**Important Dates**

**March**
- **Thursday 17th**
  St Patrick’s & St Brigid’s Day
  9.30am Mass
- **Friday 18th**:
  10.30am Kinder assembly;
  Swimming for sport - last day;
  Diocesan Winter Sports Trials;
  Boys Soccer in Grafton
- **Sunday 20th**
  Parish Family Mass 5pm
  Palm Sunday & BBQ to follow
- **Tuesday 22nd**
  I.C.A.S. nominations due today
- **Wednesday 23rd**
  Northern Star Kindy supplement out
- **Tuesday 29th March**:
  Staff Development day - PUPIL FREE DAY

**April**
- **Friday 1st**
  St Brigid’s School Cross Country
- **Friday 8th**
  Last day of Term 1
  Term 2 starts on TUESDAY 26th APRIL

**NEWS FROM YEAR 1/2H**

This term Stage 1 have been working as a stage for Mathematics. Students have been exposed to learning experiences as a whole class, in small groups and individually. These experiences include reading, writing and ordering numbers from 0 to 999. We have started to use a range of materials and methods to add and subtract numbers in a variety of situations. Stage 1 Maths groups were showcased for Catholic Schools Week Open Classrooms on Wednesday. This demonstrated students working at their individual level for Maths and how various abilities are catered for within our learning environments.

**Make Jesus Real**

Taking the good with the bad

To enjoy the beauty of the rainbow we must sometimes endure the rain.
Message from Mr Hunter

*Everything that happens to you is your teacher. The secret is to learn to sit at the feet of your own life and be taught by it. Everything that happens is either a blessing which is also a lesson, or a lesson which is also a blessing.*

(Polly Berrien Berends)

Dear Parents,

Last night, the Annual General Meeting of the School Parent Forum was held. It was wonderful to see so many staff and parents in attendance. Many of the larger schools in our diocese are struggling to get 5 or 6 parents in attendance so congratulations to the very supportive community of our school. This was a great turnout.

I wish to thank sincerely those members of the Executive from the last year for their dedication, commitment and support to the SPF. Mel Gordon announced at the AGM that she will be standing down as Chairperson and on behalf of our school community I thank Mel for taking on this role last year. A new Chairperson will be elected at the next Forum meeting to be held on Tuesday May 3.

Parents are recognised as partners and professional teachers in the education of their children, with the parents being the first educators. The Forum exists for the benefit of the school and as part of its structure, not as something separate. Its role is not limited to fundraising, but is involved in the total life of the school. It represents all the parents of the school, not just those who are able to attend meetings, and acts on their behalf.

The aims of the School Parent Forum are:-

- To develop at the school a Christian community of parents, staff and students.
- To work closely with the school’s Principal to achieve the goals of the school.
- To achieve a high level of social and education interaction between home and school and parents and staff.
- To encourage fuller participation by parents in the educational experience of their children.
- To provide a healthy forum for exchange of ideas and discussion on relevant issues of benefit to education generally, the students in particular, and the parents or the staff of the school.
- To become a communication network for the benefit of the school with the parent community as well as the wider community.
- To provide additional resources and facilities to improve educational opportunities for students.

Each year the Forum contributes funds towards student resources, school improvements and other important projects essential to maintaining a high standard of service to the students. Parents are requested to commit some time to the school by being available for tuckshop, and/ or various activities that are organised through the course of the school year.

Research has demonstrated that children excel and enjoy school more when they see their parents being involved and taking an active interest in their education but more importantly in their school. This really highlights the strengthening of the bonds between home and school when all are working together to achieve better student outcomes. It is a real win/win situation for everyone.

Our school is fortunate to have a number of teams on the Forum - *Library, Reading Bug Team, Grounds Team, Fundraising Team, IT/Publicity Team, Sport Team, Community Events, Yearbook Team, Canteen/Uniform, Parent Assembly/Class Parents/ Pastoral Care Team*. If you would like to become a member of one of these teams please let me know or the specific Team Leader. It is not too late to nominate to be a member of a team. Next week I will publish the list of Team leaders for the Newsletter and I strongly recommend that all families be involved with one of the many teams. Great fun, good social networking and great people – what more could anyone ask for.

**St Patrick’s Mass**: All are invited to our Mass tomorrow, Thursday at 9.30am. Children are to come in school uniform but are more than welcome to wear something green for the day, eg. Hairband, ribbons, socks, ties, scarves, badges etc.

Have a wonderful week,

*Tony Hunter*

Principal
**Curriculum**

**I.C.A.S. for SCHOOLS**
Permission forms are now available at the school office for Digital Technologies (Computer Studies), Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics competitions. Forms with entry fees are due by Tuesday, 22nd March.

**Insight SRC Parent Surveys**
This week we will be sending home surveys from Insight SRC to a random selection of parents. If you do receive one of the envelopes, I really encourage you to take the time to complete the survey. This survey can be completed on line or via filling in the hard copy contained in the envelope. If you do the hard copy please place your completed survey into the envelope provided and send it back into school. This year we will be taking part in a School Review and Improvement process and this survey will provide vital data in order for us as a staff to plan for future school effectiveness.

All staff, the students of Years 5 and 6 and a random selection of families will be asked to complete the survey.

Catholic Education Lismore is committed to identifying issues at a system and school level that contribute to staff and student wellbeing and engagement, the effectiveness of our system support and our schools, and to developing initiatives to enhance or improve these. The survey results will provide key information for our school and the system to use in bringing about improvements in the way we work together and the environment we work in.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about the survey. We are setting ourselves a target of 100% return rate with the survey and your valuable assistance in helping us achieve this goal will be fantastic.

**Unexplained Absence Letters**
*Thank you* to those families who have returned their letters explaining absences. These letters will be sent home each fortnight if you have not explained an absence for your child.

**Community**

**Canteen—Week 10**
Due to Easter Monday on 28th March & our Pupil Free day on 29th March, we will have canteen on **WEDNESDAY 30th March in Week 10.**

**Staff Development Days (SDD)**
During the year schools are allocated a number of days in which to conduct professional learning opportunities for all staff in order to improve the quality of learning for students. Our next SDD’s will take place on **Tuesday 29th March and Tuesday 26th April.** On the 29th staff will be involved in our yearly retreat based on the Foundational Values for Catholic Identity and Mission. On the 26th of April, staff will be working on data to assist in the collation of our Strategic Management Plan as a part of our School Review and Improvement Process.

Please note that due to our SDD on the 26th of April, the first day of Term 2 will be Wednesday 27th April.

**Catholic Identity**

**Parish Family Mass**
Our first Family Mass will be held on the **20th March, 5pm** to celebrate Palm Sunday. Children are welcome to process into the church at the start of Mass, carrying palms which will be supplied. BBQ to follow. Please return note for organisational & catering purposes.

**Incitare**
Last week Chelbie Pickering, Jess Farragher, Larni Ingram and Henry McErlean of Year 6 students attended the Incitare one day retreat at Tullera Hall. The retreat brings students together from parish schools in our region to celebrate their faith with other young people. Our 4 students, accompanied by Mrs. Jansen, participated in a range of small and large group activities, shared their ideas and prepared and celebrated a liturgy together. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to -**
**Seth Ribton-Turner**

**UNIFORM SHOP**
Open **MONDAYS**
2:30pm—3:15pm (after Canteen)
All enquiries about uniforms to:
**SUZIE SMITH**
Phone 6632 2958
or 0422 415 520
Uniform order sheets are available from the school office at any time.

**ASSEMBLY**
10.30AM FRIDAY
**KINDER**
*Please join us!*
SCHOOL CANTEEN
21st March: Shonel Powell & Tara Price.
Please sign in at the office before going to Canteen.
If for any reason you cannot attend on your rostered day, please swap days with someone on the roster.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kyogle Soccer 2016
Soccer players aged 5-11 years, our season is about to start.
Players should register online using the “My Football Club” Website. Any questions can be directed to kyoglefc@ffnc.net.au or to Glenn Rose on 0418 264 968.

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP
For parents/carers of children & adults on the autism spectrum, a meeting on 14/03/2016 from 10.30am-12.30pm at the Kyogle Library. Tea/coffee supplied for a relaxed and welcoming environment. Please phone Raeanne on 0404240263 or email activeforautism@gmail.com

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1986
ST. MARY’S HIGH SCHOOL CASINO
30 YEAR REUNION
Organisers are looking to find classmates from the graduating class of 1986 at St Mary’s High School in Casino to join them for a Class Reunion on the June long weekend, 11th and 12th June 2016.
A dinner at the Casino RSM on Saturday 11th June. Tickets are $45 per person & can be purchased from the RSM by Friday 20th May. On Sunday 12th June a family day is planned at the park on the South side of Casino. The day will be BYO.
For further information please email Cinnamon at cinnamonclark@gmail.com.

KYOGLE VACATION CARE
BOOK NOW for the April school holidays by phone 6621 7397 or email rrkassist@nrcg.org.au

+ Our Lady of Sorrows +
Catholic Church Kyogle
6pm: Saturday Vigil Mass
9am: Sunday Mass

HALL HIRE
Please contact the Parish office on 66321074 regarding hiring of the hall.

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Phone 6633 7280
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Lessons are held during school time every Tuesday
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Group of two: $16 per lesson
Group of three: $13 per lesson

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