Dear Parents, Staff and Children

Last Newsletter I raised the issue on measuring learning and I have enjoyed subsequent conversations with parents on assessing learning and meeting the specific needs of the students in our school. Having the opportunity to walk through our cohorts and see parents volunteering to work with our students, observing the staff engaging in many diverse learning activities leaves me with a strong sense of pride in the learning environment we are offering our community. (You might like to check out my latest blog post on differentiation – see address at top of the Newsletter)

We want our students to be strong independent learners who are able to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and have strong interpersonal skills. To be confident learners, show initiative and to be literate and numerate we need to ask our students to take responsibility for their learning.

In my conversations with parents I often ask, “Do you do too much for your child?”

One of our main tasks as parents is to work ourselves into a position of redundancy - that is, to make our children increasingly less dependent on us.

We move our children toward independence in two ways. First, we need to provide children with the opportunity to do things for themselves. That means as parents we need to stand back a little when they have a problem to solve or a need to fulfil. A famous piece of parenting advice is, "Never regularly do for a child the things a child can do for him or herself." This is a powerful statement. When children are capable of getting themselves up or making a snack, then we should allow and even expect them to do so.

Second, we need to help children and young people develop the skills of independence by teaching and modelling. Whether it is teaching a child to make a bed or a young person to cook a meal the best teaching method is to do it together. The teaching task is often neglected when parents get busy or as we have more children.

Don't wait until children are 'old enough' to develop the skills of independence. Toddlers (and teens) are developmentally ready to do things for themselves. Sometimes we adults are not ready to give up some of our parental tasks. The time for developing independence is NOW!

CENTENARY NEWS

As you are aware next year is our school’s “Centenary Year” when we will celebrate 100 years of St Augustine’s Catholic Education. As part of our year of celebrations the official Centenary Ball has been scheduled for Saturday 14 September 2013. Please place this date in your diaries and pass the word around. We’d love to have as many past and present members of the St Augustine’s community join us.

Keep your eye on the Centenary section of our school website for more details as they come to hand.

Peace & Best Wishes
Jake

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER
11 Year 1 Learning Journey 9:15—10:45 am
   Years 5/6 Sausage Sizzle
   School Musical final dress rehearsal
12 Maths Olympiad
   School Musical— ‘The Nowhere Boy’
13 School Musical— ‘The Nowhere Boy’
14 Year 4 Grade Mass in Church 9:15 am
19 Diocesan Gala Day at Grafton
20 Years K-2 Sports Carnival
   Author Deb Abela to visit Years 3-6
   Year 3 Liturgy & Learning Journey in classroom 12 noon—1:00 pm
21 Newsletter Day
   FINAL DAY OF TERM THREE

OCTOBER
8 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—no children at school
9 FIRST DAY OF TERM FOUR
18 Year K Creation Liturgy in classrooms
20/21 Mothers’ and Daughters’ Weekend
23 Year 1 Breakfast 7:30—8:15 am
   Years 3/4 Chicken Burger Lunch
25 Year 1 Pet Liturgy at School 10:20 am
26 Book Fair
   Year 3 at Parish Mass in Church 9:15 am
RE AND MINISTRY NEWS

YEAR 4 GRADE MASS
Parents and carers are invited to share Mass with the community and Year 4 on Friday 14 September at 9:15 am in the Church. Morning tea will be available after Mass.

FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST COMMUNION 2012
To be eligible to receive these sacraments children must be confirmed in 2011 or earlier, be under the age of 15 and be attending Mass every Sunday with their parents.

† 17/9/12 Parent Info & Enrolment Meeting—Curran Centre at 7:00 pm.
† 8/10/12 Program commences—various locations and times x 9 weeks.
Enrolment forms are now available from the Parish Office. You must bring your child’s Confirmation Certificate to obtain an enrolment form. The enrolment form then needs to be brought to the parent meeting at the Curran Centre. No proxies.
For further information, please call Rebecca on 66510000.

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

MUSICAL—‘The Nowhere Boy’
Staff and students have been adding the final touches to the musical ‘Nowhere Boy’ this week. There are still tickets available for the Thursday matinee and the Wednesday and Thursday evening performances.

Donations needed!!!
We require donations of the following:
* Hairspray
* Foundation, red lipstick, mascara, eye shadow - all colours.
Please send in to the office on Monday 10 September.

Helpers needed!!!
We also need helpers to do makeup and hair for the performances on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Please phone the office on 66521204 if you can help.

P & F NEWS
WALKATHON
Thank you to everyone who has already sent their money in. So far almost $4000 has been raised. We would like to finalise sponsorship money by the end of Term. Please forward any outstanding monies as soon as possible.

FATHERS’ DAY RAFFLE
First prize—Michael Nealand, Bunnings Voucher
Second prize—Jenna Haley, Family pass to Pet Porpoise Pool.
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets!

Scott Bohringer—P & F Committee Secretary

EARLY TO SCHOOL ARRIVALS
Student supervision starts at 8:15 am. Increasingly, students are being dropped off to school early—as early as 7:50 am. We ask that students are not dropped to school before 8:15 am when a teacher is available to watch the children. Thank you.

PICKING YOUR CHILD UP AFTER SCHOOL?
The path outside the office (near the red wall) and along Gordon Street is not an area for meeting children after school. Please assist staff by meeting your child/grandchild from the grassed area near the crossing called the ‘Gordon Street pick-up area’ or the drive-through area in Albany Street called ‘The Gardens area’.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS
Each week a large number of childrens’ personal items are left around the playground and classroom areas. We are finding that many children are not taking responsibility for their belongings. The lost property boxes are overflowing and all items will sadly have to be discarded at the end of the term.

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

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.

Suite 3, 14 Edgar Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Telephone. 02 6652 2999 Fax. 02 6652 4694
Email. mail@chpa.com.au Website. www.chpa.com.au
SPORT NEWS
LISMORE DIOCESAN ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Good luck to the following students who are representing the Lismore Diocese in Newcastle today– Joel Guy, Joshua Guy, Sophie Scott and Nathan Zawadzki.

PAUL WILSON CUP SOCCER
St Augustine’s takes on St James Yamba in the Zone Finals of the Paul Wilson Cup at Maclean today. The winner of the match competes in the Diocesan Finals Day in the Week 10.

RUGBY UNIFORMS
Please return Rugby Uniforms to the school office.

YEARS K-2 SPORTS CARNIVAL
Our Years K-2 Sports Carnival will be held on Thursday 20 September from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. The K-2 students may wear their sport house colour shirt on the day. All welcome to come along and support the athletes! The P & F will be running a bbq on the day.

Dan Hammond—Sports Coordinator

NSW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NETBALL CARNIVAL
Last week the School Netball team travelled to Penrith to compete in the NSW Catholic Netball Championships. The girls played outstanding netball and finished third in their division. They have had a terrific year, also finishing runner-up at the Grafton All-Age Carnival. Their next Carnival is the Diocesan Netball Finals in two weeks time. I am very proud of their achievement this year. Well done to Emily Conlan, Lara Brindle, Ella Walsh, Ruby Batey, Teagan Mayer, Claudia Charles, Chloe Bulloch, Ashlea McLauchlan and Kaitlan Leaney.

Michelle Charles—Netball Coach

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Fees were due to be paid by today. If your account is outstanding, please ensure payment is made without delay to ensure the continuation of your child’s lessons in Term four. Please contact Tess in the School Office if you have and concerns or questions. Thank you.

LARC MATTERS
Highly acclaimed award-winning author Deborah Abela is visiting our school on Thursday 20 September. Her most well-known series is “Max Remy Superspy”, and we also have her other series, “Jasper Zammit (Soccer Legend)” and one-off titles, “The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen” and “Grimsdon”.

Go to http://www.deborahabela.com/site/Welcome.html for information about Deborah, her books and new series, “Ghost Club”, which we will have in the LARC soon.

Year 3 to 6 classes will receive more information soon. She should be particularly inspiring to our future writers.

See you in the LARC - Mrs Madden—Teacher Librarian

2012 ICAS SPELLING COMP RESULTS
This year, 46 students participated in the Spelling Competition. Three Distinction, 13 Credit and 30 Participation Certificates were awarded. Congratulations and thank you to all the students who participated.

Distinction: Lauren Hutchinson (Year 5); Kyah Humphries, Lensa Lo Tam (Year 3).
Credit: Darcy Ryan, Lauren Taylor (Year 6); Dheeraj Adusumalli, Ciara Barry, Brigitte Boyse, (Year 5); Liam Berg, Zachary Clarke, Aniket Mishra, Jaida Smith (Year 4); Alyssa Fitzgerald, Alyssa Golding, Grace Hartsuyker, Sefo Lo Tam (Year 3).

Stephanie George—Coordinator Pedagogy

INTERSCHOOL CHESS FINALS
Our school can be very proud of the A Grade Championship Chess Team who travelled to Macksville on Thursday 6 September to play against Westport Primary School. In eight closely fought matches (two each), the boys showed impressive sportsmanship and team spirit. They were defeated by only one point overall. One of the matches took well over an hour to complete. This great improvement on last year is due to their hard work and hours of practice leading up to the event. Special thanks to Mr George Gelagin for his coaching expertise and to Mrs Golding and Mrs Symons for transporting and supervising the boys.

Thank you to the team, Lachlan Golding, Adam Bain, Brock Symons and Noah Dalton, for being such wonderful ambassadors for St Augustine’s. Keep enjoying your Chess!

Stephanie George—Chess Coordinator

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES
Many of our younger children have far too much food packed in their lunchbox. They feel they have to eat it all which then leaves little time to play. When children are eating a healthy sandwich/wrap for lunch, fruit for fruit break and a healthy snack for recess this is more than enough. We also encourage the children to drink plenty of water. Cordial is not a healthy option. Please carefully consider the food that goes into lunch boxes. Healthy eating practices certainly impact on childrens’ behaviour.

New Yaris Hatch
Clever Car. Big Life.
Now at Coffs Harbour Toyota
CANTEEN ROSTER

SEPTEMBER

10.09.2012

Mon  K-A McCormack, M Switzer

Tues  N Al-Athami, H Murray, D Olatayo

Wed  S Grimmond, L Wood  HELP!!!

Thur  N Anning, A Betland, M Felton

Fri  C Cowling, P Duffy, E Fitzgerald, D La Rosa, J Roach, B Symons

17.09.2012

Mon  J Sharp  HELP!!!

Tues  N Al-Athami, C Bailey, D Craig, D La Rosa

Wed  M Bulloch, J Jenkins  HELP!!!

Thur  K O’Carroll  HELP!!!  HELP!!!

Fri  J Arnold, M Batson, E Dow, J Roach, J Schultz, B Symons

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.

Wendy McLean—Canteen Manager

OSHC

We have been tidying up our resources and would welcome any feedback in regards to which resources you think might be helpful and enjoyable for the children. The school children have done such a great job collecting ‘earn and learn’ points from Woolworths that it has been possible for OSHC to get a wish list in too. We thank you all very much.

Staff at OSHC have been working hard on their Quality Improvement Plan, implementing the National Quality Guidelines and Brigitte and Tess have attended several development training days. We would very much like your input and thoughts about After School Care and Vacation Care. You can contact Brigitte on 0417 666 494 to make an appointment or you can e-mail your thoughts/input to bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au

Please remember if you change your address, contact phone numbers or emergency contacts, please let OSHC know in writing by email to bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au or tlangler@lism.catholic.edu.au  Thank you.

Parents—please check the email list on our sign-in desk so we can finalise our email contact list. Alternatively you can contact Tess by emailing tlangler@lism.catholic.edu.au to provide/check your email address. This will ensure all information will be sent out as needed. Thank you for your help with this matter.

EAT FRESH, SEASONAL LOCAL PRODUCE
“Support our local growers”

Delivering $20, $30 & $50 Boxes ~ Bella, Coffs & surrounding areas

ORDER ONLINE TODAY @ www.bellofoodbox.org.au

VACATION CARE TERM 3

The Vacation Care Program will be ready for collection from OSHC or the school office from next week. Please make sure you book your child in on time to ensure availability of care. There are wonderful activities planned for this holiday; Kids Buskers’ Festival, Marine Science Centre, Hip Hop and Jazz dance lessons by a professional, a visit to Mutton Bird and much more. So take the hassle out of trying to organise a fun day for your child during the school holidays and book your child in!!

LOST PROPERTY

Please check your child’s belongings before going home - our lost property basket is still full at the end of each day. We hand over the labelled belongings to your child’s teacher but the un-labelled ones will be put with the rest of the school lost property. Thank you.

PLAYGROUP

St Augustine’s Playgroup is a fun playgroup where parents can relax and chat and children can play and be creative and interact with other children. We have a large group of parents and children coming every week and it is always a fun and relaxed morning filled with laughter and yummy food. Please invite families from outside the St Augustine’s School community to come along as all are welcome.

Cost is $3.00 per family, a booking isn’t needed, but please make sure you write down your contact details upon arrival and pay the fee. Playgroup is located in the OSHC room (Albany Street entrance) and if weather permits, the children play in the enclosed outdoor area surrounding the room.

YEAR 6 STUDENTS’ PHOTOS

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

YEAR SIX GRADUATION BEAR/SOCCER BALL

An order form for Year Six Graduation Bear / Soccer Ball has been sent home recently. Please return your order by Friday 14 September.

YEAR SIX MUFTI DAYS

There will be two Year Six Mufti Days on Friday 21 September and Thursday 25 October to raise money for the Year Six end of year gift to the school. Please send in a gold coin donation on these days. Thank you.
NSW Bishops: unprecedented threat to Catholic schools

For the first time ever, all Catholic schools in NSW face a radical and immediate cut to their NSW government subsidy.

The Bishops of NSW are advised that the NSW Government is about to announce an unprecedented cut to the recurrent grant for NSW non-government schools of $66.7 million per year, or 8% of the 2012 total. We understand that from January 2013, state government funding for Catholic systemic schools is to be cut by $24.5 million per year. Catholic independent schools will face immediate cuts of up to $496 per student.

NSW State government per capita grants provide 20% of the annual recurrent income for most systemic Catholic schools in NSW. They contribute significantly to teacher salaries and meeting other operational costs of every Catholic school.

Impact of proposed cuts on Catholic schools

The NSW Bishops reject the projected cut in NSW government funding to Catholic schools from 2013. We are seriously concerned that this decision:

- is an unprecedented withdrawal of government aid to Catholic schools
- breaks the long established trust of parents in continued government support for Catholic schools
- comes without prior consultation or reasonable notice
- impacts potentially on every systemic Catholic school in every diocese across the state
- will require systemic Catholic schools to increase their fees by about $100 per student beyond planned annual increases, or find other school savings, to compensate for the cut in NSW government grants
- will require independent Catholic schools to increase fees by between $58 and $496 per student beyond planned annual increases, or find other school savings, in order to compensate for the cut in grants
- may force some families out of Catholic schools, force reductions of teachers and curriculum options, compromise other essential educational provisions or even force school closures
- comes at a time when most Catholic schools have already finalised their key staffing and budgeting decisions for 2013.

The Bishops are shocked that such a significant cut in NSW Government funding should come ‘out of the blue’ and precisely when Catholic school authorities and all Australian governments are exploring ways of increasing, not decreasing, government investment in all schools.

The recent Gonski report on funding for all Australian students relied upon Commonwealth and State governments negotiating future funding in good faith. Unfortunately, this NSW government decision erodes its credibility in such negotiations. It also repudiates the public positions of both the Commonwealth Government and the Federal Opposition that no school – government or non-government – will be worse off financially from 2014.
Over the past fifty years NSW and Australian governments have acknowledged the right of parents to government financial support for their choice of school. Government grants have enabled Catholic schools to remain affordable for most parents but many still struggle to meet fee payments. Now, for the first time ever, all Catholic schools in NSW are faced with the threat of a significant and immediate cut to their NSW government grants.

**Bishops’ commitment**

The NSW Bishops are committed to doing our best to keeping Catholic schools affordable and to helping ensure the highest educational standards in them. Any reduction in funding undermines that ambition.

While the Catholic community recognises that in tough economic times governments seek to cut expenditures, we believe it is false economy to deprive our young people of educational opportunities. We expect government always to act fairly in such situations and not make the situation for struggling families worse. Parents with children in Catholic systemic schools already pay the same state taxes as anyone else and yet get only 25% of the state government recurrent funding per student that government schools get.

**Planned response**

The Catholic Church is proud to have been contributing to the education of the children of New South Wales for 190 years and is committed to continue providing that vital community service into the future. We only ask of governments that they be fair to our parents and children when it comes to school funding.

The NSW Bishops call on the Premier of NSW, Barry O’Farrell, to intervene immediately to block the announcement of what amounts to the biggest threat to NSW Catholic schools in decades, and to provide reassurance to the Catholic community and those families of all religious backgrounds who entrust their children to Catholic schools.

In addition, principals, staff and parents of children in Catholic schools, priests and parishioners are invited to contact their state Member of Parliament to highlight the potential impact of the cuts on individual schools within their electorate, and to seek clear answers to the following questions:

- **Since NSW government grants to non-government schools are linked to NSW government school costs, are government schools being subjected to similar reductions?**
- **Before making its decision, was the Government aware of the adverse impact it would have on individual non-government schools, parents and children?**
- **How can the NSW Government justify cutting funds to schools when it is simultaneously negotiating with the Commonwealth about how to increase future government investment in all schools, following on the recommendations of the Gonski report?**
- **How can the government defend such a large and immediate funding cut without any prior consultation or notice to schools who have already set their staffing levels and budgets for 2013?**

For all media enquiries please contact Mr David Collits on 0448 822 625 for Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Chairman of the Catholic Education Commission, NSW
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTORATE</th>
<th>STATE MEMBER ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BALLINA        | Don Page  
Shop 1, 7 Moon Street  
BALLINA NSW 2478  
Ph: 6686 7522  
Fax: 6686 7470  
Email: Don.Page@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| CLARENCE       | Chris Gulaptis  
11 Prince Street  
GRAFTON NSW 2460  
Ph: 6643 1244  
Fax: 6642 7574  
Email: clarence@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| COFFS HARBOUR  | Andrew Fraser  
1/9 Park Avenue  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450  
Ph: 6652 6500  
Fax: 6652 7934  
Email: coffsharbour@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| LISMORE        | Thomas George  
55 Carrington Street  
LISMORE NSW 2480  
Ph: 6621 3624  
Fax: 6622 1403  
Email: lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| OXLEY          | Andrew Stoner  
37 Elbow Street  
WEST KEMPSEY NSW 2440  
Ph: 6562 6190  
Fax: 6563 1355  
Email: oxley@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| PORT MACQUARIE | Mrs Leslie Williams  
Suite 6  
27 Grant Street  
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444  
Ph: 6584 0977  
Fax: 6584 0978  
Email: portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| TWEED HEADS    | Geoff Provost  
103 Minjungbair Drive  
TWEED HEADS NSW 2486  
Ph: 07 5523 4816  
Fax: 07 5523 4817  
Email: tweed@parliament.nsw.gov.au |

** Premier Barry O’Farrell  
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000 Ph: 9487 8588 Fax: 9487 8550  
Email: kuringgai@parliament.nsw.gov.au **
on ya bike
COFFS COAST

RIDE TO WORK
19 SEPTEMBER 2012

WIN THIS

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 6-8am CITY SQUARE

Fix your helmet hair - with Mullet Hair | Join a free fitness class with our local Health Clubs | Free T-shirt for first 100 riders to arrive at the city square | Free kids pack to the first 100 kids | Children’s story and road safety awareness activity for under fives 10 - 11.30am

Proudly supported by Mullet Hair | 2CSFM | City Centre | Bakers Delight | Growers Market | Happy Frog | Rainbow Cycles | Coffs Harbour City Council | Coffs Coast Toy Library | Go4Fun