Dear parents, carers and friends of Saint Mary's,

We are currently launching our new Parent Portal, which is a one-stop-shop for parents to access information about events, announcements, forms, policies, school contact details etc. It has some features similar to our current website, but also has many new features including easy access to College forms and a simplified absentee notification feature.

All parents and carers will receive their logins and passwords shortly. I would encourage all parents to logon and check out these features.

This week as a Parish and College we celebrated St Patrick's Day with our P-6 Green Hat Day and Parish St Patrick's Mass and Dinner. It was wonderful to see the great joy and excitement on our Prep – Year 6's faces as they proudly displayed their green hats. Our Parish Mass and Dinner was also a great success. It is wonderful to see our College and Parish working so close together.

Like many Australians, I have an Irish heritage through my father's side of the family. One branch of our family travelled to Australia on board the *Erin-go-Bragh* (Ireland forever) the first full Irish ship into Queensland arriving in August 1862. My ancestors, the Rafter (yes I am very distantly related to the ex-tennis player Pat Rafter) & Deering families were economic refugees to Australia, after having been kicked of their land near Tullamore in Ireland.

The *Erin-go-Bragh* was one of the longest recorded journeys to Australia taking 6 months to get here. Sadly, it also had one of the highest fatality rates with 54 passengers including 5 children from one of my Rafter relative's families. Then, as now, refugees took great risks and endured great hardship to come to this land to find safety and security for their families.

One of the funny stories on board the *Erin-go-Bragh* happened on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1862 when one of the passengers brought their new baby to Fr Paddy Dunne, the priest who had organised the journey for these families. Without blinking, Fr Dunne Christened the baby, Patrick in honour of St Patrick whose feast day it was. The family didn't have the heart to tell father that young Patrick was a girl. The next day, they plucked up the courage to see Fr Paddy and she was re-Christened Mary Patricia.

My Rafter relatives began dairy farms in the Beaudesert region in 1862 and eventually moved to Wondai in the 1920s and then on to Gympie where my grandparents met. My great-grandmother loved the South Burnett region and after working as a cook at St Patrick's College in Gympie for many years, returned to work for the priest in Murgon, living out her final days in Gore Street, Murgon. My wife's family also have South Burnett connection with her mother being born in Kingaroy back in 1945 when her returned serviceman father was the Commonwealth Bank manager.

There is a lot of discussion on the value of homework in the media at present. John Hattie, probably the world's pre-eminent authority on education, who has studied over 200 million students, says that homework has a small, positive effect on the education of primary children, but an excellent effect on the education of secondary students. He has no doubt that homework is a positive thing for students, but does say that for primary students at least, that there are many other educational practices which have an even greater effect on their learning.

Homework does not need to be long to be effective especially for younger students, but it does need to be corrected to provide useful feedback for students. At the present, there seems to be
parents on both sides of the fence, some wanting little or no homework and others who would seriously doubt a school's educational credentials unless a significant amount of homework was given each night. If you find that your child is struggling with excessive amounts of homework, the best people to speak to in the first instance would be the class teacher in the case of Prep – Year 6 students and the Curriculum Leaders (Mrs Burr for Years 7 – 10 and Mr Curran for Years 11 & 12).

I would like to remind all parents and carers of a few important dates:
- Benedictine Awards: 2pm Friday, March 27
- Last Day of Term 1: Thursday, April 2
- Student Free Day: Monday, April 20
- First Day of Term 2: Tuesday, April 21

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Deputy News

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on Friday, 20 March 2015. Our school is one of thousands of schools participating in this national day of action.

This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying, No Way! and to strengthen their existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

We will be focusing our Pastoral care efforts this Friday on the concept of violence and bullying in our society. It is never acceptable to bully or hurt anyone and we will be teaching the children about the rejection of bullying through resources provided by this federal government initiative.

For further information, please feel free to browse the website below:

Exams and Assignments
If students are concerned or stressed about exams and assignments, please contact your class teacher or the relevant curriculum coordinator.
- P – Year 6 - Mrs Arrell
- Year 7 - Year 10 - Mrs Burr
- Year 11 - Year 12 - Mr Curran.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

AGA News

Homework: what not to do!
In two previous newsletters, I have been outlining the most important aspects of the College’s Homework Policy.

As a result of staff looking at research papers about this topic, and also discussions on staff about the best way to use homework, we have developed what we hope is an effective and “to the point” policy. This includes teachers setting work that is aimed at consolidating work already done in class, and that a student can do independently at home.

In support of what I wrote about advice for parents in our Homework Policy, this article appeared in the Courier Mail early this week, and is worth a read.

Parents who stand over child’s shoulder and help with homework are counterproductive: study
by: Brittany Vonow
From: The Courier-Mail
March 16, 2015 12:00AM

PARENTS who stand over their child’s shoulder and help with homework are counterproductive, a new report sent to Queensland teachers has warned.

The report found that even formal training for parents in how to help children in specific subject areas didn’t make a difference.

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Instead, the report – commissioned by the Queensland College of Teachers – said parents should try to spend quality time with their children at home.

Teachers were encouraged to set home-based tasks that encouraged children to learn while spending quality time with their parents.

Qld College of Teachers director John Ryan said children should be allowed to complete work independently.

“Step by step supervision may not allow children to check their reasoning or take risks when completing homework” he said.

Thank you,
Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

APRE News

Hungry, not a bad thing, happy a good thing.
Remember I Can Eat (RICE) Day at Saint Mary’s was a new initiative to support the work of CARITAS (International Catholic aid and development agency). This year the theme in Lent was ‘Food For Life’ and the push is to raise awareness and money to secure access to food for many communities around the world. We launched the campaign on Ash Wednesday at a Liturgy of the Word and students were invited to learn more about food security through lessons and contribute financially by way of donations. In the days leading up to last Friday, the staff bought all the supplies for fried and plain rice and water and the students purchases went directly to Project Compassion and CARITAS. Father Nigel, Saint Mary's Parish Priest and Mr Michael Nayler, Principal were on hand to serve some plain rice to students. Mrs Michelle Davis, the college canteen convener who makes a mean meat free fried rice, sold out at morning tea and again at lunch time and was buoyed by the enthusiasm of hungry students.

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

Counsellor News

“If peace comes from seeing the whole, then misery stems from a loss of perspective. It is the giving over to smallness that opens us to misery. In truth, we begin taking nothing for granted, grateful that we have enough to eat, that we are well enough to eat. But somehow, through the living of our days, our focus narrows like a camera that shutters down, cropping out the horizon, and one day we’re miffed at a diner because the eggs are runny or the hash isn’t seasoned just the way we like.”
Mark Nepo, The Book of Awakening: Having the Life You Want by Being Present to the Life You Have

Parent Volunteers – Code of Conduct and Student Protection Information session

It is a requirement that any parent who is volunteering at the college in any capacity (tuckshop, library, classroom, uniform shop) needs to complete the Volunteer Code of Conduct and Student Protection session. The Guidance Counsellor Mr. Graham Turnbull delivers this session. The next session will be 9.00am FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH IN THE BOARDROOM.

Regards
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

Library Corner

Accelerated Reader

Year 3-6 students have embraced the new Accelerated Reader Program with enthusiasm since its inception last week. In just one week alone, 41036 words have been read and 63 quizzes taken! Well done, students! Please note that certificates will begin being issued next term and all previously taken quizzes will be taken into consideration. This week students will be issued with a key ring with an orange card on it. This will contain their information for Accelerated Reader and is highly recommended to hang off library bags or school bags.

Yours in reading
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian
Celebration of Learning – this Thursday 19th March 2015.
Cooking starts at 6.30am with hot food served from 7.00am at the Maryknoll Centre outdoor canteen area. All welcome, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles come and meet the teachers of P-6 and visit the classrooms. Bell goes at 8.20am and family is asked to leave at that time. That way the children can get ready for the day after such an exciting morning.

 Regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Prep to Year 6 Student Wellbeing Leader

Quote of the Week
“If you want children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others”. – Haim Ginott

Date Claimers
- Wednesday 18 March- Prep Farm Day Excursion 9am- 11.30am
- Thursday 19 March Celebration of Learning -7am- 8.20am. Please come and share a BBQ Breakfast, have a catch-up with your child’s classroom teacher and visit their classroom.
- Friday 20 March- Prep to 6 Assembly- Mary Knoll Centre 2.15pm
- Thursday 26 March- Year 5, 5/6 & 6 History Day

Have a great week.

Mrs Lauren Arrell
Prep to Year 6 Teaching and Learning Leader

Prep to Year Six Sport News
Just a reminder that the South Burnett Winter Trials are this Friday the 20th March. The sports are Netball, Soccer, Rugby League and Tennis. The consent forms were due Tuesday 17th so the nominations can be sent to convenors.

Thank you,
Ellen Inwood
P-6 Sports Coordinator

Assessment Calendars
Year 7-12 assessment calendars are sent out early each term as a way to help students and families organise and manage their time and priorities. This encourages students to effectively show what they have learnt through major pieces of assessment. Please note that it might be quite appropriate and in line with National Curriculum initiatives that short/informal pieces of assessment are gathered through the year by classroom teachers. This helps to inform teacher judgments to enable reporting processes twice a year. If assessments/assessment dates are changed/modified, teachers will let me and their students know in advance so that it can be published in the newsletter and recorded in diaries.

Regards
Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7 to Year 10 Teaching and Learning Leader

Year 7 to Year 12 Sports News
Some good news - Emma Cran was selected in the Wide Bay Regional team for swimming and is off to the State Titles at Chandler

After District trials last week we were pleased to announce that a number of our students have been selected for South Burnett to go to Regional trial next week.

The students are;
- Sarah Haack - Soccer
- Ryan Jacobs - Rugby Union
- Aiden Kelleher - Basketball
- Pacey Clegg - Soccer
- Rahab Murray - Soccer
- Callum Cook - Soccer
- Alex Firman - Soccer
- Kiara Wright - Soccer

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Jackson Kelly - Soccer
Jordan Hetherington - Soccer
Leyton Brown - AFL
Hayden Yesberg - Golf
Alex Dunemann - Rugby League
Deidre Murray - Netball

Good luck at the trials.
Yours in sport
Mr Allan Medlen
Year 7 to Year 12 Sports Coordinator

Abbey Museum Excursion
Please be reminded that the year 8 students and year 11 & 12 Ancient History students’ excursion to the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology has been rescheduled to this Friday the 20th of March.

All details of the day will remain the same as originally advised.
Regards
Mrs Angelique Arden
Classroom Teacher

Biology Field Excursion
On Wednesday, March 11, the Biology students from years 11 and 12 embarked on a freshwater field study to Barkers Creek, north of Nanango. The aim was to complete an important part of their course and to also gain an appreciation of the living world and how it is impacted upon by our actions. They gained many valuable skills and also had fun doing it. They will use this information in the exams being held at the moment. Biology is a fun subject where the students get to explore their place in the living world and hopefully make wise choices about how they use the resources available to them. All the students worked together as a team, with the help of the school’s scientific officer Barb Paterson, to get great water quality test results for the creek. The students also learnt to recognise different types of plants and animals.

The photos show the types of activities carried out on the study and also the commitment of these young men and women.

The students also participated in experiences outside their comfort zones and did very well. This year’s biology field study was very successful and I thank the parents of these students for allowing them to participate and prepare for the forthcoming exams.
Mr Scott Osborne
Senior Biology Teacher

Cricket Team News
Cricket training will be on again this Wednesday afternoon from 3:10pm - 4:10pm. Please see Mrs Arden if you would like to be involved or if you can’t make it to training. All students will need to bring their own gear.
Thanks
Mrs Angelique Arden

Rugby League and Netball News
- Wednesday, 25th March 1:30pm Rugby League - Under 15 SMCC vs Nanango on the Top Oval.
- Wednesday, 25th March 3:00pm Rugby League - Under 13 SMCC vs Gayndah on the Top Oval.
- Wednesday, 25th March 3:00pm Netball - SMCC vs Gayndah in the Maryknoll Centre
- Monday, 30th March 1:30pm Rugby League - Under 13 SMCC vs Nanango on the Top Oval
Thank you
Mr Julian Connelly

Whip Cracking News

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Thanks for the students and their families who attended the Crackup Sisters Workshop on the Saturday morning. The students enjoyed the session and went away with a pocket full of performance skills and techniques.

Saturday 21 March
- 1030am – 1.00pm - SMCC & Crack Up Sisters Performance and Workshop (Gympie Civic Centre).
- 5.00pm – SMCC Performance at Goomeri Show (Goomeri Showgrounds)

Take Care,
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Whip Cracking Coordinator

Tuckshop News

Friday Extra Choice Menu
Morning Tea and Lunch - Mini Quiches $1.00
Lunch Only - Mediterranean Pasta $3.50

There are no pies or sausage rolls sold on Fridays.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no meat on Fridays until Term 2, due to Lent.

Volunteers
Wednesday, 18th March - Lee Ponder and Jacob Arden
Friday, 20th March - Jacob Arden and Amanda Hetherington
Monday, 23rd March - Rhonda Van Beelen

Tuckshop Menu
There is a new tuckshop menu for the year. Please use the 2015 tuckshop menu as prices have changed. Bags are available to purchase from the tuckshop for 5c. Please ensure that you send your child’s tuckshop order in a paper bag. It is not safe to put hot food in plastic bags.

Donated Items
Donations of self raising flour, caster sugar and any dry goods, as per back of the Tuckshop Menu, would be greatly appreciated. A big THANK YOU to all those people who have donated dry goods.

Regards
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Vocational Education News
We have had a very busy start to our college Vocational Education & Training program offered at Saint Mary’s Catholic College.

This week we have 6 Year 10 students representing our college in the SATs mock interviews at Kingaroy State High School.

Year 11 students Cameron Teske and Christopher Torrens have commenced School-Based Traineeships in Mechanics this month.

Both students will be undertaking their traineeships throughout Year 11 and 12 and aim to transition into full time Apprenticeships on completion of Year 12.

Year 12 student Richelle Bethke commenced her School-Based Traineeship in Business Administration on Wednesday, 4th March, with Burnett Business Centre. Richelle aims to complete the Certificate III qualification by the end of this graduating year.
Parents and Friends News

P&F AGM
The P&F AGM will be held on Wednesday, 18th March at 7pm. The committee for 2015 will be voted on. If anyone feels that they may like to nominate, or have someone in mind for the President position please let Mr Nayler or me know.

Kind regards
Mr Damien Martoo
P&F President

Sacramental Program
Thank you to the parents who came along to the parent information session and to the parents who put in their apologies and have since contacted Pam Radcliffe. If you have not contacted Pam Radcliffe about your child’s Confirmation and Communion can you please do so immediately on 4162 2011 or pskingaroy@bne.catholic.edu.au Sacramental Program as the subject.

The preparation time for these sacraments has begun some weeks ago and without the proper preparation it would be difficult for your child to receive the final sacraments of initiation on the 31st May 2015.

Prep to Year 6 Celebration of Learning
Thursday, 19th March

Cooking starts at 6.30am with hot food served from 7.00am
At the Maryknoll Centre Canteen.

Everyone welcome!

Meet the teachers
and visit the classrooms.

Parent Email Address Update
Please return this slip to the College Office.

Student Name/s: __________________________________________

Parent/Carer A Name: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________________

Parent/Carer B Name: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________________

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**Kumbia St Patrick’s Day Concert**
Sunday, 22nd March 2015
Kumbia Memorial Hall.
Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start.
Touch of Irish memorabilia competition, raffle, lucky door.
Come along and enjoy some merry entertainment followed by a delicious afternoon tea.
Admission $10 Adults, High School $5 Primary school $2
Further information: Phone 4164 4384 or 4164 4262

**Kingaroy Pensioners League** is hosting a Cent Auction on Saturday, 30th May 2015 at 1pm at the Seniors Citizens Hall, Cnr. Kingaroy & Avoca Streets, Opposite IGA.
Enquiries to May O’Brien Phone 4162 2299 or Edna Jackson Phone 4162 7296

**Kingaroy’s Mothers Day Classic**
Sunday, 10th May 2015
8am to 11.30am
10km run starts at 8.45am
5km walk/run starts at 9am
Looking for volunteers for the day.

**Kumbia St Patrick’s Day Concert**
Sunday, 22nd March 2015
Kumbia Memorial Hall.
Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start.
Touch of Irish memorabilia competition, raffle, lucky door.
Come along and enjoy some merry entertainment followed by a delicious afternoon tea.
Admission $10 Adults, High School $5 Primary school $2
Further information: Phone 4164 4384 or 4164 4262

**Saint Mary’s Catholic College**
Combined Anniversaries Celebrations
St Mary’s Convent School 1929  St Mary’s Secondary College 1965  South Burnett Catholic College 1990
**Calling all past students and staff**

**Saturday, 30th May 2015**
100pm  Nanango Races
6.00pm  Combined Anniversaries Mass
7.00pm - 11.00pm  Combined Anniversaries Dinner and live entertainment

**Sunday, 31st May 2015**
10.00am - 2.00pm  College Open Day, memorabilia sales, classroom displays and tours.
12.30pm  Official welcome, past student and staff time line and past staff and student roll call, plaque and time capsule


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