From the Principal

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

Indigenous Graduation
Last Friday five of our Year 12 students attended the Indigenous Graduation at St Stephens cathedral. Accompanying them was Mr Schmidhauser, Mrs Mathews, Mrs Arrell and myself. Samantha Watson delivered the keynote address on behalf of the students in the Brisbane Archdiocese. Samantha spoke of the support she has received from her parents and the school in order to finish Year 12. I was truly honoured to be present and see such a fine young lady from our College speak so confidently and with genuine affection.

There were hundreds of Year 12 Indigenous students from the Archdiocese graduating and the occasion was truly moving. I would also like to congratulate Glynn Boney, Tori Watson, Jasmine Watson and Shania Stewart. These ladies represented the school in a dignified manner and I am very proud of their achievements in 2013. Thank you to the parents who attended and supported their daughters. I look forward to the College Valedictory dinner on November 12 at the town hall where we can continue the celebration.

Junior Author
I would like to congratulate Caitlin Lang from Year 4/5 who has had her poem “Ossie Mozzie” published in the compilation book, “Written in the Stars”. This is a truly significant time for Caitlin and I am sure it is not the first time she will be published. Well done and I look forward to more stories and poems over the coming years! A copy of the book will be available in the College library.

Parish Mass
Mass will be celebrated at Kumbia at 10am this Sunday. This is the only parish mass this week and will be followed by lunch. If you require transport, please contact Ms Radcliffe who is organising the College bus to leave Sunday morning.

Presentation Night
Letters regarding next Thursday night will be sent home today. If your child is receiving an award, it is expected that they will attend. Please contact the College if something unforeseen prevents attendance at this very important night. Thank you to Mr Perrett, Mrs Hauritz, Mr Dalton, Ms Radcliffe and all staff who are helping prepare for this wonderful night of celebration.

God bless and have a lovely week.

Sean Erwin
Acting Principal
From the Deputy
Immunisation – Friday 25th October
Reminding all parents of Year 8 students and parents of Year 10 male students, that this Friday immunisations will be done at the College from 9 am. If you are unsure of the status of your child’s immunisation record, you need to access Queensland Health’s database. The college does not keep these records.

Uniform
Please ensure your child or children are not wearing sandals, joggers or runnners to school and check your child’s footwear as they leave home. If your child’s current black leather shoes have worn out, please replace them, even with a cheap pair until school holidays. Homeroom teachers have been asked to follow up any uniform issues with parents or carers.

Belts on Buses
It is legislation that seat belts must be worn on busses where they are fitted. Bus drivers will remind students, however once the bus is in motion it is the responsibility of all passengers to wear the seat belt properly for safety reasons. The College cannot take responsibility for students not wearing seat belts on busses. I reminded passengers on two of our runs last Wednesday and will endeavour to get to the other busses this week. Please discuss this with your child if they catch a bus to or from school.

Mobile Phones
If you require your child to bring a mobile phone to school, it should be handed in to the office before class and collected at 3 pm. They can come down to the office to make a call with permission from the staff. If a phone is heard or seen by staff in the course of the day, the phone will be confiscated until the end of school and you will be notified. As you can appreciate, phones are a massive distraction for students and teachers. If you need to contact your child please ring the office and we can pass a message on or arrange to connect you. We all got through a day of school 20 years ago without one!

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.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

APRE News
Academic Competitions at Presentation
Night
Student success in the academic competitions this year has been well supported by the College P and F.

In addition to subsidising the nomination fees for students who nominated for multiple competitions, they have also funded awards to students in the Primary, Middle and Senior sections of the College who achieved the most points by achieving credit, distinction or simply nominating for the many different competitions. This funding is designed to both encourage participation and also acknowledge success.

The P and F have also funded a House Academic Trophy for the College House that achieves the highest number of house points through distinctions, credits and participations.

Congratulations to the many students who will receive these awards on Presentation Night next Thursday.

I am sure that the cash awards will spark a bit of additional interest among the students and that the parent body will enjoy the acknowledgement of the students and the incentive to compete in a national series of competitions.

Thank you to our very supportive Parents and Friends Association.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

Prep to Year 6 News
Grandparents Day – this Sunday 27th October
Congratulations to all the grandparents in our community for simply being able to experience the joy of less responsibility (a bit anyway) and loads more fun. Speaking as a grandmother, what a wonderful gift to be acknowledged for our contribution however large or small. With the wisdom and experience brought from raising our own children and for some of us raising our grandchildren, it is wonderful to be acknowledged. So a big thank you to all the grandparents – our own grandparents - thanks for the memories - and thanks to our children for the opportunity to create memories for our own grandchildren.

Mr Marty Perrett
Acting Deputy Principal

Learning Support News
The media, scientific researchers, and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual all refer to "autism" as if it were a single disorder or a single disorder over a spectrum. However, autism is unlike any single disorder in a variety of ways.

No single brain deficit is found to cause it, no single drug is found to affect it, and no single cause or cure has been found despite tremendous research efforts to find same. Rethinking Autism reviews the scientific research on causes, symptomology, course, and treatment done to date and draws the potentially shocking conclusion that "autism" does not exist as a single disorder. The conglomerate of symptoms exists, but like fever, those symptoms aren’t a disease in themselves, but rather a result of some other cause(s). Only by ceasing to think of autism as a single disorder can we ever advance research to more accurately parse why these symptoms occur and what the different and varied causes may be.

- Autism is a massive worldwide problem with increasing prevalence rates, now thought to be as high as 1 in 38 children (Korea) and 1 in 100 children (CDC- US)  
- Autism is the 3rd most common developmental disability; 400,000 people in the United States alone have autism  
- Autism affects the entire brain, including communication, social behavior, and reasoning and is lifelong  
- There is no known cause and no cure  
- Funding for autism research quadrupled from 1993 to 2000 up to $45 million, and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee has recommended $1 billion funding from 2010-2015

Dr. Lynn Waterhouse was the Director of Child Behavior Study at The College of New Jersey for 31 years, and is currently a Professor in Global Graduate Programs at the College.

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.
Performing Arts / Music News

Performing arts update!
Saint Mary's is holding a 'Celebration of Arts' night this week. Parents and students are invited to come along and support a selection of talented Arts, Music, Dance and Drama students.

Date: Thursday 24th October
Time: 6:00pm – 6:30pm Viewing of Art display
4:30pm – 8:30pm Performing Arts Showcase
Venue: Mary Knoll Centre, Saint Mary's Catholic College

Hope to see you all there!

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!

Miss Angelique Cook—Performing Arts Teacher
Mr Michael Scanlan—P-12 Music Teacher

MUSIC BURSARY
Music Bursaries are available for 2014. They are designed to assist students and their families in the payment of instrumental lessons conducted through the school.

Applications close this Friday 25 October and are available through the office.

Library Corner
Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!
Blue award (3 books) – Tiffany Kerkow
Red award (5 books) – Tiffany Kerkow, Thomas Kelly
Bronze award (10 books) – Tom Pennell

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.

This week Yr 10-12 students will receive a list with all the books they have out.

Curriculum Corner
7-10

Weekly STUDY Strategies
There are some proven methods to use that will benefit your exam/test performance. Here are some examples of strategies you might want to try:

Multiple choice
- Eliminate the obvious incorrect answers
- Read all of the choices
- Be aware of the details: they make a difference
- Guess if you don’t know

True or False
- Be aware of wording
- Read carefully; all must be true not just some
- A thinking approach to exams/tests is a must

Short answer
- Be to the point

Essays
- Plan your approach and outline key facts and ideas
- Set a logical order to follow
- Understand exactly what you are being asked to answer

Assessment Calendars
If your child has not brought home an assessment calendar, can you please contact their homeroom teacher.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

College Office News
As from the 28 October the College will no longer bulk bill bus fares that are not connected to the College BFAP agreements.

Therefore those students who travel on a casual basis ie (cost of travel is less than $22pw – full paying or $17 pw if a concession card holder) will need to purchase a bus ticket from the following outlets:

Blackbutt Pursers Coaches Bus – from the bus driver on the route
Wondai or Murgon Saint Mary’s Buses – from the College Office

Those families who currently travel and are identified as casual bus user have been sent a letter outlining the relevant information. If you have not received a letter and believe your family may fall into this category as well please contact the College to receive more information about the travel arrangement changes.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact the College Office.

Ms Kym Schultz
Acting Business Manager

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu

Morning Tea & Lunch:
Chicken & Gravy Rolls

Lunch Only
Oven Baked Fried Rice

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

School Board News
"Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Friends,

As promised in last term’s newsletter, Saint Mary’s Catholic College Board has sent out a survey to staff, parents and carers via email requesting your input and ideas into the school’s future focus. This survey is open for two weeks until the 1st November 2013. Please collect your thoughts, ideas and solutions, and participate in our survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Hard copies of this survey are available at the office, if this is your preferred reply option.

The Board is seeking a fresh start, involving the local community in the 'big picture' of school planning to assist in setting the direction for the school. We are particularly concerned with nurturing the dignity and self worth of people, building life giving relationships and the holistic educational welfare of the students.

School Boards in the Catholic education system do not follow a business management model. Saint Mary’s College Board is advisory in its nature and is not an authority above the principal, staff or the P&F. It is not a complaints body, but rather a ‘membership’, sharing perspective, wisdom and experience.

The Board is looking to renew its vision statement and a variety of school policies. Consultation with our school community is critical to our success. We hope you will participate in this survey, which closes on the 1st November.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Lee Moller (Board Chair) and the Board Team."
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.

Saint Mary’s Presentation Evening 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

SAINT MARY’S PRESENTATION EVENING

UNIFORM

Next Thursday, students attending presentation evening are required to wear formal uniform. For year 10 - 12 boys this includes a tie and long grey slacks. All 6-12 boys must wear a black belt. For Prep - 5 boys it requires their best rugger or taslon shorts. For Prep - 5 girls it means the college dress. All students must wear black leather or vinyl shoes.

Please note in the letter about Presentation Evening parents might be receiving that Prep - 6 awards will take place in the first part of the evening before a short break, not Prep - 5.

SPORTS AWARDS

The following will be presented on the evening:

Age Champions: 10yr old- Open (Boys and Girls). These ages have multiple events in these divisions and can compete at District, Regional and State levels in QLD School Sports.

Wide Bay Regional Representatives. These compete at a very high level and usually means they are competing in the top 15% of the State.

Major Awards - Sportsman of Year, Sportswoman of Year and Junior Sportsperson of the Year.

The above awards are points based. These points can only be amassed in sports that are conducted under the control of the Queensland Schools Sports Council.

- Representing the school in a Sport
- Age Champions in the 3 main Carnivals
- South Burnett District Representation
- Wide Bay Regional Representation
- Queensland Representation
- National Representation

Hope this gives some clarity to the selections.