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

This week is Catholic Education Week. Saint Mary’s will celebrate this week with a number of major events including: Rock on Stage, the South Burnett Equestrian Challenge and our staff Christmas in July.

Our 2013 Rock on Stage evening was a resounding success. I have been stopped by so many parents and community members who have been effusive in their praise for our staff and students. For me, the greatest satisfaction was seeing the great pride and enjoyment on the faces of most of our 420 students who performed or worked behind the scenes. There are many people to thank for this great night including:

- Our class teachers who put together our amazing performances.
- Our talented students and their parents and carers who created their costumes.
- Mr Erwin, Miss Cook, Mr Scanlan and Mr Tosi who organised the evening and worked behind the scenes.
- Claire Anderson & Jordan Gossow (MCs) & Hannes Vos & Steph Mumford (Backstage crew).
- Mr Perrett, Mr Hutton, our Business students and sponsors for our raffle.
- Our wonderful P&F for our sausage sizzle and parent performance.
- Our Rock on Stage judges including Mrs Hauritz, and Mrs Schultz.
- Our talented dancers, string ensemble and rock band.

This week we welcomed Mrs Kirsty Piper our new Year 2/3 teacher to Saint Mary’s. She will spend the next week preparing to work with her new class. The Year 2/3 room is being upgraded over the coming weeks with carpet, a fridge (thanks to our P&F) and an electronic whiteboard.

The Equestrian challenge was a triumph again with 85 competitors from around the district taking part. So many parents (from across district schools) and community members (like Cr Kathy Duff) expressed their gratitude to Saint Mary's for staging this great day. Big thanks to John, Tony, Neil, Jenny Cross, Jenny L, Neil, Kym, our P&F & parent helpers and all who supported this wonderful event.

On Wednesday, I will attend the Catholic Education Week awards as Uncle Eric Law receives the Aunty Joan Hendricks award for his outstanding contribution to Indigenous education. I nominated Uncle Eric for this prestigious and well-deserved award on behalf of both the Saint Mary’s and St Joseph’s communities.

On Monday, July 29th our Executive Director, Pam Betts will be here visiting Saint Mary’s classes. This will be her first visit to Saint Mary’s and I look forward to showing off our excellent facilities and our talented students.

In November this year, Saint Mary’s first secondary principal, Sr. Delores Carroll will turn 100. I have spoken with Sr. Delores and suggested that we name one of our buildings in her honour. I will keep you informed of any further developments.

Last week, I met with Brisbane Catholic Education building and planning personnel to discuss possible future building developments. The current plan is to redevelop our Art, Music and Home Economics rooms during term 4 this year. Some of the possible future development plans suggested over the next couple of years included:
- an eight room general classroom block including a Coordinators’ room on the site of the current music room
- a new purpose built music room
- extensions to the administration block.

For this reason, we may tone down the planned complete redevelopment of our current music room but still increase the size of the main music room, add storage space and improve access to the practice rooms. We may also need to look at some demountable rooms until these facilities can be built. We are beginning the process of looking into Year 9 laptops for 2014. Unfortunately, the expense of Macintosh laptops may lead us to move into IBM machines instead. Many parents would be aware that government funds toward the 1:1 laptop program are coming to an end. We are keen to continue this program for our students and will keep looking into ways of making this happen.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy

ROCK ON STAGE

Congratulations to all the staff and students for a wonderful night of entertainment and fun. A huge thank you to Mr Scanlan and Miss Cook for their help with lighting and sound. Thank you to Mr Tosi, Stephanie Mumford and Nico Vos for their help backstage. The talent on show was absolutely amazing and somehow the show gets bigger every year. Well done to the parents for their wham skit. I look forward to a bigger show in 2014!

UNIFORM
Students this week have had a uniform inspection, particularly students with canvas shoes which are not acceptable. Formal uniform is to be worn on Tuesdays for the rest of the year. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

God bless you all

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

Prep to Year 6 News

We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Kirsty Piper, our new Year 2/3 teacher. Mrs Piper is working with teachers this week to prepare for the first day of the new class next Monday. We wish her all the very best as she begins her position here at Saint Mary’s.

Congratulations to our new Year 4/5 class and Mrs Arrell for their Rock on Stage award last Friday evening. A huge thanks goes to our staff, parents and children for making it such a fun night. Well done to all primary students for their enthusiastic participation and excellent behaviour on the night.

Nominations for the 2013 ASG Neita Awards for Inspirational Educators close on 31st July. We have amazing staff at Saint Mary’s. If you have ever wondered how to show your appreciation for their great efforts, why not consider nominating an inspirational educator at www.asg.com.au.

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.

Curriculum Corner

Yrs 7-10

Geography

This term, students in P-10 have begun units of study in the ACARA second phase subject Geography. Our college has decided to trial the new curriculum in this subject area this year. This will give us an opportunity to purchase resources and plan interesting units for the students. The focus topics for 7-10 are:

Year 7 – Water in the World
Year 8 – Landforms and Landscapes
Year 9 – Biomes and Food Security
Year 10 – Environmental change and management

Geography uses an inquiry approach to assist students to make meaning of their world and helps them to develop a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect about places, people, cultures and environments throughout the world. It provides an opportunity for students to learn new skills and build their capabilities as learners.

Melanie Barr
Teacher-Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

SMCC Chess Champions
Junior Champion
Sam McCarthy (Yr 5)

Senior Champion
Thilini Ranasinghe (Yr 11)

Well done to all our participants in the chess competition. For the senior students, it culminated in an exhilarating final game between Rixon Crane (Yr 12) and Thilini Ranasinghe (Yr 11). Their game was played over three days! Sam McCarthy (Yr 5) and Ryan Maudsley (Yr 3) also had a very exciting final game. Mr. Hutton will train and take a team of eight players to the Maryborough Regions in August. Notes will be sent home this week. Please ensure that they are signed and returned to the office asap.

SPARK

The first week of the June holidays, from Monday to Saturday, five students from Saint Mary’s attended the Youth Without Borders organization called “Spark”. Spark is a youth-run community project coordination organization that facilitates development, links, networking and support for youth and their wider communities internationally.

To sum up, the whole camp was about being able to have the chance to navigate the wild world of Engineering and University. It’s about meeting other people of the same age from across Queensland and New South Wales, having the once in a lifetime opportunity to work together as a single unit. We used the knowledge and skills we have already learned to complete tasks associated with engineering. While at Spark, we had the opportunity to experience things that as a country student we may never have experience before, or will never experience at school. Some of these activities were climbing the Story Bridge, going to the CSIRO Research facility and learning about the machines they’ve modified so they can be controlled solely by high tech lasers. We also had the chance to go to the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), at UQ.

We attended lectures and information workshops and listened to some of the most inspirational men and women who work in and around engineering.

One of the workshops was “The Egg Drop” workshop, which involved the group inventing a parachute for an egg, so that it would be safe enough to be thrown from one, three, five, and seven storey buildings. Another was a “Bridge Building” exercise where we were given a pack of paddle-pop sticks, a metre of string and a roll of masking tape to make a little bridge, stable and strong enough to hold a number of weights and bricks. “Mentor in a Minute” is another workshop where we interviewed people working at different engineering facilities, asking questions and listening to their life’s successes. Lastly we went to a workshop called “Robogals”. We built a Lego robot and computerized it to go through a maze. These hands-on workshops allowed us to work in groups of people testing our teamwork skills. Spark also allowed us to get a taste of what it is like being a university student, living on campus, going to lectures with up to 600 other people, having tutorial workshops and general studying and, because university students run the whole program, you are able to ask as many questions as you like.

As a result of my experience at Spark, I have learned so much more about engineering and what university life would be like. I have also had the opportunity to make new friends from all over the state.

If you are curious or have any interest at all and could see yourself working or being involved somehow with engineering, or even if you just want to go to university, Spark is a great opportunity for you.

If you get nominated, or get the chance to go, don’t knock it back.

Chloe Tones—Yr 12 Student

Year 12 Fundraising

Year Twelve parents will be selling baked goods at the Woolwi Markets this Saturday morning. Please come along and help us raise money for the Valedictory! Thank you.

Family Movie Night!

Friday 2nd August in the Mary Knoll Centre. Starts at 3:30 pm and goes until 5 pm. Bring a blanket and settle in to watch ‘Wreck It Ralph’. Chips, Poppas and glow sticks for sale on the Friday 2nd August in the Mary Knoll Centre.

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**Saint Mary's Catholic College**

**“Rock on Stage 2013”**

It came as no surprise that it was the biggest night of the year.

The first act was the Prep and Year 1 students. In an act called “When I Grow Up”, we had astronauts, doctors, sport stars, and just about every other profession on the planet all getting in the act with some serious moves. The judges were mightily impressed with the costumes and also by the way every student could smile and dance at the same time.

Year 2 took us all by surprise. It was all about getting stronger, and the costumes were just brilliant.

What is it about Year 3 students and Superheroes? Captain Planet was there, and so was Superman and Superwoman. Power Puff girls came on stage showed us some girl power. Batman, The Fantastic Four, The Avengers and the Power Rangers all tried to dominate the stage. They were all accounted for in one great show of colour and light.

Year 4 was a case of “Go Team” with sporting teams of every type and from just about every nation. The act was full of sporting patriotism and flags.

Year 4/5 was all about Snow White and some pretty twisted but groovy dwarves. They could dance, and change from ugly to beautiful all in one scene. It was a modern take on a very traditional story.

Year 5s started in a pretty rustic way: a news bulletin about floods in the South Burnett. Then a real farm yard scene. Blaze Aid suddenly turns into a real boot scooting country style barn dance.

Year 6 followed a great collage of well-known artists. Pink, One Direction, and Lady Gaga were just a few who helped this act impress the judges. As entertaining as they all were, the poor judges were only allowed to pick one winner, but the first place being awarded to Year 4/5 was a very popular decision.

The Year 7 class had a “Mel and Kochie” moment, with news of a mass break out of students from the SMCC, but the music of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” bought them back again. We were just brilliant.

The Year 8 students started with a poem! “There once was a boy called Grate….” All 60 students from Year 8 were on campus causing trouble. With music like “All the Single Ladies”, they cleaned up the evidence with a well-orchestrated broom brigade.

The Year 9 class singled out some “One Hit Wonders” for some special treatment. There was some very physical dancing!

The winners of the Year 7-10 section were the Year 10 class with a classic rendition of scenes from the movies like Titanic and Grease. Year 10 put together a well selected collection of songs and moves from memorable movies that allowed the Year 10’s to strut their stuff and also appeal to the sense of nostalgia for the judges.

Year 11’s bought out the big guns with their “Alice in Wonderland” tumbling through space.

The Year 12 class won again, but not before doing some clever mind games with the judges and the audience. The fact that the audience got right behind the colour, the light and the costume combinations only served to remind the judges just who wanted to win this year.

And they did.

The parent act, was a case of “Wake Me Up Before You Go Go”. There were some optimistic cartwheels by the men, some gentle leg lifts, and an impressive back line chorus of mums.

This was in contrast to the teachers, who attempted to summarise the history of Rock and Roll in ten brief minutes. The Leadership Team opened with a live Rock Medley, and the 60’s came and went in a psychedelic haze with the creative use of a limbo stick. Elton John appeared unexpectedly in the 70’s, the 80’s impressed with their enthusiasm, and 90’s ended with everyone trying to wake up Jeff. Like the Year 12s, the teachers always win!

**Mr John Dalton**  
Assistant to the Principal

**ST MARY’S ROCK CONCERT 2013 DVD**

If you missed pre-purchasing your child’s Saint Mary’s Rock Concert DVD on the night, the College is giving you the opportunity this year to purchase direct from the school for the same pre-purchase price of $40.

Please place your order with the school without delay as delivery will be within 2 weeks.
Saint Mary’s Catholic College

Rock on Stage 2013