1. **Family Retreat Stuarts Point (South), March 28/29th, , Southern Retreat**
   - 85 People attended
   - Feedback was very positive
   - New structure was appreciated by families
   - Father Gerald O’Collins - Adults
   - Anna Maka, Rachel Karma, Amanda Howle – Children
   - Relating to Christ
   - Relating to Christ within the family
   - Relating to Christ within the Community

   **Northern Retreat**
   Tyalgum (North) October 24/25th – Information will be in your school newsletters.

2. **CCSP Conference (State conference organised by Parent Assembly):**
   May 16/17th Coffs Harbour – 180 people attended including CEO from other Diocese, Clergy, delegates from QLD and parent groups from our diocese and other diocese.
   - Verbal feedback was very positive.
   - Said to be the best CCSP Conference so far that any other diocese has hosted.
   - We have received emails and feedback from different diocese thanking us for an informative and engaging conference.

3. **Faith Development Programme** – Parent Assembly will be supporting year 2 parents as their children work through the school Sacramental Programme for Confirmation. This initiative was implemented due to feedback from parents. Parent Assembly Representatives collected information from parents and a proposal was written and presented to schools in an attempt to meet the faith needs of parents in their school. This programme will be run in all 6 primary schools with year 2 parents in the Hastings Macleay Region throughout May and June until the Confirmation Sacrament Day. This programme includes information for parents, activities for children to share with their families and prayer boxes that will be circulated to each family home to encourage prayer
and faith understanding in the home. This initiative has collected some very positive feedback. With many faith initiatives, it is sometimes the little things you do that make the big differences. Unfortunately we don’t often see the positives, people just feel them.

4. URGENT ACTION REQUIRED –
   GRANT APPLICATION DUE BY END OF TERM (extended until week 2 term 3)
   Parental Partnership Grant - $1000 IS BACK!!!
   *I encourage all parents to come forward with ideas that could support parents and build your school community. Ie: parents gatherings, year gatherings, guest speakers, topics of interest for parents etc.*

5. Seasons for Parents – Kempsey parents?? Would you like a program at your school??
   This Program is available to run with requests from schools or parents.
   Preferable group numbers are 5-8
   About Season’s For Parents -
   - Parents learnt how children cope and react to separation in their family.
   - How parents can best communicate with their children during this time of loss and grief.
   - The Seasons for Growth approach to understanding and managing change.
   - How parents need to care for themselves in order to provide positive parenting during the difficult times of loss.

See Handout.

Parent Assembly website: [http://parent.lism.catholic.edu.au](http://parent.lism.catholic.edu.au)

*Parent Assembly is looking forward to continuing their work with schools and parishes to encourage parent engagement in 2015. We are still looking for another Parent Assembly representative for your school. If anyone is interested, please contact me on the number below or let your school principal know we would love to have you join our fun team.*

Thank you for your support of Parent Assembly

Kindest regards
Peta Rourke
Cluster Organiser
Hastings Macleay Region
0400 420 614