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

Archbishop Coleridge has asked that this week be a week of prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East and throughout the world. I would like to invite all in our community to join with our Archbishop and community in this prayer. Of course, the greatest prayer of Peace outside of the teachings of Jesus himself comes from St Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Sadly, the school year is wrapping up for me. These final weeks before heading on leave are a blur of building meetings, planning for Term 4 & 2014 and tying up as many loose ends as possible. One of these is reflecting on how we have gone with our College’s annual goals. Below is a brief reflection on some of the goals directly related to our parent/carer and student community.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

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**Saint Mary’s 2013 Annual Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saint Mary’s 2013 Annual Goals</th>
<th>Reflection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that all staff have a working knowledge of the Disability standards.</td>
<td>All staff have viewed the BCE videos on the Disability Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embedding IT across the P-12 curriculum and in the College’s DNA.</td>
<td>Staff have received two BCE IT inservices. P6 Computers increased to 38 machines. Increased iPad access for students. LIFE Learning Management System is under way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Curriculum—Maths focus</td>
<td>Focus on Maths throughout the year. Week long program focussed on improving Maths teaching and learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving our NAPLAN results particularly for Years 3, 5 &amp; 7.</td>
<td>Strong focus from Literacy &amp; Numeracy Improvement Teacher on NAPLAN and literacy and numeracy in general.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce and resource the new RE curriculum.</td>
<td>Significant PD time given to upskill RE staff in new RE program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving sporting facilities and events and looking to increase student participation in sporting teams.</td>
<td>Introduce Cow Horse Competition. Students to Australasian Futsal Championships. Many new sporting facilities created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redevelopment of Arts, Home Ec, Music and new Year 4/5 playground.</td>
<td>Work on refurbished rooms to begin in Term 4. New 4/5 Playground completed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Deputy
Before and After school supervision
P-12 Students
- There is no supervision before 8.20am. All students in Prep to Year 10 are to wait in the courtyard with their bags until the 8.20am bell.
- Students are not permitted to go to the port racks before that time. They keep their bags with them down in the courtyard.
- Soccer balls and footballs are not permitted before the 8.20am bell.

This is a reminder of expectations already in place. However, if the above behaviour is not followed through, then the student will be asked to sit in another area, or outside the Deputy’s office.

Students in Prep to Year 12 waiting after 3.10pm will now be in the courtyard inside the College grounds and not in the College foyer, front footpath or the front steps.

Parents arriving after 3.10pm will need to go and collect their child from the courtyard area at the back of the office.

Hats
The weather is warming up rapidly and students are reminded to wear hats when out in the sun, particularly students in the top of Area A outside the Science classrooms.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRE News
Loyalty, Commitment and Change

Yesterday at the whole school assembly Richelle Bethke and Bridget McCarron (Year 10) led the College in prayer on the theme of Loyalty and Commitment in the Face of Change. The College watched a brilliant clip called FOLLOW, that describes Jesus’ rise and fall and the rise again of the popularity of the man Jesus. The clip depicts the story as a string or thread on twitter or facebook. It includes the sentiment of various groups and individuals who were stakeholders in the story. Popularity, as measured by hits or followers fluctuates as the situation Jesus finds himself in changes. This challenges us and poses some real questions that Richelle and Bridget articulated;

What would you do if your friends were in trouble with the law?
Do you support your friends when others in your group turn on them?
Do you do what is right or do you do what is easy?
What does it really mean to be faith-full?

Is there anything about yourself you can change?
Do you ever admit being wrong?
Are you brave enough to change the things you can?

Change is inevitable and the College has and will continue to go through many changes. Mr Nayler drew our attention to some of the pending changes for the College, namely staffing and physical structural changes the building program will bring. Change can bring a level of danger or uncertainty and it can test one’s faith or loyalty. At the College level, or at the personal level, it is good to become aware of the core beliefs or sets of values that motivate you to change or oppose change. I doubt I would have been publicly faithful to Jesus if I was close to him when the soldiers came looking. How about you?

The link to the FOLLOW clip is: http://wayspray.org/week-5-jul-21-26.html

Prep to Year 6 News
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

There will be a Parent Information session in the Media Room of the library of Saint Mary’s Catholic College. This first session is a session about the sacraments, specifically Reconciliation and the expectations of parents when supporting their child entering this initiation process. Children 7 years & older are welcome to take part in the program.

The candidate does not need to attend at this stage. There will be one repeated session Monday 16th September at 1.30 in the Media Room and repeated that night at 6.30pm in the Media Room of Saint Mary’s Catholic College. Please bring $15 and a photo of your child. This is for the workbook and certificate. The photo is for the pin board in the church.

The Sign On Mass will be Saturday 21st September 6.30 Mass or Sunday 22nd September at 10.00 Mass. This is when the Parents and their child commit to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the 8 week preparation course.

There will be an activity afternoon Saturday 9th November 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Saint Mary’s Parish Hall. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be Saturday 16th November at 4.00pm in Saint Mary’s Church. This is followed by the Parish Mass at 6.00pm should the candidates and family wish to attend.

Please contact Pam Radcliffe 4162 2011 for more information. Confirmation and Eucharist will be in June 2014 with preparation to begin in February/March 2014.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Curriculum Support Teacher
Prep to Year 6

ASD—AUTISTIC SECPTRUM DISORDER WORKSHOPS

A Positive Partnerships workshop for parents and carers of school age students with an ASD, is scheduled for Kingaroy on Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24th October 2013. Details of the venue to be advised. For more information please contact Pam Radcliffe or Jenny Lutz here at Saint Mary’s Catholic College—4162 2011.

Library Corner
Premiers Reading Challenge

Thank you for your participation in the Premiers Reading Challenge. This competition has now ended and I have submitted the data from classes in order to receive our certificates.

Lexile Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards.
Blue award (5 books) – Savannah Reed
Red award (5 books) – Julian Seng, Ethan Keighran
Bronze award (10 books) – Naomi Baldacchino

Chess Round Robin Competition Term 4
Due to student interest, we will have a Round Robin style competition next term at the College. Please ask your child to give their names to their homeroom teachers (Year 3-12) if they are interested in competing next term.

Catholic College

Sports News
Footballing Family Kicking Goals

This year Cassie was selected for the Queensland Country Schools Futsal team to compete at the National Futsal Titles after being noticed at the Southern Schools competition at Cornubia earlier this year. Cassie turned down the opportunity in order to remain focused on study, club football and netball.

The College will still be sending seven students to the National Futsal Titles in September.

Cassie played her first year of senior women’s football for Wests Club Kingaroy this year and made it to the finals, where the team was defeated by a red hot Nanango side.

Cassie is also part of the Wide Bay Academy for Netball and is going to the State trials shortly.

Alex plays for the South West Queensland U14 side in the National Premier League.

Curriculum Corner

Weekly STUDY Strategies
Using your diary

Every day write down three to four things that went well and why. This builds positive mindsets. For example, when you receive a good grade for an assignment try writing down why eg planned well, used good references etc.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

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Alex was chosen as one of nine players from his district to trial for the Queensland Country Team in Townsville last week. Alex was successful and will now travel to the National Titles at Coffs Harbour over the September Holidays.

Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

**Active After School Care News**

Parents and caregivers,
The Active After School Community program has finished for the term. The program will continue next term with more details to come out early next term. Stay active!

Mr Wade Toms
7-10 Pastoral Care Coordinator

**Year Twelve Spring Raffle!**

Over $200 value, prizes including: $20 IGA voucher, Body Shop Oil Burner and Massager; Expressions of Lime Mango Milk Soap, Lip Balm and Body Balm; Boxed Set of 'The Blue Day Books'; Junior Masterchef Cookbook; PPS Mousse and Hair Treatment; Handmade Jewellery; 2006 Rosso by Santaro and a 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon by Dorrien Estate

$1 per ticket!
Drawn at the Family Movie Night Friday 13th September! Tickets available in the front office, or just return the tickets attached to last week's newsletter.

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**TY 12 LOLLY JAR**

Guessing the lollies in the lolly jar has now finished.

Ben Nicholson from Year 8 is the winner

Congratulations Ben!

Mrs Bronwyn Langford Martoo
Art Teacher

**COSTUMES WANTED**

Now is the time to donate old or unused costumes to the drama department. We are currently cleaning out the storage room to make room for custom made dance and drama costumes but are still looking for imaginative and fun costumes to use throughout the school year. If you have costumes that you would like to donate please bring them to the front office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Miss Angelique Cook
Performing Arts Teacher

**From the Guidance Counsellor**

The Forgotten Years of Girlhood – Part 1

Steve Biddulph

We hear it everywhere – girls are growing up too fast. "Fourteen is the new eighteen" sums it up. In a world that is barrage by advertising, with intense visual media coming at our daughters from the minute they can sit up, all telling them that they are what they look like, and they would better look hot; it's not surprising that some parents just throw their hands up and say "what can you do?". Except that you can do an awful lot. Protecting our kids - boys and girls - from the hyenas has always been the job of parents. It's just that the hyenas these days have soothing voices and live in the TV set in the living room. And they want your daughter to be worried.

Luckily there are powerful things we can do to take back our influence on our children's wellbeing. For example - if girls have lost four years of girlhood - then which years are they? And what exactly should happen in those years, if we want to win them back? When I was researching my book Raising Girls (which took about twenty years if I include raising my own!) I found that with all our focus on the early years, another critical age was being totally ignored. It turned out that the make-or-break stage for daughters was one that often gets overlooked. Of the five stages that make up girlhood, ten to fourteen is the time when girls most develop who they are and what they think and believe in. It's the age when they "find their soul". If girls rush into worrying about weight, looks, boy and fashion at the age of ten, you know you have missed something important. We have to follow nature's cues more closely. The onset of puberty sets the clock; it makes girls go very inward. They think a lot, seeming to know that adulthood is on its way. (Puberty in boys is slower - it arrives a year or two later and doesn't finish until about seventeen.) In girls, it's often all done by fourteen. And girls seem to instinctively know this. They want to learn about how to be a woman. The problem is - they won't get this from other girls, at least not in a wise calm way.

Steve Biddulph

**School Board News**

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Friends,

I am writing to re-introduce the Saint Mary's Catholic College Board to the School Community. At the beginning of Term 4, we will be sending out a survey requesting your input and ideas into the school's future focus. Please collect your thoughts and ideas, and keep an eye out for this survey when it arrives. Your input is greatly appreciated.

The purpose of the College Board is to involve the local community in the 'big picture' of school planning and to assist in setting the direction for the school. The Board is 'pastoral', meaning it is concerned with nurturing the dignity and self worth of people, building life giving relationships and the holistic educational welfare of the students. School Boards in the Catholic Education system do not follow a business management model. Saint Mary's College Board is advisory in its nature and is not an authority above the principal, staff or the P&F. It is not a complaints body, but rather a 'membership', sharing perspective, wisdom and experience.

In recent times, the Board has had a significant change in membership, and with this fresh start, it is looking to renew its vision statement and a variety of school policies. Consultation with our school community is critical to our success. We hope you will participate in the Term 4 survey.

Regards,
Lee Moller (Board Chair) and the Board Team.

**Tuckshop News**

Friday's extra choice menu

Morning Tea & Lunch:
Hot Dogs—$3.50
Lunch Only
Oven Baked Fried Rice—$3.50

**BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL**

Chocolate Spiders—50c each

**PADDLEPOPS ARE NOW $1.50**

The new tuckshop menu was sent out recently. It is blue in colour and has the date Monday 19th August on the top right hand corner. If you did not receive one these menus they are available from the College Office.

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
Fast tracking your way to Tertiary Education with Uni Step Up!

**Attention current Year 10 and Year 11 Students**

Secondary school students from ACU partner schools can now complete up to two university units from ACU whilst still at school. ACU Equity Pathways pays all costs and students receive 2 bonus points towards their QCE.

2014 units available in Arts, Business, Education and Health Sciences

Applications for 2014 close Friday 25th October 2013

For further information please contact your Careers Advisor/Head of Department or Maureen.davis@acu.edu.au 3623 7668

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP: ORAL PRESENTATION SKILLS

Friday 5th October 10am-2pm (lunch included).

ACU invites students in Years 8-12 to develop your skills across all subjects

For further information please contact your Careers Advisor/Head of Department or register online at www.acu.edu.au/qhwreg.

Closing date: Monday 16th September Rose.wood@acu.edu.au 3623 7781

1. If you see a bat or flying fox don’t go near it or try to touch it – even if it looks hurt.
2. You are much bigger than a bat and it may get scared and try to scratch or bite you if you go near it.
3. The bat’s germs can be passed on to you if you get scratched or bitten – this can make you very sick.
4. If you do get scratched or bitten by a bat or flying fox tell your parents, a teacher or an adult straight away.
5. An adult can help you wash where you were scratched or bitten with soap and water for about five minutes.
6. They will then need to take you to a doctor very quickly, who will look at the scratch or bite and then treat you to stop the germs making you sick.

CONTACTS:

RSPCA – 1300 animal (1300 264 625)
Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection – 1300 130 372
Your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.