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

Today, on Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent. Traditionally, throughout the period of Lent Catholics and other Christians prepare for Easter through fasting, prayer and collections for the less fortunate.

All of our staff and students will receive a simple cross of ashes on their forehead as a sign of trying to live better lives across the season of Lent. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and beginning anew.

Last week, I mentioned that as a school community, we will be supporting Caritas as our chosen Lenten charity. We will also observe the Lenten practice of no meat on Ash Wednesday or for the Fridays throughout Lent. Non-meat items are still available as per the current tuckshop menu. There will also be some new items like fish fingers to replace the pies and hot food.

Our P&F met last night and it was decided to have a P&F working bee followed by a shared morning tea on Saturday, March 17th from 7.30 – 10.30. All parents, carers and students are encouraged to attend.

Earlier this week, our Leadership Team had some time away with other Leadership teams to plan for 2012. A number of the big ticket items for 2012 include:

- Curriculum: aligning our College with the new Australian curriculum.
- Reporting: continuing to develop our new reporting system which began at the end of 2011.
- Whole School Positive Behaviour: working to develop a positive behaviour plan for the entire school community.

College numbers continue to grow and this week we will probably go past 340 students. This increased number has allowed us to put on some new staff and also to create some new positions. This week we will welcome Mrs Marian Carlton as our new Part-Time Primary PE teacher. Mrs Carlton is a very experienced educator, who has run PE and boarding departments at a number of schools.

I would also like to congratulate the following students who have been selected as SRC reps for their classes:

- Yr 11A: Claire Anderson & Eline Beijens
- Yr 11B: Megan Badacchino & Samantha Watson
- Yr 10: Gabe Crane & Cassandra Firman
- Yr 9: Monique Mott & Richelle Bethke
- Yr 8A: Ashleigh Reinbott & Alexander Firman
- Yr 8B: Jayde Novak & Kiara Wright
- Yr 7A: Louis Sayer & Kate Cutler
- Yr 7B: Campbell Depper & Madison Wintour
- Yr 6: Grace McFarlane & Bridget McDonald

Yours in Christ

Michael Nayler
**From the Deputy**

**Hands off policy**

Students are reminded that hitting of any form is forbidden at the College.

**Hats**

Students are reminded that hats are to be worn at all times when out in the open. This includes morning tea, lunch and PE lessons.

**Availability**

Just a reminder to parents and students that I am not always available before 9am in the morning as I am getting the school organised for the day. Could you please make appointments outside this time if you need to see me.

**Make-up**

Make-up is forbidden at the College. Some girls are disobeying this rule at the moment and need to change their behaviour before detentions at lunch and after school are issued by the deputy principal.

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**APRE News**

Years 6 and 11 students are invited to take part in the Parish College Mass on Sunday at 10.00am at St Mary’s Catholic Church.

*Martin Perrett*

APRE

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**From the Office**

Term 1 School Fee Statements were issued last week. Please note that these fees are due for payment on the 1st March. If you have any concerns at all regarding your fees, please contact me through the Office.

We are only too happy to help.

Due to the unexpected number of enrolments this year, we have a Year 7 class still waiting on Diaries. These have been ordered, however due to an issue that is beyond our control, they won’t be delivered for another 3 weeks. We will be following up to ensure these diaries are received as soon as possible and offer our apologies for the inconvenience caused to students.

Another reminder to parents that the Student Details Update forms that were sent out Week 1 need to be returned immediately. Thank you to all those that have returned their forms already.

Kind regards

*Mrs Shirley Hallett*

Business Manager

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**Uniform Shop News**

Polo shirts have arrived this week. The Uniform shop trading hours are Wednesday and Thursday 8.00am to 9.30am.

*Mrs Cathy Nitschke*

Convenor

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**Tuckshop News**

A new menu was published and distributed for the commencement of the 2012 school year. However, there appears to be some confusion regarding the ordering process and availability of menu items.

In an effort to overcome this confusion a revised menu was printed and distributed with the newsletter last week. Please ensure you are using the menu with “Effective from Fri, 17th Feb” in the top right hand corner. We have discovered an error on this menu – Dino Snacks x 3 should read $1.35 not $4.00. Please make this change on your menu.

Please note particularly that there are no Pies or Sausage Rolls sold on Friday. An additional “Extra Choice Menu” is offered each Friday. These choices are released in the newsletter each week. This week’s choices are:

- Roast Vege Salad $3.50 or Pizza Muffin $3.50

Today is Ash Wednesday, the commencement of Lent. During Lent there will be no meat items sold through the Tuckshop on Friday. This is for the remainder of the Term. Alternatives being offered for Fridays are as follows:

- Fish Fingers x 2 $1.25
- Fish Fingers x 4 $2.50
- Piece of Fish $3.50
- Potato Scallop $1.20

Due to a supply issue the Sushi will be unavailable until further notice.

If an order is placed with incorrect menu items listed, every endeavour is made to offer an alternative. If there is no acceptable alternatives a refund is given.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our Tuckshop Convenor, Heather Barritt.

Kind regards,

*Mrs Shirley Hallett*

Business Manager

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**P - 5 News**

Prep to Five assemblies are held each Tuesday morning from 8.50am in the Primary area and every third Tuesday immediately following the whole College Assembly. Primary students’ birthdays are acknowledged, as well as students showing beautiful behaviour.

Special certificates will be presented to acknowledge those students who are caught following our five rules:

1. Be Just
2. Be Safe
3. Be Your Best
4. Be Responsible
5. Be Safe

*Mrs Celia O’Connor*

Prep - 5 Coordinator

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**From UQ**

Parenting and Family Support Centre, School of Psychology at The University of Queensland has sent us the following information for all members of the community.

Heavy rain, flash flooding and other extreme weather events can be upsetting and frightening for children. The Parenting and Family Support Centre at The University of Queensland and the Child and Youth Disaster Response have collaborated to develop a support package that helps parents prepare their children for bad weather.

The Preparing for Bad Weather Triple P Survival Guide is a free resource that includes a comprehensive tip sheet, a podcast of an interview with Professor Matthew Sanders (founder of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program) and a short film that combines professionals’ guidance with the experience and advise of Queensland parents who have lived through natural disasters. Essentially, these are about providing parents with some very practical tips for developing their child’s emotional resilience in the context of bad weather.

This survival guide is freely available online via http://psy.uq.edu.au/pre.

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**Community Drive**

Cherbourg has a very young population with many young children. The key to schooling success begins with parents reading and interacting with their children.

For this reason Barambah PaCE, The Smith Family, Cherbourg Playgroup and Cherbourg State School are teaming to build an education culture of books and reading in the homes.

I’m hoping your school could collate a stack of books for us to use. Any book for any age is welcome but the main category we’re aiming for is 0-4 year olds.

On March 23 Barambah PaCE coordinator Marcus Priaulx and his assistant Emma Stewart will collect all donated books.

On March 23 - 24: A yet-to-be designated team (possibly Cherbourg State School mentors headed by Smith Family’s Cathie Burns) would collate the donated books at the school to ensure 50 complete packs are
made for 50 designated parents. The packs would consist of:

- An appropriate Let’s Read bag and book;
- The Budburra Book;
- A computer CD with the digital version of the Budburra Book;
- A Let’s Read video showing parents how best to engage their children with books;
- Let’s Read information sheets and an Australian Literacy Educator’s fridge magnet on how best to read to kids and encourage stickers. We could also include one or more of the donated books but these may be handed out later on visits to homes or at playgroup-reading gatherings;

- March 20 - 24 & 26 personalised invites from kids along with School- PaCE invitations will be given to parents to come to the March 27 fun day and Bringing Books into the Community launch;

- March 27: Cherbourg State School, Playgroup, Smith Family launch of the program. On the day parents would:
- Join their kids in fun hands-on activities organised by staff;
- Be shown the school’s digital Budburra book and how they can use it on a computer;
- Be told about the Parents as First Teachers - Bringing Books into the Community program and ask if they’d like somebody to come to their house with the Let’s Read and Budburra books and package or if they’d like to come to the school once a week, fortnight, month…;
- Listen to Cherbourg teacher / early education specialist Trish Meams speak about the importance of reading and the wiring their a child’s brain to learn before they get to school;
- Join Trish in one of her musical numeracy and literacy programs;
- Be given the books, CDs, video, fridge magnet and sticker.

Follow up visits with the Let’s Read program would be included with possible trips to libraries.

**Indigenous News**

Annual Apology Anniversary Ceremony
Written By: Shania Stewart Year 11

On the 14th February a group of students and Mrs Arrell attended the Secondary Colleges in the Brisbane Archdiocese annual Apology Anniversary Ceremony co-hosted by the Murri Ministry Team and the Archdiocesan Justice & Peace Commission.

The ceremony was held to remember the historic Apology to Members of the Stolen Generations in 2008. The Apology Anniversary is a very significant date for all Australians, especially the Indigenous people of our country.

The ceremony started with a smoking tradition by Uncle Joe Kirk, a local Elder, to cleanse the air of bad spirits. This was then followed by a minute’s silence to pay respect to our elders of past and present.

One young woman from Toowoomba spoke about how she visited a remote Aboriginal community in the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory, and how she was upset and shocked that people were made to use Welfare Reform cards in this generation. She then went on to speak about how confronting this whole experience was to her. Then we watched two young performers from Leah Purcell’s Performing Arts (ACPA), perform, rap and sing.

We also had the privilege of spending some time talking with some elders that now live in Brisbane, but actually grew up in the Cherbourg Girls’ dormitory. They shared some stories with us about life in the dorms and their personal removal from family. We also enjoyed hearing their knowledge of some of our families’ members like our grandparents and parents.

I was honoured and privileged to be selected to represent our school at such an important and memorable event. I would also like to thank the support of Mr Nayler, our Principal, and Mrs Arrell our Indigenous education Support Teacher for taking the time to make this important event happen. I would highly recommend this ceremony for students to attend in future years.

**P&F News**

Saint Mary’s Catholic College is not just a school or a work place but a faith based support centre with a strong focus on community. We have created a community supporters’ polo shirt with the school crest embroidered over the left chest with the word “community” printed under our logo.

This top quality Canterbury Brand Fashion Polo comes in both ladies’ and men’s cut in all sizes ranging from kids to the biggest men’s. We also have Canterbury spray jacket for those wet days at sporting events to go with your community polo.

Wear it with pride everyday out in the community and to school events and other community events.

The fashion polo is white, green and maroon stripes and the spray jacket is black.

To order yours see the ladies at the College office who have shirts available for sizing. We are very excited to offer these shirts and jackets and we hope that parents friends and families will be just as excited to wear your community with pride!

*Mr Damien Martoo*  
Parents and Friends
**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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**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 Chris Cook.

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

Name of student/s:

Name of Parent/Carer: ___________________________  : Signature: ___________________________