Dear Parents,

Last weekend with great sadness we farewelled Father Jim Reilly as our Parish Priest. After 45 years’ sharing in Christ’s ministerial Priesthood, thirteen of which he shared with us, we say goodbye. We will miss the joy he brought to every Mass, the genuine love and concern he showed for each of us and especially for the children. We will miss his clever wit and his endless supply of jokes, we will miss the true compassion and humanity he brought to even the most difficult conversations. I would like to share with you all a snippet from Father Jim’s sermon from Sunday and I hope it touches you as it did me.

“Whatever experience comes your way, accept it as a blessing in the certainty that nothing can happen without God. Do not be one of those who stretches out their hands to take, but draws back when the time comes for giving. Our job as Christians is to listen. Listen when people express their pain or anger at the Church, not only because they’re usually telling us something we need to hear but because our first job is always to love those who are hurt.

Over the 45 years I have shared Christ’s ministerial Priesthood I’ve had many shortcomings, but by the grace of God he has helped some people through me and I thank Him for that, but I can truthfully say that the past 13 years here with the three unique communities has been the fulfilment of my priesthood, so I thank you all for that.

St Peter reminds us Priests and leaders in our parishes; “Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow – be servants of each other.”

How relevant for every day but especially as we enter Lent this week. May we try to be humble in our victories, compassionate to our enemies and of service to one another.

Please keep Father Jim in your prayers. We’ll miss him!

Sue Darby, Acting Principal
LENTEN PROGRAM: This program will normally be held on Thursday afternoons at 1:40pm and go for about an hour, but for next week it will have to be run on Monday (23rd Feb) as Mrs Darby will be away at a Principals’ Conference on Thursday. All are most welcome – you do not have to be Catholic to participate. Please let us know if you would like to be part of this program.

PUPIL FREE DAY: There is a pupil-free staff development day on Friday 6th March. Teachers are travelling to Mary Help of Christians School in Sawtell to listen to Anita Chinn as she continues to unpack the new Mathematics syllabus for us.

THE “I WAS WONDERING…” WINDOW: We have decided to create a “questions window” outside Cathy’s office and we would like to encourage you to write up questions on that window that you would like to find answers for (there is a special pen in the office). It could be about how to use the Skoolbag app; how to explain something to your child; something about our faith… the question is up to you! Our aim is to try to get people in to provide parent education if we can find a common theme, but also when people are busy it might be easier to write a question up while you are waiting for your children in the afternoon or send them to Cathy via the school email if you can’t come in. Our goal is to keep open and strengthen the lines of communication which are vital in a school / home education partnership.

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES: Last week we had a visit from the Live Life Well team. They spoke about the importance of a healthy diet (especially for children) and the importance of including as many close to natural foods as possible. With packaged and processed foods we need to look at the labels; if there are lots of fats, salts, sugars or “numbers” (i.e. artificial colours, flavourings or preservatives) we need to ask ourselves if that food is really helping our children. Foods high in sugar and fat give children a quick energy boost, which quickly fades to leave them feeling flat. This hinders concentration, which impacts on in-class behaviour, and affects moods, which can influence friendships. As teachers, we see very clear and obvious evidence of this every day! These foods may be “convenient” but the health and wellbeing of our children is far more important than convenience.

KINDERS’ LAST REST DAY: Today is the Kinder students’ last rest day. If you find your child is still getting very tired, please keep the rest days going.

ZONE SWIMMING TRIUMPH: Congratulations to our Zone swimmers; Star, Angus, Cooper, Darcy C and Kassidy. They all swam really well at the carnival on Thursday (we believe there were a few PBs), and Kassidy & Darcy have been selected for the Diocesan Team. This carnival will be held on Wednesday 4th March in Murwillumbah.

ASSEMBLY: Tomorrow’s assembly will be held at 2:30pm and will be led by our school leaders. We will also be presenting our school Swimming ribbons. All are most welcome.

ANNE AND BEN’S PANCAKE REPORT: Yesterday, (Shrove Tuesday), we had a Pancake Day fundraiser for Caritas. Together we earned $92.90. Thank you Mr Harrison and Darcy H for helping cook and cleaning up, and Mrs Darby for making it happen plus she supplied the recipe. Thank you also to everyone who bought pancakes. Pancake Day is a good way to raise money and a
nice treat. We might be doing something else later on in the term.
Annie & Ben, Leaders of Faith.

CLEAN UP THE SCHOOL: On Friday 27th February, the Environment leaders will be hosting a day of work to make our school as tidy as possible. We will be working hard, moving wood, picking up rubbish and making the school sparkling clean. We will have some tools and gloves available, but there will not be enough for everyone. So bringing your own tools and gloves is recommended, please. We will have garbage bags and other useful things provided. We will also be getting some squares of black, long and short Mondo Grass. This will be used to make a labyrinth. Slices of fruit and veggies will be provided for a small nibble reward when we are finished the washup at the end of the day.
Thank you,
Tom & Connor, Environment leaders

FREE WORLDWIDE AUTISM COURSE:
Swinburne University of Technology is offering a free six week online course to assist parents, families and carers who live with individuals with Autism. The course is scenario-based and aimed at providing a range of solutions. The course starts on Thursday 2nd April – World Autism Day. For more information and to register go to http://www.swinburne.edu.au/media-centre/news/2015/02/swinburne-offers-free-course-on-autism.html

LIBRARY: Thursday is library day. Students will need to bring a cloth library bag (an old pillowcase is fine) to transport their books to and from school. This keeps them protected from mishaps.

2015 SCHOOL FEES: Term 1 school fee statements were sent home last week. These are payable by Friday 13th March. For internet banking payments, the school’s details are:
Bank name: Banancoast Community Credit Union
BSB no. 704-328 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.
Suggested Direct Deposit amounts (from Feb ‘15)
1 student –
$252.50 per term
$40.40 per fortnight (x 25 fortnights)
$20.20 per week (x 50 weeks)
2 students –
$430.00 per term
$68.80 per fortnight (x 25 fortnights)
$34.40 per week (x 50 weeks)
3 or more students –
$530.25 per term
$84.84 per fortnight (x 25 fortnights)
$42.42 per week (x 50 weeks)

PRIVATE VEHICLE CONVEYANCE FORM: Do you need to drive your child to a school bus stop each day? There is a Government subsidy available for those students who meet the age and distance criteria. For a PVC form and information about eligibility criteria, please contact the school.

COMING EVENTS:

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<td>Thur 12th</td>
<td>Zone Swimming, Grafton</td>
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<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>Census</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
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<td>• Diocesan Swimming</td>
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<td>Pupil-free Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Term 1 school fees due</td>
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<td>“Macbeth” performance in Bellingen</td>
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GFS KIDSPLUS meets every Wednesday during term time from 3 to 5pm in the Anglican Church Hall. There is food, fun, games, worship and craft. Students from Kinder through to Year 10/11 are welcome. Cost is $1 per session – new pupils always welcome.
Contact Rev Mike on 6657 2015.

DORRIGO RANGERS RUGBY: Registrations will be held from 3.30-5.00pm on Tuesday 17th & Tuesday 24th February at the Dorrigo recreation ground (Southern end). All new players are very welcome and full instruction will be provided on how to play the game safely. For more information please contact the following people:
Under 8’s, 10’s & 12’s, Sim Mila 0412 983 892
Under 14’s, Pete Singleton 02 6657 6061, or email peter@foodsure.com.au
Under 16’s, Paul Sheather 0419 286 962
Under 18’s, Darren Beaumont 0428 574 124
You can also Follow or Like us on Facebook at Dorrigo Rangers Rugby.

EVENTS CALENDAR: The Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce provides a free Events Calendar on their local website www.dorrigo.com
For any local business, community group, music group, sporting group, hobby groups, service club, church group or school, all you have to do is go to the website, register and then upload your event. You can add photos and information easily. There is also a local directory on the website of businesses, community groups, sporting groups, schools, hobby groups, church groups and service clubs. We provide free listings for all community or not-for-profit groups and schools. If you are involved in a not-for-profit group have a look at www.dorrigo.com to see if your listing needs updating or a photo added. If it does get in touch with us at chambertreasurer@dorrigo.com
Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit group interested and keen to promote our great town of Dorrigo, so get on board today!
Jane Reidy, Treasurer, Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce

DORRIGO SOCCER: Registrations are still open for the 2015 soccer season at www.myfootballclub.com.au. Just select “Register Now” from the home page to complete on-line registration. Payment can be made on-line or select manual payment to pay locally. Players need to be registered by Monday 23 February so teams (for 8 years and over) can be finalised. Please register before the close date to avoid the late fee of $25 (excludes 5-7 years Miniroos). Prompt refunds will be made in the event that players cannot be placed in a suitable team. If you need more details contact registrar Rosalie Smith on 6657 5255 or treasurer Barbara Webster on 6657 2703.

SHOP FOR SCHOOLS PROMOTION: Shop for our School & Win a Classroom of iPads*! When doing your shopping be sure to shop at Park Beach Plaza for your chance to win big for our school! You simply need to shop at any store at Park Beach Plaza, present your docket to the Customer Service Desk located outside near Noni B and nominate Mt St John’s School. The value of the dockets will be added to our school’s point tally; for example if you spend $150 our school will receive 150 points. The schools with the highest point tally (divided by the number of families with students enrolled at our school**) will win 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and share in the fantastic prize pool of cash and goodies. Be sure to look out for shops displaying a “Shop for Coffs Coast School’s Triple Point Poster”. If you shop at these stores you will receive bonus triple points for our school’s tally to the value of your shopping docket! The winning schools will be announced in the Coffs Coast Advocate on Wednesday 18 March, 2015 and if we are lucky enough to win 105.5 StarFM will broadcast live and host a FREE breakfast from our school as we celebrate winning a Classroom of iPads* on Wednesday 18 March 2015! * A Classroom of iPads can be transferred to $10,000 worth of technology available at JB Hi-Fi. ** Full terms and conditions can be found at www.parkbeachplaza.com.au

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Join us for the 2015 Family Retreat

Registration for Southern Retreat due by 13th March
on line at: https://forms.gle/01xQbQhD7mX0nYbW9
or email; parents@lsm.catholic.edu.au

- Evening activities
- Games for kids
- Relax and enjoy quality family time and activities
- Meet and connect with other families
- Fr Gerald O’Collins as Spiritual Director
- Meeting you where you are at on your faith journey
- Mass, reconciliation, prayer

** FREE **

For more information please contact your Parish School Parent Representative or your Parent Assembly Cluster Organisers.

Peta Rourke: Hastings Maclean (m) 0400 420 674
Paul Edgar: Clarence (m) 0427 118 122
Jo Kelly: Richmond (m) 0467 704 514
Leanne Robbins: Tweed (m) 0407 632 373

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* A Classroom of iPads can be transferred to $10,000 worth of technology available at JB Hi-Fi.
** Full terms and conditions can be found at www.parkbeachplaza.com.au