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

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our entire community for raising over $2230 for Bacolod Kindergarten at our recent Rock on Stage evening. This money goes to support the Good Samaritan Sisters in the Philippines and their work with the poor and marginalised. I would especially like to thank Mr Perrett and his Business students, Mr Hutton and our many sponsors for organising the raffles, and all in our community for their support for Rock on Stage.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Carmody (Prep) and Mr Collier (Year 2) who have both been nominated for National Teacher Awards for inspirational educators. I would like thank them and all of our dedicated staff for making a difference in our students’ lives.

I have just returned from two days at the Principals’ Leadership forum. These days are vital to keeping up with the myriad of ongoing educational developments. From these days, I would like to share two things with our community:

Family Board games night: One of the studies presented, spoke of the huge benefit to families and their children of just taking 1 hour a week to have a family board game night. The study saw significant relational and other improvements within the first month.

Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse: We had a session lead by Francis Sullivan, who is the person charged with responding to the Royal Commission on behalf of the Catholic Church. I was pleased to hear Mr Sullivan say that it was important that Catholic Church authorities fully accept, without excuses, their failure to adequately protect and follow up appropriately on generations of child sexual abuse claims. He reiterated that the most important people in the whole process are those who had suffered abuse at the hands of those who should have protected the innocent rather than exploit them. He encouraged those who had been victims of abuse to come forward to tell their stories. Our community’s thoughts and prayers are with all victims of abuse.

As previously mentioned, from next week, Ms Radcliffe will take over the role of Primary CST from Mrs O’Connor. She will be responsible for P-6 curriculum and will assist Mr Erwin with P-6 pastoral issues. Mrs O’Connor will return to a full-time teaching role in Year 6.

I would like to advertise a couple of upcoming events for parents and carers:

- **NAIDOC Celebrations:** featuring our NAIDOC assembly; opening of Wakka Wakka acknowledgement plaque and student activities, Friday August 10 from 1.10 pm.
- **Indigenous family BBQ at the St Peter Claver Catholic Church, Cherbourg:** 5pm Wednesday, August 14.
- **Digital Citizenship parent evening:** 7pm Tuesday, September 3. Information for all parents and carers on the best ways to assist their child / ren to negotiate the digital world and issues like cyber-bullying, cyber-safety, sexting etc.

I would like to thank a few staff for their involvement in co-curricular activities over the past week:

- Mrs Johnston and Mr Schmidhauser for supervising and supporting students in the South Burnett Primary Athletics competition.
- Mr Hutton and Mrs Burr for organising our students’ chess competition in school and at Maryborough.
- Mrs Langford-Martoo, senior students, staff and parents for organising our wonderful movie night. I would especially like to thank Fiona Howarth for donating her time to do our fairy floss and popcorn.
- Mr Byrne and staff for organising students to the South Burnett Trade and Careers Expo.

I would also like to pass on the thoughts of one of the exhibitors at the Trade and Careers Expo:

You need to know that once again the behaviour and appearance of the Saint Mary’s students at today’s Career Market was exemplary. They were a stand-out in their formal uniform….I was proud to see the students so well presented and behaved. I am impressed. Perhaps you might pass this on to the students.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
Students are invited to join Mrs Maria Vinci and myself every Wednesday at 12:45 pm in the instrumental rooms. Maria is mother of Sara (past school Captain) and Samuel in Year 10. Maria is an accomplished musician and a teacher and she has volunteered to support the College and the work Mrs Moya Hayden has begun with singers and musicians for our College masses.

The sessions will start at the beginning of lunch every Wednesday at 12:45 pm, students can bring their lunch. Every student is welcome to attend, even the very little ones. Maria brings the same energy and professionalism that Moya does and I know with both these ladies on board our liturgies will get even better.

Year 9/10 Reflection Day

Next Thursday the 15th of August, Project Hatch will work with all Years 9 and 10 students at their annual Reflection Day. Two years ago we invited Dave and his retreat team to present to our students. The students loved the day and requested that we keep getting them. This team really related well with the students and used music, humour and physical activity to delve into areas of relationship and spirituality.

Students in Years 9 and 10 can wear suitable casual clothes next Thursday. A sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch and students will be required to bring morning tea. Any queries please contact me at the College.

Cricket in nets officially open

Our nets are ready to use. The students and staff were briefed on our rules for the nets and I thought it might be good that parents are in the picture as well. The following details who, where, what and how?

Mon, Wed, Fri Yrs 7-12
Tues, Thurs Yrs 4-6

The kit (marked with orange paint) has 2 balls, 2 bats marked SMCC.

Rules

Only one (1) batter per pitch in net at one time
No fielding in nets
No spectators forward of nets
No runs or running for batters
Only the orange junior cricket balls are to be used- warming tea and lunch. Do not bring your own cricket bats
The kit can be collected and returned at room 216, Mrs Johnston’s classroom. If the room is locked the staff member on duty can unlock it for students.
If equipment goes missing it will not be replaced

These nets join a list of new sporting facilities our school has for students on our campus.

Thought is being given to an outdoor volleyball court which would give another avenue for lunchtime recreation. If you have not seen what is up and running on campus, check in at the office and come for a walk around.

Warm Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

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Term 3 Statements were either posted out or emailed to all families over the holiday period. There has been some problems reported with the email statements so if you have not received a statement can you please let us know and we will get a copy to you. All fees that do not have a payment repayment plan in place were due for payment in July so if you have not paid your account we would ask that you please do this soon as we are about to start follow up calls. Families who have repayment plans in place or who have already spoken to me about their accounts will not be contacted. If you would like to talk to me about your account please contact the Office and make an appointment time to see me. I am happy to always see families as you pick up or drop off your children but without an appointment I cannot guarantee I will be available or able to see you for longer than a brief hello, so it is best to make an appointment time if you can.

Kym Schultz
Business Manager

Prep to Year 6 News

Congratulations to Miss Carmody and Mr Collier on their nomination for the Neita Awards for Excellence in Teaching! It is so wonderful to see these teachers acknowledged for the amazing work they do with our Early Years students.

Speaking of amazing teachers and students, I would like to thank primary staff, students and parents for your positive support for me as Curriculum Support Teacher for Prep to Year 6, over the past 18 months.

We are looking forward to working with Ms Radcliffe as the new CST, and we know we will continue to be looked after very well.

Currently a number of our primary students have competed in the South Burnett Primary athletics carnival in Wondai. These students have represented Saint Mary’s beautifully in their conduct and participation. Congratulations on their efforts. Thanks goes to Mrs Johnston and Mr Schmidthauser for looking after our students at this event.

All students in Prep to Year 12 will be involved in special Naidoc activities this coming Friday. Following a special liturgy, primary students will be busily painting bark, hearing traditional stories, and tasting yummy bush Tucker. Thanks to Mrs Arrell and Aunty Valerie for organising these invaluable experiences for our students.

Thanks again for the many messages of support from parents and teachers in recent weeks. Our school community means a great deal to me and I’m looking forward to putting my energies into my wonderful class of Year 6 students.

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

From the Office

Term 3 Fees due for Payment:

For those of you whom I have not yet met I would like to introduce myself. I am Kym Schultz and I am your Acting Business Manager while Shirley Hallett is on leave. Yes I am finding Kingaroy little bit cooler than Hervey Bay where I have been working as a Business Manager for the last three years. But I am originally from Laidley in the Lockyer Valley so I am sure I will adapt soon again to the frost. I have in the meantime been appreciative of the milder winter that we have been having.

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Library Corner

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 class displays in the library of the shortlisted books. We will begin celebrating this year’s Book Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week with a 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 mass reading event. Students, parents and staff are encouraged to dress up in the theme of ‘Space’ and bring along their favourite book to read with their buddies after the parade. There
will be many exciting activities and competitions in the library daily including guest readers, colouring-in and various games

Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!
Blue award (5 books) – Claire Walsh
Silver Award (25 books) – Elizabeth Watson

Curriculum Corner
Yrs 7-10
As we progress into Term 3, it becomes important to ensure that your child is practising good study habits. This will help them to prepare for assessments and organise their time at school more efficiently. Each week, I will focus on some strategies which you could discuss at home to help your child:

Setting targets – Use the student diary daily to write down all the due dates and deadlines in order to set realistic timelines
Starting targets
Prioritise what you need to do for the week by making a realistic study/life timetable
Set up an area at home just for study with the resources you need daily
Break bigger tasks into smaller achievable pieces to complete in a logical order
Create an ongoing revision program for each subject to ensure what you learnt that day is stored in your memory
Spend 10 minutes at home every night to plan for your next day under must do priorities and general things to do
Use travel time to read books – turn nothing time into something time!

Melanie Burr
Teacher-Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

From the Guidance Counsellor

Learning to Loosen the Apron Strings
My nephew is three years old and full of insatiable curiosity, as all children his age seem to be. Most members of my family imagine that watching him for an evening is not for the weak at heart, but personally, I jump at the opportunity to take care of him while my sister is away. He turns on and off the faucet to just to watch the water disappear through the drain. He walks through bushes and shrubs just to figure out if he can do it or not. If he bruises himself in the process of one of his experiments, I know it isn’t something that he’s going to repeat. But if he is entertained and amused by the outcome of the enchanting physics of the world, then it’s probably going to be something he will want to repeat ad nauseum. This is simply the essence of the inquisitive and absorptive mind of a young child. Which makes it all the more painful to watch when I witness my sister put a shrieking halt to a majority of his elementary investigations.

A hefty part of the idea here is understanding that not all behaviors of our children have a tangible and direct effect on you as a parent. Your daughter might get her hands a little dirty, her shirt a little stained or her socks a little wet (you get where I’m going with this) but stepping aside and realizing that no real harm is being done to them or you is the first step in understanding that you don’t really have to say no to everything that they attempt to do. Upon this realization, you might even find that fewer and fewer behaviors become unacceptable to you.

Whatever it is that gets you to a place of broader acceptance and greater awareness of the intentions behind many of your child’s behaviors will ultimately create a fertile context for them to learn and grow.

But here’s why this one’s hard:
Parents get caught up on the idea that their child might get hurt or experience some form of discomfort by participating in certain activities. It’s true that there is some risk involved in almost everything, especially with the life-experience and stature of a child. Let me clarify one important idea here.

In the face of clear and apparent danger, the answer is always and without question, to do whatever means necessary in order to stop your child from serious harm. Yes, that might mean the use of your parental power. However, when it comes to the proverbial spilled milk that we as adults steer away from, the most powerful way to teach and influence your child is to first model your own behavior and then give them the opportunity to try it for themselves.

As they get older, the inevitable trials of life begin to get more and more complex. Getting a bad grade in school or resolving a conflict with a friend are two of the most common things that parents want to step in on and help their child through. Or shall we say, solve for them? While you might be jumping at the chance to provide your wisdom and assistance during times like these, you might actually be doing more harm than good.

When asked for, advice can be helpful at times. But when your child is walking straight through a thorny bush for the first time (just as you did at their age), stop yourself and consider what lesson might be unfolding before you decide to step in and stop them. You just might be surprised with what it is they’re learning.

Selena C. George www.gordontraining.com

Year 12 Fundraising

Year 12 Lolly Jar
Come and guess the number of lollies 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:
Cheese Pizza Muffin (1)—$2.00
Lunch Only:
Nachos—$4.00

Paper bags are 5c each
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
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
5. 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.