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

As I head off on leave at the end of this week, I wanted to reflect on what has been an extremely busy year with so many new developments. This year, I will miss all of Saint Mary’s Term 4 celebrations and developments as my wife and I take long service leave to visit the United States. Some of the things that I will most regret missing are:

- Farewelling our current Year 12s: Our Year 12s have been a wonderful group of students, led extremely well by Sam Watson and Matt Guteridge. I joined Sam and Matt at many events across this year, and always felt extremely proud at the outstanding way in which they represented our community. I also have many fond memories of our Year 12s including: leading them in “Singing in the Rain” at their retreat; challenging them to better understand life on the streets during our Street Retreat; getting Rixon Crane (aka Elvis) to lead the Presley Dancers at our Athletics Carnival; and enjoying the “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” Rock on Stage tribute. My thoughts and prayers will be with our Year 12s as they graduate.
- Celebrating our students’ achievements on Awards Night.
- Enjoying the P6 Christmas Carols.
- Celebrating the transition of our Year 6s into secondary and our Preps into Year 1.
- Seeing the new Art, Home Ec, Music and classroom refurbishments completed.
- Marvelling at the F1 CO2 racing cars at Motors in Motion.
- Celebrating the naming of our: Sr Dolores Carroll Trade Training Centre; Daniel and Bridget Carroll Oval and our Maryknoll Centre.
- Celebrating Sr Dolores Carroll’s (our first Principal) 100th birthday.
- Joining our P&F for their first race day.

My educational philosophy is to constantly look for new opportunities for the holistic development of all of our students. Just a few of these new opportunities, facilities and events this year were:

- Cow Horse Competition with about 90 competitors demonstrating their incredible equestrian talents.
- Year 4/5 Playground which has provided new challenges, increased motor skills and a few bumps and bruises.
- New shared classes which began to accommodate the growth in our middle primary. Thanks to Mrs Arrell (Year 4/5), Mrs Piper (Year 2/3) and all of the staff who contributed to make this a success for our students.
- Increased sporting facilities: Basketball hoops, cricket nets, futsal nets, multipurpose goals (League, Union and Soccer).
- Career & Employment Transitions Coach employed to assist students (especially those with disabilities) into careers and employment.
- Australasian Futsal Championships: Many thanks to Mr Toms who has brought Futsal to Saint Mary’s and giving many students the opportunity to compete in the Australasian competition.
- P6 Technology upgrades including: iPads for classes especially Early Years & Year 2
- Development of the F1 CO2 racing cars project with the assistance of Taabinga Rotary and the hard work of Mr Byrne and Mr Richard. It is amazing to see our CNC machines used to create the race cars and see the cars tested in the aerodynamic testing wind tunnels.
- Multiple strings quartet and ensemble performances have highlighted the incredible talents of our students.
- Indigenous events – especially the opening of our Bunya Dreaming Garden and Welcome Plaque and getting to share my story of the “Black White Warriors” with a new school community.

Some of my happiest memories from 2013 along with those already mentioned are:

- Performing our Rock on Stage tribute to 50 Years of Rock’n’Roll. I apologise to any fans of Bill Haley for my performance. Luckily, Mr Erwin and Mr Dalton can carry a tune, Mr Perrett and I only managed to set the dogs off in the houses above Saint Mary’s. Rock on Stage continues to be one of my favourite events of the year.
- Reading the beautiful and award winning story, “Tanglewood”, for our amazing Campfire Stories night.
- Joining students at a number of ANZAC services and our school Captains at the Vietnam Veterans’ Day commemorations.
- Teaching our P6 students the movement song “Christ in my Vessel” and working with our Year 6 class on electronics.
- Visiting most of our camps and seeing the great time our students were having.
• The visits by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Pam Betts (BCE Director) and Cathy Jackson (North Centre Director). The most memorable moment from these visits was when our Archbishop, who the students had been taught to refer to as “Your Grace”, spoke about his great respect for our patron St Benedict and asked the students to guess his middle name. He was hinting at Benedict, but the Early Years student he chose to answer said “Grace?”.

All of these wonderful events and activities would not be possible without the support of their friend for their support:
• Our incredibly talented students, especially our graduating seniors.
• Our very supportive parent community, especially our P&F and College Board.
• Uncle Eric Law and Aunty Shirley Law (Wakka Wakka elders), Mr Peter Stower (Area Supervisor) & Sr Dolores Carroll (Saint Mary’s first Principal)
• Our hard working staff members, especially our amazing Leadership Team, Mr Erwin for his continued support and for stepping up in my absence.

I am very grateful to have led our incredible community in 2013 and look forward to even more exciting developments across the years ahead.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

From the Deputy
Happy Holidays Everyone!
I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their fantastic work in what has been a very long term. I wish them all a restful break. Thank you also to the students for their great efforts this term.

Staff Changes—Term 4
• Ms Radcliffe will be replacing Mr Perrett as APRE.
• Mr Perrett will be replacing Mr Erwin as Deputy Principal.

If you have any queries regarding religious aspects of the school or behaviour management during Term 4 please contact Ms Radcliffe and Mr Perrett.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News
Learning and Teaching Action
End of Term 3 is always a busy time for students and teachers due to the concentration of high priority tasks. To put it in perspective, here is summary of this week’s action.

Students are still completing end of term exams and assignments. Teachers are doing all they can to get results of this assessment to students before the holidays.

As an indication of the efforts of some students, and as an example that effective study pays off, consider the Year 12 students who lifted their Mathematics results from a D (limited achievement) to an A (Very High Achievement). Well done to any student who succeeded in improving their academic performance this term.

For year 12 students, this latest assessment completes the folios of work that will be viewed by other teachers at Verification meetings next term to determine if the levels of achievement that our teachers have awarded match the standards being awarded across the district. Preparing these submissions properly is an important task for teachers of senior subjects.

All students from Years 6-12 will have logged onto the new LMS (Learning Management System) on Tuesday for the first time. This computer based program allows teachers to more easily use file sharing and file management for students as a regular part of modern teaching. Many of our teachers received a full day of training in this program on Monday.

Although student reports are not issued this term, the teachers have been heavily involved in preparing for End of Semester reports by updating the comment bank that we all draw from to make the reports. These newer comments will be more closely aligned with the Australian Curriculum, and hopefully give a more useful account of student progress.

Many students in Year 12 are busy applying to QTAC for entry to Tertiary studies next year.

The Presentation night will be held mid next term, but the list of academic awards has to be determined before the September holidays so that time permits for ordering medallions and then engraving for each student.

Consequently, teachers from P-12 have been busy using set criteria to determine students for academic excellence awards, and also the Carroll Award for Diligence.

And that is why everyone deserves a good break!
Kind regards

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

Prep to Year 6 News
It has been a very busy Term 3 this year. There have been many exciting excursions and activities experienced by the students.

Term 4 will be even busier. Keep an eye out for Prep orientation days, swimming lessons, magazine articles, reporting for Semester Two and Christmas Carols night to name a few. Please take care over the holidays and return safely to school ready for Term 4.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
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 18th 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 P–6

ASD - Adolescence, Puberty and Relationships.
12th October 10.00am to 12.00pm. Please contact Jenny Lutz for more information.

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS WORKSHOP
- presented by Autism Queensland

FREE 2 day workshop for Parents, Grandparents and Full Time Caregivers
Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th October
Kingaroy Town Hall.

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Helping Children with Autism package.

What will you learn?
As a result of participating in the workshops and information sessions as parents/carers you will gain:
• a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
• knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
• specific strategies on how to:
  • advocate for your child
  • support your child’s participation at school
• develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
• information about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
• knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships


Also a special session on 12th October 10.00am to 12.00pm. for students with ASD experiencing adolescence, puberty and relationships. Please contact Jenny Lutz for more information.

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

Silver award (25 books) – Riley Berends, Samuel Schmidhauser
Chess Round Robin Competition next term
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 would be interested in competing next term.

Curriculum Corner

7-10 Revision
Weekly STUDY Strategies
Revision is not a sometimes thing – it’s an all the time thing!
The purpose of revision is to store information systematically in your brain so that you can reproduce it when required.
The key to effective revision is that it must be repetitive and regular.
Revising one hour per week is more effective than studying once for four hours.
Aim to set aside 15 minutes per subject each week to purely revise.
Revision must be hands-on and alive:
- Create summaries in your own words
- List important dates, points, events
- Make connections between course topics using Idea Maps
- Make colourful posters using key information
- Make recordings of subject materials and listen to them while travelling
- Have a revision folder for each subject

Mrs Melanie Burr
Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

Sports News
Wide Bay Secondary Athletics
Congratulations to:

Clare Adcock
Who won the 800 m and 1500m u/13 girls
She also ran second in the 8000m which is an under 15 event (ie ran up two age divisions!)

Lleyton Brown
Who was also selected in the Primary Wide Bay Cricket Team.

Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

TAX FILE NUMBERS—SCHOOL LEavers
At this time of the year the Taxation Office is encouraging potential school leavers to apply for their Tax File Number (TFN) while they are at school.
Students leaving early or completing Year 12 may need a TFN for their employment, deferring university fees or applying for Centrelink benefits.
TFN application forms are available from the College Office.
To ensure that students get their TFN before Christmas, the completed forms must be received at the Australian Taxation Office by 22 November 2013.
If you have any questions—please phone 132869 between 8.00am and 5.00pm—Monday to Friday and ask for Bernard Wright.

COSTUMES WANTED
Now is the time to donate old or unused costumes to the drama department. We are currently clearing 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 2
Steve Biddulph
According to Professor Deborah Rickwood of Brainspace, girls who discuss their problems among themselves can often make each other worse not better. They need to be around adults. That’s the thing we have most misunderstood about teenagers – especially the early teens – we shouldn’t just leave them alone. Your daughter is putting together the kind of woman she wants to be. That will include a fair slice of you, unbelievable as that might seem, so it helps if you aren’t a frantic anxious overburdened mess.
The great paradox of parenthood is kids can only be as calm as their parents, while we are so worried about them we become frantic! But if you can slow down, ease off on commitments, simplify life, and be available for long soulful talks with her when the chance occurs, it will make these years go so much better.
And, since our daughters also have a healthy dose of not wanting to be like us, and just by the dice throw of genetics may be very different to us, they also need to meet eccentric, interesting, different and original kinds of women. Of all ages.
Women who do stuff that breaks the boundaries – explore, create, innovate, fight for what they believe in, women of every size shape and kind. That way your daughter can borrow and steal all the great aspects of being a woman that she wants from a wide and wonderful palette. She needs real or surrogate aunties, people who stick around, tell her her home truths, talk about topics we would blanche to even mention, but she needs to know about.
Finally, a girl has to find her spark. Spark is the name given by researcher Peter Benson to the fact that in every girl, and boy, there is an interest or passion waiting to burst into full flame. It could be animals, music, art, science, saving the earth, healing, sport or creativity of any kind.
It’s what makes a young person want to get up in the morning. Your daughter has a spark, somewhere inside her, and its up to you and her to find it and give it wings.
Ten to fourteen is when she becomes the person she was born to be. Then she can withstand the growing up years of boys, school pressures, peer groups and separating away from you, already strong in what she thinks is right and wrong, important and trivial, wise and stupid. Give your daughter more of you from ten to fourteen, and watch the difference that it makes.

Mr Graham Turnbull
Counsellor

P & F News
Spring Marquee
There are only 40 tickets left if you are wanting to enjoy a day of dress ups or try your hand with Lady Luck, so get in ASAP. Contact Nichole on 0409060266 (a text is easiest) or see Alice in the office. NOW!!!! Before this amazing event is SOLD OUT!!!!!!!
Dads & Lads & Lasses (mums invited)
Last year a group of Dads and Lads got together and went camping so we could enjoy each others’ company, however our daughters and mums felt left out so this year it will be Dads, Lads and Lasses (mums invited) so we can all get together. This is not a school or P&F run event but just like-minded people joining together to get away.
This year we will be going to Clancy’s Camp Ground at Emu Creek, Benarkin on Saturday 12/10/2013. This is the first weekend back after the holidays. All attendees are responsible for their own organisation. Send me a text if you will be attending (0409060845).

camping_bookings.html?over_the_counter_booking,offices.

Heaps of funding was discussed again at last night’s meeting. Projects such as gardens, lockers and equipment in various sizes are on the cards and AV upgrades for Mary Knoll Centre.
The P&F is very financial so these projects should all be signed off on by the end of the year.
St Mary’s Supporters Canterbury Polos are going to be ordered again soon. There was a small problem with sizing last time so I am just awaiting the correct sizing samples from Canterbury. We will be keeping approx. 10 in stock in various sizes at the uniform shop from now on for your convenience.

Some really important news that came out of the meeting was the super effort by the SMCC teachers and parents touch team who drew 2 all with IGA maroon, a MUCH MUCH younger team with a highly skilled coach.

Mr Damien Martoo
P & F

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu

Morning Tea & Lunch:
Chicken & Gravy Rolls—$3.50

Lunch Only
Macaroni Cheese—$3.50

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

YEAR 12 RAFFLE
WINNER
Congratulations to Molly McDonald in Year 1 who won the Year Twelve raffle.

THERE WILL BE NO
THURSDAY AFTERNOON
MATHS TUTORING WITH MISS TUCKER THIS
THURSDAY.
**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.

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**Schoolies Alcohol Warning**

Parents and guardians are reminded as Schoolies and end of year celebrations approach that the irresponsible supply of alcohol to anyone under 18 is an offence carrying a fine of up to $8800.

It is an offence for an adult who is responsible for a minor - someone under 18 - to supply liquor to a minor in a private place in an irresponsible manner. It is also illegal for anyone else 18 years and over to supply liquor to a minor in a private place.

An awareness campaign will commence shortly in hotels and bottle shops highlighting the offence.

It should also be noted it is illegal to supply alcohol to a minor on licensed premises or in a public place.

For more information visit the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation pages:


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**Lost Property**

There is a large amount of lost property at the College Office.

- Items that have a student name will be returned to the student via the class pigeon hole.
- Items that are unnamed/uncollected will be relocated to the Learning Support Room at the end of this term.