shopping list of things I need, or a computer where I must put in the right formula to get the answer. Make me remember that prayer is wanting to be with you, and making the time for that to happen.

Paddy Dent – Leader of School Evangelisation
Mary Machatsch – Leader of Catechesis

P & F NEWS
QUALITY INN CITY CENTRE
CENTENARY P & F GOLF DAY

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

The Quality Inn City Centre P & F Centenary Golf Day is on Sunday 24 March at Coffs Harbour Golf Club. There are still some spots available for the morning tee-off, so get a team together! Forms are available from the office.

GOLF DAY RAFFLE
The P & F will once again raffle a bike and we thank Ventoux Cycles for their contribution to the prize. Families are asked to support the raffle in the days leading up to the Golf Day. The raffle will be drawn at the end of play on the day.

HELPERS
If you are able to help on the day for an hour or two please contact the office. Thank you to all the volunteers who have already offered to help on the day!

Scott Bohringer—P & F Committee Secretary

STORM CLEAN-UP THANK YOU
A big thank you to Ian Gill, Ben Mackay and Sam Mackay who did a great job removing the tree (with the assistance of Ross and Pat) from our Multi-Purpose Court.

END OF SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURE
If arrangements for after school pick-up change during the day please contact the office. Students are not allowed to travel home with any other parent unless the school has been notified. If for some unforeseen reason a child misses the bus or is not collected, the child is sent to the office where a call will be made to the parents.

LATE TO SCHOOL
Many children are arriving to school after the school bell. When this happens consistently, a good start to the school day is compromised. The children need to socialise with their friends and have some time in the playground before the 8:50 am bell. When children arrive late to class they have missed that important welcome and outline of the morning session. Some students may even walk in after the first lesson has started. This is difficult for the child and their teacher. Any student arriving after the school bell must be accompanied to the office by the parent or carer for a late note. The child is then marked as a part absence in accordance with the attendance policy.

Paddy Dent - Leader of School Evangelisation
Mary Machatsch – Leader of Catechesis
SPORT NEWS

KnowledgeNET
Check out the new 2013 Sports News page on KnowledgeNET. This page has current information and what’s happening this week. It also has Term 1 important dates. If you have information you would like on this page please contact Regan Kama at the school.

Rugby Training
Rugby training will be held on Thursday afternoons to prepare for Friday the night competition which will begin in the next couple of weeks. Training is from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm on the school field. Please watch KnowledgeNET in case of cancellations due to the weather.

Rugby 7’s
Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 boys who participated in the Rugby 7’s tournament yesterday. Their behaviour throughout the day was fantastic. Thank you to Mr David Morgan who coached the Year 6 group and to Mrs Joanne Hickey who coached the Year 5 boys. We appreciate your time, support and assistance on the day.

Cross Country
Any child turning 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 this year and who can comfortably run approximately 3km is welcome to nominate for the St Augustine’s Cross Country trials.

These trials will be held on Thursday 21 March at Brelsford Park and we will require parent helpers on the day.

Nomination forms were sent home yesterday.

Winter Sport Lismore Diocesan Trials
Congratulations to our Netball and Football (soccer) students who trialled for the Winter Sports Trials at St Francis Xavier School last week. We have a number of children now trialling for the Lismore Diocesan Teams on Friday 15 March. Good luck to:

Rugby League – Hayden Proctor, Caden Ward, Blair Boulton, James Munro and Thomas Anderson.
Netball – Tessa Conlan and Teagan Mayer
Girls Football (Soccer) – Olivia Joseph
Boys Football (Soccer) – Bailey Morgan and Ben Burridge
Rugby Union – Kieran Cunningham, Noah Ross, Levi Jones, Liam McCarthy, Ben Martin, Finn Lory, Coby Heffernan, Jack Canning and Declan Philip.
Hockey – Mette Klinkers.

Please get your notes and money to Mrs Kama as soon as possible.

Lismore Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Today the St Augustine’s Clarence Swimming Team competed in the Lismore Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Results will be in the next Newsletter.

AFL Paul Kelly Cup
If you are in Year 5 or 6 and are interested in playing in the AFL Paul Kelly Cup on Wednesday 20 March and have not received a note, please see Mrs Kama in the sports office.

AFL Diocesan Trials
Congratulations to the players from Year 5 and 6 who trialled for the Lismore AFL Diocesan Team in Woolgoolga yesterday. A special mention to the players who have made it to the next level. These names will be in the sports pages on KnowledgeNET early next week. Well done.

Indoor Cricket Competition
If you are interested in playing in an Indoor Cricket Competition out of school hours and you are in Year 5 or 6, please see Mrs Kama in the sports office for more information.

Dan Hammond—Sports Coordinator

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Invoices for Term 1 2013 Instrumental Music Program were posted out to families this week. As we had to chase up a number of families for outstanding fees last year, it would be greatly appreciated if all money due can be paid up by the due date (8 April). If you have any questions in relation to your account, please speak to Tess in the School Office. Thank you.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photo day is Tuesday 12 March. Please ensure your children are in full school uniform.

Envelopes are to be returned with money enclosed by Monday 11 March.

If you would like your school-aged children to have a sibling photo, they must let their teacher know on photo day. After photo day, families will be given a password to log on to the website to view the sibling photos and purchase online.

FUNDRAISER
One of our parents, Sharon Callander, and her son Riley Doherty, are participating in the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. If you would like to sponsor Sharon and Riley please visit the following site:

http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/CalRamDoh
CANTEEN ROSTER

MARCH
11.03.2013
Mon  E Joyce, R Mott
Tues  G Bull, R Kennedy, D La Rosa
Wed  S Hartsuyker, L Trotman
Thur  C Blackett, M Felton, Nikki Smith
Fri  D Budd, L Budd, J Roach, K Taylor

18.03.2013
Mon  J McConchie, S Small, M Switzer
Tues  H Murray, D Olutayo
Wed  S Grimmond, L Wood
Thur  M De Satge, N Ferrett
Fri  C Cowling, P Duffy, E Fitzgerald, H Gallatly, J Roach

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.

Barbra Symons & Alicia Betland—Canteen Managers

LARC MATTERS

Reading to your young child is vital. This activity develops many reading skills that support and encourage the reading development of your child. One thousand books before school is the recommended amount. This equates to four books per week from birth. One story most days is really not a huge task and helps bring your child well over the minimum amount recommended for a positive start to their reading experiences. Please don’t stop when they begin Kindergarten.

This very topic was discussed in the Sunday Telegraph last weekend—"If you don’t read to your kids, you are a bad parent". Despite the harsh beginning, the message was loud and clear—reading with your child is important no matter how trivial the story, or the circumstance, seems to you. The point is that the child is learning, becoming engaged in reading and enjoying the activity. A lot of the tips fly in the face of what is deemed to be great literature, but... does it matter as long as it gets your child hooked onto reading? To read the article in its entirety, and to get some great tips about what kids love to read, go to http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/if-you-dont-read-to-your-kids- youre-a-bad-parent/story-e6fwvyr-1226589010964

‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’, ‘Walter the Farting Dog’ and ‘Captain Underpants’ are usually not our favourites, but the kids love them, and that’s all we need to know.

See you in the LARC
Annie Madden—Teacher Librarian

COMING EVENTS

MARCH
9-10  Family Faith Weekend at Stuarts Point
11 -15 Catholic Schools Week
12  School Photos
   Yrs 3/4 Sausage Sizzle
   Yr K Parent Reading Information Night
   7:00 pm
13  Dance Fever
14  Rugby Training 3:00—4:00 pm
   Rosary Makers visit Yr 3
15  Yrs 3-6 Swimming Program
   Diocesan Winter Sports Trials—Grafton
17  Year 1 Creek Side Family Picnic Day
   3:00 pm at Park Beach Reserve
20  Dance Fever
21  School Cross Country Selection Carnival
   Rugby Training 3:00—4:00 pm
22  Yrs 3-6 Swimming Program
   School Earth Hour
24  City Centre Quality Inn P & F Centenary
   Golf Day
   Palm Sunday
26  Yrs 5/6 Sausage Sizzle
27  Dance Fever
28  Holy Week Liturgy 12:00—1:30 pm
   Rugby Training 3:00—4:00 pm
29  Good Friday
31  Easter Sunday

APRIL

1  Easter Monday
2  Resurrection Liturgy Yrs K-6, 9:15—10:15
   P & F Meeting with KNET workshop 7:00 pm in the Library
3  Dance Fever
4  Rugby Training 3:00—4:00 pm
5  Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival
6  DanceFever Interschool Challenge

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.

Let us create that beautiful smile you’ve always wanted!

Coffs Harbour Orthodontics
PHONE: 02 6651 2977
198 Pacific Hwy, North Coffs Harbour, 2450

www.coffsharbourortho.com.au

NO REFERRAL REQUIRED
The most established orthodontic practice on the Coffs Coast
Latest technology including invisible braces & invisalign®
Lingual Braces (braces on the inside surface of teeth)
Interest free payment plans that are customised for you.
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Assessment and Rating Visit - We have been advised by Education & Communities Office of Education our Assessment and Rating Visit for our Service will be Thursday 18 April, 2013. As you can see, this is in the next Vacation Care period. Therefore, it is imperative we have all children pre-booked for this day. **THERE WILL BE NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED (or late bookings after 5:30 pm on Wednesday 17 April).** We apologise for this, but staff:child ratios must be strictly adhered to on this day.

Medication/First Aid – We still do not have updated information regarding medication/first aid information for children who attend After School Care. Therefore, we will assume the details held on file are no longer current and will amend our records accordingly. If any issues arises, we will contact you regarding a course of action to follow. If you are unsure whether the Service has current information, please call me and I can go through the information we currently have on file.

Birth Certificate/Immunisation Certificate – Also following the last Newsletter and a letter forwarded to families we still require copies of the Immunisation and/or Birth Certificate to be held on file by the school and After School Care. Can you please ensure these documents are forwarded to school without delay in order for us to comply with current legal regulations. Thank you.

Invoice - Current invoices were sent home again this week. Please keep payments up to date to help us provide a quality service for your children. Thank you.

We are in need of laptops/iPads at OSHC in order for the children to do homework. If you are thinking of buying a new one, please keep OSHC in mind when discarding of the old one…we would love to have it! Or if you want to donate a new one….we will be happy to let everyone know you did!

**VOLUNTEERS** - St Augustine’s OSHC would love some volunteers during homework time. So if you are a parent, grandparent, aunty, uncle, friend…..just contact Brigitte. A Working With Children Check will need to be conducted prior to commencement.

Please feel free to contact me with any OSHC queries and if I can’t help you, I can put you on the right track.

Please contact Brigitte (0417 666 494 or bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au) to enrol your child into St Augustine’s OSHC so enrolment orientation can be organised. Thank you

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup at St Augustine’s is very popular and a time many parents look forward to each week. The coffee is fresh, the tea is hot and the milk frothed. St Augustine’s playgroup is not only for parents/carers and their children from the St Augustine’s community, it is open to all parents/carers and their under school aged child(ren).

Cost is $3.00 per family each week and we ask you to bring a small plate to share (either fruit, home-baked goodies, etc). A booking isn’t needed, but please write your contact details down upon arrival when paying the fee. Playgroup is located in the OSHC room (Albany Street entrance) of the school.

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**STUDENT AND FAMILY**

**INFORMATION UPDATE FOR 2013**

Student and family information we have on our records has been sent home for updating. Please make any changes on the pages (in red or blue ink) and return to the office by Monday 11 March (even if there are no changes). It is essential that all our information is up to date.
Activity Ideas for home
Who has cabin fever? Fingers crossed this wet weather will break for a couple of days so we can get outside and enjoy the outdoors, but, knowing the Coffs Harbour weather recently here are some indoor activity ideas for you at home:

Save up those TP rolls and wad up your socks.
Arrange TP rolls like bowling pins on one end of the hall. Stock up a few balled-up socks on the other. Bowl or throw at the “pins,” and you’ve got an indoor bowling alley.

Tangled Up
Tangled up works best in groups of six to eight, so if you have a large group, split them up into several smaller groups. Stand each group in a circle and instruct them to reach both hands into the middle of the circle, grabbing the hands of any two players. The result is a mess of tangled hands. Without breaking grips with any other player, instruct the team to now untangle themselves completely. This may require them to twist, turn, and step under or over other teammate’s arms. If you have several groups playing at once, see which group can untangle the fastest.

School Lunch Box Ideas

Lunch box idea # 3 – Get dipping
Anna Gare is a big fan of putting natural corn chips into a lunchbox alongside half an avocado “because then the kids can just dip it in!”. And if their palate allows, “you can even put a little bit of sauce in the middle of the avo – like something Mexican,” she enthuses. Corn thins, Cruskits or other crackers that are unflavoured and low in salt are great with avocado, too. And if your kids aren’t avocado fans, try including a small pot of hummus, or another kind of dip, to spice up their lunch box.

Watch this space for more great lunch box ideas.

Candice Butcher
Coordinator

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 are due by 1/03/13 *

Please remember that, if you are using our direct debit facility, these payments will be automatically activated and deducted from your account on 1/03/13. 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 | Email: admin@parishschoolsboard.com.au |
| (including school holidays) | Website: www.parishschoolsboard.com.au |
Share your Story: St Augustine’s Storyboard

Oral history seeks to record and preserve in-depth personal accounts, reflections and experiences. Central to our Centenary are the stories and reflections of those who have shared in those 100 years of our history.

The St Augustine’s Storyboard is an initiative seeking to hear from families and friends, past and present to celebrate our centenary in a unique manner. It is an opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our life as part of this school community. This oral history project calls for your stories to be recorded in a way that the community will be able to listen to, laugh with, feel the emotion from and bring back memories.

Here’s how you can be part of it:

♦ Choose to record a story with anyone you know. Gather your friends and/or family together
♦ Call the school on 6652 1204 to make an appointment with Leonie Hewitt. She will video and prompt you with some questions such as:
  ♦ What are you most proud of as a present/past student of St Augustine’s?
  ♦ What are those moments that stand out in your school life?
  One moment I have loved hearing about from past students is the day the “White House” was rolled across the road and settled on our school site. It was rolled across the road on logs!!!! Quite incredible!
  ♦ How did our school help you be the person you are today?

The footage will be edited and placed on our website to share with our school community. Please join in, gather your friends, relive moments that made you laugh and cry.

The tradition of storytelling is deeply moving and engaging. Together we can help keep the past alive in the hearts of our children.
It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absenteeists.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.