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

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to duck around and wish all of our Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students the best as they began their NAPLAN tests. We do our best to make these tests as least stressful and intrusive to our students as possible. Against sound educational advice, some schools spend a disproportionate amount of time on NAPLAN preparation simply to try and improve their NAPLAN scores. However while we prepare our students for NAPLAN, we ultimately teach to the Australian Curriculum for the maximum long term educational benefit for our students. The NAPLAN test is just one indicator of how students are travelling, and from most studies, probably not one of the best indicators. We do look at the NAPLAN data to see how far our students have progressed since their previous NAPLAN tests, and this data is extremely positive for Saint Mary’s students, with the vast majority making significant improvements way beyond the average expected improvement.

Families will remember that last year’s 2012 Year 9 cohort had the second best NAPLAN results for all Brisbane Catholic Education schools from Maryborough to the Gold Coast.

Each year, the College celebrates National Reconciliation Week. This year, we will celebrate with a liturgy beginning at 9am on Wednesday, May 29 followed by an official opening of our Bunya Dreaming garden. We are currently sending out invitations to elders, school leaders and our Indigenous families to attend, but I would also like to invite all families to join us.

As we approach Reconciliation Week, it is interesting to hear the story of Archbishop John Bede Polding (Patron of our Polding House) and his work for Reconciliation.

John Bede Polding was born in Liverpool, England, on November 18, 1794. He was educated by Benedictine nuns and monks and joined the Benedictine community in 1811. Through his life Polding found the Rule of Benedict a source of rich Gospel-based wisdom. Polding had the dream of being the ‘Bishop of Botany Bay’ become a reality when he arrived in Australia in 1835 as the first Catholic bishop. More visionary than practical administrator, Polding dreamt of building a Church based on Benedictine principles and practices.

After the Kilcoy Incident (1842) where 60 Aboriginal people were poisoned with arsenic-laced damper, Polding set to work on creating an Aboriginal mission on North Stradbroke Island.

In 1845, Archbishop Polding appeared before a Parliamentary Select Committee on the Aborigines. His words reveal the depth of his compassion for what he believed was a “burning injustice” with regard to Indigenous people. “I am making myself black, putting myself in that position and taking away all that I know except that this is my country, that my father lived by pursuing the emu, and the kangaroo, and I am driven away from my hunting grounds, that my children and tribe are subjected to the grossest barbarities…”

In his 1849 pastoral letter to Australian Catholics, he said, “Aborigines of the country – the first occupants of the lands over which your flocks and herds now roam – have a very strong claim upon you. Nor will the Lord hold you innocent if you have not used your best endeavours to promote their temporal and eternal well-being.”

During 1850 he travelled extensively throughout Queensland including Nanango and Barambah Station and wrote of his concern at the extermination of the Aboriginal people: “They were shot down in Queensland like wild dogs and with as little remorse.”

In numerous settings during his long life, Polding expressed his dismay and his deep concern about the way in which white settlements were overtaking Indigenous people, their culture and their way of life. He complained bitterly to the legislative bodies of his day about the ongoing destruction of the Indigenous peoples and their spiritual attachment to the land.

His ‘Benedictine dream’ also saw the establishment of two Benedictine communities of women: the Benedictine Community at Jamberoo and the Sisters of the Good Samaritan which began in 1857 and who
went on to found our own Saint Mary’s community. Polding was also credited with laying the foundations of Catholic education in Australia.

When Polding died in 1877, his funeral was the largest ever held in Australia. More than 100,000 people joined the funeral procession through the streets of Sydney.


Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Neyler
Principal

From the Deputy

Pentecost

The Easter Season begins at the Easter Vigil and ends fifty days later on the feast of Pentecost. The whole of Eastertide was originally called Pentecost and it was considered to be one big festival.

There are three major feasts within the fifty days: Easter (the resurrection), Ascension (Jesus is taken into heaven) and Pentecost (sending of the Holy Spirit). The liturgical colour for the season is white, with the exception of Pentecost, when red vestments are worn.

The fifth day after Easter Sunday is called Pentecost Sunday. ‘Pentecost’ is derived from a Greek word, meaning ‘the fiftieth’ day. Both Jews and Christians celebrate this feast.

For Christians, Pentecost refers to the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ when the Holy Spirit descended on the first Christians in the form of tongues of fire (Acts 2:1ff). Those first Christians were Jews and they reinterpreted their traditions in the light of what they knew about Jesus. So the Jewish feast of Pentecost became the celebration of the new covenant with Christ. St Paul, for example, applied all the scriptures as it signified 50 days after Moses received the Torah and it became the green light for people at these gatherings, no longer just Jewish people, to remember the recently risen Jesus. It is a time of new beginnings; no longer was Jesus with them but they were buoyed by the presence of the Holy Spirit and given the fortitude to come out of hiding. It required a certain level of faith that they found with the help of the Holy Spirit.

It is a time we can recommit to some of our beliefs and to remain authentic to the things we value and hold dear. In the secularised world in which we live, the challenge to remain faithful and authentic, presents itself every day. Our College has the privileged role of helping youth articulate these beliefs and to help them remain true to them, be they religious or otherwise.

Francis — New Pope, New Hope

Winds of change are blowing and Pope Francis has already been credited with improved dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics, renewed discussion about the role of women in the Church and a focus on economic rationalism and social justice.

These themes came out of an editorial in The Tablet entitled, ‘Thinking the Unthinkable’ (4th May 2013), and they refer to the leadership of the new Pope. Like the followers at Pentecost who needed faith and courage, His Excellency might be an agent of change for the Church.

Our College Feast Day — May 24th

Next Friday morning, the whole school will gather in the Mary Knoll Centre for a Liturgy of the Word to celebrate our Patron Saint, Mary Help of Christians. Mary is not only our college name sake and the Patron of our parish, she is also the Patroness of Australia. Mary Help of Christians came as a title for the protection of Christians under persecution in the middle ages. As for Australia, when Cardinal Patrick Moran of Sydney wrote his History of the Catholic Church in Australia, he recalled the laying of the foundation stone of what was to become the first cathedral in this land. His eminence asked:

"Who was the patron selected by the people and their newly arrived pastor, Father Therry, for the Mother Church? Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God, under the special invocation of Help of Christians, was chosen patroness." (http://www.theworkofgod.org/Library/MaryHelp/Patronss.htm, accessed; 14th May, 2013)

There are some fabulous images of Our Lady of the Southern Cross and the like. Warm regards

Mr Martin Perrett
APRE
Library Corner

Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!

Blue Award (3 books)
Angus Robertson, Jacob Haydon, Tom Pennell and Angus Pace

Red Award (5 books)
Joshua Gronbach, Kate Lipsitt-Batts and Emily Ross

Bronze Award (10 books)
Holly Stephens, Riley Berends and Paige Parsons

Overdue/damaged textbooks from 2012 (Yr 7-12)
Letters were sent home last week as a final reminder to return or pay for lost/damaged textbooks from last year. Students have already been individually spoken to and families notified last year and earlier this term. Please encourage your child to return/discuss their overdue textbooks with library staff ASAP, if they haven’t already done so.

Book Fair
Our school will be hosting another popular Scholastic Book Fair in Week 8 (3rd-7th June) in the media room. Book Fair will be open mornings and afternoons. Various payment options are available this year including credit slips and order forms.

Chess Competition
There will be a school chess competition (all ages) in Week 9/10 of this term. A team of competitors will be taken to Maryborough in August to compete regionally. More information about this will be provided closer to the date.

Kind regards,

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner

Change to Assessment item for Year 8 History
The scheduled written stimulus test will now be administered in Week 7 and not this week as specified on the assessment calendar. Let peace be your quest and aim

Mrs Melanie Burr
Middle Years Coordinator

Prep to Year 6 News
Welcome to week 2! Thank you to Mr Scanlan for his wonderful introduction for parents and students to the College Violin Immersion Program. The support from parents was awesome to see, and I’m sure we all have a much better understanding about how to support our children in their study of this instrument. Our College strings program is very special to our school, and we are very lucky that our children have this opportunity.

Year 4 enjoyed a fun adventure yesterday to the T J O’Neil library, Nanango Energy Centre, and to the Endeavour Biscuit factory in Kingaroy. Staff enjoyed some delicious biscuits at the staff meeting yesterday. Thank you year 4!

Our College Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students have completed two of the Naplan tests with the final tests in Numeracy tomorrow. Our students are very well prepared and we wish them and our teachers all the best for this final test. Thank you to Mrs Cross for the enormous amount of work she has put into preparing Saint Mary’s for Naplan.

Congratulations to Year 1, Mr Scanlan, and their conductor Miss Van Dyk who placed second in the Own Choice Primary Choir at the recent Kingaroy Eisteddfod! Caitlyn Carney also placed second in piano. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to Stephanie Arrell who was selected in the Kingaroy/ Nanango Representative team for netball, and played in Bundaberg 11 years team. We wish Stephanie the best of luck when she plays in this team at Maryborough.

We are so proud of all the different talents that our Saint Mary’s students show, in sporting, academic, creative and musical activities. Well done to all children whose unique gifts shine in these areas.

This evening is our College Open Night from 6pm. Please refer to further details in this newsletter. It would be wonderful to meet new families who are interested in joining the St Mary’s community on this night. Everyone is most welcome to pop in to see our Year 2 and Year 4/5 classrooms, as well as the primary computing room.

Miss Celia O’Connor
Prep – 6 Coordinator

Tuckshop News

Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea and Lunch
Savoury mince rolls $3.50

Lunch Bag System Only
Chicken and macaroni bake $3.50
Orders only - no orders will be accepted after morning tea on Friday.

Kind regards

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

P&F News

Next Meeting
The next P&F Meeting is 21st May at 7pm in the College Board Room. All are welcome to attend.

Working Bee
Exciting news from the amazing P&F! The next P&F Working bee is this Sunday 19th May. All you need to do is bring a wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, blower, line trimmer, brush cutter, blowers and brooms etc. and join the working bee from 8am to 12noon. Hope to see you all there.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Don’t forget to collect your Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers. You will get one sticker for every $10 spent. Place the Woolworths Earn and Learn Points onto a Woolworths Earn and Learn sheet located at student reception. These sheets can be handed into the College Office or placed in the collection box located at Woolworths Kingaroy.

Items for Sale
We have 60 Hessian Bags 585x1015 $1.50 each and Weed Mats 600x600 $1.20 each. Please contact the office if you are interested in purchasing any of these items.

God’s Blessings,
Mr Damien Martoo
P&F President

Personalise Label Drive

Mrs Bronwyn Langford Martoo
Sticker Drive Coordinator

Art News

Last week one of Saint Mary’s senior Visual Arts students, Lylah Calvert was chosen as a finalist in the USQ annual art award and exhibition entitled, ‘Escape from the Zoo’. She describes her piece ‘Materialistic Wings’ as ‘Small material patches of pink, black, blue and white were worked together to create an elegant, vintage look amongst the veins of the wing. Antique laces and styled fabrics were used to create that effect.’

Her work is now on display in the USQ ArtS Gallery Toowoomba until the 6th June. Great work, Lylah!

Mrs Bronwyn Langford Martoo
Art Teacher

Counsellor News

I spend a lot of time with people of all ages who seem to be looking for something different from what is present, what their reality is. Maybe the following excerpt by Jeff Foster’s book “An Extraordinary
Absence” echoes the same questioning. Sit with it for a while.

**The Search for Home**

Looking for something more. Something else. Something other than what’s happening. Something – in the future – that will satisfy us, complete us, save us. Looking for the answers. Driving ourselves mad with the questions.

We never seem to be able to just come to rest here, to fully relax into what’s happening. There is a constant pull into a future moment when things will be better. And with our attention so fixed on the future - and its reflection, the past – what’s presently happening gets reduced to a means to an end, just one moment in a series of many. We hope the future moments will be better than this one. We just never seem to be content with this.

Regards

Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

**SB Community Orchestra**

RACQ Careflight Rescue ‘Gangsters & Gals’ Charity Dinner

6.30pm at Kingaroy Town Hall on Saturday, 25th May 2013.

- Tickets $60 per person
- Includes 3 course dinner with licensed bar available
- Raffles, lucky door prizes
- Prize for the best ‘Gangster & Gal’ couple
- Entertainment by South Burnett Community Orchestra
- All proceeds going to RACQ Careflight Rescue
- Book a table - bring your friends
- Email: sborchestra@hotmail.com

For table booking and enquiries phone Wendy Kelly 0409 270 496

**Annual Cent Auction**

Yarraman Kindergarten invites you to our Annual Cent Auction

Saturday, 15th June 2013

Doors open at 8am
Calling starts at 10am sharp

Yarraman Memorial Hall

Entry $5 - includes morning tea and a sheet of tickets

Come along and bring your friends for a fun-filled morning.

For more details and early bird tickets contact Yarraman Kindy on 4163 8174 or yarramankindy@bigpond.com

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**$2,000 in Prizes**

At the Kingaroy Regional Art Gallery’s Acquisitive Youth Art Competition as

**Digital Art Goes Wild**

Pick-up an Entry Form and Conditions at this location

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT, TO WIN IT
Sponsored by South Burnett Regional Council

Digital Art Goes Wild

Kingaroy Regional Art Gallery's Acquisitivie Youth Art Competition has $2000 in prizes in digital art. If you are 12 - 24 and interested in digital art please see Mrs Langford Martoo for an entry form!