Dear Parents/ Carers,

Last Sunday we held a wonderful celebration with our parish community as we witnessed the baptism of Miranda, Marijka, Ava, Ivy and my daughter Ellie. It was a fantastic celebration as the church was filled with visitors for Sunday Mass. In the Gospel reading on Sunday, we heard how Jesus was challenged by the Pharisees; this is how he responded:

’You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law….” Matthew 22:34-40

As we welcomed these children into the church through their Baptism, we were also reminded that we need to love our God and each other. We are called to do this through Baptism, through receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS: Last week I sent out a survey to our school community seeking advice on the type of end of year events you’d like to be part of and their timing. The current results are displayed below. This survey will remain open until 5pm this Friday. If you have not had the chance to complete the survey you can follow a link by clicking here.

If you are having trouble accessing the link, but would like to have a say, please contact Cathy in the school office on 6657 2552.

Once these results are finalised, I will provide full details of our end of year celebrations.

We will be holding a Graduation Mass for our departing Year 6 students on Wednesday 13th December at 2pm in our Church. This will be followed by a High Tea held locally, with further details to come regarding this.
SCHOOL REVITALISATION AND INNOVATION PROGRAM: Last term we applied for funding as part of the School Revitalisation and Innovation Program (SRIP). I am pleased to report that Lismore CSO has approved our application and we have received $75 000. The work will commence in the coming weeks and months to revitalise the older classrooms within the school. We will be seeking to complete the following work:

- update furniture for Early Stage 1/ Stage 1
- built-in multipurpose cupboards to increase storage within rooms which will also have whiteboard doors
- installation of a new folding door
- installation of 2 interactive TV screens, similar to the Commbox
- upgrade of the heaters.

This funding is a significant boost to our facilities and will greatly enhance the way we approach implementing a contemporary curriculum. I look forward with anticipation to seeing these classrooms revitalised once completed.

Regards,
Nathan Tregise
Principal

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: It is a busy time in the sacramental life of Mt St John's, with the sacraments of Baptism, Penance and First Holy Communion taking place this term. What a lovely celebration we shared on Sunday with the families and friends of our Baptism candidates! Congratulations to Miranda, Marijka, Ava, Ivy and little Ellie. They all looked lovely and it was wonderful to see so many families come and participate in the celebrations with them. That is what building community and spreading God’s love is all about - thank you.

Today we had seven children participating in the sacrament of Penance for the first time. They were a little nervous but with family support did very well. Congratulations Hugh, Charlie, Jed, Poppy, Abbey, Emi and Tully.

On Sunday 12th November we have these children receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion at our church at 10am. It will be followed by a morning tea and it would be great to see as many people come and support them as possible. Seeing our faith through the eyes of children is a beautiful thing, so when we support them we are also supporting our own faith journey.

Regards,
Sue Darby
(Leader of School Evangelisation & Catechesis)

FROM THE HEART: Our students will be participating in the From the Heart combined Catholic Schools musical event on Saturday 11th November at St John Paul College in Coffs Harbour. Tickets to From the Heart are now on sale and can be pre-paid by following the link below (no tickets will be sold at the door on the day). There are two shows, 3pm and 6pm. Please order your tickets now if you’d like to see our children performing.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/from-the-heart-tickets-37748743508

CAKE TROLLEY: Thank you to all the people who contributed to the great success of this year’s cake trolley. Special thanks go to Tianaha, Melina, Cassie & Georgie for their work collecting orders, plating and delivering the cake trays. The P&P Association made $615 – a great effort!

SWIMMING PROGRAM: Our swimming program for Term 4 has begun. Students will walk down and back from the pool each Thursday (except the K/1/2 group, who will catch buses after their session from the public school or be picked up at the pool). The approx. timetable for swimming groups is as follows:
- Years 5 & 6 – 12pm
- Years 3 & 4 – 1pm
- K/1/2 – 2pm
Please remember to pack each student’s swimmers, towels, caps and goggles in a plastic bag every Thursday. Sports uniform is to be worn on Thursdays.

GARDEN CLUB REPORT: This week in gardening group we planted out our pumpkin seedlings into the garden beds. We grew the seedlings from seeds which were kindly donated by Beaumonts Produce and Dorrigo Seedsavers. We also grew sunflower seedlings, which we potted into larger pots and some in the garden beds.
Our nasturtium and calendula seedlings are growing well too, and will look very pretty as well as deterring some garden pests. We harvested our garlic, which we plaited and hung up to dry, and we harvested our broad beans for our gardeners to take home and enjoy. Next week we will be harvesting and saving some seeds.

From Salena & the Garden Group

Garden produce

COOKING WITH KENTON / ORIENTEERING:
The P&F Association has been given a grant by the Parent Assembly to fund a parenting education event. After some discussion at P&F meetings, we have decided to host a “Cooking with Kenton” evening on Friday 1st December from 6pm at the Dorrigo Showground luncheon pavilion. Kenton from Dorrigo Wholefoods will be running a hands-on cooking school for parents and friends (we will be preparing delicious healthy noodle boxes & finger food for everyone) while the students participate in an orienteering course at the Showground. Please mark this date in your calendar, as this should be a very entertaining and educational evening. More information will follow as we fine-tune the details.

TERM 4 SCHOOL FEES: Term 4 school fees are due by Friday 17th November, unless you are paying regular direct deposit amounts. If you feel you may have difficulty in finalising your fees by this date, please contact Mr Trezise. For internet banking payments, the school’s details are:

Bank name: Banancoast Community Credit Union
BSB no. 533-000 Account no. 76986
(if paying from a BCU account, please specify our S10 account)
When using Internet banking, please use your child’s surname as a reference.

Term 4 school fees:
1 student – $260.25
2 students – $442.75
3 or more students – $546.00

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN: Our 2018 transition to Kindergarten sessions will be held on Wednesday 8th November & Tuesday 21st November from 9:00am to 11:30am, with parent information sessions held in conjunction with these. These sessions are designed to allow students to make a smooth transition from preschool to primary school. Sessions are open to any students within our community who will be commencing Kindergarten in 2018. Children will need to bring a hat and a snack to eat at recess. All sessions are free of charge.

Canteen Volunteers: Thank you to this week’s canteen volunteer, who is Alicia Miller, and to our muffin-baker, who is Kim Brady. A reminder that canteen volunteers should be at the school by 9:00am to tally up orders. If you are available to assist in the canteen one or
more Fridays each term, please call Alicia ASAP on 0488 280683.

GOOD LEARNING AWARDS: Class awards went to: Ivy Mila for settling in well to Mt St John’s and showing good work habits during class time; Marshall Parker for completing an outstanding written summary of the text we are reading; Indyka Willson-Baker for demonstrating a succinct understanding of the text we are reading; and Ryan Miller for being able to accurately demonstrate and explain mathematical thinking when problem-solving.

LEADERS’ AWARDS:
Charity Award: Brydi Fittock for volunteering to read at the baptism
Learning Award: Linsay Guest for stepping up and helping others in groups
Environment Award: Mr Lee for picking up rubbish on the playground and keeping your environment clean
Sport Award: Shyla Guest for always following the rules of Bullrush.

BEFORE-SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM:
We are providing breakfast for students before school each Thursday. On the menu is toast and fruit. Our Live Life Well @ School funding has enabled us to offer this free breakfast for students each Thursday morning.

COMING EVENTS:

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<tr>
<td>Mon 6th</td>
<td>Ability Links sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8th</td>
<td>Transition to Kinder &amp; parent info session, 9am-11:30am</td>
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<td>Sat 11th</td>
<td>From the Heart performances at John Paul College</td>
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<td>Sun 12th</td>
<td>First Holy Communion, 10am</td>
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<td>Fri 17th</td>
<td>Term 4 school fees due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 21st</td>
<td>Transition to Kinder &amp; parent info session, 9am-11:30am</td>
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<td>24th &amp; 25th</td>
<td>Dorrigo Show</td>
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<td>Fri 1st</td>
<td>Cooking with Kenton / Orienteering, 6pm</td>
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NUDE FOOD TUESDAYS: Don’t forget we are still holding NUDE FOOD DAY TUESDAY! All students & staff are to bring their lunch in re-useable containers where possible. Each class will be assessed on how much rubbish they bring to school and the class with the least amount of rubbish will be announced as the winners each week. This is to make our school community aware of the excess rubbish we use and to become more environmentally aware.

PARISH MASSES: Sunday Mass – 10:00am. All are welcome.

GFS: GFS is an after-school kids club focusing on "God, Friends, Self". These sessions are held from 3-5pm in the Anglican Hall during term time for children in Kinder to Year 7. Afternoon tea, games, worship and craft. For more information, ring Gwenneth on 66572135.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC TEACHERS: Dr Sheila Guymer is available to teach piano and music theory on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons – she also has a studio in town at 57 Hickory Street, if anyone would prefer lessons after school. Mr Rob Harpley is available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for guitar and music theory students. You can contact Sheila on ph. 6657 2375 or sheilaguymer@gmail.com or Rob on ph. 6775 9282 or robhply1959@dodo.com.au

THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES: Dorrigo Young Drama is presenting a production of The Emperor’s New Clothes. Opening night is Saturday 4th November at 4pm. Other performance times are as follows:
- Sunday 5th November – 2pm
- Friday 10th November – 7pm
- Saturday 11th November – 4pm
- Sunday 12th November – 2pm
- Friday 17th November – 7pm
- Saturday 18th November – 4pm
- Sunday 19th November – 2pm

Bookings can be made at Dorrigo Wholefoods on 66571002.