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

Firstly, this week we welcome Mr Wade Toms, our new Year 7B teacher. I worked with Mr Toms at St Peter Claver College where he ran programs for struggling boys and also many sporting teams.

Since our last newsletter, we have had a couple of wonderful school events - our College Swimming Carnival and Opening Mass and Induction of Student Leaders.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, I was unable to attend the Swimming Carnival, but heard very positive reports from all involved. I would like to congratulate our staff, parents and students who helped to make the carnival so successful. I would especially like to thank our Sport Coordinator, Mr Mark Holmes and his dedicated band of helpers.

On Tuesday, we celebrated our Opening Mass and Induction of Student Leaders. I would like to thank Mr Perrett, Mr Hutton, Mr Scanlan and all the staff, parents and students who helped to prepare our Mass.

It was wonderful to have Fr John (Parish Priest), Fr Michael Carroll (Murgon Parish Priest) Uncle Eric Law (QCEC Indigenous Elder) and Mr Michael Kearney (Area Supervisor) to assist in presenting badges to our Senior Leaders.

At the Mass, I told The Story of Stone Soup (below), to challenge all of our students and especially our leaders to share the gifts that they have with our whole community.

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**The Story of Stone Soup**

Once upon a time, there was a great famine in which people jealously hid away any food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbours.

One day, a wandering soldier came into a village and began asking questions as if he planned to stay for the night.

"There’s not a bite to eat in the whole village," he was told. "You’d better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled a big old iron pot from his wagon, filled it with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumour of food, most of the villagers had come to the square or watched from their windows. As the soldier sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome the villagers.

"Any soup needs salt and pepper," the soldier
said, so some of the children ran to fetch salt and pepper.

"Stones make good soup, but carrots would make it so much better," the soldier added. One woman said, "Why, I think I have a carrot or two!" She ran to get the carrots.

"A good stone soup should have some cabbage, but no use asking for what we don't have!" said the soldier. An older man said, "I think I can probably find some cabbage," and off he scurried.

"If only we had a bit of beef and some barley and potatoes, this soup would be fit for a rich man's table." The villagers thought it over, then ran to fetch what they had hidden in their cellars. A rich man's soup, and all from a few stones! It seemed like magic!

"The soup is ready," said the soldier, "and all will taste it, but first we need to set the tables." Tables and torches were set up in the square, and all sat down to eat. Some of the villagers said, "Such a great soup would be better with bread and cider," so they brought forth the last two items and the banquet was enjoyed by all.

Never had the villagers tasted such delicious soup, and all made from stones! They ate and drank and danced well into the night.

In the morning, the villagers gathered to say goodbye to the soldier. "Many thanks to you," the people said, "for we shall never go hungry now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones!"

Yours in Christ

Michael Nayler

APRE News

Yesterday we celebrated the start of the school year as we always do with a College Mass. We were very fortunate to have some special guests at the ceremony. Fr John co-celebrated the Mass with Fr Michael Carroll from St Joseph’s Parish, Murgon. Mr Michael Kearney, our Area Supervisor from the Brisbane Office, Uncle Eric and Aunty Shirley Law representing St Joseph’s College, Murgon and Deputy Mayor Keith Campbell and his wife Marion were all in attendance. It was great to have a large number of parents also share the morning with us. The students engaged very well in all parts of the Mass. The College formally presented our elected College leaders with their badges and they then pledged commitment to the College in their role. 

College Captains – Sara Vinci and Christian Sutton
House Leaders – Alex Kelly, Kyle Johnson and Tayla Benson
Faith and Community – Shannon Nitschke
Citizenship and Culture – Ashleigh Irvine
Public Relations – Kara Jensen

Creative Opportunities Ahead

Next week each class in the school will be assigned to organise one weekend parish Mass and one College assembly prayer for the year. It is envisaged that we build on what was started a few years ago and further involve our students in the parish and the Religious Life of our College through their participation. Students find such creative ways to pray and present ideas. Students’ enthusiasm and creativity was tangible in the Mass yesterday as the younger students spontaneously made up actions for the words in the hymns we were singing.

Thank you to all staff and parents who made the day run as smoothly as it did. Age champions will be announced at next full school assembly.

Today sees a number of students trialling for various South Burnett teams at Kingaroy State High School. We wish them well with their various sports.

Active After Schools begins today, if you returned your child's permission slip. If not please look out at the beginning of next term to register your child in one or both of the two activities.

Thank you have a good week!
Yours in sport,
Mark Holmes

From the Office

It is with much sadness that we farewell a very valued member of our staff this week, Belinda Greenwood. Many of you would know Belinda as the always smiling face at the front counter. Belinda is heading off to the Gold Coast to pursue studies in Graphic Design and will be sorely missed by all of us at Saint Mary’s Catholic College.

I would like to personally thank Belinda for all her support and many contributions to the College over her 5 years and wish her every success in her future ventures.

Shirley Hallett
**Music News**

**Guitar Lessons**

Guitar lessons commence this week. Please check the timetable on the window of the music room for your lesson times.

**Viola for Sale**

15” Caprice Viola with shoulder rest
Paid $709 Sell $300

Phone Julie 0423027289

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**Tuckshop News**

Friday, 10th February

**Extra Choice Menu item:**

Hawaiian Bread Boats or Oven Fried Rice

**Look Out Program**

Just a reminder that the school side of Kent Street is a Pick up Zone only from 2:45pm each afternoon.

Parents are reminded not to park in this area but remain in their vehicles until students are sent to their car.

The process is for parents to queue in their cars and keep moving forward until students are collected. You may have to move on and return to the end of the queue if your child is not waiting.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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**Proposed Indonesian Trip 2012**

This year the College’s Indonesian Department is planning a study tour to Indonesia. In 2010 we travelled to Borneo, visiting the countries of Brunei and Malaysia. This year we are planning to visit Indonesia. The proposed trip will include four nights in Bali and then five nights in Yogyakarta, Java. At this stage we estimate the cost being around $2700 but may be less depending on numbers. The trip will be open to students who are in Years 8 to 12.

We are asking for expressions of interest from potential participants. The dates proposed are from Wednesday, 19th to Saturday, 29th of September 2012. The opportunity to express your interest will be available until the end of February. An itinerary is attached for further information.

If you wish to express interest on behalf of your child please complete the slip at the bottom of the page and cut out and return it to the College office.

*Mr Cook.*

I wish to express interest on behalf of my child in the proposed Indonesian trip for 2012. I understand that this is non-binding expressing of interest only.

Name of student/s: ________________________________

Name of Parent/Carer: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________

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6 February 2012

Dear Parents,

The Federal Government’s Gonski Review of Funding for Schools has now been presented to the government. A period of government consultation and public debate on its recommendations is expected to follow after the report’s release later this month.

As key stakeholders in the future of Catholic education it is vital that you are aware of the facts about school funding, so that you are able to participate in this debate at any opportunity.

Please find attached a graph that illustrates the comparative average resourcing levels of the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors in Australia. For more detailed information about school funding I encourage you to visit the website developed by the National Catholic Education Commission at:

www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

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**Catholic Schools Funding**

![Graph showing comparative average resourcing levels of the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors in Australia.](source: Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) financial data for the year 2010-2011.)
**Pauls Milk Collect-a-Cap**
Families that use Pauls milk, please keep the specially marked lid.
The collection box is located in the College front office.

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**BURNETT SOFTBALL ASSOC INC.**
*Invites interested players to sign on for a short 4-6 week summer season*

**When:** Sat, 11th Feb 8:30am - 12pm  
**Where:** KSHS top oval, First Ave Kingaroy  
**Who:** ages 5 yrs to Masters  
**TEAMS:** Mixed U10s, U13s, U15s, Mens & Women’s grades

Plays Saturdays  
Volunteers needed!

**Contact:** Terry Rubesaame  
on 0410 772 872 or secretaryburnettsoftball@hotmail.com

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**1ST BLUE LIGHT DISCO FOR 2012**  
Friday, 10th February  
Prep - 14 years  
(high school ID must be brought)  
6pm - 8:30pm  
$5 entry

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**135 ARMY CADET UNIT OPEN DAY**  
Sunday, 12th February  
ARMY RESERVE DEPOT  
BRAMSTON STREET WONDAI  
10.00AM TO 2.00PM

Joining the Army Cadets is your chance to experience a really awesome time by getting into some adventurous activities conducted in a military setting.
Come along to the Open Day and experience firsthand bush navigation, field craft, drill, first aid and much more!
Open to youth from twelve and a half to nineteen years of age.

Enrolment forms will be available on the day.

We service Mundubbera, Gayndah, Murgon, Wondai & Kingaroy.  
For more information contact:  
LT (AAC) PETER SCHNEIDEWIN ON 0448 636 818

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**Kingaroy Junior Soccer**

**REDBACKS Sign on Day**  
**Saturday 11th February,**  
9am – 3pm, Hall at Junior Soccer Fields.  
Both boys and girls of any playing ability, aged 5 (turning 5 in 2012) to 16 years, are welcome to join the REDBACKS club.  
For more information regarding Sign On, training times etc., contact:  
Club : 0448 745 074  
Tracey T. : 0407 623 012 or 4162 3309  
Nat :0419 781 267 or Anita :0407 297 707