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

St Benedict is one of our community’s two patron Saints; the other is our namesake, Our Lady Help of Christians. We owe our connection to St Benedict, to the Good Samaritan sisters who helped establish our school community.

St Benedict was born in Nursia, Italy, around the year 480, and was the son of a noble family. As a youth, he went off to Rome to study. At that time, Rome was showing signs of moral and political decay. Turning away from such corruption, Benedict discontinued his studies, withdrew from Rome and went into solitude.

For three years Benedict remained in solitude in a cave. Through a life of fasting and prayer, he sought to grow closer to God. Because he was such a holy person, the local people would seek him out. They desired that he pass on the message of Christ to them during a time in history that was greatly in need of the Gospel.

In the year 529, after having lived these years as a monk, Benedict established a monastic foundation where men, who wanted to live a life in common and together seek out the Lord, could come to dwell. This new "school of the Lord" came to rest on a hill near Cassino in Italy. Hence, the monastery came to be known as Monte Cassino. There, Benedict established his community and wrote a rule, that is, a guide to be followed in the daily lives of his monks. Benedict guided the community as the father, also known as the abbot, until his death around the year 547.

Since this humble beginning of the Benedictine monks, that is, those vowing to live their lives under the Rule of St Benedict, the religious order has spread throughout the world down to the present day. From Monte Casino many other Benedictine communities have been established.

Some great teachings and advice from the Rule of St. Benedict are:

- Help those who are in trouble.
- Console the afflicted.
- Prefer nothing to the love of Christ.
- Speak the truth from your heart as from your mouth.
- Attribute the good that you find in yourself to God, and not to yourself.
- Listen willingly to the Holy Scriptures.
- Honour those who are old.
- Love those who are younger.
- Pray for your enemies in the love of Christ.
- Make peace, before the setting of the sun, with those from whom you have been separated by discord.

From: http://saintbenedict.org/stblife1.htm

Prayer of St Benedict

Gracious and Holy Father,
Give us wisdom to perceive You,
Intelligence to understand You,
Diligence to see You,
Patience to wait for You,
Eyes to behold You,
A heart to meditate on You,
And a life to proclaim You,
Through the power of the
Spirit of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler

Listen with the ear of your heart - St Benedict
From the Deputy

Year 9
Please support Year 9 tomorrow as they raise money for Caritas by selling popcorn and icy cups. Congratulations to Year 9 for their initiative and their overall behaviour this term. I have received many favourable comments about this class. Well done!

Exams and Assignments
Following last week’s reminder regarding exams and assignments for Term 1, it is essential that students are revising for exams and completing assignments by the due date.

ESCM - Essential Skills for Classroom Management
Yesterday, four staff attended a one day in-service run by Brisbane Catholic Education. This is the beginning of a review of our behaviour management practices within the school. Next Monday and Tuesday six staff will be involved in school wide Positive Behaviour Management (PBS) which is also run by Brisbane Catholic Education. This will form the basis of behaviour management within the school for the next three to five years. These initiatives will enhance the college behaviour management policy that currently exists.

Work Experience
Year 10 work experience forms are due to Mr Byrne this week. Parents, please ensure that your child has a suitable placement for Week 10 and has returned the relevant forms to Mr Byrne as soon as possible.
God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRE News
Last Friday World Day of Prayer was celebrated at the Town Common Hall. The theme was Malaysian and the prayers, hymns readings and reflections were all focused on the Malaysian situation past and present. Our Senior Dance Class under the guidance of Ms Tamara Poole, performed a Malaysian Dance for the 100 or so congregation. Ms Poole put a lot of work into preparing the students for the occasion and her efforts were rewarded. The students did a great job and the performance was very well received. The dancers were: Rachael Patroni, Rhiannon Budgen, Emma Howley, Estelle Wolski, Linda De Hennin and Jasmine Watson. Congratulations and thank you.
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

From the Office

A reminder that Term 1 fees were due for payment on 1st March; any unpaid fees are now overdue. Thank you to those families that have already paid or made alternative arrangements. If you have overlooked this due date please make payment immediately or alternatively contact me through the College Office to advise when payment can be expected.

Also, please don’t forget camp fees are due Monday, 19th March.
Kind regards
Mrs Shirley Hallett
Business Manager

Sports News
Next week sees the Secondary South Burnett Winter Trials, which are generally the more popular sports played within our region. Your child has been notified of the sports available to trial for and should collect a form from outside my office if they are interested.

Active After School Communities: a note to primary parents to please be prompt in picking up your child at 4:15pm if they attend active after schools. As the office shuts at 4:30pm, it is hard to reach parents by phone if you have not come to collect your child. It is also frustrating to wait (until 5pm in some cases) for children to be collected when other matters need attending to. I appreciate your cooperation with this.

The Thursday AAS'ers will this week be heading to TJ O'Neill oval for a Rugby League gala afternoon where they will put the skills they have been developing to the test against students from other schools. Please note you have to collect your student from the grounds at 5.30pm (if you have returned their permission form to attend). If you do not wish them to attend, they will need to go home as normal this Thursday because there will be no activities at school.

Lastly, a BIG thank-you to Dan and Abigail Andersson for their donation of fruit twice a week to provide our AAS kids with a nutritious afternoon tea. The money saved will go towards sport equipment for general use in the primary area.
 Yours in Sport,
Mr Mark Holmes
Sports Coordinator

Learning Support News
Occupational Therapists from University of Queensland will be here in two weeks. They will run a parent/carer information afternoon for anyone with a student in Prep to Year 3. It is proposed that they will be here on the 27th March. We are looking at 3.00pm refreshments with a presentation 3.15 to 4.15 in the Resource Centre. They will be talking about developmental milestones and transitions from squiggleing to writing etc. Keep a look out for more information.
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Support Teacher Inclusive Education.

Tuckshop News

Tuckshop’s Friday Lent Menu

Fish fingers x 2  $1.25
Fish fingers x 4  $2.50
Piece of fish $3.50
Potato scallop $1.20

No Pies and Sausage Rolls are available on Fridays.

New Menu Item
No added sugar flavoured milk 500ml
Chocolate and Iced Coffee $3.00

Kind regards,
Ms Heather Barritt
Tuckshop Convenor

P - 5 News

Prep to Five. Celebration of Learning Breakfast BBQ
Wednesday, 21st March
from 7.30am to 8.45am

A wonderful way for you and your child to spend time
• Sharing their learning experiences from Term 1
• Exploring the many displays around the Prep to Five classrooms
• Experiencing our Primary Long Room with computers and Interactive Whiteboard technologies

If you are coming to share a BBQ breakfast with us please fill out the RSVP form at the back of the newsletter for catering purposes.

Mrs Celia O’Connor
Prep - 5 Coordinator
**TTC News**

The Technology department is looking for small engines for the students to learn on and pull apart. In particular, we are looking for old lawn mowers, chainsaws, shipper snippers or motorbike engines preferably or a small 4 cylinder car engine. We do not have the space for larger engines so we cannot accept 6 or 8 cylinder engines.

If you are able to help us please contact Mr Byrne at the College on 4162 2011.

Mr Larry Byrne
Classroom Teacher

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**PsLF News**

Greetings from your P & F Committee. Just a friendly reminder that our next P & F meeting will be held next Tuesday night 7-30pm start. This is also the night of the AGM which will be held first followed by a General Meeting. Everyone is more than welcome to attend both meetings. At our last meeting, as usual, many items of interest were discussed. Damien Martoo has come through with our supporters polo shirts. There are several reasons for parents to indentify ourselves whilst out at events. Firstly we will look a tour de force; secondly, we put forward a professional front and lastly, it assists in our students indentifying a person attached to our College. Orders are still being taken at the office.

Some very good news with Fiona O’Kane having been successful in securing a grant for sizeable funds which will be used throughout the year for landscape improvement. So very well done Fiona. Which brings me to point out that there is a working Bee on the 17th March starting at 7-30am working through to 10-30am. We plan on staggering the times throughout the year as we realise that weekends are busy with other commitments. If you are able to help out on the 17th for the three hours or even part thereof your presence will be much appreciated.

There are quite a few items on the discussion table and several new items were raised during the Board Meeting last week that the P&F will be able to offer some assistance with. We are certainly not running out of ideas to see to fruition. So hope to see you next Tuesday night, if not, perhaps on the 17th for the Working Bee.

Naomi Wilson
P&F President

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**From the Counsellor**

Helping Children with ADHD Succeed at School

School creates multiple challenges for kids with attention deficit disorder, but with patience and an effective plan to overcome these obstacles, your child with ADD/ADHD can thrive in the classroom. Teachers and administrators can help to provide this support—but it is you as the parent who can make the biggest difference in your child’s successful education. As a parent, you can work with your child and his or her teacher to implement practical strategies for learning both inside and out of the classroom. With your consistent support, these strategies can help your child meet learning challenges—and experience success at school.

Setting up your child for school success

The classroom environment can be a challenging place for a child with ADD/ADHD. The very tasks these students find the most difficult—sitting still, listening quietly, concentrating—are the ones they are required to do all day long. Perhaps most frustrating of all is that most of these children want to be able to learn and behave like their unaffected peers. Neurological deficits, not unwillingness, keep kids with attention deficit disorder from learning in traditional ways.

As a parent, you can help your child cope with these deficits and meet the challenges school creates. You can provide the most effective support: equipping your child with learning strategies for the classroom and communicating with teachers about how your child learns best. With support at home and teaching strategies at work in the classroom, there is no reason why kids with ADD/ADHD can’t flourish in school.

**ADD / ADHD and school: Tips for supporting teachers**

Remember that your child’s teacher has a full plate: in addition to managing a group of children with distinct personalities and learning styles, he or she can also expect to have at least one student with ADD/ADHD. Teachers can do their best to help your child with attention deficit disorder learn effectively, but parental involvement can dramatically improve your child’s education. You have the power to optimise your child’s chances for success by supporting the work done in the classroom. If you can work with and support your child’s teacher, you can directly affect the experience of your child with ADD/ADHD in the classroom.

http://helpguide.org/mental/adhd_add_teaching_strategies.htm#teachers

Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

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**Indigenous News**

**INDIGENOUS PARENT FORUM**

You are invited to join us for our Saint Mary’s and St Joseph’s Parent Forum, to be held fortnightly at the Cherbourg Catholic Church.

Come join us for this fortnightly get together, where we discuss educational issues.

Our next meeting will be 10 am TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2012.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Eric, Shirley Law & Daisy Carlo

**Instrumental Workshop**

Instrumental Workshop Saturday, 17th March

South Burnett Community Orchestra in conjunction with South Burnett Regional Council and Regional Arts Development Fund are hosting an Instrumental Workshop with visiting Tutors in Strings, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.

Musicians of all ages are welcomed to attend.

For further details contact Wendy Kelly (07) 4164 2010 or email sborchestra@hotmail.com

**School Photos**

Any students who forgot to bring in their photo envelopes, please bring them to the college office as soon as possible.
Today your child received the order forms for the first Book Club for the year. Please make sure you return any orders with the money to the office by Tuesday 13th March to ensure your order is placed.

**P&F Working Bee**
7.30am - 10.30am
Saturday, March 17

Please bring any of the following:
whipper snippers (with safety gear),
blowers, garden snips or shears, rakes,
shovels, yard brooms, wheelbarrows,
garden gloves, water, hats & sunscreen.

All welcome!

MT will be provided at the end of the Working Bee.

**For Sale**
Icy Cups and Popcorn tomorrow 8th March 2012
Icy Cups 50c
Popcorn 60c

All money raised is donated to Caritas.

Thank you Year 9

**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.

**Don’t forget!**
**Book Club orders**

Today your child received the order forms for the first Book Club for the year. Please make sure you return any orders with the money to the office by Tuesday 13th March to ensure your order is placed.

**P - 5 Lunchtime Disco**
Thursday, 8th March 2012
Gold Coin Donation
All proceeds are going towards Caritas

**FREE DRESS DAY**
Thursday, 8th March
Gold Coin Donation
All proceeds are donated to Caritas

**Footy Tipping Round 2**
March 9 - 12

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**Primary Celebration of Learning Breakfast BBQ**
(RSVP Form: Please return to class teacher by Monday 12th March)

Yes! We would like to share in a simple BBQ breakfast (sausages): Family name ____________________________

How many adults and children for breakfast: ______ Adults + ______ Children

Tea and coffee will be served.