From the Principal

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

Welcome back for our 2012 school year. Apart from the heavy downpour at pick up time on the first day back, it has been a great start to the new year. Even so, the rain was good news for our rainwater tanks!

It has been wonderful to get around to visit all of our classes across these first two days. I have particularly enjoyed seeing the Art and Dance activities with the Prep students and taking part in the Prep / Year 1 school tour. It was wonderful to have the 40 Prep / Year 1 students in my office having a look around. It is record number that I don’t think any other class in the school could have achieved without hanging out the windows!

2012 has seen an increase in student numbers. On the first day, we started back with 324 students and the possibility of another 20 yet to return. This has meant that we now have two classes each of year 7 & 8, rather than the single classes and the proposed Year 7/8 class.

Students who had applied for the extension Year 7/8 class and the multitude of new students who never had the opportunity to apply for this class, will still be offered extension activities. I believe that extending a student within their own year level is the best solution.

I would like to thank our College’s P&F for helping with our parent morning tea on the first day back. It was wonderful to have a chance to speak with quite a few of the 50 parents who had gathered for this event. I hope to get a chance to meet all of our parents and carers across this year.

This year we welcome back some staff who were on leave last year:

- Mr Sean Erwin – Deputy Principal
- Mr Mark Holmes – Sports Coordinator
- Ms Lauren Arrell – Indigenous Education + Literacy & Numeracy.

We also welcome a number of new staff to Saint Mary’s Catholic College:

- Ms Nichole Carmody - Prep teacher
- Ms Claire Van Dyk – Yr 1 teacher
- Mr Alan Castree – Maths teacher
- Mr Julian Connelly – Maths & Science teacher
- Mr Gary Curran – PC Coordinator and Maths and Science teacher
- Mr Michael Scanlan – Music teacher
- Mr Mark Richard – Man Arts and Graphics teacher (beginning in Feb)
- New Year 7 teacher – to be confirmed.

Parents and carers might also like to know some of our key administration staff contacts for 2012:

- Ms Melanie Burr – Early and Middle School Coordinator
- Mr Larry Byrne – Vocational Education and Training Coordinator
- Mr Chris Cook – Senior School Coordinator
- Mr Gary Curran – Pastoral Care Coordinator
- Mr Mark Holmes – Sports Coordinator
- Ms Pam Radcliffe – Inclusive Education Coordinator

I look forward to catching up with you across the year.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

“Listen with the ear of your heart” – St Benedict
From the Deputy

Timetables Years 6 to 12
Thank you to the students who have clarified any issues regarding subject selection, particularly in Years 10 to 12. If students are concerned about any of their subjects or traineeships/apprenticeship arrangements please see Mr Erwin on Friday or early next week.

Hats
Hats must be worn when out in the open. Please make sure hats are clearly labelled with students names.

Thank you for welcoming me back into the school community with such enthusiasm.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

From the Office

Welcome back from all in the Office to the 2012 school year, in particular to our new families. We have a couple of items for you to note for the beginning of the year.

First of all if you haven’t arranged payment of the compulsory items to be purchased from SMCC on your booklists, please arrange to do so as soon as possible. These items will be distributed by the Library next week. If they aren’t paid for your child will not be issued with their supplies. If you have already paid, be sure to keep your receipts for taxation purposes. Parents that have paid via EFTPOS will be issued with a receipt on College letterhead in due course.

This week you will receive Student Update and Medical Forms. Please verify all information on the Update, complete the Medical Form and return both for each of your students to the Office by Friday, 3rd February.

UNIFORMS – Due to the unexpected number of new enrolments this year our uniform stock has been depleted. We have placed an urgent order with our Suppliers and they have advised that they will endeavour to have the stock to us within three weeks. When the stock is received we will put a notice in the newsletter. If you are waiting on uniform items keep an eye on the newsletter for this announcement.

Parents of students from Prep to Year 5 will receive a letter requesting information for any bus transport (across town bus in particular) or after school Day Care arrangements. The College maintains a role for these students to ensure their safety. Please ensure this is returned to us as soon as possible to enable us to provide the care your children need. You will also need to contact the College if there are variations to these arrangements at any time throughout the year. Students will not be allowed to board a bus without notification being received from parents.

School fees will be charged in Week 3 of each term. Term 1 fees will be issued by 8th February. Once you receive your statement, please check for accuracy and report any discrepancies immediately. Payment terms are 21 days unless you have a payment plan in place. Concessions are available for all qualifying families. Please, if you have any concerns regarding fees, do not hesitate to contact me personally and I will endeavour to assist. All matters are dealt with confidentially.

Kind regards,
Mrs Shirley Hallett
Business Manager

Library News

Library borrowing/returning processes
Library borrowing processes are in place to help maintain our library’s resources and ensure an equitable access of resources for all staff and students.

Process for overdue library books
- First reminder (1-15 days overdue) given through staff to students
- Second notice (16 – 23 days overdue) – Students are given a printed record to take home as a second reminder
- Final notice (24-31 days) - Library staff talk to the students individually and give them a final record slip to take home to parents/caregivers
- Letters are then sent home to parents/caregivers – This includes the name of the book and replacement cost.
- Failing communication or payment, information will be forwarded to the Business Manager for invoicing and accounts.

Process for overdue textbooks
- Reminders (1-2 weeks overdue) – Students are informed of the return due date of their textbook return at the beginning of Term 4.
- Final notice (3 weeks overdue) - Library staff talk to the students individually and give them a final record slip to take home to parents/caregivers
- Letters are then sent home to parents/caregivers – This includes the names of the book and replacement cost.
- A second letter is sent home in week 1 of Term 1 as a final reminder.
- Failing communication or payment, information will be forwarded to the Business Manager for invoicing and accounts.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Middle Years Coordinator

Sports News

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

Welcome back to 2012. A quick introduction, I am Mark Holmes and I am returning to the College in 2012 as Sports Coordinator. I am very excited to be working with your children in helping them reach their aspired sporting goals this year. Please incite them to come and see me with any questions relating to sport within the school as well as possible representative opportunities.

The first big event is just around the corner on Friday, 3rd of February, that being the Swimming Carnival. I urge you to encourage your students to participate as much as possible as the more that get involved, the better the atmosphere and spirit of the carnival evolves. If you would like to volunteer some time on the day please phone the College and I can arrange a job (even if it just a couple of hours) or even just come and watch to support our young (and always enthusiastic) swimmers in the ‘parents tent.’

Your child will be made fully aware of the procedures of the carnival via
classroom or homeroom teachers prior to the day.

Our trials for QISSN (Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball) will be held next Wednesday, 1st February at 3:30pm. This is due to having Belinda still available to conduct the trial and choose the best possible team for the carnival and so preparations can get under way. This may be held at the Kingaroy netball courts (Fisher Street) as the Mary Knoll Centre floor may not be ready, however students will be well informed prior to the day.

That is all for now but I’ll be sure to keep you posted on all the sporting news from in and around the College.

Yours in Sport
Mr Mark Holmes
Sports Coordinator

Music News
Is your child interested in playing the clarinet, flute, trumpet, saxophone, trombone, violin, viola, cello, double bass, piano, voice or guitar?

If so, tell them to meet Mr Scanlan in the Music Room on Monday, 30th January to pick up a form. Forms must be returned by Friday, 3rd February to allow for timetables to be organised

Mr Michael Scanlan
Music Coordinator

Tuckshop News
Friday, 27th January
Extra Choice Menu item is Spaghetti Bolognaise or Chicken and Gravy Roll.

Please note on the menu there is a section for lunchtime orders only.

We are looking for volunteers for Wednesday and Fridays. If you are available to help please contact the College office and leave your contact details.

An error on the menu has been noted. Please note that the Dino Snacks are $2.70 not $3.00.

Ms Heather Barritt
Tuckshop Convenor
You are cordially invited to attend the

Bi-annual Bushies’ High Tea & Charity Quilt Auction

To be held at

The Quilter’s Rest
562 Weens Road, Kingaroy
on
11th February, 2012
4.30 pm to 7.30pm

Cost $15 per head

All proceeds for the evening will go to Cystic Fibrosis —

RSVP - 4th February 2012
Phone Marion on 4162 3987

Pauls Milk
Collect-a-cap
Families that use Pauls milk, please keep the specially marked lid. A box is located in the school office.

AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

Mary Help of Christians
Patron Saint of Australia

Help of Christians, guard our nation,
That it be a place of peace,
Where the love of Christ unites us
And all racial tensions cease.
Help of Christians, lead us forward,
With this dream in ev’ry heart:
To create a place of welcome
Where injustice has no part.
Help of Christians, chosen patron,
Of this fair Australian land,
You have shown a way to follow,
True to all that God has planned.
May our lives like yours be faithful,
May our loving be as true,
Till we see our God for ever,
Who has done great things for you.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Celebration Dates

13th February – 4th anniversary of the National Apology given in 2008
March 21st – Harmony Day
March 22nd – National Close the Gap Day
May 26th – Sorry Day
May 27th – June 3rd Reconciliation Week
June 3rd – Mabo Day
July 1st – Coming of the Light
July 1st – July 8th NAIDOC Week
August 4th – National A&TSI Children’s Day