Dear Parents, Staff and Children

Why communication is important in schools?
Schools depend upon effective communication as much as any other skill in order to build a solid school foundation. Parents and community members play an important role in their children's education and a strong partnership between parents and schools enriches the learning experience. For this reason communication is very important in many ways including:

1. **Expressing yourself to others.** You can either express yourself through words, sounds or gestures. This is very important if you want others to understand you.

2. **Developing links with other people.** It may be with loved ones, common friends, acquaintances, colleagues, business partners, clients and customers. In all of these, communication is very important if you want to build and maintain a strong relationship with them.

3. **Learning.** It is obvious that without proper communication, information dissemination inside schools would be very problematic. The best way to learn something is by doing and to understand what to do there is a need for effective communication.

4. **Decision-making.** Communication is very important when it comes to making critical decisions especially when it includes other people.

So, How Does St Augustine’s Communicate?

There are a number of ways:

1. **Online:** Through the use of the internet providing information is immediate. We email the link for our fortnightly Newsletter to parents and friends. Our school’s new website is a portal into the life of St Augustine’s and should be visited frequently. Together with our school’s Facebook Page (accessible via our website – top right hand corner) and our school blog [http://staugustinesprimaryschool.blogspot.com.au](http://staugustinesprimaryschool.blogspot.com.au) parents are able to keep up to date with news and events that occur in our school.

2. **Classroom Teacher:** The most important “school” person in your child’s world is the class teacher. They provide opportunities (both formal and informal) to meet and discuss your child’s learning.

3. **KnowledgeNET:** This is one of the main communication tools accessible to parents 24/7. It contains our calendar of events, Newsletters, daily notices and evidence of student learning. Access is via your child’s user name and password. This security-protected site is our student learning management system and is a must for all parents.

4. **Contact the Office:** For times when confusion may reign, a quick call to the school office can alleviate and resolve miscommunication between parent and child.

One of the biggest difficulties with large organisations is the miscommunication that occurs. To help improve this we use a multiple approach to disseminating information to help ensure the information is being received. But remember, effective communication is a two way street.

We look forward to your feedback on our new website!!!!

Peace and Best Wishes

Jake
RE AND MINISTRY NEWS

YEAR ONE LITURGY
Year One held their ‘Light’ liturgy in the Church yesterday. There was a wonderful congregation of mums and dads present and many stayed for a cuppa afterwards organised by Yr K Grade Parent Carol and helper Rebekah. It was also noticed and appreciated that a large number of parents had taken time off work to be with their children at this time.

MOTHERS’ MASS
More than seven hundred students, staff, mums and grandmothers attended our Mothers’ Mass last Friday in the Church. The reverence shown by our children was commendable.

Thanks to Father Peter Woods who officiated.

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

P & F NEWS

MOTHERS’ DAY RAFFLE & STALL
Congratulations to Jann Golding who won the Mothers’ Day Raffle. Thank you to Palms Centre Pharmacy for their contribution to the Shiseido basket and to Narelle from Blue Illusion who donated 14 prizes of vouchers and soap. A big thank you to Virginia Schwarz and her helpers for organising the stall, which raised over $2000.00 for the P & F.

P & F RACE DAY
In preparation for our St Augustine’s Centenary Race Day next year, the school is participating in the Coffs Cup Carnival and will have two races in our name on Sunday 22 July. On the race day, the P & F will be hosting a BBQ fundraiser.

Scott Bohringer—P & F Committee Secretary

SCHOOL MUSICAL
‘THE NOWHERE BOY’
Have you been following the daily notices on KnowledgeNET? If you have you would have noticed the increased excitement about our school musical. The last couple of weeks have seen auditions, children reading scripts, practising lines—all gearing up for their special audition. Check the school calendar for the musical dates (September!) to ensure your diary doesn't clash with our performances of ‘The Nowhere Boy’.

ST AUGUSTINE’S SCHOOL
Kindergarten Social Day
Attention all 2012 Kinder Parents/Caregivers/Mums/Dads and Children. Please come along to an informal social afternoon for the whole family!

On: Saturday 19 May 2012
From: 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Mums/Carers & Children: Tabatinga
Cost: $9:00 per child which includes the use of all attractions
UNLIMITED: Jungle Gym Softplay, Glow in the Dark Mini Golf & Ball Blasting Balladium

Dads/Carers: The Greenhouse Tavern, Coffs Harbour

Please email our Year Level Parent, Carol Cowling at ccowling@westnet.com.au to confirm numbers for Tabatinga.

KnowledgeNET WORKSHOPS
Parents are invited to come along to our KnowledgeNET workshops which are held each Wednesday from 9:00—10:00 am in the LARC until the end of this term. Jan Allsopp is our instructor and will teach you how to navigate KnowledgeNET.

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

DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
Congratulations to the St Augustine’s athletes who were successful in qualifying for the Diocesan Cross Country team. These students will now travel to Eastern Creek Sydney on 15 June to take part in the Polding Trials:
Tianna Mayer, Joel Guy, Jack Canning, Tess Bohringer, Peter Dougherty and Joshua Guy

DIOCESAN RUGBY GALA DAY 2012
The Diocesan Rugby Gala Day will be held on Wednesday 30 May at BCU Stadium Coffs Harbour. St Augustine’s will enter two teams, a Year 6 team and Year 5. The winning team in this competition will go on to participate in the NSW Catholic School Knockout to be held at St Josephs College, Hunters Hill.

FRIDAY NIGHT RUGBY 2012
Friday Night Rugby competition begins this week.
We are still looking for a parent to Coach one of our Yr 3/4 Teams. If you are interested please contact the school office.
Competition information and draws can be found at http://www.coffsjuniors.rugbynet.com.au/

Dan Hammond—Sports Coordinator

SPARE UNIFORMS
If you have any uniforms you no longer need, please consider donating them to the Canteen clothing pool. We are especially in need of boys shirts. Thank you.

LARC MATTERS
I had a lovely visit from a Year 3 boy this week. He brought in his model, made from Lego, of a scene from ‘Forests of Silence’ (Deltora Quest 1). He had used several series of Lego to find the right model to portray Lief (the hero), Barda (his huge companion) and, of course, the knight he meets in the forest. It was delightful to see a story that was so real to our young friend, that he recreated it so faithfully and enthusiastically shared his model with me. This series ‘Deltora Quest’ is just one example of the many series we have that children just love and can’t wait to get to the next book.
Our list of ‘Books You Can’t Put Down’ is our activity for the month of May to celebrate the National Year of Reading. The list is ever growing. Please encourage your child to complete one of the review slips about a book they absolutely love when next they visit the LARC.

Library bags are an important part of school equipment. I have a growing concern for the children who rarely bring their bag on borrowing day, in particular the Kindergarten (Monday), Year 1 and Year 2 children (Tuesday). Reading regularly, and being read to, is a major component of learning to read. Just like learning to shoot a goal, ride a bike or surf a wave, practice makes all the difference. Please support your child by helping to remember their Library bag.

See you in the LARC - Mrs Madden—Teacher Librarian

RAISING KIDS THAT COPE
Building an optimistic mindset in children

This is a free Seminar to be held on Monday 4 June from 7:30—9:00 pm at St Augustine’s School.

Bookings can be made by phoning 1300 557874 or by emailing parents@lism.catholic.edu.au

See the flyer at the end of this Newsletter.
**Canteen Roster**

**May 2012**

- **Mon** N Al-Athami, C Jourdant
- **Tues** P Duffy, D Stephenson
- **Wed** T Cook, P Gordon
- **Thur** N Anning, M Dowden, J Golding
- **Fri** H Brindle, B Dougherty, J Mannall, L Zawadzki

**28 May 2012**

- **Mon** R Mott
- **Tues** K Apps, R Kennedy
- **Wed** K Close, S Hartsuyker, R Werstak
- **Thur** M De Satge, N Ferrett, M Waugh
- **Fri** J Arnold, 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

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**Outside School Hours Care**

During After School Care we program a set time in which the children get the opportunity to do their homework under our guidance and assistance from 4:30-5:00 pm. We would very much appreciate it if you could consider these times when picking up your child so as to not disturb children still concentrating on their homework. **We are looking for parents/careers/ grandparents/aunties/uncles/neighbours interested in becoming a volunteer helper during homework time** (a working with children check will be conducted prior to starting). Please see Brigitte if you are interested.

Active After School Care Sport is one hour of active sports conducted on Tuesday and Thursday and is free of charge. This term we will be learning Soccer, Basketball and Hockey. Children will not necessarily play a game of soccer/hockey but will learn a variety of skills related to those sports. For children to enjoy please consider picking your child up at the end of the session (4:30 pm).

We have just a couple of ‘housekeeping’ matters to keep in mind for next holidays:

- Booking Sheets for all sessions MUST be completed.
- If you wish to change the session time that was originally booked, please ensure an email is sent to Tess (tlangler@lism.catholic.edu.au) or a revised Booking Sheet completed. This saves a lot of administration time when bookings are correct.
- A number of families had not completed Enrolment Forms before care was required. This is a legal requirement and no child will be accepted into care without an Enrolment Form. Staff will call you to collect your child immediately if they attend ASC without an enrolment and will not let you leave your child when you drop the child off at Vacation Care.

All new enrolments will be checked by the Administrator and will be followed up by the Coordinator. All new enrolments can expect a phone call from Brigitte to discuss the enrolment form and your child’s needs.

**We still need to remind families to please keep their accounts up to date. This is to ensure your placement at After School Care / Vacation Care is kept. If you need to discuss any matter regarding your account, please call the School office and speak to Tess.**

**Playgroup**

Playgroup is on each Wednesday from 9—11 am and we are having so much fun! Children and parents are being spoiled by all the yummy home baking and healthy fruit platters we dish up from the ‘share-a-fruit’ and ‘bring-a-plate’ goodies brought in by all. Families from outside the St Augustine’s School community are most welcome to also come along. Cost is $3.00 per family. A booking isn’t required but please make sure you write down your contact details upon arrival and payment of the fee. We welcome all input you have regarding the set-up of the room, the activities set up for the children and any equipment needed. See you there 😊!

Brigitte Klinkers—OSHC & Playgroup Coordinator

bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au 0417 666494
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 absentees.

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.
A reminder that term 2 payments are due and payable by 1/06/12

Please ensure that payments occur by due dates or call to make an alternative payment arrangement on 6651 0000, as payment by due dates is a condition of continued enrolment.

Once again, as an incentive for prompt payment of schools fees and as a reward for the commitment of families who honour their school fees agreement, we are pleased to announce that families who have paid their accounts in full by due dates will be entered into a draw for the following prize. (All families who have a direct debit arrangement, which is up to date at 31/12/12, will automatically be entered in the draw.)

Novotel Coffs Harbour Pacific Bay Resort has generously donated one nights’ accommodation in a Resort Room for two adults including a full buffet breakfast in Charlie’s Restaurant.

So, don’t miss out on your opportunity to go into the draw!

All families should have received a letter regarding school fee changes for 2013, explaining that all compulsory fees, some of which have previously been billed by schools, will now be included on school fees account.

Please feel welcome to call if you have any queries or need to discuss any other issues concerning your account.

Thank you,
Cathy Sheridan (School Fees Manager)

Parish Office Coffs Harbour

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<td>(including school holidays)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@parishschoolsboard.com.au">admin@parishschoolsboard.com.au</a></td>
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RAISING KIDS THAT COPE
BUILDING AN OPTIMISTIC MINDSET IN CHILDREN

This seminar will be helpful to parents and others who work with or support children.

DATE: MONDAY 4th JUNE
TIME: 7.30pm - 9.00pm
LOCATION: St Augustine’s School
Gordon Street,
COFFS HARBOUR
FREE!
BOOKING: ph: 1300 557874 or
e-mail: parents@lism.catholic.edu.au

About the presenter ...
Ruth Fordyce works at Alpha Psychology Services, in Sydney. She works closely with Clinical Psychologist Lyn Worsley, who developed the Resilience Doughnut model. Ruth has facilitated workshops around Australia in the area of resilience.

Research has found that an optimistic thinking style is associated with higher levels of well-being.

Optimism also helps to protect people from developing depression or anxiety during times of adversity.

This seminar will:
- examine the key aspects of optimistic thinking
- look at some practical ways that we can foster optimism in children
- consider how the language we use can have a powerful effect in helping children to see a way forward through their difficulties

Find out more about Ruth at our website below.

THE RESILIENCE DOUGHNUT
“Combining Strengths to Thrive”

Catholic Schools
Parent Assembly
Parents in Partnership

Website: www.theresilencedoughnut.com.au