Second Week of Advent: The second candle, lit on the second Sunday of Advent, along with the first candle, is the Bethlehem candle, reminding us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. It too is purple, reminding us that it was a King who was born in the manger. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. At assembly this week I asked the children about getting ready for Christmas. Their responses included natural things such as putting up a tree and decorations, buying gifts and getting the food for a big celebration on Christmas Day. I also asked them to think about getting themselves ready spiritually by trying to become a better person, remembering their prayers and thinking about the meaning of Jesus coming into our lives. I encourage all parents to continue these discussions with their families as we get ready for this joyous season and reflect upon why we actually do make such a big fuss over this special celebration.

P&F Dinner: Our P&F will conclude their input for the year next Wednesday night with a dinner meeting at the Laurieton Hotel at 6.00pm. I would especially like to thank our hard working committee of Gayl Ellis, Magda Tazbir-Buckley, Renee Welsh and Bronwyn Burke, and all other parents who have come along to meetings and contributed in some way to the running of our school this year. Working together on fundraising ideas, having a say in decisions about the functioning of the school, and helping to build and maintain our community are all fantastic contributions made by the P&F that go towards a better educational experience for all children in our school. Anyone wanting to come along and join us on Wednesday night would be most welcome.

Kind Regards, David Hughes (Principal)

Invitation to our Families
End of Year School Mass
Friday 9th Dec at 12pm
St Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church

We are half way through our intensive Swimming Programme which will conclude next Thursday. The timetable for next week is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 5th Dec to Thurs 8th Dec</th>
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<tr>
<td>10am-10.45am</td>
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<td>10.45am-11.30am</td>
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<td>11.30am-12.15pm</td>
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<td>12.15pm-1pm</td>
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Cautionary: Swimming lessons are only for children who can swim at the given times. Children under 5 are not allowed in the pool.

CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
<th>Week 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON 5th Dec</td>
<td>INTENSIVE SWIMMING K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini Vinnies appeal donations / Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES 6th Dec</td>
<td>INTENSIVE SWIMMING K-6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:15a.m. Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mini Vinnies appeal donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 7th Dec</td>
<td>INTENSIVE SWIMMING K-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Library Years 1 &amp; 4 /3:15 pm Staff Mtg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;F Dinner 6pm Laurieton Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini Vinnies appeal donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR 8th Dec</td>
<td>INTENSIVE SWIMMING K-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Library Kinder &amp; Year 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mini Vinnies appeal donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 9th Dec</td>
<td>END OF YR SCHOOL MASS 12pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Library Years 2, 6 &amp; 3 / Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini Vinnies appeal donations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports home to parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Future Events

| Tue 13 Dec: Presentation Night |
| Thur 15 Yr 6 Graduation |
| Fri 16 Dec: Pool Day and last day of attendance for students |
Advent Prayer

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son. God of hope, hear our humble prayer that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

Mini Vinnies Xmas Hamper appeal... A note will be going home today regarding our Mini Vinnies Christmas Hamper appeal. Each class will be given a list of items to bring in for local families in need. We received many generous donations last year and hope that you can support this worthy cause again this year 😊

Congratulations to Madelaine Goodridge who has returned from the NSWPSA National Athletics Championships in Sydney. Madelaine competed in a number of events during the week for the 10-12yrs category including:
- Shotput 6th/ Long jump 7th/
- 8 x 80 relay run 2nd / Long jump relay 1st / Shotput relay 1st. Well done Madelaine on a fantastic achievement!

Six Ways to Finish the Year Strong
(Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT – Parent Talk, Dec 2016)

1. Encourage a Growth Mindset when sharing your child’s school report: Report time can produce anxiety in some children so it’s important to approach this together in an encouraging way. Focus on their strengths, effort and application first. Skills of independence and cooperation should also be as highly regarded as academic performance. Discuss how they think they went, where they think they made progress and where they feel they might be able to improve. Encouraging a growth mindset helps keep students motivated and proud of the work they are doing.

2. Stay involved and engaged with your child’s learning: Despite the busy nature of this time of year, try to keep up the interest in what your child is doing in the classroom. Use Christmas planning as an opportunity to practice literacy skills such as writing shopping lists, Christmas cards and wish lists. Keep up the home reading – if you stay excited in their reading, they just might too.

3. Communicate with your child’s School: If you know of any issues or challenges your child has had this year (learning, teachers, friendships) then now is the time to put an action plan into place for next year. Organise a meeting with the relevant school contacts and work together to create a plan to help your child feel more relaxed and positive before the long Christmas break.

4. Share Gratitude: to make an ‘end of year’ teacher gift meaningful and individual, help your child reflect on what they learnt and liked about their teacher and have them write it in a card, make a poem or simple letter. This helps your child reflect on the year and appreciate the teacher’s hard work as well. Teachers tell us how they enjoy the personal gestures.

5. Appreciate your child’s work: When you child brings home their workbooks or artworks it’s a great opportunity to sit with them and appreciate the work they have done. Point out how much they have improved, show them your favourite works, ask them if they want to share special pieces with their grandparents and other significant family members and encourage their creativity by hanging up a few masterpieces around the home. This will help give them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

6. Don’t forget to have fun! During the hustle of Term 4, don’t forget to take time out such as a family stroll, dinner at the park, or watch a Christmas movie – enjoy the lead up to this special season about a family long ago and celebrate your family’s accomplishments from the year together.
As part of the NRL Back Yard Football Program in Term 2, all students today received their own football courtesy of Pat Preston from the NRL. We wish to thank Pat & the NRL as the kids were all very excited to receive this gift today😊

CONGRATULATIONS to Piper Facer (tennis), Milla Seale (Girls Touch) and Blake Steep (Boys Touch) who have qualified to represent the Lismore Dioceses early next year in the Polding event. Well done on your selection! 😊

Attention Parents:
If you missed the fete and would like to buy your child’s artwork (Kinder, Year 1 & 2) they are still available to purchase at the office for $3 each. A great gift for Christmas! Bec

Genius Hour and STEM Report
As the year comes to an end, I have been impressed with the growth students have demonstrated through Genius Hour and STEM sessions.
Students have gained confidence in not only asking deep thinking questions, but actively researching, experimenting and reflecting on answers and solutions to questions and problems posed.
As next week is our last week for Genius Hour this year, we will be having project presentations next Friday with invitations for students who have opted to present ‘live’ going home today.
Year 5/6 presentations will be held from 9:15 and Year 3/4 presentations will be held from 10:15. If your child has opted to present online, you can view their project on the school website via the Genius Hour tab.
Fiona Hayward – G&T Coordinator

During music lessons this week, Year 5 & 6 have undertaken a composition task using digital music technology....

A big thank you to all our canteen volunteers this year for Mondays, Fridays & Wednesday Meal Deal days. Your input and support is greatly appreciated by the school and especially the students! 🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉

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**Our School Fete**

Last Friday from 4pm-8pm the school fete was on. We had the flying chairs, a bouncy castle and an aeroplanes ride. There were lollies, art stalls, lucky dips, tattoos, face painting, hair colouring, plants, books and dvds, chocolate toss and many more stalls.

There were lots of displays and competitions too. People said it was epic and fun but I don’t think so - it was good at the start right up until the part where I threw up on the flying chairs. Someone also said it was sick (I agree) haha…you have to get that joke!

Thanks to Mrs Bartlett for organising everything for the fete again.

By Cooper (Year 2)

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**THE FETE**

Last Friday at 4 o’clock the fete started. There were flying chairs and a jumping castle and aeroplanes. Mrs Bartlett did a good job in organising everything.

My most favourite ride was the flying chairs. I went in the dress up bear competition.

The fete was epic and my family all had a great time. I hope we can have another one again next year. Thank you Mrs Bartlett.

By Sam (Year 2)

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**The Fete**

Last Friday was the school fete from 4 o’clock to 8 o’clock. There was face painting. I painted my face a flower pattern. There were thousands of people.

There were lots of things like the chocolate toss, books and cupcakes. I liked the chocolate toss because I won 5 chocolates they were a whole chocolate bar, 2 freddo frogs and another 2 chocolates.

It was fun and wicked. I LOVED IT!!!
Thanks to Mrs Bartlett for all her work so we could have a good fete.

By Layla (Year 2)

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**Our Fete**

Last Friday on the 18th of November our school fete was from 4o’clock until 8o’clock. The weather was nice and sunny for the fete.

There were 3 rides: the flying chairs, the aeroplanes and the jumping castle. There were lots of stalls. I liked the book stall and the chocolate toss the best.

For dinner I had a sausage sizzle. I went in all the competitions. I liked all the displays like karate and the fire engine. I had a turn of the chocolate toss and won lots of chocolates and so did my sister.

Thank you Mrs. Bartlett for organizing the fete again for everyone.

By Elwood (Year 2)