**Congratulations** to our newly confirmed students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last night. Thank you to Mr Bullock who prepared the children so well and to Mrs Brazel who coordinated preparations between parish and school. As the Bishop was away at World Youth Day celebrations, Fr Peter Slack, as Vicar General and in charge of the Diocese in the absence of the Bishop, assisted by Fr Michael, confirmed the candidates and made it a special night for them by speaking to the children at such a personal level and engaging them throughout the ceremony. Following Confirmation, the children, their families and members of our school and parish communities gathered in the church hall to celebrate by sharing a meal and cake together. It was a very enjoyable evening for all involved and we ask you to continue to keep these young people in your prayers.

**Morning Assembly Change:** With our gymnastics program and Genius Hour both running on a Friday, we have found that the daily timetable is a bit tight and some classes are missing some time doing these fun activities. In order to stretch the day a little we have decided that there will be no morning assembly for the rest of this term. Class awards will now be given out at assembly on a Wednesday (Years K, 1 & 2) or a Thursday (Years 3 – 6) where possible.

**Return to Reality:** After a wonderful overseas trip and some extended leave I am back at school and enjoying catching up with our delightful students and broader school community. Of course there is not much sympathy from the staff when I complain about the cold weather after returning from a very warm northern hemisphere summer! Thank you for your patience with postponing appointments and other communications while I was away. I would also like to publicly thank Mrs Steep and Mrs Brazel, who each had a turn at being in charge of the school in my absence, and the rest of our fantastic staff who always show great dedication to their work and just kept the school humming along like normal.

Kind Regards,
David Hughes (Principal)

The local **Creek to Creek** project planning group is putting together a history book with a focus on the foreshores of Stingray Creek and has asked the school if there might be an interested parent who could provide some information about the school for inclusion in the book. The school has some records that may be useful for this purpose so if anyone is interested in liaising with the group please contact the office.
Congratulations to Paige Hudson & Elwood Dollery who are competing in the North-east region Champion of Champions tennis tournament this weekend in Grafton. Elwood & Paige have placed 3rd & 4th respectively to qualify for this event, representing Kendall Tennis Club and we wish them all the best!

I'm pleased to report that **Genius Hour** is well underway across classrooms from years 3-6! Genius Hour is an hour given to students each week to follow their passions and learn about topics that interest them. As technology advances, it is more important than ever that children be taught how ask and answer questions through research as a lifelong learning skill. This is called inquiry learning.

Over the past few weeks students have learned about the power of inquiry learning and the privilege of choice. Each student began by brainstorming their passions and from this they have chosen a theme for their Genius Hour project. Teachers have since worked with students to develop a deep thinking question to go with their theme along with a timeline for investigating the answer to their question and developing their presentation.

I have been very impressed with the large amount of creative, varied and very interesting themes and questions posed by students across all the grades. Here are a few of many:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Theme/Topic</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaena from Year 3</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>How did David Attenborough become an environmental reporter and who inspired him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attenborough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ned from Year 3</td>
<td>Trumpets</td>
<td>Who invented the trumpet and how are trumpets made?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty from Year 4</td>
<td>NRL</td>
<td>Who invented NRL and how has it changed over time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna from Year 4</td>
<td>Surfing</td>
<td>What creates the ocean swell?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim from Year 5</td>
<td>Space</td>
<td>How has our knowledge of space evolved over the years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel from Year 5</td>
<td>Pyramids</td>
<td>How and why were the pyramids built, who built them and what were they used for?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan from Year 6</td>
<td>Manga</td>
<td>When was manga created and how was it designed to read?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliza from Year 6</td>
<td>Harness</td>
<td>How did the trots begin and where did they first take place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Racing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feel free to google ‘Genius Hour’ or pop into school to find out more! Fiona Hayward
Our Canteen Queen Bronnie has been offering a variety of enticing healthy treats for our students this week including: banana & nutella wraps, carrot & corn relish nibble cups, carob delights & watermelon stars! We have also had some great feedback from suppliers who have commented on how lovely all our canteen staff are & that they enjoy delivering goods to our school. Well done ladies!! 😊😊😊😊

A Bookfair preview flyer is now available in each classroom, as well as a copy in the school office, for perusal of some of the great books on offer during the “Australia! Story Country” themed Bookfair. Please see Bec for more details.

Note: this year payment method is by cash only.

Bookfair is Tues 23rd & 24th Aug in our library.

Xmas in July thanks…
The P & F Committee would like to thank all the amazing families that baked and donated, helped sell all the beautiful goodies, and set up/pack up the Christmas in July stall last Saturday! Every little bit of help added up to a lot of help and we raised $575.80! We pulled together at the last minute and did a great job! Well Done St Joeys!! Gayl Ellis.

A BIG THANK YOU!
Our school now has a Defibrillator thanks to the ground work of our P&F and the LUSC who have covered the costs of the purchase (through their club’s grants program). We greatly appreciate their generosity and ongoing support!

YR 5 & 6 GALA DAY
Our school will again be hosting a Yr 5 & 6 Soccer and Netball Gala Day at Laurieton Oval for local schools on Thurs 22nd August. As per last year, we will be seeking donations of cakes etc. to sell on the day. More information will follow shortly.
COMMUNITY NOTICE:

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
CAP provides a FREE course to help anyone who would like to manage their money better. The CAP money course teaches simple money management skills using a cash-based system that really works! Become more in control of your finances – budget, save and learn to live debt free. The course consists of 3 X 2 hour sessions running over consecutive weeks. It will change the way you think about your money! Phone 65 81 5005 and ask to be transferred to the CAP office to register.

Course Dates: 15, 22 & 29th Aug / 6.15pm-8.15pm at Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre 2 Dodds St Port Macquarie 2444

CBA School banking incentives Term 3...
Students who make 3 or more deposits in term 3 go into the draw to win Star Saver prizes & if you complete the Stargazing online activity students go into a separate draw for a playstation pack. Visit commbank.com.au/prizelights for more details.

CANTEEN NEWS...
Thanks to Kim McCullough for cupcakes this week!
$5 Wednesday Meal Deal next Wednesday – chicken & gravy roll & hot milo 😊😊😊

BOOKCLUB NEWS...
Our recent Bookclub order achieved almost $1000 in sales which is great news for our school rewards!
It is fantastic to see so many children and parents having an interest in books & literacy.
Dona Davy – Bookclub Coordinator

SCHOOL BOOKFAIR:
23rd & 24th August
‘Green & Gold’ out of uniform day Wed 24th August as well!!

Growth Mindset…