To my beloved Saint Mary’s community,

Sadly, this will be my final newsletter for Saint Mary’s Catholic College. I have had a wonderful four years and can’t thank you enough for your kindness, support and generosity across my time.

It has been nice to hear people say how much they have appreciated my hard work and efforts, but for me, it has been a labour of love for a community I hold close to my heart. Saint Mary’s is my first principalship and this will always mean that Saint Mary’s will be special to me.

I have been very blessed to have had such an incredibly dedicated and talented group of students, staff and parents to work with. I have revelled in the many incredible achievements of this talented community and will carry many happy memories with me always.

May the abundant blessings of our patron Saints, Saint Mary, Help of Christians and St Benedict be with you all, both now and always.

May the students, staff and parents of Saint Mary’s continue to realise their dignity as the beloved children of God.

May Christ, our Christmas promise, protect and bless you and your families this Christmas season. Amen.

My time at Saint Mary’s

realise your dignity
In 2016, we welcome a number of new and returning teachers to Saint Mary’s including: Angela Myles (Principal), Romka Sudull and Celia King (formerly O’Connor, returning after leave) and Joanna Dunn, Gerard Nixon and Deborah Barry (new staff). I would again like to thank those staff who are leaving our community at the end of 2015 and wish them all the best in their futures: Megan Saxton, Gary Curran, Stephen Hislop, Raymond Undery and Ryan Williams.

I am pleased to announce that as well as Mrs Myles joining us as Principal in 2016, we will also have two new roles with Ms Pam Radcliffe as our acting Head of Primary and Mr Sean Erwin as our acting Head of Secondary.

I would like to thank all of the students, staff and parents who organised, performed and supported our parish’s Light Up Advent night on Sunday. I am very proud of the efforts of our wonderful choir and all involved.

We will have a number of important events over the final week to which all family members are invited:

- Prep to Year 6 Carols Night - 6pm Thursday, Dec 3 (Maryknoll Centre)
- College Christmas Mass – 9am Friday, Dec 4 (St Mary’s Parish Church)

I would like to thank Mrs Langford-Matoo for her great work on our 2015 College Magazine which should be ready soon. There is a huge amount of work that goes into producing a magazine.

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

School begins again on Wednesday, January 27th for all classes. Information on Uniform Shop opening times will be sent out to parents. Due to asbestos removal work over the holidays, our Uniform Shop will be moved to near the Home Economics room in the College’s Benedictine square.

Congratulations to Renee Irvine who has had a great week in Hobart playing for Queensland U15s. She has also been selected in the Australian U15 girls development squad. Well done Renee!

Wishing you and your families a happy and holy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Deputy Principal News

A Prayer For Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace, with your tenderness, all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each things, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

End of Term arrangements

Mass will be held this Friday at 9am in St Mary’s church. School finishes at 12.30pm, Friday, 4th December at 12.30pm. Any student whom cannot be picked up will be supervised until 2.55pm. Buses will run as per normal schedule from 3-00pm onwards.

If parents wish to pick their child up from school between 12.30pm and 2.55pm, please sign out with Mrs Rutley in student services.

First day 2016

The first day of school for all students is Wednesday, 27th January, 2016. Students are expected to wear formal uniform on this day. There will be an assembly to welcome new students and staff at 9.00am in the Maryknoll centre. Students will then be sent to homerooms for distribution of timetables and further information for 2016. After morning tea, normal classes will begin. Year 7 will operate in a slightly different manner for the first few days to allow students to be fully organised for the rigour of secondary school and adjusting to many teachers and rooms.

realise your dignity
New Uniforms 2016
The uniform shop is open and has the new uniform in stock. Students may wear the current (2015) uniform next year. Mixing and matching is not permitted. Black shoes are still the only one permitted and they must be leather or vinyl, not canvas. Students not in full and correct uniform will have parents contacted on the first day.

Christmas Blessings
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and staff the very best of Christmas wishes. I pray that everyone has a restful time and enjoy a well-deserved break ready to return in late January.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News

Reports
Semester 2 reports for all Year P-11 students are now being prepared for mailing. Included with that mailed package will be the College Magazine, stationery lists for 2016, and other information associated with returning to school in 2016.

Year 12 students will receive a Student Education Profile (SEP) directly from the Queensland Studies Authority in the days just before Christmas. This will include students Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), results of each subject, their individual score on the QCS Test, and OP score (for OP eligible students).

2016 Elective Subjects
Students in Years 8-11 will receive a draft 2016 Timetable with their 2015 reports.

This draft is purely for the purpose of confirming that the elective subjects that students have selected have been included in their Timetable so far.

This serves as a reminder to parents and students as to which electives they have selected. You should note that allocation of teachers to classes and the placement of each subject in the weeks’ timetable is indicative only, and is subject to significant changes as the 2016 Timetable is further developed in January 2016.

Regards
Mr John Dalton
APA

APRE News

End of Year Mass
This Friday the College will celebrate the year that was, with Eucharistic Mass at the parish Church on Albert Street. The Mass begins at 9 am and all families of the College are welcome. It is very important the College commences and finishes a year with this sacred celebration. The words of Jesus, remembered and repeated through the ages, resonate with the idea of community and the importance of table fellowship. 1 Corinthians ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. As we journey through Advent, we do well to remember what it is we are preparing for, and the Eucharist is the greatest reminder.

Lighting Up Advent
On Sunday night the Parish held its first entire community celebration of the Commencement of Advent. Mass was a huge celebration followed by food, games and live entertainment for everyone and there were lots of people enjoying time together. What was very poignant and defined Advent for me were the words in a hymn beautifully sung by Mrs Sudull called ‘Do you have Room’. The final verse asks the question, Will you come tonight? Will you seek the Light? Do you have room? On many levels this is a great invitation for all of us to take up the challenge of Christmas, to look for signs of God and hope in our lives, to make those a priority and then to open ourselves to be transformed or improved this Advent. What will it mean for you? The word ‘holiday’ actually comes from the words ‘Holy Days’ and everyday I’m on holiday it is very special to me, sacred in fact. I treasure them as I’m sure you all do. Perhaps these HOL i DAYS, we make this association. I wish everyone in our community the very best for this season.

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE
**Office News**

**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

**Head of Primary News**

I would like to introduce myself to the family of Saint Mary’s Catholic College Kingaroy. For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Pamela Radcliffe. I have a long association with both the College and Saint Mary’s Parish Kingaroy. My family came to Kingaroy 20 years ago and my four daughters attended Saint Mary’s Catholic College. I have a grandson who starts Prep at Xavier College, Hervey Bay in 2016.

Head of Primary and Head of Secondary are new roles for the College. We are still a Prep to Year 12 school with a seamless education. The two roles are not entirely exclusive to Prep to Year 6 and Year 7 to Year 12. There will be times when the roles focus on the particular cohort and when the roles entwine. The advantage of these roles is exactly that, the flexibility as both Sean and I work together collaboratively, under the direction of the Principal Mrs. Angela Myles.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Louise Kennedy as the Support Teacher Inclusive Education or STIE for 2016. Louise and I have worked together in this role for a couple of years sharing the case management load. In 2016 Louise will be released from class to take on this role full time. As our numbers have increased so has our commitment to ensuring all students have a fair and equitable access to all aspects of their education.

As Head of Primary one of my great pleasures is to announce the class and teacher allocation for 2016. There are still some finer points to be worked out. However, I welcome back our teachers and congratulate our newest teacher and graduate Gerard Nixon – a past student no less!!

- The Bunya Family - Prep A Lauren Arrell
- The Bunya Family - Prep B Claire Van Dyk
- Year 1A - Debbie Barry
- Year 1B - Gerard Nixon
- Year 2 - Scott Collier and Sarah McCarthy
- Year 3 - Judy Costigan
- Year 4 - Alyssa Thomas
- Year 4/5 - Celia King
- Year 5 - Katie Mangan
- Year 6A - Leesa Johnston
- Year 6B - Laura Bowles and Fiona Greenslade

As you can appreciate with the current buildings under some construction and with the increased classes there will be quite a lot of packing and moving over the next few days as the Year levels move classrooms. Teachers will be meeting with teachers as they do a ‘hand over’ of student information.

I would also like to reassure parents that while my role as Student Wellbeing P-6 will be restructured slightly, I will still be working with class teachers and parents and carers to ensure the safety, support and welfare of our students.

Kind regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Head of Primary
**Uniform Shop News**

**2016 New Opening Hours**
The uniform shop will be open on Wednesday from 8am to 11am and Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

**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.

**New Uniforms and 2016 Opening Hours**
Our new uniforms are looking great, unfortunately we are still waiting on our Junior Boys Formal shirts and Junior Girls Formal Dresses but they should be arriving this week. Don’t forget we still have some of our current uniforms still available at Cost Price.

If you would like to place a Uniform order & pick up in January you are welcome to do this. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week from 8am - 3pm. We will re-open again January 18th - 22nd from 7.30am - 5pm, January 25th 8am - 4pm January 27th - 29th 8am - 4pm.

Enjoy your Christmas break. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year.
Mrs Joanne Beller
Uniform Shop Convenor

**Counsellor News**
A final thought for the year from Jon Kabat-Zinn
The more things go ‘our way’ for a while, the more we can believe that that is the way it is supposed to be. And when things don’t go “our way,” which sooner or later they will not, we can get angry, disappointed, depressed, devastated, forgetting that it was never “supposed to be” anyway at all.

Kind regards
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

**Prep to Year 6 Student Wellbeing Leader News**
Student wellbeing covers a wide range of responsibilities not the least of which is ensuring the basic needs of the students are met, from forgotten lunches to drenched uniforms. Part of this role will be under Head of Primary in 2016. I always look forward to the many and varied activities that the children participate in during lunch times and the many chats we have along the way. It is truly a blessing and a gift to be able to work with children, knowing you have one of the most precious gifts of all – the absolute trust of parents - as they release their care to you.

Thank you to the teachers as they celebrate the end of the year with their classes. The end of year excursions and year level celebrations, often close a unit of work but also and perhaps more importantly, they are a thank you from the teacher to the students for the year of hard work and effort. They are also an acknowledgement of the positive relationships they have built with their students over the year. Thank you.

I look forward to the Family Fun Day run by the Parents and Friends in January and the P-6 Celebration of Learning towards the end of Term 1. It's a great way for new families to get to know each other and to meet other families more familiar with our patch and celebrate being part of the Saint Mary’s family.

Kind regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Prep to Year 6 Student Wellbeing Leader
I would like to thank Louise Kennedy for all her hours of work in our work as a team to manage the caseload of many students at our College. I would also like to thank the many parents I have worked with over the years as their child has moved through our school. The dedication of the parents and absolute advocacy for their children, is to be admired. I truly appreciate the trust given to me in my role of STIE to ensure that their child can access the curriculum successfully and leave the school with confidence and resilience.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff who have worked under my direction and who not only support the children in their care but the teachers as well. I would like to publically thank - Matthew (prepares resources and helps the teachers in the manual arts and Trade Training Centre), Ryan Williams, Raymond Undery, Jenny Mazzer, Gillian Sutton, Sharon McFarlane, Nikelta Law, Pauline Roberts, Chris Molloy, Beryl Parfett, Jenny Lutz, Leisa Walker, Shirley Kerkw as well as Karen Bond (Indigenous Support Worker), Barb Paterson (Science Lab assistant) and Leanne Higgins and Cathy Gartner (Library assistants).

The work these school officers do is professional and acknowledged as making a difference in the lives of the students they work with from Prep through to Year 12. The school officers are resourceful, extremely supportive and encouraging and committed to their 'charges' with whom they work throughout the week and over the year. I know Louise is keen to continue as their mentor to assist and direct them in their roles.

Kind regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe

Indigenous News

Year 9A Art
Congratulations to Anquon & Cyril on their beautiful works of art they designed this term. You are both becoming more talented every year.

Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and a relaxing and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2016.
Mrs Karen Bond, Aunty Nikki Law, Mrs Amanda Erwin & Mr Ryan Williams

Music News

Two Gigs to Go, and both involve our stunning Junior Choir!

- Thursday, 3rd December - College Carols Evening - Free Dress+Bling! - Time: 5:00pm
- Sunday, 6th December - Kingaroy Community Carols - Free Dress+Bling! - Time: 5:30pm

Junior Choir Lights Up Advent
The Junior Choir performed brilliantly at the St Mary’s Parish Advent Celebrations on Sunday, receiving a huge round of applause from the audience. Past Saint Mary’s College Music Teacher, Mrs Moya Hayden, insisted I pass on her congratulations to the students involved and their families, commenting particularly on the students’ polished and confident performance. This is high praise indeed, given Mrs Hayden’s extensive experience as a teacher and musician.

Kingaroy Community Carols - ***All Junior Choir Singers Needed***
For the first time in many years, Saint Mary’s will field a team at the Kingaroy Community Carols. This is a great family night out, as many local families will know, with performances by other local school choirs and bands. It is important that we have as many Junior Choir members in attendance as possible so we make a big, beautiful sound, so every little voice is valuable and needed. And most importantly, bling is the only uniform requirement!

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all parents, grandparents and carers who have supported their children’s musical journey in 2015. As a parent myself, I know it is not always easy to get kids to rehearsals and performances, and it does take significant time and effort out of your schedule (which was probably already pretty busy to begin with) and for this, I say ‘thank you’. I do try to ensure all of the activities I provide are beneficial, and advance your young musician’s development in some way, and your feedback is always appreciated. My planning is well underway for activities in 2016, and the calendar is filling with fantastic musical adventures for our budding Beethovens, Beach Boys and Beyoncés.

Have a very merry Christmas,
Ms Jane Izskaub
Music Coordinator
I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Tuckshop in 2015.  

As Wednesday is the last day of Tuckshop for 2015, I have limited stock and will substitute where necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

Tuckshop reopens Wednesday 27th January, 2016.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy and holy Christmas and New Year.

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

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**Tuckshop News**

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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.
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.