Opening School Mass

At our Opening Mass on Tuesday, the whole school came together in prayer for the first time this year, to ask for God’s blessing on our work with your children, to seek wisdom and guidance through difficult educational journeys, and to build community with the many parts that make up St Peters. We also recognised and “badged” our new school leaders for 2015, in the company of their very proud parents. This was also the first big occasion we shared with our new school chaplain, Fr James, and we look forward to working closely with him throughout the remainder of the year.

Prayer Day

On Monday we turned our thoughts to those in our community who have left this life and share in God’s life. Flowers were left in our memorial prayer garden, and children and staff were invited to visit throughout the day. May we always remember them.

Sydney Swans

The Sydney Swans were represented at our school during the week, speaking to the children at assembly and promoting a healthy lifestyle, fitness and fun through sport.

Staff Development Day

Just a reminder that our first Staff Development Day for the year will be held on Monday 2 March. The Diocese have engaged the services of Anita Chinn, a skilled presenter in the field of Mathematics, who will guide us in the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. She will work her way through the Diocese, spending time with clusters of schools as she goes. We will work with St Joseph’s Laurieton. Beyond this face-to-face day, staff will be registered for online delivery of a number of modules which they will complete at staff meetings and in their own time. A further 2 Maths days will follow later in the year.

We are unable to provide childcare at school on Monday, as all staff will be in Laurieton, however, we have sourced an option for those who have no ready care available - Jumbos OOSH will have child care available on this day (More details over page)

We thank you for supporting the development of your school.

Student Proclaim

As a lead-up to Student Proclaim, children from schools around the Diocese are being asked to contribute to the planning and discussion about how we can enrich their faith life. Four children from St Peters travelled with Mrs Bennie to Kempsey on Wednesday for a forum on this topic.

Newsletter Delivery

In a few weeks time, all going well, we will launch a new style newsletter, fully digital, allowing you to access video links, photo galleries, other digital content, in a way I hope you find more engaging and flexible. There will still be the option for a hard-copy of this newsletter to be printed. The process of subscribing for the online newsletter will be outlined in the near future.

Caritas Visit

Among all the other busy-ness of the week we had a visit from Caritas, the Catholic aide organisation which supports Mission projects around the world. This is the Bishop-endorsed organisation for our Lenten fund-raising efforts, it’s most familiar project being Project Compassion. The presentation to students highlighted the work of Catholic aid agencies around the world.

Tony Watts - Principal
**Student Proclaim- “Go Forth and Set the World on Fire”**

Proclaim Lismore is a time to reflect together on our beliefs, assumptions, personal and collective histories and accepted way of guiding children and young people into the fullness of life. It is about ensuring everything that makes Catholic education good is identified and allowed to flourish. It is about building a Catholic culture that permeates first class education, good governance and passionate commitment to life in Christ Jesus. Proclaim Lismore began with staff in 2013 and continued with parents last year.

This year a number of initiatives are planned for Student Proclaim. On Tuesday, we celebrated our Opening School Mass which captured the Proclaim theme perfectly-

“Go Forth and Set the World on Fire”- spread the love of Jesus and God’s Word in our everyday lives.

Also this week we were honoured to send four representatives to a Student Proclaim forum. Congratulations Paige Mullin, Kate Field, Sarah Jennings and Jack Redfern who provided a student voice for the whole Hastings area, allowing initiatives to be developed for future directions this year.

**Project Compassion**

Caritas Australia Project Compassion fundraising appeal begins during Lent. The theme for 2015 is “Food for Life”. This year’s Project Compassion stories focus on the ways in which Caritas Australia is working around the world to empower vulnerable people to establish sustainable food sources and develop income streams for life. Each classroom has a Project Compassion box to collect money for the appeal. Yesterday students heard firsthand how their donations will help others. Our fundraising efforts will culminate with a Colours 4 Caritas Day on March 18 (please note the change of date on the Term 1 Dates).

For more information visit the Caritas website. http://www.caritas.org.au

**Maree Bennie – Leader of School Evangelisation**

**Parent Assembly News**

**St Peter’s Representatives** - Congratulations and welcome to Maria Doherty and Natalie Jennings who will be St Peter’s Parent Assembly representatives for 2015. Maria and Natalie will take over this role from Mrs Debbie Ward who has been our school representative for 12 years. A huge thank you to Debbie Ward for her commitment and support of our families for so many years.

**Parent Assembly Family Retreat 28th /29th March** is approaching fast. Escape the busy hustle and bustle of life. Come and enjoy the weekend with your family, meeting new families and sharing in the lovely outlook of Grassy Heads. See the attached flyers for registration details. We look forward to seeing you at our relaxing and informal family gathering. Food and accommodation supplied by Parent Assembly for your enjoyment!! Peta Rourke (Cluster Organiser Hastings Macleay Region Parent Assembly)

**ICAS Competitions**

The University of New South Wales is offering Children from Year 3 to 6 an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in twenty countries. If you would like your child to participate please complete and return the form sent home earlier this week. Competitions available are : Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics.

**CLASS CONTACTS LIST** have been sent home this week. Thank you to Kirsten Wickham for collecting and collating all this information for distribution to parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>PUPIL FREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Nicole Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Penny Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Kate Perkins, Tamara Fahy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>CROSS COUNTRY – No Lunch Orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Belinda Pope, Donna Butterworth, Nicole McIlroy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Canteen will be running a sausage sizzle ($2 each) on Friday, as a camp fundraiser for Year 5. The canteen will be open to sell food and drinks but NO LUNCH ORDERS will be available. Parents are welcome to purchase a sausage on the day!!

**Debbie Robins – Canteen Manager**
Cross Country

On Friday March 6, we will have our first major sports carnival for the year, which is our Cross Country. A note was sent home with your child yesterday which contained information about starting times of events and a number of other essential information. The event is held at school and everyone is welcome to attend this great day. In terms of your child and their age, we base our age groups on the age each child is this year up until December 31. So if your child turned 8 on February 21, he/she will race in the 8 Yr race. If a child is 10 and turns 11 on March 7 or through to December 31, he or she will race in the 11 Yr race.

The distances are 12 and 11 Yrs- 3km- 3 laps, 10 Yrs- 2km- 2 laps, 9 Yrs 1.5km (can also include 8 Yr olds)- 1.5 laps. Yr 2 (8Yrs) and 1s- two laps of the oval and Kinder- 1 lap of the oval.

Trophies and medals will be given for 8/9/10/11/12 Yr old age groups. Please note, an 8 Year old child can race in the 9 Years race and can be selected for our St Peter’s Team. However, no 7 year olds can race in this event. If an 8 Yr old wins the 9 Yr race, it’s the first 9 Yr old across the line that wins the 9 Yr old trophy.

Cross Country approximate event times:

9.00am - 9yrs and under Race- Year 2/3- Girls/Boys (1.5km)
9.30am- 10yrs - Girls/Boys (2km)
9.50am- Yr 2-8 year Girls/Boys (500m)- 2 laps of St Peter’s Oval
10.10am - Kinder Race-Girls/Boys (250m)

10.30am- Year 1 Race - Girls/Boys (500m)
11.00am – 11yrs Race - Girls/Boys (3km)
11.45am - 12yrs and over Race - Girls/Boys (3km)

**If time permits, we will have a 4x250m relay race for parents/ teachers v senior students.
Parents, please contact me directly if you would like to participate in this event.

Winter Zone Trials

Unfortunately the Winter Zone Trials needed to be postponed due to the extreme wet weather. The back up date has now been announced and it will be Monday March 9, 2015 at Regional School. A reminder note will be sent home with your child early next week. Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time for coaching positions, could you please let me know if you’re unable to assist again on March 9. Thank you also to Jacqui Palmer, Abbey Cross, Maia and Georgia Marino who will also be assisting us on the day.

Diocesan Swimming

Good luck to our 17 members of the Hastings Swimming Team as they take on the Diocesan at swimming this Wednesday.

Jeff Arkinstall – Leader of Sport
Kindergarten: Anna Harmer, Meela Castle, Melanie Fox, Olivia Ottaway, Faith Urquhart, Lara Smith, Lily Rowlatt, Cameryn Trevilyan, Charli Atkins
Year 1: Luke Arnold, Darwin Tink, Paige Clancy, Jacob Carney, Maddison West, Mitchell Holding, Mikayla Stribling, Milla Weaver
Year 2: Molly McKee, Felix Hurdle, Kaden Lawler, Rosalia Short, Lucas Scott, Claire Pieren, Sarah Wilmot, Bobby Thompson
Year 3: Kaden Vonbun, Danny Kable, Harmony Mitchell, Tehya Nash, Ollie Haese, Olivia Boys, Jack Bryan, Cooper West, Molly Gilchrist
Year 4: Ash Keough, Callum Pender-Buchan, Kate Dulovic, Emmya Stokes, Kyan Tighe, Macey Lewis, Vanessa Kite
Year 5: Giselle Brennan, Aidan Binskin, Hugh Turnbull, Jabyn Beddoe, Alysha Kennedy, Nathan Fox
Year 6: Alicia Dowling, Niamh Cargill, Kimberley Palmer, Riley Ramke, Kate Field, Maddi McKee

Congratulations

Year 6 Leaders 2015
ATTN: PARENTS

Our Family Retreat is approaching fast. Escape the busy hustle and bustle of life. Come and enjoy the weekend with your family, meeting new families and sharing in the lovely outlook of Grassy Heads. This year we have Father O’Collins leading us in a new and engaging format, including fun activities for the whole family.

To register for our Parent Assembly Family Retreat, just open the electronic copy of the flyer in your school newsletter and click the link “To register..” This will take you to a registration form for your convenience. Or contact Peta Rourke on 0400 420 614 or Paul Edgar on 0427 118 122 and a registration form will be sent to you.

To help us with our catering, accommodation and organising, could you please register your family **before 13th March**.

We look forward to seeing you at our relaxing and informal family gathering. Food & accommodation supplied by Parent Assembly for your enjoyment!!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Peta Rourke
Cluster Organiser Hastings Macleay Region
Parent Assembly
Join us for the 2015 Family Retreat

Registration for Southern Retreat due by 13th March
To register please click here

- 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

For more information please contact your Parish School Parent Representative or your Parent Assembly Cluster Organisers:
Peta Rourke: Hastings Macleay (m) 0400420614
Paul Edgar: Clarence (m) 0427118122
Jo Kelly: Richmond (m) 0407706454
Leanne Robbins: Tweed (m) 0407143975

All costs covered by:
Catholic Schools Parent Assembly Parents in Partnership

CHOOSE FROM EITHER DATE AND VENUE:

**Southern Retreat** - SDA Convention Centre,
250 Grassy Head Rd Stuarts Point - March 28/29

**Northern Retreat** - Tyalgum Ridge Retreat,
783 Tyalgum Creek Rd - October 24/25
Thursday 26th February

2015 School Cross Country Carnival

Dear Parents,

Our School Cross Country Carnival will take place on Friday 6th March and will be held at school in a carnival format. With wonderful facilities at school, students will be able to support their house for the entire carnival.

Age Championship trophies will be presented to the following age divisions: 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs. These divisions are also the selection process for our school zone team. The first six competitors for 9yrs and under, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs age divisions qualify for the Hastings Zone Carnival which will be held at Bowralville on April 1st. Students if selected, are expected to attend and move to the next level of Pathway Sport.

As in previous years the canteen at school will be running a sausage sizzle ($2 each) on the day, as a Year 5 camp fundraiser. The school canteen will be open to sell drinks and food, but there will be no lunch orders on the day. Parents and families watching the events are also more than welcome to purchase a sausage on the day from the BBQ area. Year 5 will also be selling frozen pineapple fruit cups for 50 cents each.

Events will run approximately to the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>9yrs and under Race - Year 2/3 - Girls/Boys (1.5km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>10yrs - Girls/Boys (2km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.50am</td>
<td>Yr 2- 8 year Girls/Boys (500m) - 2 laps of St Peter’s Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.10am</td>
<td>Kinder Race-Girls/Boys (250m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Year 1 Race - Girls/Boys (500m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>11yrs Race - Girls/Boys (3km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>12yrs and over Race - Girls/Boys (3km)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If time permits, we will have a 4x250m relay race for parents/teachers vs senior students. Parents, please contact me directly if you would like to participate in this event.

Things to note:
- Children to wear their Sport Uniform and apply SPF30+ sunscreen before coming to school
- There will be sunscreen available in classrooms and at the oval for children to reapply throughout the day
- Girls may run in bike pants/shorts
- If wet, children need to bring old clothes and joggers to run in
- No Canteen Lunch Orders
- Sausage Sizzle will be running at school- $2.00 per sausage.

As always, we will need many parent helpers to run our carnival. If you are able to assist on the day then please fill out the slip below and return to school no later than Wednesday 4th March.

Yours sincerely,
Jeff Arkinstall
Leader of Sport/PE

Parent Helpers- please cut off and return to your class teacher by Wednesday 4th March if you can assist.

I am able to assist with the School Cross Country Carnival on Friday March 6th.
I would like to help from:

☐ approximately 9.00am – 11.00am
☐ approximately 11.00am - 12.30pm

Name: ___________________________ Parent Signature: ___________________________ Class: __________
AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS – YEARS 3 – 6

Welcome to the Australasian Schools Competitions.
The Australasian Schools Competitions form the largest independent assessment program for schools available in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific region.

This year we are again offering Primary age children (Years 3 – 6) the opportunity to participate in the Australian School’s Competitions. These competitions are purely optional, however we believe that the experience these competitions provide is valuable.

The competition dates and costs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Previously called Computer Skills)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} June – Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} June</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} June</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>Years 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 28\textsuperscript{th} July</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th} August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 2-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL ENTRIES CLOSE – Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} March 2015

The cost for the Writing Competition is considerably higher than the others because the test is hand marked.

If your child is interested please fill out the form below and return form with payment to your child’s class teacher, in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child’s name and class, by the 16\textsuperscript{th} March 2015.

NO LATE ENTRIES CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE!!!

Karen Robson ~ Co-ordinator

AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS – YEARS 3 - 6

Please complete this section and return with payment, to class teacher in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name and class, by Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} March 2014.

Please complete a separate entry form for each child in your family who is participating.

I understand that if my child is away on the day of the test no refunds can be given and the test will be forfeited.

I give permission for my child .............................................. to participate in the following competitions:

- [ ] Digital Technologies ($8.00)
- [ ] Science ($8.00)
- [ ] Spelling ($11.00)
- [ ] Writing ($17.00)
- [ ] English ($8.00)
- [ ] Maths ($8.00)

Please find enclosed $ ................. to cover the cost of the above competitions.

Signed: ................................................................. Date .............................................

Parent/Guardian
North Coast Herpetology Group

REPTILE EXPO

Sunday
March 29th 2015
10am - 3.30pm
Entry: $5pp (over 12)
Children under 12: $2
Children under 4: Free

Range of live reptiles on display
Native reptiles, enclosures, equipment and supplies for sale on the day!

Port Macquarie Panthers Club
1 Bay St, Port Macquarie NSW 244

Author Peter Birch along with Critter Cam will be attending with displays

Lucky door prize every hour———There will be a reptile in the auction at 1pm along with reptile related goods

The lucky door prizes are family passes to Australian Reptile Park (2 adults/2 children)
DAD AND MUM
HAVE YOU GOT A GREAT IDEA?

On Sunday 17th May, there is going to be a fantastic event called “Maytime Markets” at our school.

A day full of fun activities and stalls to raise money for our school, to provide extra stuff for us, the kids, who are so lucky to learn at St Peter’s.

We would love to hear all about your great NEW ideas and anyone wishing to be a Coordinator of a stall will be greatly appreciated.

Can you come to a meeting to share your bright ideas:

Tuesday 24th February in the staffroom at 6.00pm.

OR

Can you email or phone Kim Goldie with your cool ideas for stalls and activities that we would love:

Email: kim.goldie@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0417 407 014

Any help no matter how big or small will make a difference!

2015 – St Peter’s
BEST Maytime Markets!