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

The Church's season of advent begins this Sunday, Nov 29. Across the next four weeks, we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus our Saviour. Just like the season of Lent leading up to Easter, Advent is a time to examine our lives and to refocus ourselves on the message of Christ.

I have always had a special affinity with both Saint Mary and St Joseph in the Christmas story. I believe that their story tells us a great deal about what it means to be both good parents and good people.

Both Mary and Joseph would have faced significant threats, risks and challenges, when they said yes to being parents. Mary risked being stoned to death as an unwed mother and Joseph risked social isolation for supporting Mary. Neither had an easy decision to make, but both chose love and family over an easier existence.

Although we normally don't face the threat of death or social ostracisation when children come along, we do need to make the same decision toward love and family especially when the tough times are upon us. All families, even the Holy Family face tough times. Mary had to face not only the death of her husband but had to witness the execution of her son.

May the blessings of Saint Mary and St Joseph be with all of our families, especially those who are struggling with tough times. May Christ comfort these families and open our hearts to their needs. Amen

During the Christmas holidays we hope to remove all remaining asbestos from our older buildings. This asbestos has been repeatedly checked to make sure that it was well sealed so that staff and students have never been in harm's way. Despite this, I believe that it is better completely gone. I am very grateful to our Business Manager, Kym Schultz who has applied for and received a grant to complete this work. Because of this, our office, staffroom, Art, Prep rooms and other older buildings will be out of action for much of the school holidays.

Last week, we sent off our 2015 Seniors with a number of special events. It was wonderful to celebrate the end of their schooling life with our Senior students. Our Valedictory Dinner and Graduation Mass were beautiful events. I wish our 2015 Seniors and their families all the best as they begin the next part of their life journey.

Please be aware that school finishes at 12.30pm next Friday, December 4. There will be supervision for any students who are unable to get home at this time.

We will have a number of important events over the coming week:

- Prep Orientation Days – Thursday, Nov 26 & Friday, Nov 27.
- Parish Advent Mass and Dinner – 4.30pm Sunday Nov 29.
- Year 6 Rites of Passage Evening – 6pm Monday, Nov 30.
- P-6 Carols Night - 6pm Thursday, Dec 3.
- College Christmas Mass – 9am Friday, Dec 4.

I would encourage families to encourage anyone they might know who is seeking enrolment in
2016 to get their enrolment applications in ASAP. There are a couple of secondary levels which are filling quickly and we may have to wait for enrolments for some year levels in the near future. I would also ask that any families who know that they will be leaving us in 2016, please let our office know ASAP, so that we can offer places to waiting list students.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Deputy Principal News

Prayer of Thanks for Teachers
Almighty God,
We come to you today and give thanks for all our teachers.
Thank you for the way in which they give of themselves each day in the classroom,
Serving and instructing the next generation of this land.
We thank you for them all now.

Father, please fill their hearts with courage now by your mighty Spirit.
Fill them with your strength, so that they may rise to every challenge and not grow weary.
Fill them with your wisdom, so that they may be able to make good judgement when guiding and helping others.
Fill them with your peace, so that when stress and anxiety comes it would not overwhelm them.
Fill them with your joy, so that the passion they have for their subject may become a infectious passion that spreads.

We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus.
Amen.

Student Sign In and Sign Out
Parents are reminded to sign students in and out of the College via student reception (Mrs Rutley). This will enable correct records to be kept in case of evacuation or lockdown.

Access to College Grounds
I would like to remind parents that access to the College is via the Prep building just up from the bus stop area.
Please do not attempt to enter the College through the office as we are in the process of renovating and building at present.
Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Last Week of School
Next week is the last week of the school year for Saint Mary’s. Only students in Prep to 9 are in attendance for the whole week.
Monday night is Year 6 to 7 rite of passage.
Tuesday is orientation day for Year 7, 2016 (current Year 6).
Friday is the last day of school for all students and will conclude at 12pm. Students who are required to stay will be supervised in the Art room until 2.55pm.
Buses will run as per normal schedules. Parents may pick up their children via the office after 12pm or at 2.55pm as per usual arrangements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and students for a busy yet wonderful 2015 and I look forward to serving you as Head of Secondary in 2016.

God’s Blessings
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

QCE News
Two weeks ago, I began explaining the changes that are being proposed to Senior Schooling in Qld.

In that article, I outlined why the current system is in need of change.

Today I will summarise what is being proposed to replace the OP / QCS system.
• Tertiary Institutions will be given the results of each student’s individual subjects, and then devise their own means to select students for each course. This should allow the Universities and Colleges to look at individual strengths in a particular subject, rather than just be told a global OP score that includes all subjects.
• Tertiary Institutions and Colleges will still have to be transparent about how they intend to select their students.
• All subjects in Year 12 will have three pieces of Year 12 assessment administered and marked by the school and one piece administered and marked by the QCAA.
• Each subject will eventually be marked out of 60.
• 30 marks for each subject will come from the 3 pieces of school assessment (3x10 marks)
• 30 marks will come from an external exam for that particular subject conducted state-wide.
• Assessment conducted by the school will be ‘pre endorsed’. This means that locally devised assessment will be checked to see if it is consistent with QCAA requirements before students sit the test.
• The usual moderation processes for each subject will still apply to ensure comparability across the state for each subject.

Regards
Mr John Dalton
APA

APRE News

Light Up Advent – Community Mass and celebration
When: November 29th at 4.30 pm
Where: Saint Mary’s Catholic Church, Albert Street
Who: Everybody welcome
What: Please bring your own chairs, picnic table and rugs.
Cost $10 Adults, $5 Children, $20 Family including entertainment
Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks will be for sale, BYO other drinks if you wish.
Please bring a dessert to share.
A monster raffle will be drawn on the night.
Meal Tickets may be pre purchased after Mass during October or contact me at the College and I can arrange them for you. (Martin Perrett)

Sacramental Program
On Saturday 15 children including ten from our College received the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is the gift of God’s mercy, a sign of His ultimate love for us. It allows a candidate the opportunity to reconcile themselves with God by acknowledging the wrongs or hurts they may have done or caused. This reconciliation brings them closer to ‘good’ or God and in turn brings them back to community.

This is the largest number of students we have had in the program for many years. This is a parish program run by a teacher, Mrs Pam Radcliffe. This year Pam was assisted by Mrs Laura Bowles and the parish and the College are very grateful for their generosity, care and instruction.

There are archdiocesan changes that will affect the Sacramental Program in the near future. Most of the changes are around the ages and times of year the sacraments are offered. The College will continue to promote and support the sacramental program and hopefully have many children involved.

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

Office News

Outstanding Fees
Thank you to those families who have contacted the College to discuss their outstanding accounts and make payment arrangements. If you are unable to pay outstanding fees in full by the end of Week 9, Friday 4th December, and you have not yet contacted the College, please contact the Finance Secretary, Briony Hoare, immediately to put in place a formal payment arrangement and to avoid further unnecessary fee follow up procedures. While the College will accept payments by instalments, we do need to know the amount and timing of these payments and it’s preferred that these instalments be done via Direct Debit or BPAY.

College Office Closed during Christmas Holidays
The College Office will close at 4pm Friday 4th December and will reopen on Monday 18th January 2016. Due to the three building construction projects there will be very limited access to the College grounds over the school holiday periods.

Kind regards
Miss Kym Schultz
Business Manager
Uniform Shop News

Altered Opening Hours
The uniform shop will be open on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December from 8am to 3pm.

Uniform Price Change
We still have a lot of our current uniforms for sale at COST PRICE. There are some of our new uniforms available to purchase but cannot be worn until next year. Unfortunately due to our new uniforms we are unable to take anymore second hand uniforms for the current style.

Regards
Mrs Joanne Bellert
Uniform Shop Convenor

Counsellor News
Nothing disheartens us more than fear. It is wildly paralytic and numbing. It keeps us from listening and what we do hear through fear is often distorted. Our fear reflex of flight or fight is often exaggerated and triggered by situations that, though stressful and uncomfortable are not life threatening. What if this flight or fight reflex is able to evolve, what if we our understanding of our fear reflex is being redefined by our lived experience. Can we grow the skill to determine what is truly life threatening from what is simply ego or identity threatening? Over time the act of facing things openly and honestly can evolve our flight or fight reflex from its primate response. Facing our fears and conflict can keep us in relationship with our experience long enough to uncover what we have in common with every living thing. Mark Nepo – ‘The Endless Practice’

Kind regards
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

Homework and Chess Club News
Thank you to everyone who attended homework or chess club this year. There will be no more homework or chess club sessions this year. Have a lovely and safe break.

Many thanks
Ms Sonia Robertson
Year 7 to 9 Student Wellbeing Leader

Library News

Textbook Returns Process Year 7 to Year 11
All outstanding textbooks are due back now please. Please encourage your child to return all textbooks they may still have in their possession. Thank you for helping us with this process towards efficiency aimed at ensuring textbooks are available for all students.

Please note that if your child is in Year 9-11 and not returning to our College next year, that their laptop and charger are due back to the library prior to leaving.

Yours in reading
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Prep to Year 6 Teaching and Learning Leader News

Prep Orientation for 2016 Students
9am - 10am Prep Orientation Wednesday, 18th November Group B
9am - 10am Prep Orientation Thursday, 19th November Group A
9am- 10am Prep Orientation Thursday, 26th November Group A
9am- 10am Prep Orientation Friday, 27th November Group B

Kind regards
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Prep to Year 6 Teaching and Learning Leader

realise your dignity
Year 6 Rites of Passage
Year 6 are busy writing the invitations. It's a very busy time for year 6 at the moment. Just as a date claimer and some information. Please read the following:

When: Monday 30th November
Time: Arrive at 5.45pm
Where: Maryknoll Centre
Wear: Formal Uniform
Bring: A plate of food to share for supper afterwards
Invited guests: Parents and family

Prep to Year 6 Christmas Concert
Prep to Year 6 Christmas Concert is on again. Thursday evening 3rd December. Come along and join in the fun and celebration of Christmas and Christ's birth. Evening starts around 5.00pm with a sausage sizzle $1, drinks $1 and the great raffle draws. $2 sheet of 20 tickets. Tickets available on the night from Year 6 students. See the flyer attached to this newsletter.

Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper
The Year 9s are helping to organize the Christmas Hampers for Saint Vincent de Paul. This is part of their Social Justice unit. There is a Christmas Hamper in each classroom and students are asked to bring in an item to put in the hamper. The teachers have a list with some ideas but basically non perishable food items and anything Christmas e.g. puddings, tinsel, bon bons etc. Thank you for supporting our yearly Christmas drive for Saint Vincent de Paul.

See you there.
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Prep to Year 6 Student Wellbeing Leader

Prep to Year 6 Sport News
Sporting Schools Afternoons
Please be advised, this week (week 8) is the final week for the Sporting Schools afternoons. The Thursday tennis session is the final one for the year.

Thank you for your support
Miss Ellen Inwood
Prep to Year 6 Sports Coordinator

Year 7 to Year 10 Teaching and Learning Leader
Year 7 Orientation Day
Year 7 Orientation day - Tuesday, 1st December

Orientation day events for current Year 6 and new Year 7s for 2016 have been planned for Tuesday, 1st December. The day will provide opportunities for students to socialise and meet some of their new classmates and teachers. Students will participate in activities for the day including sport, science, workshop, art and drama in various specialist rooms. Detailed information via a letter will be posted home this week, including a program for the day. Please contact me should you have any questions.

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

Year 10 to Year 12 Student Wellbeing Leader News
As a community there was a great deal of pride attached to seeing the class of 2015 celebrate their Valedictory Mass and Meal. The words and support from staff and family endorsed the group’s collective dignity. They are a fine bunch of students and deserve great things for their future.

May God’s blessing be with them as they take this important step in their life. Take great care class of 2015 and thank you for all you have shared and given throughout your time at St Mary’s.

Regards
Mr Paul Fomiatti
Year 10 to 12 Student Wellbeing Leader

realise your dignity
Indigenous News

Congratulations to our one and only Year 12 Indigenous student for 2015 Shajuana Button.

It has been a privilege to watch you grow from a little primary school student at St Joseph’s Murgon into an amazing young lady who has not only graduated Year 12 but who has also started living your dream of working in the medical field.

We wish you all the best and believe that you can be whatever you want to be.

Kind regards
Mrs Karen Bond, Aunty Nikki Law, Mrs Amanda Erwin & Mr Ryan Williams

Music News

As we approach the end of the year, we have but a handful of events remaining on our calendar:

Sunday, 29th Nov  “Light Up Advent” - Junior Choir at St Mary’s Church – 5:15pm
Thursday, 3rd Dec P-6 Carols in the Maryknoll Centre – 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Sunday, 6th Dec Kingaroy Community Christmas Carols – Junior Choir at Town Hall - 5:30pm

Please note the Yr 10/11 Excursion to Les Miserables was cancelled as too few students were able to attend.

Junior Choir @ “Light Up Advent” this Sunday!

Our fantastic Junior Choir is performing this Sunday at the St Mary’s Parish Advent Celebration. It is going to be a wonderful family event, with food, games, and entertainment galore. Junior Choir members are reminded NOT to wear uniform – they are to come wearing their best Christmas Bling outfits. (Go crazy.) This will be the same dress code for the Kingaroy Community Carols at the Town Hall on Sunday 6 December.

New singers are always welcome to join Junior Choir, which rehearses on Thursday at second break. It would be fantastic to have as many children as possible representing the College on the steps of the Town Hall at the Community Carols, and if your family plans to attend this event, then why not encourage your child to join with the choir for this event?

Congrats, Conference Singers

A group of singers from Year 3 -12 performed the National Anthem on the Town Hall stage on Saturday morning for the LNP State Council Meeting. Invited by our Member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington, the students sang beautifully, and were excellent representatives of our College.

Donate a Didgeridoo

The College is keen to support the development of students’ skills on all musical instruments wherever possible, and it has come to my attention that there is interest from some of the College boys in learning the didgeridoo. If anyone in our community has a didgeridoo they would like to donate to the College, we would love to have it, and promise to take great care of it. Please contact me if I can assist with collection.

Year 12 Valedictory Mass Musicians

Congratulations to Millie Garlick and Madi Wintour who joined with our talented Campus Minister, Mr Neil Hutton, School Officer, Raymond Undery, and Home Ec/Art teacher, Ms Amy Woodruff to perform the music for the Mass on Friday. It is great to see our students being able to share their skills with the College at such a heartfelt ceremony. Together, the Senior and Junior Choirs performed the role of Cantor, leading the singing.

String Immersion Rollover

As per the note in Year 3 student Practice Diaries, Year 3 String Immersion will rollover into Term 1, 2016, as families have already paid for this tuition in their fees. Parents of students in this program are asked to make sure they have read this note. Please email me if you have not seen it, and I will forward you another copy.

Welcome, Seraiya!

Miss Seraiya Gordon is joining me for Work Experience this week. Seraiya is in Year 11 at the College, and is a very talented singer and guitarist. I am sure the students will benefit from Seraiya’s time in various Music classes, as she is such a warm and friendly person. Welcome on-board, Seraiya!

Have a wonderful week, everyone,
Ms Jane Iszlaub
Music Coordinator

realise your dignity
Dance News
This week the year 10 Dance class ran three dance workshops for the year 5 and 6 classes. During the workshop the year 10s taught students how to warm up correctly before dance activities and taught them a short dance routine.

It was really great to see all of the year 5 and 6 students dancing along with the year 10s and with smiles on their faces. Thank you for the huge effort that the year 10s put in to make this wonderful experience happen at the school!

Tuckshop News
**Friday Specials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Tea and Lunch</th>
<th>Potato Scallops</th>
<th>$2.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea and Lunch</td>
<td>Cheerios in a Cup with Sauce (5)</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea and Lunch</td>
<td>Dagwood Dogs with Sauce</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea and Lunch</td>
<td>Meatlovers Pizza</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea and Lunch</td>
<td>Mac’n’Cheese</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have a limited number of the above specials. We will substitute where necessary.

Please note: As the year is drawing to a close, some stock will not be available for purchase. We will substitute where necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

There are NO Pies or Sausage Rolls sold this Friday.

**Donation of Goods**
Thank you to everyone who donated over the year. Your donations are greatly appreciated. If you are able to donate any of the following items in the new year, it would be greatly appreciated. Below are the main ingredients we use, however, any donations are more than welcome.

- Self Raising Flour
- Desiccated Coconut
- Plain Flour
- Brown Sugar
- Caster Sugar
- Beef Stock Powder
- Small Tinned Pineapple
- Small Tinned Corn

These can be dropped into the Tuckshop on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or to the College Office.

**Ordering and Payment**
For Prep to Year 5 students it is recommended that you use the paper bag system. Your child's order can be place in the tuckshop baskets in their classroom in the mornings and this is then delivered to the tuckshop. Orders will be filled and returned to the classes at morning tea and lunch. This will ensure that they will have their lunch on time. Please do not use sticky tape or staples when using paper bags for ordering. It makes it difficult to get the bags undone without tearing. Plastic bags are not suitable for ordering, it is very difficult to place your child's order inside them. Bags can be purchased from the tuckshop for .05c each.
The paper bag ordering system is for Prep to Year 5 as well as High School. The high school students place their bag orders at the tuckshop before school.

**Slush Puppies**
Please make sure your child is aware that if they order a slush puppie, they must collect them from the tuckshop. They are not able to be placed into the tuckshop baskets.

Have great week!
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

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**Family Fun Day**

Saturday, 30th January 2016
9am - 12noon
FREE activities, fun and sausage sizzle for the whole family
In front of the Maryknoll Centre.

If you would like to know more, people can contact Suzanne Mungall on 0499 527 830.
2015 Christmas Carol
Love Came Down at Christmas

- KSHS Stage Band
- KSHS Chamber Group
- School Choirs
- Salvation Army Band

Food & Drink stalls open from 5 pm
Bring your own blanket or chairs

Kingaroy Town Hall Forecourt
DECEMBER 6th, 2015  6:00 PM
Song sheets in South Burnett Times Friday Dec 4th

Southern Star Academy of Dance
presents
"A MADAGASCAN ADVENTURE"

The Kingaroy Town Hall
Sat 28th Nov 11:30 am or
Sat 28th Nov 5:30pm
Adults $15  Child/Concession $10
Tickets can be purchased at the door

SOUTH BURNETT CHORALE
with South Burnett Community Orchestra
Antonio Vivaldi
Gloria RV589 - arranged by Paul Everett

The Christmas Light
Cantata for Advent and Christmas - edited and arranged by Patrick Liebergen

Kingaroy - St. John’s Lutheran School Hall
84 - 92 Ivy Street, Kingaroy
Friday 27th November 2015 - 6.00pm
Admission - $10.00 (children 12yrs & under free)
Proceeds to - Australian Lutheran World Service

SBCO Community Orchestra
SBCO CELEBRATES 2015

END OF YEAR CONCERT
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
5.30PM
KUMBIA STATE SCHOOL
UNDERCOVER SPORTS AREA

Tickets
Family $30
Adult $15
Concession $10

Meal vouchers must be prebooked by 23/11
Includes Steak or Sausage burger, Salads,
Dessert, Punch, Tea & Coffee
Adult meal $12.50
Child meal $7.50 (under 12)
Beer & wine available to purchase

Tickets & Meal Vouchers Available from
Or email: sbchochestra@hotmail.com
Or phone Cas: 0418 847067 (AH preferred)
F: www.facebook.com/sbchochestra
Prep to Year 6 Christmas Concert
Proceeds to Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

WELCOME!

When: Thursday 3rd December
Where: Maryknoll Centre - Saint Mary’s School grounds
Time: 5.15pm - Raffle tickets,
   Sausage Sizzle $1 (Lenihan’s butchery),
   canned cold drinks $1
   FREE tea, coffee, cordial
   Raffles: $2.00 sheet of 20 tickets.
          10 prizes and a ‘special draw prize’.
          Year 6 are selling the tickets on the night.
Concert: 6.00pm - 7.00pm (ish)

Bring: blanket, pillows, cushions (for the floor at the front), chairs are set up in the MKC.
Raffles are drawn throughout the concert.

May you know the Peace of Christ.