Dear Parents,

What a great turnout we had last night! Thank you to all of the families who supported our Leaders of Learning (Ellie and Darcy H) initiative to hold a Readers & Writers Theatre.

It was lovely to see the confidence the littlies, (especially the kindies), showed as they stood in front of the microphone and shared their writing with such a large group. The quality of the writing from the older children was a credit to themselves and to their teachers; it was of a high standard and displayed a wide range of genres. We will see if we can compile a book so they can be shared in the library – that way we can all have the opportunity to read them again.

As the term winds to an end it is always good to look back and reflect on all that has happened. It might explain why we are beginning to feel as if we need a holiday!

We have had our senior students attend the Readers & Writers Workshop with St Mary’s in Bellingen, we have had gardening club recommence. Our Leaders of Sport organised our Walk-a-thon and our Leaders of Faith started our Mini Vinnies group. We celebrated National Sorry Day and held a special Sacred Heart Mass. We hosted St Mary’s Bellingen for Catholic Schools Week and travelled to Bellingen to compete in our Athletics carnival. Our Leaders of the Environment ran two canteen days and made some beautiful soup using many ingredients from our garden. We participated in the NAPLAN tests and Year 6 RE test. Our Leader of Behaviour started structured passive play and lots of equipment was purchased to support this venture to give children more choice in their play time. Individual classes conducted many assemblies to celebrate their learning and share it with their parents and peers. We ran our sandpit design competition (a winner will be announced tomorrow). We created designs to paint on our bins for downtown and have commenced putting these onto the bins. On Friday we come together as a community of learners with all of the other schools on the plateau to celebrate NAIDOC day, which this year is being hosted by the High School. This is such a valuable day for many reasons, so make sure you encourage your children to truly embrace this experience.

In this week’s Gospel reading from Mark we are reminded that if we have faith we need not fear, for God is with us always. We need to trust in God’s will and not become bound by fear. For in the words of Nelson Mandela, ‘when we let our light shine (our faith) we unconsciously give others permission to do the same...’ and wouldn’t the world be a wonderful place if everyone cared as much about each other as they did about themselves.

Have a good holiday everyone and enjoy the time you get to spend with your family.

Yours sincerely,
Sue Darby
Acting Principal

**School resumes on Monday 13th July.**

NAIDOC ON THE PLATEAU: This Friday (the last day of Term 2) we will be joining with all of the schools on the Plateau at Dorrigo High School to celebrate NAIDOC day. Children are to be dropped off at the High...
School (where they will be met by the teachers) and picked up from there at the end of the day also. It is a good idea to pack lunch and some snacks and water. There will be some food-tasting and fruit but often younger children like to have their own.

**READERS & WRITERS THEATRE PHOTOS**

Our rapt audience

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:** Last Thursday’s Athletics Carnival in Bellingen was a great day. The weather was glorious – although the fields were still a bit slippery after the rain – and we all had fun. I’m sure there were some tired and sore bodies afterwards! Notes for the students who have been selected to represent our school at the Zone Athletics carnival on Thursday 16th July in Coffs Harbour have been sent home today. Please return these ASAP.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** We have begun lessons for the Sacrament of Penance. Father Amila would like to meet with parents this afternoon to discuss this sacrament and to get to know families. The meeting will take place in the K/1 room at 3:15pm so please try to be there. If you are unable to make this meeting please let me know ASAP and we will make time to relay the information to you at another time.

**WINTER WARMERS RAFFLE:** Our Winter Warmers raffle is starting to look pretty good… thank you to all those who have donated something to go in the box in the office. There is a book of raffle tickets being sent home to each family today. Tickets are $2 each. If you feel you will be unable to sell your tickets, please return them to school and we can re-use them; by the same token, if you sell all your tickets and need some more, please get some from the school. Last year the P&F association made $592 from this fundraiser, so we hope to do as well again this year. First prize is a load of chopped firewood, delivered to the Dorrigo township area. Any more donations of wintry items (socks, slippers, scarves, woolly rugs, hot water bottles, chocolates, tins of milo... anything snuggly and/or warming!) would be gratefully received. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 31st July.

**SCHOOL DANCE:** Any parents from K/1 wanting to help organise our school dance please contact the school and we will arrange a time to meet. The dance will be held in Week 1 of next term.

**CANTEEN:** There is no canteen this week, as we’re all going to be over at the High School for NAIDOC Day. Starting from Week 1 next
term, there will be **no more finger buns** available from the canteen.

**MINI VINNIES WINTER APPEAL** by Annie, Ben and Kayla.

As the weather turns colder we remember that there are many families who don’t have enough clothes and blankets to keep them warm this winter and they can’t afford to buy them, so we are organising a Winter warm clothes drive to help tackle this problem. We need warm coats, jumpers, tracksuits or blankets that you no longer need, but that are still in good condition. So if you get your warm clothes out of the cupboard and discover that they no longer fit, please bring them in to school and put them in the box provided. We will give them to St Vincent de Paul who will pass them on to people who need them. Any donations will be very much appreciated.

**WHOOPING COUGH:** There have been several cases of Whooping Cough in the area recently. Please be aware of this and take your child (or yourself) to the doctor if he or she has a particularly bad cough.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE:**
Congratulations to Brooke Bullock-Francis, who has completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge already!
To view the book list and rules go to the Premier’s Reading Challenge website [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html)
Students must read a certain number of books to complete the Challenge:

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<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books you must read</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books</th>
<th>Maximum number of Personal Choice books</th>
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<td>K-2</td>
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The Challenge finishes for this year on 21st August.

**ASSEMBLY:** Tomorrow’s assembly will be held at 2:40pm and will be led by our school leaders. All are welcome.

**TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES:** Term 2 fees are now due, unless you are paying regular direct deposit amounts. Reminder statements were sent home last week. For Internet banking payments, the school’s details are:
Bank: 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.*

**LINK TO SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

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

**STUDENT ABSENCES:** There have been a lot of absences lately due to the arrival of the cold and flu season. 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 [msjpdorr@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:msjpdorr@lism.catholic.edu.au)
3. Via Skoolbag app
4. By written note

**COMING EVENTS:**

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<th>JULY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26th</td>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
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<td>NAIIDOC Day at Dorrigo High</td>
<td>First day of Term 3</td>
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<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
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<td>Thurs 16th</td>
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<td>Zone Athletics carnival</td>
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<td>Fri 31st</td>
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<td>Winter Warmers raffle drawn</td>
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**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:** Saturday 25th July, 5-7pm. Come and join us for a family movie at the Anglican Church Hall – popcorn and ice cream for the kids and hot chocolate to keep you warm!! Entry is by gold coin donation. All children with their parents /carers welcome.
For more details call Rev. Mike on 66572015.

**MUSIC LESSONS:** Rob Harpley is conducting lessons in guitar or keyboard at school on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30pm. Cost will be $20 for a half hour lesson. For more information call Rob on 67759282.

**CREATIVE KIDS, JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**
Monday 29th  Beginners Claymaking
Tuesday 30th  Claymaking
Wednesday 1st  Claymaking
Friday 3rd  Pottery painting 10am – 12.30pm
All sessions offer some outdoor playful active time, the opportunity to explore clay and draw using a variety of mediums.
“Sigh!”
I just put my head out the window and heard a collective sigh of relief from parents around the country as the majority of Australian states begin their school holidays next week.

Most families I meet are fast-paced. Kids’ highly-scheduled lives mean that family routines are hooked into children’s weekly activity schedules. And their activity levels are massive. Before school, after school and weekend activities are now commonplace for children.

Nothing wrong with that in the short-term, but kids need to slow down for the sake of their well-being and also to maximise learning. Families need to slow down on a regular basis so people can get to know each other, and so people don't feel so stressed.

Slow Sundays, slow long weekends and slow holidays help take the stress away and give families the chance to get to know each other and even give members the chance to like each other again. Understanding why, knowing when and working out how to slow things down is part of the art of parenting. That brings me to holidays.

School holidays are the time to break routine, and slow things down. It’s hard if you work, but even then the change of pace is to be enjoyed and valued. You’ll have your own version of slow!

Still expect kids to help at home. It may take longer than usual.

Resist being their home entertainment machines when they get bored. They do need to keep themselves amused. Busy kids sometimes lack the capacity to entertain themselves. Boredom stimulates their capacity to self-occupy. There's a lot to be said for slow!

Enjoy the change of parenting pace.