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

Today is the feast day of St Augustine, who is recognised as a Saint in the Catholic, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox traditions and is regarded as one of the theological fathers of the Protestant reformation. For such an amazing Saint, St. Augustine’s early life was hardly saintly. Theft, homelessness, infidelity and hedonism led his mother St Monica, to pray for her wayward son. Finally, his mother’s prayers and tears, the instructions from his mentor St Ambrose and the word of God brought St Augustine from sinner to one of our greatest saints. Most parents, at some time or other, understand not only St Monica’s frustrations, but also her deep love for her child. I always prayer through St Monica, along with our patron Saint Mary, Help of Christians and St Joseph, in times of family struggles and would invite our community to do the same.

From 7-8pm on Tuesday, September 3, Michael Cini from BCE, will present a parent evening on Digital Citizenship to help parents and students to navigate the online world. I would encourage all parents and carers to attend this important night.

Last week, I joined our 2014 seniors for their Yr. 11 Leadership Camp at Camp Duckadang. It was wonderful to spend two days with our 2014 student leaders. Throughout the camp, we focussed on the leadership required of the entire group and not just of a few elected representatives. The students worked together on their Senior Symbol and Statement of Commitment, took part in leadership challenges, games and liturgies and discussed ways to be the best leaders they can be. I would like to thank Mr Curran, Ms Radcliffe and Mr Richard who joined me in presenting these days. I would also like to thank Nicholas Okafor who is studying to be a priest, for his time and energy in working with our group.

Our Equestrian team heads off to Maryborough to compete over the next couple of days. I would like to wish them all the best and thank their parents, Mr Dalton, Mrs Frohloff and all who have helped to prepare them for this event.

This week we had our first community morning Mass. About 20 staff and students gathered with Fr. John in Room 4 to begin the day in communion. Mr Perrett will continue to advertise these Masses which start at 8am on some Wednesdays. I would like to invite families to feel free to attend these wonderful Masses.

Over the holidays, we will hopefully begin the redevelopment of our Art, Home Economics and Music rooms. The Art and Home Ec. rooms will be completely transformed and our Music Room will receive an upgrade while we await a possible new purpose built Music room over the next couple of years. Later in the newsletter is the plan of our new Home Ec. Room with 8 student work stations, new doors out into the Benedictine Square and adjoining GLA (General Learning Area) which can act as a restaurant. Saint Mary’s has some very exciting times and developments ahead.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy
Did you know? (Part 2)

- The Catholic Church runs 66 hospitals in Australia
- 9,500 beds (12% of all Hospital beds)
- 19 Public hospitals, with 3,100 beds
- 47 Private hospitals with 6,400 beds
- The Catholic Church also provides beds for 23,200 patients in residential aged care
- There are 5,393 retirement and independent living units and serviced apartments under management
- 20% of all medical research in Australia is done by St Vincent de Paul or Mercy Healthcare research
- 1.1 million welfare clients were cared for in 2012 by various Catholic agencies
- Caritas Australia raised $43 million for the poor in 2012
- Catholic Mission raised $18 million for the poor in 2012
- Saint Vincent de Paul is the largest and most extensive volunteer welfare network in the country with 18,209 members and 30,910 volunteers

Once again, the positive and essential work the Catholic Church does needs to be celebrated and recognised

May God bless all those who work and volunteer in the service of the Church

Facebook/Social media
Year 8 classes this week looked at the topic of cyber safety and appropriate use of social media by young people.

Students need to be aware of appropriate use of mobile phones, texting, Facebook usage and other forms of social media.

Once a message or photo is uploaded or sent, it is there permanently. Students need to be very careful about what they say after school hours. Whilst not technically a school issue, the poor behaviour of students using social media incorrectly or used to bully other students reflects poorly on the school and parents will be contacted. I ask that parents be vigilant with their children’s usage of social media and make them a friend on Facebook to monitor their actions.

God bless

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News
Thank you to all the Year 10 students, parents and carers who attended last Wednesday’s Information Night (Year 10 to 11 Transition).

The next step in this transition for Year 10’s is for each student to complete a SET Plan (Student Information and Training Plan).

This will involve all students sitting with their College Mentors today to work through a first draft of their future Learning and Training needs. On Wednesday 11th September, all parents, students and carers will be offered an interview with the mentors to make final adjustments and sign off on their plan.

The following is some additional information about the usefulness of these SET plans in the Qld Education program.

What’s a SET plan?
A SET plan is a confidential document that a student develops, in consultation with their parents/carers and their school, to map their learning and career pathways.

What’s the purpose of a SET plan?
The purpose of a SET plan is to help students:
- set and achieve their learning goals in Years 11 and 12
- include flexible and coordinated pathway options in their course of senior study
- think about their education, training and career options after Year 12
- make decisions about their learning pathways
- structure their learning around their abilities, interests and ambitions
- communicate with their parents, teachers and career guidance officers about their learning pathways and post-school plans.

In their SET plan, students will be able to list a variety of different learning pathways, some of which may be accessed outside the current formal structure of school. This provides more options and flexibility in learning.

What’s involved in developing a SET plan?
Each school has its own SET planning process. Your child’s school will make that process clear to you.

Once your child’s SET plan has been developed, you, your child and the other people involved in developing the plan should sign and date the plan to show agreement.

Parents are encouraged to stay involved in their child’s SET planning process so you can support your child through their learning.

It is recommended that students review their SET Plan regularly to make sure their subjects and learning is right for them, and that they can maintain a pathway to the courses and career they want after Year 12.

If students want to change their subjects or courses, it is important that they discuss this with their school or other learning provider.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal - Administration

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. (for children 7 years & older).

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 and the photo 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.

Pam Radcliffe
Curriculum Support Teacher
Prep to Year 6

ASD – AUTISTIC SPECTRUM 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 24 October 2013. Details of the venue will be forwarded when available. For more information please contact Pam Radcliffe or Jenny Lutz here at Saint Mary’s Catholic College – 4162 2011.

P-6 – CELEBRATION OF LEARNING
Next Wednesday 4th September parents and carers of children in Prep to Year 6 are invited to a Celebration of Learning Breakfast held at Saint Mary’s Catholic College. It is an opportunity for you to be guided by your child as they show you their classroom and their work over the terms. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet and catch up with other parents and have a chat.

Brekkly Central will be in the tuckshop area and a hot breakfast will be available from 7.30am. It is expected that all parents will be heading off by 8.20 so the children can settle and prepare for the day. Come and enjoy a relaxed and different way to start the day.

For catering purposes, please let your child’s teacher know if you will be attending the breakfast. There will be a flyer going home for you to complete, tear off and have your child return it to classroom teachers by next Tuesday. Look forward to seeing you there.
Track and Field (Primary) in Hervey Bay South Burnett Zone at the Wide Bay Regional College will be representing the school and Four students from Saint Mary’s Catholic Sports News

Melanie Burr
Thursday 29/8/13 am

They are due back no later than

Book club brochures were sent home last week. 

BOOK CLUB NEWS
Book club brochures were sent home last week. They are due back no later than

Thursday 29/8/13 am.

Melanie Buur
Middle-School Coordinator

Sports News
Four students from Saint Mary’s Catholic College will be representing the school and South Burnett Zone at the Wide Bay Regional Track and Field (Primary) in Hervey Bay Wednesday 28th. August.

Lindsay Kennedy Yr 5 u/11 – Shot Put
Lachlan Dolzan Yr 6 u/11
- Discus and Shot Put
Tinh Nguyen Yr 6 u/11 – High Jump
Nick Schmidhauser Yr 7B u/12 – 800m

If successful at this meet, a team member will qualify for the Wide Bay team to compete at the QSS Primary State Track and Field Championships in Brisbane during October. Good luck to these competitors.

Alan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea & Lunch: Savoury Mince Rolls – $3.50
Lunch Only Hawaiian Potatoes – $3.50

P & F News
We have now started selling tickets to our Spring Time Race Day Marquee at the Wondai Caulfield Cup Race Day on 19 October 2013.

Tickets are $65 per person or $700 for a table of 12. This includes entry to the races, 2 course bottomless buffet catered by OMG Catering and entry to Fashions of the Marquee (great prizes available). There will also be an auction and running of the SMCC Hobby Horse Handicap with prize money on offer. Courtesy buses will be running from Kingaroy (Carrollewe Hotel), Nanango & Murgon. Be quick! Tickets Limited! For bookings and further information, call Nichole on 0409 060 266 or email leenic36@bigpond.com.au

Kind Regards
Damien Martoo
P & F President

VOLUNTEERS ARE CURRENTLY NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THE TUCKSHOP.
If you can help please contact myself or the office. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

MISS TUCKER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND TUTORING ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON THIS WEEK.

Kind regards, Kaitlyn Tucker

PREP TO YEAR 6 – CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Breakfast Invitation – from 7.30am
Wednesday 4th September

YES to an exciting start to the day.

YES there will be __________ (including my child) attending the Celebration of Learning Breakfast on Wednesday 4th September

Library Corner
Premiers Reading Challenge
This P-6 challenge ends next Friday. Please encourage your children to complete their record sheets and hand in to their class teachers by next Friday at the latest.

Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!
Blue award (5 books) – Ethan Keighran
Silver award (25 books) – Sophie Weier

Curriculum Corner 7-10
Decision Making
Weekly STUDY Strategies
It is so easy to delay doing something. Why procrastinate all the time? Procrastination can stem:

- Avoiding tasks you are not familiar with
- Being afraid of unpleasant outcomes
- A desire to achieve the perfect result
- A lack of confidence to begin
- An obsession with detail
- Not coping with study demands
- A lack of prioritising and time management

Overcoming this problem requires disciplined decision making!

- Identify tasks that you regularly delay
- Put up a list of them in your study area
- Set daily goals e.g. a ‘Must Do’ list and a ‘Should do’ list
- Prioritise and categorise your tasks
- Break tasks into achievable pieces
- Set realistic deadlines
- Beware of the ‘bouncing effect’ – skipping from task to task without completing them
- Positive self-talk “I can do it.” "I will do this”
- Most of all – GET STARTED!!!

BOOK CLUB NEWS
Book club brochures were sent home last week.

Hobby Horse Handicap with prize money on offer. Courtesy buses will be running from Kingaroy (Carrollewe Hotel), Nanango & Murgon. Be quick! Tickets Limited! For bookings and further information, call Nichole on 0409 060 266 or email leenic36@bigpond.com.au

Kind Regards
Damien Martoo
P & F President

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES
Catholic Education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1,706 Catholic schools across Australia.

Both major parties have been asked the six questions below. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

Policy Questions
1. How will your policy support parents to choose the education they want for their children and ensure religious freedom for Catholic schools is preserved?
2. How will your policy affect the ability of Catholic Education systems and schools to distribute funding according to locally-identified needs?
3. How will your policy deliver additional government funding to support student needs and ensure funding keeps pace with the real cost of educating a child?
4. How will your policy support the needs of students with particular disadvantage, students with disability and other special needs to receive funding to meet their needs, regardless of the school they attend?
5. What government funding for the capital needs of Catholic schools do you have planned? Does this funding recognise Catholic Education’s support of disadvantaged communities and willingness to establish in new growth areas?
6. How will your policy deliver funding certainty for schools?

Catholic Education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students.

For further information please visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au

NEW HOME ECONOMICS ROOM
The organisers of "Give Love and Get Art" exhibition for Caritas Australia and their major sponsor PW Dancewear warmly invite you to this year’s art exhibition showcasing 140 artworks for sale in a variety of mediums: sculptures, mixed media, oils, acrylics, airbrushed acrylics, watercolours and pencil. The exhibition will be in the beautiful new facilities at St Rita’s College, 41 Enderley Rd Clayfield on Sunday 15th September between 9am – 3pm, with the auction of 16 donated art works being held at 2pm. Entry is $10 p/p which includes light refreshments, entertainment and art demonstrations. Raffle prizes are also up for grabs with the major prize being a $1000 Virgin Airlines voucher. Please visit their website to pre-bid on the 16 fabulous auction pieces, as well as details relating to the exhibition www.giveloveandgetart.com