Dear Parents, Staff and Children

After the marathon task of counting the vote in South Sudan’s election for Independence last year, it became quite clear that the mainly Christian people of the South had overwhelmingly voted in favour of secession from the mainly Arab, Muslim North. At a Church service the Southern Sudan President, Salva Kiir, made this remarkable statement: “For our deceased brothers and sisters, particularly those who have fallen during the time of the struggle, may God bless them with eternal peace and, like Jesus Christ on the Cross, forgive those who have forcibly caused their death.” Agence France Presse.

This remarkable statement had a sentiment similar to the Commissioner for Truth and Reconciliation chaired by Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa and the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation set up by Xanana Gusmao in East Timor. Both the Commissions were directed towards forgiveness, peace and restoring victim’s dignity rather than punishment and revenge on the perpetrators.

As we move through Holy Week this year, we are exposed to the radical nature of God’s forgiveness in the manner in which Jesus accepts his crucifixion and death. Jesus is a victim, of great injustice but instead of nursing feelings of hurt, anger, disgust and contempt, he exhibits a strong sense of compassion towards those responsible for his execution when he says, “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing”.

Jesus’ lack of self-pity is further illustrated as he slowly approached his death, crucified between two criminals and mocked by the religious officials and others who passed by. When one of the criminals makes fun of him saying, “Are you the Messiah? Then, save yourself and us!” Jesus has no angry response. Instead, when the second criminal asks, “Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom,” Jesus does not ask him what he has done or how repentant he is, but with compassion responds, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.”

The events of Holy Week remind us of our calling to be active Christians in the way we lead our own lives. If we are harbouring hurt within us, Jesus’ actions can encourage us towards forgiveness and away from grudges and bitterness. We have all experienced hurt through the actions or words of another and this hurt we might have carried for many years and deprived ourselves of the opportunity to embrace peace, hope, gratitude and joy by being unforgiving.

Forgiveness is a decision to let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge. In place of anger, confusion, maybe anxiety or even depression through being swallowed up by our own bitterness or sense of injustice, we can move away from our role as victim and relieve the power, that the offending person or situation has on our life. As we let go of hurt and resentment and don’t allow them to define our life, we open ourselves to find compassion and understanding. Slowly, we embrace forgiveness and begin once more to live a truly Christian life.

Jesus’ example to us on Good Friday, clearly defined for us the extent of God’s forgiveness and the encouragement for us to do likewise in our own limited human way. But Jesus’ example has an after effect as well, for on Easter Sunday he rose gloriously to a new life. No doubt this was the ambition of the three Nations that embraced forgiveness and reconciliation, instead of punishment and revenge.

How about us this Holy Week? Is there “unforgiveness” we still have to deal with, that overshadows our lives?

We wish all our families a safe and happy Easter break.

Peace and Best Wishes
Jake

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

23 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—no children at school
24 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—no children at school
25 ANZAC DAY—meet 8:45 am in Park Ave
26 FIRST DAY OF TERM ONE FOR STUDENTS
30 Catholic Schools Week
Spellathon sheets go home

MAY

1 P & F Meeting in the LARC at 7:00 pm
2 Musica Viva 2013 Kindergarten enrolment information evening 7:00 pm in the Hall
4 Mufti Day for Mothers’ Day Stall
7 Kindergarten enrolment period commences
8 Yr 4 Breakfast 7:30—8:15 am
Yrs K-2 Chicken Burger lunch
9 A Grade Inter-School Chess Comp at St Aug
10 B & C Grade Inter-School Chess Comp at Coffs Hbr Primary School
11 Mothers’ Day Stall
Diocesan Cross Country at Murwillumbah
15-17 NAPLAN
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGY TIMES

Holy Thursday 7:00 pm Woolgoolga & Coffs Harbour
Good Friday 3:00 pm Woolgoolga & Coffs Harbour
Holy Saturday 7:30 pm Coffs Harbour (Easter Vigil only, no morning Mass)
Easter Sunday 7:00 am Coffs Harbour
9:00 am Coffs Harbour
9:00 am Woolgoolga
10:30 am Glenreagh
(no Sunday evening Mass)

RE AND MINISTRY NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION
Thank you to all families who participated in Project Compassion this year. Monies collected will be brought forward with the gifts tonight at the Holy Thursday Mass. Unreturned boxes can be handed in to the Parish Office.

HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY
The Staff and students experienced a unique celebration this morning as we looked at the last few days in Jesus’ life. The children gathered in three groups and participated in an age appropriate Holy Thursday Liturgy, then came together to the beat of the Drum Band and assembled at Miss Burley’s Garden where Father Peter took the role of Jesus. The school then processed to the Church where we remembered Jesus’ death and Resurrection. We thank Year 6, the Drum group and especially our wonderful singers who brought this beautiful Faith time to life.

Paddy Dent - Coordinator: Ministry
Michelle Scott - Coordinator: Religious Education Curriculum

P & F NEWS

MOTHERS’ DAY RAFFLE
The Mothers’ Day raffle tickets will be sent home early next Term. The prize is a Shiseido gift basket valued at $200. Thank you to the City Centre Pharmacy for their contribution to this lovely prize.

QUALITY INN CITY CENTRE

P & F GOLF DAY
Thank you once again to our major sponsor, Quality Inn City Centre and all other sponsors following another very successful St Augustine’s P&F Golf Day. A figure of approximately $13,921.95 was raised for the school. Please mark the date for next year - 26 March 2013.

Scott Bohringer—P & F Committee Secretary

CALENDAR INFORMATION
PLEASE REFER REGULARLY TO OUR CALENDAR ON KnowledgeNET FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Men and Boys Camp
27 and 28 October 2012
It’s seven months away but “peg” it in your diary and book yourselves in for this year’s Men and Boys’ Camp to be held at Darlington Park Beach Resort. The park is excellent for all weather with two swimming pools, two waterslides, golf course, tennis course, jumping pillows, indoor games room and organised activities, BMX track and convenience store. The park is only about half an hour north of Coffs Harbour and check out www.darlingtonbeach.com.au if you would like to know more. There are cabins, powered sites and unpowered sites and it’s important that you book direct on (02) 6640 7444 mentioning reservation number #122369. Book now and I look forward to seeing you all in October!

Jeremy Hill (Men and Boys Camp Coordinator) mobile 041 375 3255

AFTERNOON PICK-UP AREAS
The children are walked to one of four areas each afternoon: Gordon Street, Albany Street, After School Care and bus lines. Please assist staff by waiting for your child at the designated area.

LOST PROPERTY
Staff are amazed at the number of items that end up in the lost property boxes each week. Most items are not labelled. PLEASE, over the holidays, ensure all personal items have your child’s name on them.

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.
SPORT NEWS

CLARENCE ZONE CROSS COUNTRY
Congratulations to students who competed in the Clarence Zone Cross Country held at Dorrigo last week. It was a very challenging course and it was great to see many runners finish in the top 6 places. We wish these runners the best of luck at the Diocesan Carnival on Friday 11 May at Murwillumbah.

Zac Hart, Nathan Zawadzki, Tianna Mayer, Maddison Mayer, Joel Guy, Regan Dougherty, Jack Canning, Sophie Scott, Benjamin Burridge, Thomas Burridge, Tess Bohringer, Peter Dougherty, Claudia Stocks and Joshua Guy.

DANCE FEVER
Well done to all the students who represented St Augustine’s at last weekends Dance Off. It was a great display of St Augustine’s dancing talent.

RUGBY 2012
The Essential Energy Rugby 7’s was held at Tyalla Primary last Monday. St Augustine’s entered 3 teams. The Year 6 team won on the day and will take part in the MNC Primary School Rugby 7s FINAL on Wednesday 2 May at Verge St Oval, Kempsey.

The Year 5 team were runners up in the Bowl Final. It was also a great chance for the Year 3/4 team to get a taste of competition.

Information can be found about the upcoming Friday Night Competition at http://www.coffsjuniors.rugbynet.com.au/

Dan Hammond—Sports Coordinator

SPORTS AEROBICS
NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Claudia Baff competed at the NSW State Championships for Sports Aerobics at Broadmeadow last Saturday. Her division was Mini Novice Singles Female. She competed against seven other girls and came away with Gold. She now will go to Adelaide to compete in the National Sports Aerobics Championships in July 2012. Claudia has only been training in Sports Aerobics for 1 1/2 years and has competed twice to date.
Good luck in Adelaide Claudia!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Reminder invoices have been sent home this week. Please pay by Netbank during the holidays, using your music account number as a reference, to ensure continued lessons next Term.

Rachael Kama—Instrumental Music Coordinator

LARC MATTERS
This week saw the very exciting announcement of the winners of the Principal’s Reading Quest. Fifteen children completed the quest. This needed endurance, tenacity and perseverance. Six children had their names drawn out of the barrel to share afternoon tea with Mr Madden in his new office. The six winners were Noah Hessenberger, Mariah Anderson, Alexandra Harrison, Ailish Barry, Charlie Catling and Hayley Smith. The other finishers were Lauren Hutchinson, Jaimee O’Connell, Dominic Vorreiter, Belinda Miller, Emily Busby, Emily Field, Abbi Dagger, Madison Howarth and Anastasia Murray.

Congratulations to all of these children for completing the Quest. Mission accomplished!

See you in the LARC - Mrs Madden—Teacher Librarian

YEAR 6 STUDENTS’ CAKE STALLS
Year 6 children will be holding cake stalls on 10 May, 21 June and 26 July and cakes/slices will be on sale for all students. A note will be sent home to Year 6 families.

YEAR 6 STUDENTS’ PHOTOS
In preparation for the Year 6 Graduation, could all Year 6 students’ parents please email about six to eight photos of their child between Kindergarten and present day to Gina Stocks at gstocks@lism.catholic.edu.au for the Powerpoint presentation.
**Canteen Roster**

**April 23.04.2012**

**Mon** | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY  
**Tues** | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY  
**Wed** | ANZAC DAY  
**Thur** | N Anning, M Dowden, J Golding  
**Fri** | H Brindle, B Dougherty, J Mannall, L Zawadzki

**30.04.2012**

**Mon** | N Al-Athami, R Mott  
**Tues** | K Apps, R Kennedy  
**Wed** | K Close, S Hartsuyker, R Werstak  
**Thur** | M De Satge, N Ferrett, M Waugh  
**Fri** | L Budd, D Budd, J Mannall

**Canteen News**

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

*Barbra Symons and Magda Brouwer—Canteen Managers*

**Outside School Hours Care**

**Vacation Care**

What a great term we have had with the children! Thank you to all our students who attend After School Care, your behaviour and cooperation while at After School Care is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again when we resume on Thursday 26 April.

Parents requiring care for the Staff Development Days on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March should contact OSHC on 0417 666494.

Children and Parents will have also noticed a number of new staff at After School Care. Please make yourself known to staff when you collect your child and make Samantha, Patricia, Shareece, Chantelle and Theressa welcome.

We would like to say a big thank you to Libby and Brad Beech for donating a lovely couch for the children to use and enjoy each afternoon. Also a thank to Tracey and Simon Catling for the donation of a fridge, also for our room. Both these donations are very much appreciated and will make our time at After School Care and Vacation Care even more enjoyable.

As mentioned previously, it is extremely important fees are kept up to date to ensure your placement at After School Care / Vacation Care. If you need to discuss any matter regarding your account, please call the School office and speak to Tess.

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**KnowledgeNET Tip of the Week**

**Bookmarks**

Our KNet has its own bookmarks. They are a great way to look for information online. You can find links to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, thesauruses and newspapers, even our own Coffs Coast Advocate. Bookmarks help to keep internet research focused and effective.

**Vacation Care** is held from Tuesday 10 April to Tuesday 24 April, 2012. Please ensure **Booking Sheets** are completed and handed to staff prior to your child attending care. Your Booking Sheet can also be faxed to 02 66513 230 to ensure adequate staff is on hand. **If your child has not attended Vacation Care before, an ENROLMENT FORM MUST be completed before attending. Thank you.**

**Playgroup**

We have had a great term at Playgroup and we look forward to seeing all families there again next term when we start again on Wednesday 2 May. Families from outside the St Augustine’s School community are most welcome to also come along. The cost is $3.00 per family. We would love to see you there.

*Brigitte Klinkers—OSHC & Playgroup Coordinator*  
bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au  
0417 666494

**Year 2 Parents, Carers, children and siblings invited to Brelsford Park in holidays**

**When:** Tuesday 10 April  
**Wednesday 18 April**

**Where:** Brelsford Park  
Harbour Dr

**Time:** 9am onwards

Bring skateboards, scooters, bikes to ride around the old bike track. Enjoy a day outdoors with friends during the school holidays. RSVP not required, just turn up.

**Year 2 Information**

Anyone wishing to receive regular emails from the Year 2 Level Parent, Regan Kama, regarding upcoming events please contact Regan on jrkama3@optusnet.com.au to be placed on the distribution list.