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

**Be a Voice**
Throughout the Old Testament, God called individuals to speak on God’s behalf, to carry God’s message to the people. Not all those God called were ready to accept the challenge. Some, like Jonah, tried to run from the task. Others, like Jeremiah, tried to convince God that they were inadequate. Moses is perhaps the best known spokesman for God, yet he too was reluctant to accept that he could speak on God’s behalf. Listen to his story by reading Exodus 3:9-10; 4:10-16.

Brave people like Moses stood up for what they believed in. We too as Catholics need to stand up for our counter cultural ideas and not be afraid to proclaim our values in an ever changing society.

**New Religion Curriculum**…Last Friday I attended the launch of the New R.E. Curriculum for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Archbishop Mark Coleridge officially blessed the document and approximately 100 children sang in the choir to celebrate the launch. Over 600 staff and members of the Brisbane Archdiocese attended the opening. Our staff have been attending workshops and in-service days during 2013 to write units which we are trialling now and in 2014. Thank you to Mr Perrett, Mrs Foody-Versace and Mr Ross for their work this year. I would also like to thank Ms Radcliffe and all the staff who are planning with the new curriculum at present.

**Renovations**…are happening at present in Home Ec and the Old Art room. The old Home Ec room is being converted into a General Learning Area (Classroom) and the Old Art room is being converted into the new Home Ec room. Thank you to Mr Wayne Jensen who is in charge of the project. Wayne has built other projects around the College such as room 18/19 and the roof outside rooms 14-15. The project is expected to finish this term so the new Art room can also be completed before school starts in 2014.

**Enrolments** are continuing to roll in. Please spread the word that all year levels are being considered, particularly new families moving to the district. We have undertaken an advertising campaign in local papers and also banners that you will see around the town in the near future.

**Year 11 Surveys**…parents should have received a letter regarding a survey being conducted by BCE. If you do not wish your child to participate, please send the reply back to the College as per the instructions received last week. The survey will be conducted in class next week (Year 11 only).

**Presentation night**…..Thursday, 31st October. Please ensure you come along for what is a great celebration of student achievement throughout the year.

**Year 12 Student leaders 2014**…speeches will be heard this Thursday morning. If your son or daughter is in Year 11 and has nominated via Mr Curran, please ensure they are ready to present tomorrow morning. Any questions please contact Mr Curran. I look forward to hearing the ideas from our wonderful Year 11 students.

God bless and have a lovely week.

Sean Erwin
Acting Principal
Parent Forum—31 October 2013
Review of Queensland Senior Assessment and School Reporting and Overall Position (OP) Tertiary Entrance Processes

The Queensland Government has commenced a major independent review of Queensland senior assessment and Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance processes. The review will evaluate current practice and identify possible changes to support contemporary and inclusive senior assessment and tertiary entrance processes.

Venue: Brigid Centre, 2nd Floor/Rehearsal Space, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly via Cecil Street entrance.
Time: 5.30pm Light refreshments. 6.00-7.30pm Forum. RSVP: Friday 25 October 2013 to info@pandf.org.au
Parking: Cecil Street and surrounds.

From the Deputy
Street Retreat

Yesterday eight senior students, Ms Molloy, Mr Hutton and I returned from the final Brisbane Street Retreat for the year. The seniors experienced life on the streets for homeless people in Ipswich. We visited Moonyah Brisbane Recovery Centre for Addicts and then visited one of the biggest homeless men’s shelters in Queensland run by Oz Care. To see the seniors interacting with the patrons at these places with questions, stories, laughter and asking real and searching questions of them was a very rewarding experience. It is a humbling experience even for an adult and these students handled themselves very well. We heard from a recovering alcoholic who spoke of a principle he now tries to live by, and called it the H O W principle (Honest, Open and Willing). In all things our students do, a sincere evaluation of these three values might be a great insight into becoming the best we can be. To be honest with ourselves, to be open to advice, direction and change and to be willing and courageous enough to instigate the necessary steps to betterment could be very useful.

Keep them honest
As the year seems to be winding up in many ways, we are reminded that this term is only beginning and it might be timely to keep encouraging our students at home in terms of homework, study, uniform and organisation. I’m sure we all want a strong term in all areas. Feel free to contact teachers and homeroom teachers about any issues, especially if things go quiet on the school front from your student’s point of view. Assessment work will start rolling in very soon for the seniors and the rest of the school is probably not far off either.

Immunisation Clinic
Next Friday 25th October the following students will be timelated to receive injections from 9 am.
- Yr 8 students – Hepatitis B (does 2 of 2)
- Yr 8 students – HPV (does 3 of 3)
- Year 10 boys – HPV (does 3 of 3)

Mr Marty Perrett
Acting Deputy Principal

APRE News
Sacramental Program – Reconciliation
More information is to follow about the 9th/10th November participation in Mass/Liturgy and Activity afternoon on the 9th November at 2.00pm and Celebration on the 16th November.

On Sunday 27th October at10.00am the only Mass for the entire Parish will be celebrated. There will be no Liturgy of the Word that Saturday night or Mass that Sunday at Saint Mary’s Church.

It was a great treat to head down to Saint Mary’s Church with the Year 3 and Year 8 students interacting with the patrons at these places with questions, stories, laughter and asking real and searching questions of them was a very rewarding experience. It is a humbling experience even for an adult and these students handled themselves very well. We heard from a recovering alcoholic who spoke of a principle he now tries to live by, and called it the H O W principle (Honest, Open and Willing). In all things our students do, a sincere evaluation of these three values might be a great insight into becoming the best we can be. To be honest with ourselves, to be open to advice, direction and change and to be willing and courageous enough to instigate the necessary steps to betterment could be very useful.

Carroll Award for Diligence (Years P-6): Awarded to the student in the class who most displays sustained application to hard work, without necessarily achieving high results.

Carroll Award for Diligence (Year 7-12): Awarded to the one student in Years 7-12 who most displays sustained application to hard work without necessarily achieving high results.

House Academic Shield: Awarded to the College House which scores the most points in the many academic competitions that are conducted throughout the year.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

Prep to Year 6 News
A letter will be going home to parents of students in Prep to Year 6 asking for parent help during the 8 day swimming session in a few weeks time. It would be great if we could have at least 1 parent for each year level. You’ll need to get in the water for the session (30 minutes). It will be a lot warmer mid to late November (I hope).

Next Monday 21st October 2013 is Consistency of Teacher Judgement or CTJ day. Students from Prep to Year 12 won’t be at school that day. Saint Mary’s is hosting this event this year and we have teachers and school officers coming from Nanango, Murgon and Gayndah. It’s a great opportunity for teachers to get together via a specific planned process to get consistency of judgement, just to check that what we think is an ‘expected’ level of work others do as well. Similarly if the work is ‘Above expected’ etc.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Curriculum Support Teacher P-6

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program
Phase 2 launch is finally here. After much delay for various reasons our Phase 2 launch will be on Tuesday 29th October at 8.50am in the Maryknoll Centre.

There will be a short prayer followed by a powerpoint of the journey of SWPBS, the announcement of the winners and place getters of the competition. We then process to the Benedictine Square for the official unveiling and blessing of the Benedictine Values.

There will be a light morning tea for parents and guests after the ceremony 10.00am.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Saint Mary's Speech Night
Saint Mary's speech night is Thursday 31st October. Members of the school's Sacred Space Committee help to decorate the hall during the day ready for the evening’s celebrations.

We are asking for flowers from staff and parent’s gardens to be delivered before school on Thursday. If you have flowers in your garden just bring them in an old bucket and we can then arrange them into vases.

Thank you for your help with this
Mrs Bron Langford Martoo
Year 12 homeroom teacher

Performing Arts /Music News
On the evening of the 24th of October Saint Mary's Catholic College will be holding a featuring students of Music, Drama and Dance. Parents and students are invited to come along and support a selection of talented Dance, Drama and Music students. Letters will be sent home in the near future for those students who have been invited to perform.

On the 7th of November at 6:30pm, the school is also hosting an 'Instrumental Music' evening to showcase the talents of our private instrumental students who have been working hard throughout the year. All members of the community are welcome to attend - musically inclined or not!

Hope to see you all there!
Miss Angelique Cook—Performing Arts Teacher
Mr Michael Scanlan—P.12 Music Teacher

Library Corner
Welcome to Lexile!!!!!
Louisa Frahm
Molly Wernecke
Tiffany Kerkow!

Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!
Bronze award (10 books) – Kate Lipsett-Batts

Textbook Returns Process
By the end of Week 6/7, all textbooks on loan to students in Year 7-12 will be due back in a good condition. Students will be given a printed record of all their loans and will be encouraged to bring them in by a certain date. Multiple reminders will be given to all students. In Week 6/7, letters will be sent home should these textbooks still be outstanding. Should these books still not be returned, invoices will be sent through the Business Manager in Week 8/9. Please support us by assisting your child to return all their textbooks on time.

Curriculum Corner
Weekly Study Strategies
This term will be a busy one for assessments as it is a shorter term. I have encouraged students to ‘be organised’ and try to do a little bit each night towards their tasks rather than waiting for the weekend before the due date. Time-management is a really important skill to focus on this term.

Assessment Calendars will be sent home this week. Please contact your child’s homeroom teacher if they did not receive one.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

Sports News
Futsal news.
Congratulations to three of Saint Mary’s students who have been selected to tour the United Kingdom next year as part of the Australian squad. The tour of Spain and Barcelona was for under 12 turning 13 when the tour begins. These players will be under 14 when on tour and therefore will be touring the U.K. They all deserve this honour.

(An apology for the error in last week’s newsletter which stated that Bao would be going to Spain it should have read the United Kingdom)

Pacey Clegg
Bao Truong
Clare Adcock

The inter-school futsal shield will be held on the 25th of October from 4-6pm. Students have been given notes and they should be returned as soon as possible to confirm teams. Players will be wearing black socks and shorts with school jerseys given to students at the venue. If there are any shirts still at home from past games please bring them.

On the 26th of October the under 16 girls futsal team will travel to Toowoomba to play in the Chantelle Cramb Cup. Wish them luck!

From the Guidance Counsellor
Being Bored is Good for the Brain!
www.generationnext.com.au
Recently, my 5 year-old son has started proclaiming, “I’m boooorrrrrred.” My reaction: Good. When I was a kid I distinctly remember my gran telling me that, “Only boring people get bored.” She never really elaborated, and I’m still not too sure what she meant, but I like it. And I’ve started saying the same thing to my son. My thinking is this.

By saying he’s bored, he expects his mum and me to immediately remedy his boredom by taking him out, getting him a new game, letting him watch TV or play the Wii. This is despite the fact that we’ll already have done heaps with him that morning, day, week or month. He’s looking for yet another external source of gratification (in my layman’s terms) and this is not sustainable.

So we encourage him to sit and draw, read a book, look for bugs in the garden, do a jigsaw etc. Something that engages his brain from the inside.

As parents it’s taken us a while to accept that this is OK. It is not bad parenting. We don’t have to entertain him 24-7. Especially now his 2 year-old sister is cranking things up a bit in the “Terrible Twos” department.

Dr Theresa Belton from the University of East Anglia in the UK, is an expert in the impact of emotions on behaviour and learning. She believes that boredom could be an “uncomfortable feeling” and that society had “developed an expectation of being constantly occupied and constantly stimulated”. Like me, Dr Belton believes that this is not a good thing. It’s unsustainable, and what’s more, she says, “Some young people who do not have the interior resources or the responses to deal with that boredom creatively then sometimes end up smashing up bus shelters or taking cars out for a joyride.”

Dr Belton has studied the impact of television and videos on children’s writing, saying: “When children have nothing to do now, they immediately switch on the TV, the computer, the phone or some kind of screen. The time they spend on these things has increased. “But children need to have stand-and-stare time, time imagining and pursuing their own thinking processes or assimilating their experiences through play or just observing the world around them.”

It is this sort of thing that stimulates the imagination, she said, while the screen “tends to short circuit that process and the development of creative capacity”. So in short, if your kids says they’re bored… Good!

Mr Graham Turnbull
Counsellor

Tuckshop News
DUE TO THE STUDENT FREE DAY ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER THE TUCKSHOP WILL BE OPEN ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea & Lunch:
Hawaiian Pizza & Ham Pasta Salad—$3.50
Lunch Only
Ham Pasta Salad—$3.50

Please make sure you are using the current tuckshop order (blue). Extra copies at the office.

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
SAINT MARY’S BUS USERS

The College will lodge the application for Families who have signed a BFAP Agreement with the College, and for whom the threshold bus fares is charged to their family account. If you are not sure if you need to lodge an application please contact the office.

PARISH MASS

The Parish Mass this year will be celebrated on Sunday 27th October at 10am in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Kumbia and will be followed by a BBQ lunch.

Please bring a plate to share for dessert eg. cakes, slices etc.

Everyone is most welcome, so please feel free to invite friends and acquaintances to this special celebration.

Join South Burnett's Swimming for Fitness Program

*For Adults*

Conducted by Local Swimming Coach
For all fitness and ability levels
Become active for life & learn new ways to become more physically active

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Extra Information:
- Bring your towel, sunscreen and prescription medication
- Gold coin donation per session paid upon entry.

Pool Entry Fee for this program will be fully subsidised by Council.

RSVP
your interest to Pam Nizzi at South Burnett Regional Council on (07) 4159 1444 or pam.nizzi@southburnett.qld.gov.au

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