Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare’s

The Year 12 mass on the last day of Term 3 was a wonderful celebration of the 2016 Year 12 cohort’s contribution to St Clare’s High School. Father Derek spoke of the need to recognise that change is a natural part of life and at times of change we can gain much from saying goodbye to the familiar things we will miss while welcoming the new circumstances in which we find ourselves. Father Derek urged the Year 12 students to find a quiet time to walk around the school and say goodbye to the places and people that have helped shape their lives and have helped equip them for the next phase of their lives.
At the end of mass the 2016 Student Leaders “badged” the 2017 Leadership Group into their leadership roles for 2017. This was a very moving moment and gave a physical manifestation of the transfer of responsibility from one senior leadership group to another. The 2016 leaders leave a strong legacy of collaboration and industry that will serve as a benchmark for our future leaders.
The mass closed with our Year 12 cohort parading from the hall to applause from the school. We will miss their energy and strong sense of commitment to the school community.

My thanks to Father Greg, Father Derek and Deacon Vince for their leadership and commitment to the spiritual life of St Clare’s. Thanks also to Ministry Coordinator, Denise Ryan for her organisation of the mass, to Carmel Brown and our Year 10 musicians who played and sang beautifully, to SRC Coordinator Jane Polson for her preparation work with our student leaders and to the many parents and guests who were able to attend and make the occasion so memorable.

Year 12 HSC exams commenced yesterday. They stimulate great excitement in some people and a level of anxiety in others. The HSC exams are a significant event in the life of students, families and the school. They offer a series of challenges and create opportunities for our young people, especially those who wish to pursue a university education. However they do not define a person or measure the worth of an individual. We know our young people and are proud of them, their values and the wonderful contribution they will make to our world. A quick look at the group photo taken after last terms mass will show the sense of excitement and joy that they will take to their post-secondary school days.
Much of the research literature that is being published about education and future careers revolve around the need to teach students creative thinking and problem solving skills. This is a very different mindset from the one in which most adults were educated and offers significant challenges to the way education is constructed in Australia. Yesterday we hosted Inquisitive Minds who worked with Year 7 and Year 10 mathematicians. Students used their mathematical skills collaboratively to solve difficult problems “against the clock”. Student engagement levels were high and staff and students enjoyed the learning they shared together. Information and photos of the day are outlined in the Inquisitive Minds article in this newsletter.

Jordan Cordell & Callum Owen

Olivia Nguyen & Sean Patten

Ged Dormor and Declan Pettet

Derek (Presenter), Maddison Eakin & Erin Horsington

God Bless

Principal

P & F – NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2016 – 6 PM
VENUE – ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, TAREE (COMMUNITY ROOM)
PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE: A reminder to all that the school has a Chaplain. Please feel free to contact our Chaplain, Deacon Vince Ryan, through the school office if he can be of assistance to you or any member of our whole school community.

Mass Times

Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree
75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham
8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30 am

St Bernadette’s, Krambach
Bucketts Way, Krambach
Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9 am
(Mass is celebrated on alternate weekends – please speak to Deacon Vince or Mrs Denise Ryan at school for information)

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington
Pilot St, Harrington
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)
Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar

20 Hall St, Old Bar, Sunday
Mass: 7:30 am

St Patrick’s, Cundletown
River St, Cundletown
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish
Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster
33 Lake Street, Forster
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry
15 Peel Street, Tuncurry
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

HSC EXAMS: A reminder to all parents/carers that during the HSC Examination period, from Thursday, 13 October to Friday, 4 November, the PA will not be used during recess and lunch. It would be appreciated if parents/guardians could therefore send in a written note or ring the front office in the morning if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. as we will not be able to call students during the scheduled breaks. Thank you. Office Staff

YEAR 12 STUDENTS: Please ensure that you clean out your lockers prior to the Graduation on 11 November 2016. Thank you.

CAREERS CORNER: HSC Examinations have commenced and post school offers of employment/tertiary placement have already been made to a number of students. It is important that students inform the school of such offers so that guidance can be offered in successfully negotiating the progression through the requirements of these offers.

For Year 12 students: release of HSC results – time to update student details
HSC results will be delivered to students via email and text message from 6 am on Thursday, 15 December 2016. Students will also be able to access their results at the same time via Students Online.
It is important that BOSTES has accurate student contact details. Students should log into Students Online and check that **email addresses** and **mobile telephone numbers** are recorded correctly. If the school email address is recorded, students should consider **changing it to their personal one**, as they will have left school by the time results are released and access to the school email accounts may have been terminated by the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office.

On **Wednesday, 21 December 2016**, students will be able to download all their BOSTES credentials from Students Online as a PDF. Eligible students will receive their HSC testamur in the post between **18 – 20 January 2017**. Students will be able to order a further copy of their HSC testamur or a printed copy of their **Record of Achievement** and course reports at a cost of $17.00. Alternatively, they can print all of the documents themselves from Students Online.

**For Year 11 students: commencement of HSC Courses and changes to enrolments**
Year 11 students have transitioned from the D5/D6/D7 Courtyard behind the Technics Block to the Senior Quad. Students should also be transitioning to a higher level of commitment to their studies as HSC Courses commence. In most courses (except VET/TVET, Modern Languages, 30% of Mathematics Courses), Preliminary HSC course content cannot be **directly** examined at the 2017 HSC Examinations – so, for the most part, no one is ahead or behind any other candidate at present. If less than a determined effort has been made to date, **NOW** is the time to ‘step up to the plate’.

In regard to ‘dropping subjects’, an **extended email** has been sent to all Year 11 students regarding the pros and cons of studying 10, 11, 12 or 13 units in 2017. Guidelines can be summarised as:

- The current proportions for the **80,000 HSC students in NSW** is that **75% take either 10/11/12 units** - 10 Units (45%), 11 Units (18%) and 12 Units (12%)
- Taking 10 units gives you more time to study which allows you to increase your focus on the subjects you are taking and hopefully lift your marks across all your subjects
- Taking 10 units means that you are putting ‘all your eggs in one basket in the sense that you cannot afford to perform poorly in any subject (either in school assessment tasks or in the HSC Exams) as it will result in your ATAR taking a hit.
- If you are contemplating dropping a subject, you should not consider scaling, but consider which subjects you enjoy.

**For Years 9-12 students: careers information updates**
This week marks the beginning of a regular careers email to students who are 15-18 years of age i.e. Years 9 to 12. This email will contain weekly update on careers and post school opportunities under the headings of careers associated with:

1. subject Key Learning Areas (e.g. English, Maths, Science, Visual Arts);
2. post school agencies (e.g. Universities, TAFE, Defence Force)

Parents are encouraged to discuss the contents of these emails with their children.

**Ian Evans, Careers Adviser**
INQUISITIVE MINDS ‘PROBLEMS, PICTURES, PATTERNS AND PUZZLES’ WORKSHOP: On Wednesday, 12 October, 120 of our talented Year 7 and 10 Mathematics students spent most of their day solving mathematics problems. The activity was run by Inquisitive Minds, an educational business which partners with the Mathematical Association of NSW to challenge both primary and secondary students via workshops which incorporate hands-on lessons, activities and competitions. The aim of the day was to improve student’s problem solving skills and enable them to gain experience by solving interesting and challenging problems in a fun, competitive way.

The students were assisted by Mathematics teachers, Mr Donovan, Miss O’Sullivan, Mrs Boere and Mrs Rowsell who helped with supervision and marking. Each pair of students had to be strategic in collecting points for solving problems of varying difficulty. It was interesting to see that some students focused on winning the chocolate challenges by solving specific problems rather than aiming at the highest overall point score, (isn’t that right, Renee Elliott and Poppy Gray)! The students thoroughly enjoyed their sessions commenting that they were challenged and enriched by the tasks. They enjoyed working collaboratively and competitively to solve problems. The games and chocolate prizes were also enjoyed and appreciated.

Congratulations must go to all students who participated in this event as the organisers, Deb and Derek, complimented them on their enthusiasm and cooperation throughout the day. Special congratulations go to our winners of the day:

Year 7 Champions  WenYuan LimSchneider and Flynn Cameron
Year 10 Champions  Hannah Dormor and Millie Webber

Mathematics Coordinator Mrs Julie Rowsell
Yay, we got it!  
Grace McKechnie and Chloe Norman

Winners are grinners  
Patrick Guthridge and Jayden Heng

There are many ways to collaborate, ‘this is how we do it…..”

Harry Plummer and Rainer Fagerstrom  
Rohan Wiseman and Rickardd Weiley

It was a race until the end… Forbes Thurtell and Jack Piscopo
AUSTRALIAN DRAGON BOAT SELECTION: Over the school holidays, three students travelled to Canberra and stayed at the Australian Institute of Sport for a selection camp for the Australian Dragon Boat Team, known as The Aurora’s. **Alistair Adamson, Sean Page (both in Year 11) and Jade Page (Year 7)** were successful and will travel to China in August next year to represent Australia at the International Dragon Boat Federation World Championships. Alistair and Sean are in the Under 18s crew and Jade in the Under 16s crew.

For Sean, this is his second time in The Aurora’s being part of the gold medal winning Under 16s team at the World Championships in 2015, whilst Alistair has been successful in the NSW Junior team winning gold at the past two Australian Championships. At just 12, Jade is the youngest member of the Under 16s crew but has already made a strong impression, edging out older paddlers in the selection process. They now start an even more rigorous fitness and paddling program over the next year with the hope of bringing back gold from China.

**Sue Calvin**

MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.

**WHEN IS IT ON?** Wednesday lunchtime - every week.

Bring your lunch!

**WHERE?** Room 10

We hope to see you there!

**Mrs Julie Rowsell, Mathematics Coordinator**
LEAVE NOTES & STUDENT MESSAGES: It would be appreciated if parents/guardians would send in a written note if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. Notes should be handed in at the front office in the morning before roll call. If parents/guardians need to notify their child of a change of afternoon arrangements, it is necessary to phone the school prior to 2:25 pm (End of Lunch – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) or prior to 1:55 pm (End of Lunch – Thursday Sport) as it is often difficult to locate students if their last lesson is a PE Prac or there has been a room change. Students cannot be collected from the school during school hours by anyone other than a parent or guardian without written permission. Thank you.

LATE NOTES: Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. Arriving Late for school requires a handwritten note from a parent/carer or a phone call from a parent/carer or the absence is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLINIC: Students are reminded that if they are unwell whilst at school they are to advise their teacher who will then send them to the Front Office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent while the student waits in the Clinic. Students are not to contact parents on their mobile phones as this leaves teachers and office staff unaware of the situation and is also in breach of the school policy – use of mobile phones. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS - 2016

Term 3

Week 3 Wednesday 26/10 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm
St Joseph’s Primary School, Taree (Community Room)

Week 4 Friday 4/11 ♦ HSC Written Examinations conclude

Week 5 Monday 7/11 ♦ Year 9 & 10 Yearly Examinations commence
Friday 11/11 ♦ Graduation Evening

Week 6 Friday 18/11 ♦ Year 9 & 10 Yearly Examinations conclude
Week 7  Monday  21/11 ♦ Year 7 & 8 Yearly Examinations commence
       Wednesday 23/11 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm
       Friday    25/11 ♦ Year 7 & 8 Yearly Examinations conclude

Week 10 Wednesday 14/12 ♦ Year 10 Social
            Thursday 15/12 ♦ Year 10 Awards Ceremony
            ♦ HSC Results released
            Friday   16/12 ♦ ATAR Results released
            ♦ Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Annual Awards Ceremony
            ♦ Final Day for Students

Week 11 Monday  19/12 ♦ Pupil Free Day
            ♦ Parent/Teacher Interviews (by request)
       Tuesday   20/12 ♦ Final Day for Teachers

2017

Term 1

Week 1  Friday  27/1 ♦ Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day

Week 2  Monday 30/1 ♦ Years 7, 11 & 12 Students Commence
            Tuesday 31/1 ♦ Years 8, 9 & 10 Students Return

Week 5  Wednesday 22/2 ♦ School Photographs

Miniman Aquathon is coming to Forster on October 15! This fun filled event is a fantastic morning of sport and entertainment for boys and girls aged 7-11. The event is a short swim in the Forster Keys followed by a quick run to the finish line where participants will be awarded with a medal for conquering this fantastic achievement! There are two different races; 7-9 year olds will complete a 50m swim followed by a 500m run, and 10-11 year olds will complete a 150m swim followed by a 1km run. The Aquathon is a great introduction to triathlon without all the hassle of lugging a bike around. Entry is just $30 online or $35 on the day. Go to www.eliteenergy.com.au/event/forster-triathlon-festival/miniman/ for registration and more information.
Welcome to PrayOnline, our daily service of prayer, reflections, the readings of the day, blogs and podcasts.

The PrayerBlog | Becoming Peacemakers

By Andrew Hamilton, SJ

Everyone wants peace. But equally most people find conflict more interesting than peace.

Click here to read more

Welcome to PrayOnline

Visit Our Website

Daily Prayer


Readings

People are constantly reading each other to see what kind of 'signs' they are. We notice when someone is generous and honest, instead of selfish and deceitful. We notice when someone is joyful, peaceful and enthusiastic instead of angry, disconnected or apathetic.

Click here for today's reflection
PrayerPod with Sr Therese Mills

Sr Therese Mills is a Missionary of God's Love sister living in Canberra and working in schools.

Click here to download the podcast and others from iTunes.

or

Click here to listen to this podcast at pray.com.au
Matinee Concert
Thursday 27th October 2016 - 11.00am
Manning Entertainment Centre
Starring Mr Don Spencer (ACMF)
Ms Rachel Scott (ACMF)
and amazing young
performers of the Manning Valley

Mozart & McCartney
Thursday 27th October 2016 - 7.00pm
Manning Entertainment Centre
Starring Mr Don Spencer (ACMF)
Mr George Ellis (Composer & Conductor)
Ms Rachel Scott (ACMF)
and amazing young
performers of the Manning Valley