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

It’s been a very busy start to the year, particularly given the **10% increase in students** over the expected numbers. We currently have 337 students after expecting just 305. This has meant that we are in the process of **employing 1.6 extra teachers**. We already have Mr Toms our Year 7 teacher on board and now are looking for a Primary teacher with a PE background for three days a week.

This week, **Mrs Celia O’Connor becomes our Prep to Yr 5 Curriculum Support Teacher (CST)**. Mrs O’Connor will oversee the development and delivery of learning for our P-5 students. She will join **Mrs Melanie Burr (Yr 6 – 9 Curriculum Coordinator)** and **Mr Chris Cook (Yr 10 – 12 Curriculum Coordinator)**. I would encourage parents and carers to speak with these staff about general concerns with curriculum and learning. Of course, I always encourage parents to speak firstly with the teacher concerned about subject related or year level (P-7) concerns, before following up with the curriculum coordinator.

At Tuesday’s assembly, I spoke with students about our **Student Services Centre**. This centre has Mrs Pam Radcliffe (Support Teacher Inclusive Education); Mrs Lauren Arrell (Indigenous Education and Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher) and Mr Neil Hutton (Campus Minister). It is a place that students can go if they require extra assistance with school or personal concerns. I also mentioned to students that it is a **place that keeps some bread, butter and simple spreads (like vegemite, jam and honey) if students have forgotten their lunch**.

The College has received a notification about a student with **whooping cough** in our community. **Please read the attached letter and information sheet carefully and seek medical advice immediately if you suspect that your child has any symptoms.**

**Next Monday and Tuesday**, our College Leadership team will be at a gathering of Leadership Teams from across our cluster of schools. I would like to thank **Mr Chris Cook and Mr Mark Holmes for stepping up into the acting Leadership Team roles** for these days.

Last year, **a parent meeting was scheduled for tonight**. This has been removed from all school calendars for this year. We are looking at having more specific parent nights rather than this general night. The P-5 teachers are currently looking at holding a Celebration of Learning for parents before the end of term. This would allow parents and family members to see the great work their children are doing.

At our Opening Mass, I spoke with students about the **Benedictine Value of Being Your Best**. At this week’s assembly, we spoke about our second Benedictine Value of **Being Just**. Mr Perrett, our APRE, and our Senior students presented all of our homerooms with the Caritas Lenten packs.

**Caritas** is a Catholic development organisation which has low administration costs. This means that most of the money raised goes directly to supporting people in developing countries. Your child/ren may come home and ask for some loose change to support Caritas. There may also be some fundraising events held in classes. We will be raising money for Caritas through until Easter. For more information, the Caritas website is: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

Your in Christ

Michael Nayler

**APRE News**

**Shrove Tuesday**

In keeping with most English speaking nations we celebrate Shrove Tuesday next week. Shrove comes from the word ‘shrive’ which means penance or sacrifice, and this is the reason the day marks the eve of Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. In Reformation times, the day was called ‘Fat Tuesday’ or ‘Mardi Gras’ where people would consume their food supplies in preparation for Lent, a period of fasting. As we know, pancakes are the food of the day because they are made out of the main foods available, sugar, fat, flour and eggs consumption of these foods was traditionally restricted during ritual fasting periods.

**Pancake Order**

Next Tuesday the students can purchase a pancake for $1. Orders will be taken for Prep – Year 4 students. Please return the order form at the bottom of page 2 of this newsletter to class teachers by next Tuesday morning with money enclosed. Students in Years 5 - 12 can purchase pancakes on the spot at morning tea, however there is no guarantee that all will get one, supplies are limited so students are advised to bring a normal lunch as well.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The **Parent Information Evening** advertised in the Parent Calendar that was distributed at the end of 2011 will **not** be held tonight, Wednesday, 15th February.

Check the newsletter for upcoming important dates.
Project Compassion

Today at our second whole school assembly we launched Project Compassion. The senior class prepared a prayer that reminded us of the social injustices that exist. This year’s Project Compassion resources focus on Timor Leste (East) and each class has been issued with various activities, calendars and fund raising ideas. Our goal this year is $2000. We already have $150, if each student contributes $1 per week so over the next five weeks we will get there easily. Classes are invited to devise their own one off fundraising event as well, so I am confident $3000 is not out of our reach.

Martin Perrett

STOP DROP and GO Zone – 2.45pm - 3.05pm

Just a follow up from the note in last week’s newsletter…

When collecting your child from in front of the school the driver must:

- Stay in the car and move the car forward as the cars in front move on
- Move up so there are no gaps between the vehicles

The children are told to keep checking the cars ‘out the front’ to see if their car is in the line up.

Again thank you for your cooperation.

Tuckshop News

Friday, 17th February

Extra Choice Menu item

Pizza Muffin (2) - Ham & Pineapple or Chicken OR Roast Beef & Gravy Roll

Lunch Bag orders only

A new Tuckshop menu included with this newsletter to commence on Friday! Reminder that no Pies, Party Pies or Sausage Rolls served on Fridays.

Immunisation Clinics

Immunisation forms were distributed to Year 8 and 10 students today. These need to be returned to the College office by Thursday, 28th February.

KINGAROY NETBALL

Junior Sign on

Saturday, 18th February

From 1pm

Kingaroy Town courts, cnr Fisher & Alford Sts

Ages 5 - 15 yrs

Any skill level

Call 0408 638 638 or email kingaroynetball@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember…

Tuesday, 21st February

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Day

Wednesday, 22nd February

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, 23rd February

Wide Bay Golf Trials

Friday, 24th February

Fun with Maths workshops, P-7

Friday, 2nd March

School Photos

Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday – Feb 21st

Name: __________________________________________ Class: _____________

Indicate below the number of pancakes you would like. $1 each, all proceeds to Caritas.

☐ Plain Pancake

☐ Pancake + Jam

☐ Pancake + Syrup

Please return the order and correct money to your child’s class teacher by Tuesday morning.

ONE DAY LENTEN RETREAT WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY

SATURDAY 31st MARCH 2012

THE LAVALLA CENTRE, PADDINGTON

Join Bruce Downes and the team from the Catholic Guy television program for a day of brand new and inspiring sessions that will make Lent 2012 a life changing experience. By stepping back from life for just 8 hours you will discover how to take your faith to a whole new level during Lent.

The Catholic Guy has held One Day Retreats in other states previously and they are usually fully booked out and always receive amazing feedback. This is the first time that Bruce and his team are holding this event in Brisbane and being held in Lent we know it will be very popular. This retreat is for men and women of all ages and backgrounds and the cost is just $20 (includes retreat materials plus morning and afternoon teas.)

Register early to receive a FREE CD of Bruce Downes’ talk titled ‘How the 40 Days of Lent Can Transform Your Life.’ More details and easy online registration available at www.thecatholicguy.com or phone 1300 734 880.

Plain Pancake

Pancake + Jam

Pancake + Syrup

Please return the order and correct money to your child’s class teacher by Tuesday morning.