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

Last Saturday night, over 60 staff members from Saint Mary’s, St Patrick’s and St Joseph’s gathered in the Maryknoll Centre for our second Christmas in July celebrations. We shared a magnificent meal and wonderful entertainment. It is very important that our 3 local Catholic schools maintain their strong relationship. I would like to thank our College Board for being our “elves” for the night and helping with setting up and serving the meal. Our Board are extremely supportive of maintaining our quality staff through events like this. I would also like to thank Mr Byrne, Mr Richard and their committee for this great night.

On Monday we were visited by our Executive Director, Ms Pam Betts and today, by our North Regional Director and ex-Saint Mary’s student, Ms Cathy Jackson. Both Ms Betts and Ms Jackson visited our classroom and facilities and expressed both their admiration for the great work of our staff and students and of our excellent facilities and plans for future developments. This was Ms Betts’ first visit to our College community. I am very grateful to both of our directors for their strong support for both me and for my Leadership team and our hard work in transforming the Saint Mary’s community.

On Monday and Tuesday, nine Year 12 students joined Mrs Arrell, Mr Perrett and me on our second Street Retreat for the year. There are still more Year 12s who are keen to take part in this life-changing experience, so it is hoped that we will have at least one more Street Retreat later this year.

Once again, we worked with Street people and heard from recovering drug and alcohol addicts. Below are some of the comments from our Year 12 students about their experiences:

“…meeting the homeless and under-privileged was a really good experience…there are some pretty interesting and educated people who are homeless. You learn so much and see Brisbane and other cities through completely new eyes. Loved it!” – Rachel Neynens

“I learnt that we all care more about the issues facing the poor and homeless than I think I realised. It was definitely worth it. Thank you to all of the teachers!” – Kristen Nugent-Schloss

“I learnt that we can’t take things for granted and should treasure the things that we have. The best thing was hearing the inspirational stories of people who have turned their lives around….it gives you a different outlook on life itself.” – Adrian DiMarco

“It is an amazing experience that will change your outlook on life. I would love to do it again.” – Sam Watson

“I learnt that the homeless and marginalised aren’t that much different from us….so nice and ordinary. It is a fantastic experience that I would recommend to any other seniors…very eye-opening.” – Giovanna Legge

“I learnt that you shouldn’t judge a book by its cover. It was a worthwhile experience. The Claver Cares Van was amazing.” – Lylah Calvert

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy
Executive Director Pam Betts
On Monday we were visited by Pam Betts, our Executive Director. Pam spoke to the staff about the valuable work we all do, especially in small regional schools. She also affirmed the staff and reinforced the fact that it is noticed what a great job we do and the extra time needed to run all the activities such as futsal, Rock on Stage, equestrian and all the sporting and academic pursuits. It was refreshing to know that our work is valued and it has motivated us to continue doing God's work for the benefit of the South Burnett community.

Uniform
Thank you to all the students for the massive improvement in the wearing of the College uniform, particularly the formal uniform worn today. Just a reminder that some students are still not in the correct shoes. There are still five months of school to go so it is an expectation students are in leather or vinyl shoes that are enclosed. Some students also need to get a haircut and I would expect that this would happen in the next week. No rat tails or excessively shaved ridges are permitted.

Whole School Behaviour Support plan
Today I am attending an in-service regarding writing/collating our College behaviour support plan. All elements including positive and negative consequences and SWPBS will be incorporated into one easily read document. This will be available for publishing to the community before the end of the year. Thank you to Mrs Pam Radcliffe and the whole SWPBS team for their continued work in this vital element of our school behaviour management policy. Remember to be kind to someone for no reason at all.

God’s blessings
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRE News
Mass on the Border
I was fortunate to attend a Secondary Religious Educators’ conference recently. I always go to these things hoping to get at least one thing out of it that can improve my practice or understanding of my role in education. The guest speaker was Father Daniel Groody, who is a Catholic Priest and an Associate Professor of Theology who lectures at Notre Dame University in the USA. Father Daniel is a well published author as well and his main field is Theology of Migration. He has worked and visited the borders of many strife torn countries and seen the humanity of a migrant. What resonated with me about his work and his purpose in life was that he presented no answers especially when put on the spot about our woeful record with asylum seekers here in Australia under either political party, however he made it very clear that no government gives an immigrant, legal or illegal, their rights, they were given by God. He mentioned the idea that we often over-think the issue and miss the truth. There are approximately thirty five centimetres between your head and your heart and on the issue of genuine asylum seekers and refugees we might be missing the real truth by this much, just thirty five centimetres. A very challenging concept that Father Daniel put forward was that those whose buttons get pushed by this issue might be struggling with their own journey of migration to becoming more fully human. Even in the face of death many of these mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters are not suffering as much insecurity as perhaps some of us are. People don’t risk their lives or their children’s lives on a whim, and until we “look around the bend” at what the root cause of this is we might be dealing in band-aides not benefits.

Below is a link to a short YouTube clip of a mass on the Mexico and USA border which Father Daniel spoke of. His message was that we need to lift our eyes above the physical borders to see what the real borders are. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qq3tUmYPnQ

New Curriculum
Next term all teachers of Religious Education will be teaching from the New Curriculum. It will mean new content in many classes at a more advanced level. It will be important for all of us parents, teachers and students to be aware of the challenges it will present but also the opportunities and doors it will open. Mrs Foody Versace, Mr Lawrie Ross and I spent another full day last week in planning and we will require a few more of these days before we are set to go.

Warm Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

APA News
South Burnett Equestrian Competition
23rd July 2013
Despite rain threatening to postpone this event for the second year in a row, the day changed from overcast and rainy to fine and sunny by the time riders were entering the ring.
This competition had an equestrian focus with competitions that included: Dressage, Jumping, Hacking and sporting events (barrel, keyhole, diamond flag and bending races).
Our College was represented by fifteen riders, all of whom placed in events throughout the day.
Congratulations to the two students who were Age Champions for the day:
Patrick Frohloff (10 yrs)
Gabe Crane (16-18 yrs)

Thank you to all those who helped on the day (staff, parents and students) and especially to the Parents and Friends group who operated the canteen.
The Equestrian Team has two major events planned between now and the end of Term Two, namely the 2 day Fraser Coast Equestrian Competition (Maryborough on August 29th and 30th ) and an excursion to the National Campdrafting Championships in Kilkivan in September. More details of both events will be out soon.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal - Administration

Prep to Year 6 News

Welcome to another busy and productive week of learning in our primary classes. On Monday our Executive Director Miss Pam Betts visited Saint Mary’s and made time to meet with some of our primary classes.
With numerous new families joining our Saint Mary’s community this term, it’s timely to remind parents that we have students with severe allergies to nuts, in our primary classes. Please consider packing alternative foods in your child’s lunchbox and avoid including nuts please.
Please ensure long hair is always tied back, using College coloured ribbons and ties only. We also do not have spare hats that we issue to children if they forget their hat. These measures are to help prevent the spread of head lice. If your child forgets their hat, they will be asked to sit in the shade during breaks times, to avoid playing in the sun that day.

During this current cold weather, any extra layers like skivvies worn under the uniform, gloves and scarves are to be in school colours only please.

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend the Parent Teacher Interviews. If you need to see your child’s teacher at any other time, please make an appointment time through the College office.

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

Library Corner

Book Week
This year, Book Week will be celebrated along with Literacy and Numeracy week during 19th-23rd August. The theme is ‘Read Across the Universe’. There will be fantastic displays of the shortlisted books created by classes in the library. We will begin celebrating this year’s Book Week and Campfire Stories Night similar to last year. This will be held on Monday 19th August between 6.30pm-7.30pm. Come dressed in your pyjamas! We will have a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am followed by a dress-up parade for P-6 students on Tuesday 21st August from 9am.

Curriculum Corner

Yrs 7-10
Assessment Calendars for Term 3 were sent home last week. These now contain assessment dates for the exam block periods. Please ensure that your child brought one home last week. If you need another copy, please contact the office.

Change of assessment! Year 8 Maths Test will be next week not this week as specified on the calendar.

Melanie Burr
Teacher-Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

Year 12 Fundraising

Family Movie Night!
Friday 2nd August in the Mary Knoll Centre starting at 3:30 pm and finishing at 5 pm. Bring a blanket and settle in to watch ‘Wreck It Ralph’. Chips, Poppers and glow sticks for sale on the night. Movie style popcorn and fairy floss, generously donated by Funky Fairy Floss, is also for sale. All proceeds go towards the Year Twelve fundraising.

Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!
Blue award (5 books) – Lateisha Wilkins
Bronze Award (10 books) – Oliver Hams, Devynn Pomeranke

Rapid Readers
Congratulations to the following students who are now Rapid Readers!
Kaitlyn Maxwell (Yr 5) and Beau Kanay (Yr 4)

SAINT 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 Miss Tucker

Year 12 Lolly Jar
Come and guess the number of jollies in the jar at the office. 50c a guess

Uniform Shop News

New Hair Accessories at the Uniform Shop
Headbands $8 Bow Clips $5
Ribbon Clips $3 Bow Hair Ties $5

Tuckshop News

Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea & Lunch: Roast Beef Gravy Roll—$3.50
Lunch Only: Mac Cheese—$3.50

PLEASE REMEMBER MILK HAS GONE UP:
• Oak 600ml chocolate and 500ml Breaka milks $2.20
• 300ml Breaka milk $2.20
• chocolate milk pippers $1.70
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
BLOOMIN BEAUTIFUL BLACKBUTT FESTIVAL

The Bloomin Beautiful Blackbutt Festival is a tourism event that also boosts local businesses in the South Burnett. The Bloomin Beautiful Blackbutt Festival is a weekend of activities celebrating the arts, gardening and the history of the region. It is held from the 6-8 September in the township of Blackbutt, which is also known as ‘The Gateway to the South Burnett’. The festival is well supported by our local businesses. Without them it wouldn't be possible and the committee is very grateful for their ongoing support.

For more information visit the website www.bbbf.com.au or on Facebook www.facebook.com/bbbfestival

For additional information, contact: Trudi Bartlett 0488 11 22 98

Mr "B's" Professional Tennis is looking for more students. Classes are available every week day from 3.15pm til late. Based at the Kingaroy Tennis Courts. For more details check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/mrbsprofessionaltennis or call Brad Boynton on 0409 895 527.

Thanks for your support
Kieran Abbott

Pianist wanted to play for our Kingaroy Sing Australia Group
Mondays 7-9 p.m.
Small recompense for your time
Flexible attendance,
Please contact
Sharron Coughlan on 4163 2291

NANANGO HACK & PONY CLUB INC
OPEN JUMP & MINI DRESSAGE DAY
(Terry Club membership not required)
Saturday 10 August 2013
At Nanango PC Grounds (Nanango Show Grounds)

Commences 9am

Entry Fees...
$2.50 Practice round
$5 per competitive class
• Compete in 4 classes get the practice round free!
• Ribbons to 6th place
• Highpoint horse award
• Judges choice award—based on Horsemanship & Sportsmanship

MINI DRESSAGE: Starting 9am
For further detail and information on events and rules etc please ring Judy on 0447 168 209 bullcamp1@bigpond.com

CUP CAKE DAY
MONDAY 19 August 2013
www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au

It’s so easy to get involved:
1. Register online
2. Set the date for your event (it can be any day in July, August or September). The official date for the event is Monday 19th August 2013.
3. Recruit some bakers to create delicious treats to sell at your Cupcake Day event
4. Host your event
4. Return funds to RSPCA Qld via your online fundraising page
By taking part you will be helping more than 44,000 animals, that RSPCA Qld cares for each year.