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

**Good news**, in Term 2 we will officially begin our new shared Year 4/5 class. Mrs Lauren Arrell, a very experienced teacher already on staff, will take this new class. This will relieve the current pressure on our large Year 4 & 5 classes and is the necessary interim step as we progress toward double year levels.

I would like to thank Mr Dalton, Mrs O’Connor, Mrs McNamara, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Arrell for their continuing work to ensure that all Year 4 & 5 students will receive the same high standard of education across all three classes. The Year 4/5 shared class will have a reduced number of students so that we can ensure equal access to education.

We understand that some parents and carers have had negative experiences with “composite classes” in the past. **This shared class is very different because:**

- The shared class will work with each of the Year 4 and 5 classes to ensure consistency.
- Year 4 & 5 students will continue to have year level camps, activities and excursions.
- Mrs Arrell (shared Year 4/5 teacher) will plan and work closely with our other Year 4 & 5 teachers.
- The shared 4/5 classroom is physically placed in between the Year 4 & 5 classrooms for ease of communication between classes.
- The shared 4/5 class will have far fewer students than traditional composite classes to allow the teacher the time they need to work with each year level separately.

Recently, we surveyed our Years 1-3 parents and carers after concerns about changes to the Years 1-3 swimming carnival program this year due to safety considerations.

**Overwhelming, parents were keen on seeing a special event for Years 1-3 toward the end of the year.**

The second most favoured option was to still have races at the Swimming Carnival but just for those Years 1-3s whose parents could confirm that they could do so unassisted.

On the whole, parents and carers were very understanding of the College’s safety concerns this year for Years 1-3 and this was reflected in results above with very few parents wanting to keep races for all Years 1-3 at the current swimming carnival.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy
Third Sunday of Lent
God’s patience and our repentance
Listen to the parable of the fig tree. This parable highlights the importance of being fed and nurtured in order to grow and produce fruit. Let us discuss the ways in which we are fed and nourished by others and how we can feed others through friendship, sharing, being a good listener.

The fig tree is in an unusual location - the middle of a vineyard. However there is still an expectation that it will bear fruit. These words from the parable suggest to us that even though God has high expectations that each person will use her/his gifts for the betterment of others, God is also very patient with us. Like the fig tree, each of us is expected to ‘bear fruit’. What kind of a ‘fruit’ do you produce? What are your gifts and talents? How can you use your gifts and talents to help others in need?

Facebook
Recently I have been made aware of some issues with students younger than 13 using and participating in Facebook. The site has many benefits but there are downsides as well. It is not supposed to be used as a vehicle for arguing/malicious gossip but unfortunately some people use it for this purpose.

I am asking all parents to please monitor their son’s/daughter’s social media accounts. If you wouldn’t say it to your grandmother, don’t say it on Facebook. Any student under the age of 13 is in violation of the terms and conditions of Facebook (see below).

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Registration
You must be age 13 or over to register for a Facebook account. Facebook states you must not give false personal information in your registration details, and your contact details must be genuine. You cannot open more than one Facebook account. If you have a personal account and then register another account to promote your business, Facebook will disable your personal account. If your account is disabled, don’t attempt to create a new one without contacting Facebook first to find out why your account is disabled.

Exams/Assignments
It is now week 6 and examinations and assignments are occurring in a couple of weeks’ time. Some assignments are due now. Students are expected to hand in assignments and classwork when they are due. Parents will be contacted with concerns from teachers if there are any issues regarding assessment. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you have any worries.

G’d bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRE News
Dance for Justice (Project Compassion)
On Friday 22nd March the Saint Mary’s Senior Student Council are hosting what we hope to be our inaugural Dance for Justice. It is a disco for the whole school aimed to raise money and awareness for CARITAS.

The dance will be held in our Mary Knoll Centre and run by our Senior Student Representative Council. It will involve music and film clips and the $5 entry fee will only apply to Years 4-12 and will cover a packet of chips and a popper. The main purpose will be to raise money for the six focus countries of 2013.

Student in Years Prep-3 have a gold coin donation.

It is a Saint Mary’s College function only so students are not permitted to invite anyone else from outside the College.

What: Dance for Justice
Where: Mary Knoll Centre
When: Friday, 22nd March
• Prep-3 at Lunchtime, Gold coin donation entry
• Years 4-6 3.30pm to 5.30pm, $5 entry
• Years 7-12 5.30pm to 8pm, $5 entry

Entry fee includes a packet of chips and a popper for years 4-12.

Iona Passion Play
On Friday, 22nd March from 11.30am to 1pm all students from years 7-12 will have the opportunity to go to the Town Hall to see the Iona Passion Play. The play has been performed in forty-four places across Australia and was founded in 1958, so it is a great opportunity. The play is an interpretation of the four Gospels’ account of the last days of Jesus and includes the Last Supper, The Betrayal, The Trial, The Agony, The Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

If you don’t wish for your student to see the performance or you have any queries about its suitability please contact me at the College. Students will be transported to and from the performance by bus.

Interested Senior Students (Years 10-12) are invited to take part in the three local performances (see below). On Saturday, 23rd March there are two performances 2pm and 7pm (see flyer).

The Iona Passion Play 2013 - Kingaroy
Why not be part of the show?
You are invited to join the touring cast and perform in the Kingaroy production of the Iona Passion Play. No experience is necessary, you don’t have to learn lines and costumes will be provided.

So why not join the Roman Army for the weekend or experience the Last Supper as an Apostle. There are plenty of female roles too!

For more information please see Mr Perrett.
God bless,
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

From the Office
Thank you to those families who have paid their Term 1 fees. If you have overlooked the due date of 25th February, please pay your account immediately or contact me to discuss a payment arrangement.

Term 2 fees will be charged in the first week of the holidays. These statements will be emailed if you have a valid email address. If there is no email address on file, these statements will be mailed. Please check your email is listed on the Student Validation forms.

Student Validation, Medical and Acceptance of Financial Obligation forms were sent home last week. Please ensure these are checked, completed and returned to the office this week.

Kind regards,
Mrs Shirley Hallett
Business Manager

P-6 News
Welcome to Week 6!
Planning is currently underway for the upcoming new multi-age Year 4/5 class!

We are excited to have this opportunity to cater for the learning needs of all our Year 4 and Year 5 students. Our Year 4 and Year 5 teaching team of Ms McNamara, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Arrell are working together to make this exciting new venture for Saint Mary’s a smooth and successful one for your child.

Parents and carers please be advised that our P-6 Celebration of Learning Breakfast planned for Monday, 25th March has been postponed. Thank you for your understanding.

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

Library Corner
Chess
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 with an overall winner for the College, 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 homeroom teacher know.

King regards,
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner
Assessment
As assessment is 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**
Margherita Pizza $3.50

**Lunch Bag System Only**
Fried Rice $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**
Hi all. If you are getting ready for school camps coming up, why not order some iron-on tags and some personalised stickers to make packing a breeze! Support the P and F by going to www.brightstarkids.com.au, shopping and then at the checkout choosing St Mary’s Catholic College P and F Association. See Bron Langford-Martoo for any more information.

Mrs Bronwyn Langford-Martoo
Sticker Drive Coordinator

**Counsellor News**

**THE BEGINNING OF GROWING UP**
Opening to the world begins to benefit ourselves and others simultaneously. The more we relate with others, the more quickly we discover where we’re blocked. Seeing this is helpful, but it’s also painful. Sometimes we use it as ammunition against ourselves: we aren’t kind, we aren’t honest, we aren’t brave, and we might as well give up right now. But when we apply the instruction to be soft and nonjudgmental to whatever we see at this very moment, the embarrassing reflection in the mirror becomes our friend. We soften further and lighten up more, because we know it’s the only way we can continue to work with others and be of any benefit in the world. This is the beginning of growing up.

Pema Chodron.

Kind regards,
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

**School Funding Review Update**

**Federal Government Review of School Funding**
The Federal Government is currently reviewing the way schools in Australia are funded (the Gonski Review). As part of this process a new funding model has been proposed, and this is now the subject of discussions between the Federal government and State governments, and the Catholic and Independent schooling sectors.

Details of the proposed funding model at this stage remain unknown, and so the funding Catholic school students might receive under any new model is very unclear. However, with a Federal election due later this year, and no new funding arrangements yet confirmed for 2014 and beyond, school funding will continue to be an important issue for all political parties and for public debate.

In the lead-up to the review process, Catholic school authorities asked the Federal Government for additional funding to close the funding gap between Catholic schools and government schools. On average, Catholic school students currently receive 20 per cent less government funding than if they attended government schools.

Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible so that more families can choose a Catholic school for their children. Even when school fees paid by parents are included, Catholic schools, on average, operate with only about 90 per cent of the income of government schools.

If Catholic school funding is frozen, reduced or fails to keep pace with government school funding, Catholic schools may be forced to increase their school fees. If fees go up, the extra cost may lead to parents taking their children out of Catholic schools, and in turn put further pressure on government schools and cost government more money. To make sure this does not happen, it is important that governments fund Catholic schools fairly into the future.

Catholic school authorities recognise the vital importance of this situation for families and will provide more information as it becomes available from the National Catholic Education Commission.

For further information on Catholic school funding please visit fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au or view a video on Catholic school funding.

**Farewell to a stalwart**

Mrs Gabrielle Cavanagh is a stalwart of Saint Mary’s Catholic Church.

Gabrielle comes to Sunday Mass every week. Gabrielle is often the communion minister on these days. She has used her love of God and the Holy Family over the years to bring religious education to students at Coolabunia state school. She has recently retired from that duty. Coolabunia State School afforded her a lovely tribute in their newsletter.

That tribute is copied here for your enjoyment.

Mrs. Gabirelle Cavanagh’s incredible community effort was acknowledged at the Coolabunia State School Assembly on Monday 11 February. She has taught Religious Education (RE) at the School for thirty-two (32) years. Over that time, she has rarely missed a day. She always remembered her students’ birthdays. Her home-made sugar Easter Eggs were eagerly awaited and a big hit. Mrs Cavanaugh’s decision to retire from RE is a significant break from the Coolabunia SS, as her own nine (9) children were educated at the School.

Emma Kleinhanss and Laura Freeman presented Gabrielle Cavanagh with a bouquet of flowers at the Coolabunia State School Assembly last Monday.

**Term 1 Reports**
These will be issued to students on Monday 15th April (the first day back in Term 2). Parents will then be able to request interviews with teachers using the Parent Teacher Online service. More detail will be with the reports.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**
These will be held on Tuesday 23rd April beginning at 3.10pm

**Cow Horse Competition**
8.30am Wednesday 24th April 2013 at Nanango Showgrounds.

Open to all students of South Burnett Schools.

- Team penning
- Working Cow Horse
- Western Bending
- Barrel Race
- Lead and Ridden Stock Horse etc.

Nominations close Monday 25th March 2013.

Please contact Mr John Dalton at the College to receive more information by email.

Kind regards,
Mr John Dalton
Equestrian Coordinator
A Barambah PaCE community consultation will take place at the Ration Shed Museum conference room on Tuesday, March 12 from noon – 3pm.

Barambah PaCE coordinator, Marcus Priaulx, will outline his way of thinking to explain why certain PaCE programs have been established and explain why he believes it’s vital to have community input to the Barambah PaCE program to ensure its success and that of Cherbourg’s future.

An 11.45am arrival is asked for and it’s hoped parents, citizens, school and community decision makers will come to listen and give their feedback, advice and suggested solutions.

To get a head start you could go to www.cherbourg.qld.gov.au