Dear Parents,

Once again I congratulate our school leaders for their efforts as they work hard to set an example worth following for their peers. It is always easy to start strong but we often fall back to our old ways when we become tired or as time moves on, but our school leaders remain steadfast in their resolve to be leaders worth copying. They are truly becoming a credit to themselves and their families. Well done!

A big thank you also to our choir group and their families who came to school on our pupil free day last Friday to sing at The World Day of Prayer service. I have heard from many who were there how great you sounded. Thank you for your dedication and commitment; it is very much appreciated.

Our readings in Mass this Sunday looked at the rules we follow to live well and in community with one another, the Ten Commandments. Our Gospel reading was from John and speaks about Jesus cleansing the temple of money changers, cheats and thieves. In these readings Jesus sets the standards that must be followed by those who believe in Him. This Gospel reminds us that while we are always kind and compassionate, forgiving and loving as we spread the joy of the Gospels in our lives, there are also lines that cannot be crossed. We have standards and these standards are what give us credibility; they become the rules by which we live our lives. They are the backbone of our existence; the codes that separate us and stand us apart. These rules are then applied to the way we live our lives, the way we treat others and the standards we expect from our children, our partners, our friends and in our homes. These standards guide us in our parenting and help us mould our children into becoming young people who feel secure, loved and valued and who can go out into the world able to face each new challenge with the resilience that comes from truly being loved.

Like the people of Jesus’ time, we all need rules and boundaries. They give us comfort as they allow us to push but be supported at the same time. No easy feat for us parents but I guess we all knew it wasn’t going to be easy! However, we only ever get out what we are willing to put in.

“If we never stand up for anything we end up falling for everything.”

Sue Darby
Acting Principal

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY: Our school cross-country will be held tomorrow (Thursday 12th March) from 10:30am. Students in all classes will compete in races of varying distances. We will need some parent helpers to assist with marshalling on the day – please let us know if you’re available to help. The cross country is always a really enjoyable event, especially watching the littlies run and cheering everyone on!

Please make sure that your children have water and it is a good idea to pack extra snacks as they are often hungry after the race.

Please remind them that each race is a long race and that timing your run is very important; none of us could sprint the whole race, nor should we try. If your child suffers from asthma please make sure they have their puffer with them. Sports uniform is to be worn. Caps may be worn during the race, but school
hats are still required for play and after the race.
Race distances will be:
Kindergarten Boys & Girls - 400 m
Year 1 Boys & Girls - 800m
8/9 and 10 years Boys & Girls - 2km
11 years and Senior Boys & Girls - 3km
Approximate timetable is as follows:
10:30am – walk the courses
11:00am – recess
11:30am – races commence on top field
Approximate finish time 12:30 pm.

LENTE PROGRAM continues at 2 pm on Thursdays. All welcome.

ASSEMBLY: Tomorrow’s assembly will be held at 2:40pm and will be led by the School Leaders. All are most welcome.

DANCE FEVER: This year there will not be a dance competition between neighbouring schools in Coffs Harbour as has happened in previous years. This is due to the fact that very few of the schools in our area took up Dance Fever this time. This was very disappointing because we valued the opportunity our older students (Years 3-6) had to dress up and compete in a real dance competition. Their exposure to that atmosphere and seeing so many other children competing with them and against them was a very valuable experience. So, not to be put off with a mere glitch in plans, we have come up with a solution! This year the Dance Fever performance is coming to us; our instructors will be putting a dance on for us here in Dorrigo. Our children will still be dressing up and competing but this year their competition will be US – parents, grandparents, family members and staff. So dust off your glad rags, get your groove on and come along to learn some new dance moves and see if we can out-dance our children! It should be a fun night so please try to support us as we support your children. The dance will take place on Monday 30th March at a place to be arranged, starting with a quick lesson for students at 5:00-5:30pm, followed by a sausage sizzle and dance party. We ask you to bring a plate to share for supper. Come along and have some fun!

K/1 SOCIAL / DANCE PLANNING MEETING:
A big thank you to those parents who came to the first Kinder and Year 1 dance preparation meeting yesterday afternoon. We went through the plans and protocols and have started preparation for Term 2’s school dance. If you would like to be involved, it's not too late – we will have another two meetings next term. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION is on next Wednesday 18th March. Please keep Cooper and Angus in your prayers as they prepare for this special sacrament.

INCITARE GATHERING: Next Friday four of our senior students will be attending an Incitare faith leadership gathering in Sawtell. This one-day retreat will involve students from all the primary schools in our Zone.

CAR PARK SAFETY: Thank you to all the parents who are remembering to use the car park area correctly. It is vital that you follow our car park rules and protocols to ensure the safety of all.

INSIGHT SRC SURVEYS: A new initiative for feedback about our school has been put in place by the Catholic Schools Office, called Insight SRC. In the past we only received feedback when out school was going through a School Review, which takes place about every 5 years. We will now be asking for more frequent feedback in the form of Insight SRC survey packs. These can be completed online or as a paper version. Students in Years 5 and 6 and staff will also complete surveys. This data is then complied off-site and fed back to us at school level. To gain an accurate profile it is important that as many people as possible complete the surveys.
Surveys will go home today to each family and need to be returned to school by Friday 27th March. Please take the time to complete these either online or in the paper format and return as soon as possible.

FATHER JIM’S FINAL MASS will be held on Friday 27th March at 12:00pm. All are welcome. If you are in contact with any past students who might like to attend, please let them know about it.

BULB FUNDRAISER: The P&F Association is holding a spring-flowering bulb fundraiser again this year. Catalogues were sent home
last week. Please note that there’s a printing error in the catalogue – item #34, Rannunciui Mixed has been incorrectly priced; it should read 40 bulbs for $14, NOT 10 bulbs for $14. All orders should be returned to school by Friday 27th March.

CANTEEN: Thank you to this week’s canteen volunteers, who are Kirsty Parker & Susan Ellis. A reminder that canteen volunteers should be at the school by 9:00am to tally up orders. If you are unable to do your rostered day, please organise to swap with another volunteer.

WORLD AUTISM DAY, 2nd APRIL 2015: Autism is a lifelong condition that affects, amongst other things, the way in which an individual relates to his or her surroundings and their interaction with other people. We use the word “spectrum” to describe the range of difficulties that people with autism may experience and the degree to which they are affected. Some may be able to lead comparatively normal lives, while others may have a learning disability and require continual specialist support. It is estimated that one in 100 people has Autism so that’s almost 230,000 Australians. Autism affects four times as many boys than girls.

The important thing to remember is that those with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD for short) are unique human beings who were created by God in his image to reflect his glory (Revelation 4 v 11). Some of our school community have a diagnosis of autism and so in school we will raise awareness of this important medical condition by wearing blue ribbons on World Autism Day, which is Thursday 2nd April 2015.

CAR BOOT SALE: If anyone else is interested in being part of this sub-committee, please let us know at school.

LINK TO SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://moodle.dorplism.catholic.edu.au/

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

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE: Don’t forget to complete and return your green contact information update form, which was sent home with each family last week.

MASS: Years 4/5/6 attended Mass today. Years 2/3 will attend next week at the earlier time of 11am.

ST PATRICK’S DAY: Tuesday 17th March is St Patrick’s Day – St Patrick is the patron saint of the Lismore Diocese. All students and staff are invited to come to school wearing mufti with a St Patrick’s Day or “green” theme on this day; please bring a donation of a gold coin (or however much you can afford) which will go to Children’s Mission Partners. Parents and children are invited to write a limerick or St Patrick’s Day riddle to share at school.

BELL SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE: All the students from our school will be travelling to St Mary’s in Bellingen on Tuesday 31st March to attend a performance of ‘Just Macbeth!’ (abridged) by Andy Griffiths, performed by the Bell Shakespeare Company. We are very excited to have the opportunity to be involved in this – the Bell Shakespeare Company is a world-renowned theatre group. Cost per family (includes performance & bus fare):

- 1 child - $10
- 2 children - $17
- 3 children - $25

A note regarding this will be sent home tomorrow.

SCHOOL FEES: Term 1 school fees are due by this Friday, unless you are paying regular direct deposit amounts. Please see Mrs Darby in confidence if you anticipate having trouble finalising your fee account by this date.

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES: If your child is absent from school for any reason, please make sure you notify the school.
There are several ways you can notify us:
1. By phone
2. By email to msjpdr@lism.catholic.edu.au
3. Via Skoolbag app
4. By written note

CAPTAIN’S AWARD: Congratulations to Hugh Thomas, who received a Captain’s Award for including others at lunchtime and playing well on the playground.

GOOD LEARNING AWARDS: Class awards went to Ryleigh Miller for gaining confidence in her work and being willing to try new things; Myra Sibanda for independently completing tasks neatly and carefully; Payton Lawler for always applying herself in maths; and Holly Smith for creating engaging multimodal texts that increase personal understanding.

COMING EVENTS:

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<td>Thurs 12th</td>
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| Fri 27th    | • Final Mass with Father Jim  
               • Bulb orders due  
               • Insight SRC surveys due |
| Mon 30th    | Dance Fever Dance-off |
| Tues 31st   | “Just Macbeth” performance in Bellingen |

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| Thurs 1st   | • World Autism Day  
               • Last day of Term 1 |

GFS KIDSPLUS meets every Wednesday during term time from 3-5pm 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.