Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Saint Mary’s,

Late last week, I had the opportunity to meet with Queensland’s Education minister, Mr. John-Paul Langbroek MP. It was a good meeting, and myself and the other Principals raised many issues which Mr Langbroek seemed to take on board. Amongst the issues I raised were: school transport issues facing rural students (I mentioned Proston as an example) and funding cut issues for ESL and Special Needs students.

It again reminded me how important it is that all in our community understand the story and history of our Catholic Education system in Australia. **Our system was originally set up to serve the poor and marginalised.** As in Britain at that time, Catholics in the early colony of Australia did not enjoy the same rights and privileges as others. Catholic Education was seen as a way of improving the opportunities for the poor Catholic community. We must never forget this “option for the poor” and always remember that we are not a private school, but a Catholic school.

The first Catholics in Australia arrived with the First Fleet in 1788. They were mostly Irish convicts, together with a few marines. One-tenth of all convicts transported to Australia were Catholic, and half of these were born in Ireland.

**It was not until 1800 that the first priests arrived in the colony as convicts.** One of these, James Dixon, was granted conditional emancipation and permission to say Mass for the Catholics of Sydney, Liverpool and Parramatta on successive Sundays, a practice that continued from 1803 until March 1804, when the Castle Hill rebellion so alarmed Governor King that he withdrew Dixon’s privileges. Dixon soon after returned to Ireland, and Mass was not legally celebrated again in the colony until 1820 with the arrival of Fathers John Joseph Therry and Philip Connolly, chaplains appointed by the Government in London. Their arrival can be regarded as the formal establishment of the Catholic Church in Australia.

At least two Catholic schools were established in the early years of the nineteenth century but neither survived very long, and it was not until after the arrival of Therry and Connolly in 1820 that significant development took place. By 1833, there were about ten Catholic schools in the country. From this time until the end of the 1860s, Catholic schools received some government assistance under a variety of schemes, but campaigns for 'free, secular and compulsory' education had begun in the 1850s and it became increasingly clear that Catholic schools would not be able to rely on government aid for much longer. **Between 1872 and 1893, every State passed an Education Act removing state aid to Church schools.** This was a turning point for Catholic schools and, indeed, for the Catholic community in Australia. Bishops and people decided to persevere with the Catholic Education system. With no money to pay teachers, the bishops appealed to religious orders in Ireland and other European countries, and soon religious sisters and brothers were responding to the crisis.

**The first Catholic school in Queensland was established in 1845 by the first priest stationed in Brisbane, Fr James Hanly who employed Michael and Mary Bourke as its teachers.** The school opened with 56 students and was located in a slab-walled, bark-roofed building near where the Myer Centre now stands on the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets in central Brisbane.

Soon religious orders were being set up in Australia: the Sisters of Charity, the Good Samaritan Sisters, founded by Folding in 1857 (who started Saint Mary’s), and the Sisters of St Joseph (Josephites), founded in 1866 by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop, now recognised as Australia’s first saint. By 1871, the ‘Josephites’ were running thirty-five schools in the Adelaide diocese. By 1890, there were a total of 815 sisters from all orders teaching in schools; by 1910 the number exceeded 5000. The sisters not only set up schools in the cities but also established little parish schools all over Australia, providing a Catholic education for the children of the bush. Their efforts, with almost no money and in the face of considerable hardship, were nothing short of
The current funding gap between costs as low as possible.

recommended school fees Catholic Education minimum College charges its parents the Brisbane graphs below.

Catholic school funding widening gap between State and

The current funding issue facing Catholic schools is reducing the widening gap between State and Catholic school funding as shown in the graphs below.

Saint Mary’s Catholic College charges its parents the Brisbane Catholic Education minimum recommended school fees to keep school costs as low as possible.

Let us all be present to these moments of grace in our life and pause for a moment to recall our own special memories.

Wet Weather

Thank you to all the staff and children for the way they have conducted themselves this week during more flooding rain. Let us pray for the families in our community who have once again been hit by the rain and will experience hardship and damage to their property. I would like to thank Pursers coaches who have done a great job in keeping our children safe and providing transport for those students who could make it through to school. Thank you also to the parents who have transported their children by car and 4wd to get them from rain soaked areas where buses were not running. Let us hope things settle down now and the damage to our community can be repaired and life can return to normal.

Uniform

I would like to remind students and parents/carers of some Uniform requirements.

Graph 1: The current funding gap between State and Catholic schools

Graph 2: The difference between Independent “private” schools, State Schools and Catholic schools when school fees and other income are included with Government funding.


Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Naylor

Principal

Moments of Grace

This week I wish to share with you a story from a man called Shane regarding his moments of grace.

Shane:

I have had many Grace moments in my life, I call them my “God Moments”. It is amazing to me how once I recognise these certain moments, that I feel a strong presence of God speaking directly to me. The strongest of these were at the births of my 2 beautiful boys. I know its so cliche but during that very first glimpse, I felt the wind simply knocked from me. I just remember total amazement, joy and responsibility. It was the moment God blessed me with the gift of Fatherhood and entrusted their precious lives to me. I have taken that call very seriously and thank Him everyday for this gift.

Other times I feel these “God moments” of grace is when I am drawn to a beautiful sunset, or watch the face of a student light up with pride in themselves or when I am expressing myself through my music. Sometimes these moments are subtle and sometimes they are not. Either way, I am so glad to be able to recognise and respond to them. I am a very lucky guy and very thankful for all my many blessings.

Moments of Grace

From the Deputy

Principal

APRE News

School / Parish Mass

Last Sunday eleven students took part in our college led Parish Mass. Parishioners were welcomed by Lachlan O’Kane and Sam Perrett. Olivia Davis introduced the Mass and prayers were read by Addisen Hawks and Lachlan O’Kane. The offertory procession included Emma Manktelow and Addisen and, for the first time since 2011, we had a choir. The choir was ably lead and coached by Mrs Moya Hayden and accompanied by Mr Scanlan. Sammi Rix, Kaitlyn Ritchie, Emma Manktelow, Abby Perrett and Olivia Davis sang the response. As always the altar was served by Yen and Du Pham and Bao Truong.

These students did a great job and the response from the parish was very positive. I will invite students on the last Sunday of every month to take part, however there are always roles they can do on a more regular basis.

With the help of Mr Scanlan, I am going to try and form a Liturgy Committee that regularly helps with music at these and other school liturgies. More will come out about that shortly.

Iona Passion Play

On Friday the 22nd of March, the last Friday of this school term, I have booked all students from Years 7-12 to go and see the Iona Passion Play. It is a dramatic
interpretation of the last days of Jesus produced by a company at Wynnum Manly. The company has been going for about 50 years, I remember seeing them as a student when they came to Cairns about 20 years ago and it was excellent. A letter with the details of the show will come home with your student in the next week or two. What is exciting is the company hold some spots in the cast open for local actors (or aspiring actors). I will invite senior students and any parents that would like to be part of the show to let me know. A practice will happen on Thursday night, Friday morning and then lights… camera… action… I always wondered where my Broadway break would come from.

God bless,
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

From the Office
Thank you to all our families that have paid their fees by the due date or contacted me to make arrangements for payment. If you have overlooked the due date of 25 February, Term 1 fees are now overdue and need to be paid immediately. Please contact me if you have any concerns at all.

The Uniform Shop is open Wednesday morning from 8am to 11am. We understand that this time may not suit everyone. If you are unable to come in at this time, please go to our website and print off a Uniform Order or contact the Office and we will send a form home. Fill in the columns for the items required and either email it or send it in to the Office with payment and our Convenor, Amanda, will fill the order for you and leave it in the Office for collection.

Please note that all Uniforms need to be paid for at time of purchase and cannot be charged to your school fees unless you have a credit balance. No uniform item will be given to students unless payment is received upon purchase.

Sorry if this causes inconvenience but please call me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,
Mrs Shirley Hallett
Business Manager

P-6 News
Welcome to week 5! Congratulations to our primary students who are following our Benedictine expectations of Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Just, and Be Your Best.

At the end of Term 1 (Monday 25th March) we are holding a Celebration of Learning breakfast which all parents and carers are invited to attend. Our primary classrooms will be open so that you may wander through and share in the learning that your child has experienced throughout this term. You are also welcome to share a BBQ breakfast during this time. We will begin at 8am and be ready to start our school day by 9am.

Parents please note that primary students will not be given a spare hat in order to play at break times, in the event they forget theirs that day. They will be expected to sit in a shady place at break times. Head lice have occurred in a primary class recently, so please take the time to check your child’s hair. Thank you.

Congratulations to our older primary students who have trialled recently for sporting teams, and all the best for future trials.

Have a wonderful week.
Kind regards,
Miss Celia O’Connor
P-6 Coordinator

Library Corner
Chess Starting this week, Year 6-12 students are encouraged to visit the library at lunchtimes on Tuesday and Thursday to play chess for fun. Next Term, there will be a competition at school with an overall winner for the school, as well as a regional competition in Maryborough. If there are any students younger than Year 6 who have skills in this game, please let Mrs Burr or your class teacher know.

King regards,
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner
Assessment
As assessments are nearing/due for most subjects, please support your child to complete these well and on time. The assessment calendar contains timelines for these, but should you need any extra clarification with assessments, please see your child’s subject teacher.

Kind regards,
Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7-10 Coordinator

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea and Lunch Quiche $3.50
Lunch Bag System Only Potato Bake $3.50
Orders only – no orders will be accepted after morning tea on Friday.

A reminder that the tuckshop will not be serving red meat on Fridays throughout Lent. There will be alternatives including fish, salads etc. Piece of Fish $3.50

Kind Regards
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

P&F News
Personalise Label Drive
After being supported by many families, the P&F is earning great money from Bright Star Kids label fundraising site. Keep up the ordering. If you subscribe to their email newsletter there are regular specials.

Just remember www.FDR804brightstarkids.com.au or simply choose St Mary’s Catholic College P&F Assoc. at the checkout.

See Bron Langford-Martoo for any more information.

Mrs Bronwyn Langford-Martoo
Sticker Drive Coordinator

Counsellor News
Centacare Children First Program 2013
Children First is
- A program for children aged 5-15 years who have experienced separation or divorce in their families.
- A fun, educative peer support group program that is designed to help children come to a better understanding of the separation or divorce of their parents, and also to help them adjust and adapt to the significant changes in their family life.

There are 4 levels in this program:
- Level 1: 5-7 years
- Level 2: 8-10 years
- Level 3: 10-12 years
- Level 4: 13-15 years

Participants work in small groups of up to six children with a trained facilitator.

Children First aims to support children to:
- Understand they are not to blame
- Understand better their feelings about the situation
- Know that others experience similar feelings
- Have an opportunity to share with others who are in a similar situation
- Build up their confidence and self-esteem
- Learn communication and problem solving skills

What happens before the program?
Before the program commences, you and your child will be required to attend an interview with the Program Coordinators to discuss suitability and any relevant issues.

Please note that registration for the program closes 10 days prior to the program commencing.

What happens during the program?
Through a variety of creative activities, children will:
- Look at the changes that have taken place in their lives
- Explore their feelings in relation to their new situation
- Learn about expressing their feelings and communicating them appropriately

What support is there for parents?
At the same time as the children are participating in their groups, a support group is provided for the parents. In this group, you will be encouraged to explore the dynamics of your relationship with your child and their other parent. In a safe and supportive environment, you will learn about communicating and managing conflict with your child. The other parent will be invited to attend and take part if they wish. They will attend an information session so they have a good understanding of the program and how best to support their child. They will also have the option of attending a future parents’ group should they wish.

For more information please refer to the College Website for Registration Form and Venue and Dates.

Kind regards,
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

Equestrian Team News

Date Claimers for 2013 (so far!)

- April 24th - SB Cow Horse Competition Day (Nanango Show Grounds)
- July 12th - SB Equestrian Competition (Kingaroy Show Grounds)
- August 29th - 30th - Fraser Coast International Competition (Maryborough Park)

Register for email updates and bulletins

Interested parents and students wishing to receive additional equestrian team emails and text message updates should send contact details to jdalton@bne.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,
Mr John Dalton
Equestrian Team Organiser

Sacramental News

The Parish of Kingaroy welcomes sacramental candidates from Our Lady of Peach church, Rumba and Saint Mary’s Church, Kingaroy.

The parent information session for all parents of children who wish to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are as follows:

Tuesday, 12th March – please bring a photo of your child
- Session 1 - 1.30pm to 3pm in the Biscuit Tin building behind the St Mary’s hall
- Session 2 - 6pm to 7.30pm in the Biscuit Tin building behind St Mary’s hall

Both these sessions are Tuesday, 12 March 2013.

Parent will receive both Children’s Workbooks at the Parent Information Meeting.

For further information please contact the Parish Office 4162 5439, Father John 4162 1958, Saint Mary’s Catholic College 4162 2011 or Peter Undery 0401 289 922.

Kind regards,
Ms Pam Radcliffe

Violin For Sale

4/4 Caprice Violin with shoulder rest and case.
Very good condition.
$250
Phone 4162 1580

Bai Rui Taekwon-Do Club

If you are interested in joining please phone Kathleen Stevens on 0427 632 211.

English Department

Indonesian Department Borneo Tour 2013 – Don’t Miss it

Student Name (Please Print):

I wish to express interest in my child’s participation in this year’s Indonesian trip to Malaysia and Brunei. I would like to receive an itinerary and other relevant information. I understand that this response is not binding at this time.

Parent/Carer Name (Please Print):

Signed: __________________________ Date:_____________

Date Claimer…….

27th February
SEAT – Spinal Presentation

28th February
South Burnett Secondary Swimming Carnival

15th March
Green Hat Day

17th March
Kingaroy Blue Light Disco

19th March
P&F Working Bee 8am

20th March
P&F AGM 7pm

21st March
SATS Interview Day

22nd March
School Photo Day

25th March
Year 12 USC Visit

22nd March
Immunisation Clinic

25th March
P-6 Celebration of Learning Breakfast

26th March
Years 7-12 Camp Week

28th March
Term One Completed

29th March
Good Friday

30th March
School Holidays

31st March
Easter Sunday

15th April
Term Two Commences