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

Welcome back to Semester 2. I trust that all in our community have had a restful break and are ready for another exciting semester. The holidays have been a busy time for many in our community with some major events and great results:

QISSN Netball & Confraternity Rugby League carnivals: I would like to congratulate our QISSN netball team (Sam Watson – Captain, Cherie Baldacchino , Megan Baldacchino, Cassie Firman, Megan Irvine, Bridget McCarron, Rahab Murray, Leigh Yance & Kiara Wright) & Matt Harch (who played rugby league for Xavier College) for giving up the first week of holidays to proudly represent our community. Our girls, despite being the smallest school & youngest students in the competition, had a win and many close competitions against schools many times our size. Matt played many strong games for his adopted team and even scored a try in his final game. All of our students’ behaviour, sportsmanship and efforts throughout the week were exemplary. I am extremely proud of all of them and look forward to the 2014 competition on the Gold Coast. I would again thank our staff and parent supporters who joined the team and me in Townsville especially: Kara Jensen (Coach); Bronwyn Tipman (Manager); Cameron Irvine and Kevin Watson (transport and support) & Miss Kaitlyn Tucker (staff supervisor).

Congratulations to Patrick Frohloff (Year 5) who won the Queensland Dressage Championship (10 Years old) and Lachlan Watson (Year 4) who won a gold medal for his weight division at an international Tae Kwon Do special skills competition.

UQ International House Experience: Six Indigenous students (Glynn Boney, Jackson Langford, Braydon McGregor, Frank McGregor, Nikita McGregor and Tori Watson) travelled to Brisbane to join other students to experience life at the University of Queensland. Many thanks to Mrs Valerie Mathews and Mr Don Schmidhauser for organising and supporting this wonderful experience for our students.

I would like to invite all of our parents and carers to the two major events coming up over the next fortnight:

P-12 Athletics Carnival: 9am – 1pm Friday, July 12. A great day featuring sprints, relays and a special fun sports program for our youngest students.

Rock on Stage – 6pm, Friday, July 19. The most exciting night of the year featuring musical performances from all classes, our P&F and staff. All of our students from P-12 are involved in this incredible evening which helps to raise funds to support the Bacalod Kindergarten in the Philippines.

Today, as part of our NAIDOC celebrations we have a group of Indigenous students at a writer’s seminar in Brisbane. On Friday students will participate in the Ration Shed’s celebrations. We are very grateful to ACICC and our Wakka Wakka elders for the beautiful Wakka Wakka welcome plaque at our College entrance. This plaque provides an important welcome to our community.

Finally, with reports due out later this week, I thought it may be worthwhile offering parents and carers some advice on understanding the information contained within them. I also shared some of these insights with our students at this week’s assembly.

My quick general advice when looking at your child’s report is: Focus firstly on the effort results. These will tell you the most about how much effort your child has put into their studies. This is often where prospective employers will look to see how much effort young people will put in, especially in subjects and activities that they may find difficult.
Examples: A higher achievement result with a lower effort result may mean that your child needs to put in a much greater effort despite what may look like a good result, whereas a lower achievement result with a higher effort result may mean that despite perhaps struggling with the subject, your child is actually putting a solid effort into their studies.

Secondly look at the achievement results. Most students will receive a “C” result for achievement. This is not a bad thing, but instead the result received by most students who are meeting each subject’s requirements. An “A” or “B” is far less common and a sign that students are well above the expected standard for their studies.

Read the comments section carefully for advice on ways to improve. Teachers will normally suggest ways for students to improve their results. Look for any patterns across your child’s subjects to see if there are any general ways that they can improve.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

From the Deputy First Communion/Confirmation

On Sunday 23rd June, we were honoured to have Archbishop Coleridge preside over Confirmation and First Holy Communion at St Mary’s church.

The occasion was one of great joy and celebration and the children were very respectful and dressed in wonderful formal attire.

I would like to thank Father John, Mr Peter Undery and Mrs Sandra Ritchie from St Mary’s Parish for their preparation of the children.

As a Deputy Principal and a parent, I was very proud of our students and the manner in which they conducted themselves.

God bless all of you in your journey of faith.

Shoes

Parents will be contacted this week if their child’s shoes are not correct.

Some students were spoken to before the holidays regarding their canvas material shoes as these are not acceptable.

If students do not have the correct shoes they will not be able to participate in Technology or Science as it is a WHS issue.

Fully enclosed, black leather or vinyl shoes are the only acceptable type.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Hats

Please ensure that your child’s name is on his/her hat. Hats are still to be worn when out in the open during winter.

Welcome new students

I would like to formally welcome the 12 new students who joined our community this term. I will be checking up on these students to make sure they have settled in. If parents have any queries, please contact me via the front counter and I will answer any questions you have.

God bless the new term and all our staff, students and parents.

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRENews

Saint Mary’s Winter Appeal

On the last day of last term we were fortunate to have his Grace, Archbishop Mark Coleridge visit our college. The Archbishop addressed the assembly, blessed our Benedictine Awards and some gifts and also was part of our presentation of over 2000 items of food to Saint Mary’s Centacare, South Burnett. The response to this winter appeal was overwhelming. Students and families of the College extended a very warm offering to local families who might be struggling this winter by bringing in items of non-perishable food that could be warmed.

Mrs Louise Judge from Centacare was ‘blown away’ by the generosity and offered her trailer to transport the goods down to their offices in Albert Street. The trailer, as you can see, was overflowing and Mrs Judge assured me that the act of kindness will go a long way for many families who find themselves in some very difficult times this winter.

Thank you to all families for the food you sent in.

Sacraments of Initiation

On Sunday the 23rd of June, five students from our college received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These students were prepared in the sacramental program by the parish and sealed their commitment to their faith at the 10 am Parish Mass celebrated with His Grace, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Father John Hong.

These students, along with three students from the Wondai/Murgon Parish who received the same sacraments earlier in the term, were presented with a gift from the College.

Toward the end of this year invitations will be extended to students and families to take part in the sacrament on Reconciliation. I will publicise the program when dates are known.

Archieparch Mark, Kathleen Janz, Carmen Sowden, Olivia Davis, Caitlyn Carney, Nicholas Erwin, Matthew Trebbin, Rhani Lucas, Katherine Trebbin, Father John

Kind Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
Assistant Principal Religious Education

APA News Semester 1 Reporting:

Reports will be sent home with students on Friday 12th July 2013. If the process is delayed, they will be sent home on Monday 15th July.

The report package will include the following items:

Semester 1 Report: These are based on Term 1 and Term 2.

Parent Teacher interview information: This is known as PTO (Parent Teacher On-line) and a code and instructions will be included to allow parents and carers to make interviews on-line. The interviews will be held in the Library on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd July. PTO opens for parents to make interviews from 9-00am Monday 15th until 9-00am Monday 22nd July.

Year 11 and 12 QSA Data check: These data sheets show the details that are held by the Qld Studies Authority for each student. They are to be checked for accuracy, signed, and returned for processing.

Year 11 and 12 QCE eligibility check: Students have already completed their self-checking for eligibility for the QCE (Qld Certificate of Education). An included copy of this self-checking will inform parents of the student’s projected eligibility, and allow students to explain the process to parents.

Year 11 and 12 OP estimates: These estimates have been done to give students a rough idea of the OP they could expect based solely on their Semester 1 results. They are as such, a rough projection only, but are none the less useful to give students some idea of the connection between effort, results, and the eventual OP score they could expect.

Kind Regards
Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

Welcome to Year 6 News

Welcome to term 3!

A special and very warm welcome to the new primary students who are joining Saint Mary’s. We hope you and your families settle quickly and well into our College. Please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher with any questions or concerns.
Don't forget the Athletics Carnival on this Friday 12th July for all students in Prep to Year 12. Parents and grandparents are very welcome to attend.

All students are currently busy enjoying preparation for our annual Rock on Stage concert. This event is for Prep to Year 12, with the youngest year levels performing first. All information and details about the evening will be published in next week’s newsletter.

In Week 3 I would encourage you to book a time to see your child/ren’s teacher at our Parent Teacher Interviews. Maintaining excellent communication between school and home is very important to us.

Wishing all families a wonderful start to the new term.

May God smile on you,
Celia O’Connor
P-6 Coordinator

Library Corner

2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge
Please keep encouraging your child to read and record their books. If their sheet is kept at school, they can record names of books and authors on a piece of paper and attach it to the form when they get back to school.
Prep- Year 4 need to read 20 books, Year 5-7 need to read 15 books.

Please return all overdue library books immediately! Letters will be sent home this Thursday.

SMCC Chess Competition
The finals will be held to determine the overall champion for P-6 and Yr 7-12. This will be taking place next Tuesday (16th July) at lunchtime. Mr. Hutton will then decide on a team to represent us at Maryborough in September.

LEXILE and Take Home Reader Program
This week, students on LEXILE will be tested to determine their most appropriate reading levels. Please remember that this testing is just a means to ensure that students are matched to the books they are able to read and should not be a point of anxiety for them if their latest results have not increased considerably.

Welcome Preppies to the Take Home Reader Program! Like the Year 1s presently on Take Home Reader, they will be receiving a pack of books each Tuesday. Take Home Readers are meant to be read repeatedly by the child to an adult. Preppies might need time and support for this to occur. These books need to be returned within the plastic bag they were distributed in to their yellow class Take Home Reader box each Tuesday morning.
Thank you, in advance, for your support in ensuring that this process is followed.

Kind regards,
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner
Yrs 7-10

Welcome back, students and families to Term 3. We are gearing up for another busy but exciting term. Please remember to contact me should you have any concerns about your child’s overall progress or work ethic to contact me. If there is a subject specific concern, please arrange a meeting through the office with the subject teacher.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher-Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

Tuckshop News

Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea & Lunch:
Hot Dogs
Hawaiian Baked Potatoes $3.50 each
Milk will go up from
Monday 15th July as follows:
- Oak 600ml chocolate and 500ml Breaka milks $3.20
- 300ml Breaka milk $2.20
- chocolate milk poppers $1.70

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Sports News

Parents are reminded that the deferred athletics carnival is on Friday 12th July on the top oval. It commences about 9.15am and will finish at lunchtime. All parents are invited and tea/coffee will be available at the Mary Knoll Centre.
Events include Sprints-100m and 400m plus relays for secondary students and shorter sprints, relays and ball games for the primary students.
A special Assembly will be held at 2.30pm to present Age Champions and Winning House.
Two of our students- Clare Adcock and Nick Schmidhauser have been selected to represent Wide Bay Region in Cross Country next week. We wish them well.
Our Netballers had a great week in Townsville over the holidays. Many friendships were made, they played some great netball which augurs well for the future considering the youth of the side.

Matt Harch enjoyed his week at Confron Rugby League as a guest player for Xavier College and we thank Xavier for the opportunity.

Hope to see you all Friday.

Yours in Sport,
Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

P&F News

The next P&F meeting will be held in Yarraman on Tuesday, 16th July. We will be running the College transit van to Yarraman. If you wish to car pool please contact the College office to book a seat. We will be leaving from the College at 6pm to be at Yarraman for a 7pm start.

Rock on Stage

Even more exciting news is that the P&F is coordinating the parents’ act for Rock On Stage so warm up those vocal cords and get your hips shaking. If you can join us please let me know.

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

Year 12 Fundraising

Tuesdays - Sausage Sizzle
Sausages $1.50
Poppas $1.50

Thursdays
Icy Cups 50 cents

Guitar Lessons with Mr Jeppeson
start again this Thursday and Friday. The times will be the same as last term.
Whether you want to play guitar, drums or bass - even if you’d love to know what it takes to be a DJ, check out:

The Music Room - a fully equipped, air conditioned studio offering personalised, affordable tuition for all ages.

Call Jayden on 0408 925 683 | email themusicroom@live.com.au | visit Shop 3/119 Youngman St, Kingaroy.