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

In the fifth century, a young Saint Benedict was sent to Rome to finish his education. The subject that dominated a young man's study then was rhetoric -- the art of persuasive speaking. A successful speaker was not one who had the best argument or conveyed the truth, but one who used rhythm, eloquence and technique to convince. The power of the voice without foundation in the heart was the goal of the student's education. Afraid for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, gave up his inheritance, and lived in a small village with his nurse. When God called him beyond this quiet life to even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco.

There he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus. But it was in Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life. Benedict had the holiness and the ability to take this step. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict -- still directing religious life after 15 centuries. In this tiny but powerful Rule, Benedict put what he had learned about the power of speaking and oratorical rhythms at the service of the Gospel. He did not drop out of school because he didn't understand the subject!

This sacred reading, however, was a study in love, not intellect. Not just an exercise of the mind, it was an exercise of contemplation so that “our voices and hearts harmonize. First came the lectio, reading the scripture until a phrase was found that inspired the person to stop. Our natural tendency would be to read the phrase and think about what it means, what it has to do with our lives and then move on. But that was not part of sacred reading.

This concept of stopping is difficult to process in the hustle and bustle that is modern life. We must always take the time to read scripture, pray and slow down. Allow the words to take root and permeate our senses, otherwise the meaning is lost. Easier said than done you may say!

Year 12 students attended their valedictory celebration last night. It was wonderful to be back at the town hall due to our increased numbers. The students looked amazing and I would like to thank the parents and staff who assisted in this process. Thank you to the P and F who also assisted some students last night with organisation of cars, etc. A big thank you to Mrs Langford Martoo who drove the whole process, ably assisted by Mrs Hauritz in the office and Mrs DiMarco in the board room. I look forward to the photos in next weeks newspaper!

A pleasing trend with enrolments recently is the return of ex students with their children. The stories that parents are sharing as I enrol their child for next year are truly heart warming. All I can say is welcome back to your school! It is a pleasure to be educating the next generation of Saint Mary's children.

God bless and have a lovely week.

Sean Erwin
Acting Principal
From the Deputy

Bacolod Kindergarten
For many years now we have been sending financial support to our Good Samaritan Sister School, Bacolod Kindergarten in the Philippines from the proceeds of our annual school concert Rock On Stage. Identified as one of the most powerful typhoons or storms on record ever, Haiyan has caused widespread devastation and suffering in South East Asia. I saw a photo taken by an astronaut on the space station on the internet and the storm took up the entire picture taken from 1000’s kilometres away. The magnitude is unimaginable but the effects are closer to home than first thought.

I rang the head office of the Good Samaritan Sisters in NSW on Monday and then this morning to find out if they have heard much about the fate of our brothers and sister from the Philippines. Unfortunately, there is still very little known.

Every homeroom has pictures of the beautiful faces of the kids from Bacolod. The photos were sent by the Principal as a thank you for our charity in 2012. I look now at the faces and can only pray and hope they are still safe and smiling as they were back then. Hopefully some of the infrastructure they’ve built from the money we’ve sent has eased or prevented loss, damage and grief. Mary Help of Christians the Patron Saint of our School, Parish and our Country. In this time of great uncertainty and unrest, the Prayer to Our lady Help of Christians is a very pertinent one.

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christian,
how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help.
If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children,
how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me?
Grant then to me, I implore you,
your perpetual help in all my necessities,
in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations.
I ask for your unceasing help for all
who are now suffering.
Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners.
Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life.
Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians,
that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven.

By St. John Bosco

Please keep the staff and students of Bacolod Kindergarten in your thoughts and prayers. Picture below of Principal and her students.

Mr Marty Perrett
Acting Deputy Principal

From The Office

Gentle reminder – fees are now overdue for payment. If you have not settled your account, can you please do so immediately.
If you are experiencing hardship and would like to request a payment extension, please make an appointment to see the Business Manager.
Plates from awards night – thank you to those families who provided cakes/supper for the presentation evening. There are still some plates that need to be collected from the office.
Ms Kym Schultz
Acting Business Manager

Prep to Year 6 News
The swimming gets underway next Monday for Preps and Tuesday for Friday for the Year 1 to Year 6 students. The swimming runs for two days for Prep and a block of 8 days for Year 1 to Year 6. A note will be going home this week with what the students will need to bring for their swimming lessons.
Christmas Concert P–6 is on Thursday night 5th December. Starts with a sausage sizzle at 5.00pm cooked by the P and F – thank you. Concert starts at 6.00pm. It is a good idea to bring a blanket to sit on during the concert. There will be chairs as well if you prefer. There will be free cordial and zooper doopers for 50c. Sausage sizzle is $1.00. Ten raffle draws and the handing over of our Christmas hampers to Mrs. Heather Barrett the local Saint Vincent de Paul store manager.
Reports will be posted home in the first week of the holidays.

Music News
Congratulations to all of the students who performed in last week’s “Instrumental Evening”. You all should be very proud of your efforts!

Mr Michael Scanlan
P–12 Music Teacher

Year 12 News
Fridays Valedictory Mass at 9:15am
Library Corner
Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following student who have received Lexile awards!
Silver award (25 books) – Paige Parsons
Textbook Returns Process
By the end of next week (Friday 22nd Nov) Week 7, all textbooks on loan to students in Year 7-11 will be due back to the library 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. Early in week 8, letters will be sent home to students in Year 10 & 11. Should these books still not be returned within 7 days, invoices will be sent through the Business Manager in Week 9.
Please note once invoiced no refunds will be given even if books are returned. Please support us by assisting your child to return all their textbooks on time as it is an expectation that textbooks are available to all students in the new year.
Letters will be sent home this Thursday to all Yr 12 students with outstanding books.

Please if any parents could help volunteering their time in the Library over the last few weeks of term, that would greatly appreciated.

Curriculum Corner
7-10
Year 7/8 Orientation Day – Tuesday, 3rd December
Please note that the Orientation day for new Year 7s and 8s is on Tuesday the 3rd December (not Tuesday 4th December as the letter home might have indicated).

Year 6 Rites of Passage Ceremony
The college will host another Rites of Passage ceremony for our Year 6s on Monday the 2nd December at 6pm-7.00pm. This event will commemorate students’ transition from one phase of learning into another by celebrating an important milestone within their schooling i.e. Year 6 moving into a new Teaching and Learning Community.

An invitation has been sent home to families this week. Please ensure that you have sent back the RSVP to your child’s class teacher.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Librarian/Middle-School Coordinator

From the Guidance Counsellor
Helping your child through adolescence - headspace.org.au
Young people can go through many different changes as they grow up. Raising sensitive issues and working to resolve problems that arise along the way can be challenging. It can often be hard as a parent to know the difference between normal behaviour, such as moodiness, irritability and withdrawal and an emerging mental health problem.

Mental health refers to a person’s emotional and social wellbeing. When someone’s mental health declines it can affect their feelings, thoughts and actions. This can then affect their day to day life and participation in activities such as school, work and relationships.

Mental health problems are common. Mental health problems are usually understandable reactions to personal and social issues. Mental health problems are usually not too severe or long lasting. If a young person develops a mental health problem it is important that they get help early.

When mental health problems last for long periods of time and severely affect someone’s everyday life, it may be that the problem is becoming an illness. Parents are vital in helping to identify when a young person might have a mental health problem and encouraging early help seeking.

Communicating with your child
Young people can go through many different changes as they grow up. Raising sensitive issues and working to resolve any problems that arise along the way can be challenging. Promoting good mental health involves keeping the communication lines open.

Here are some tips that can help:

- Be available without being intrusive or ‘pushy’;
- Show genuine interest in what your child is doing and encourage them to talk about it;
- Make talking about your day part of the family routine;
- Help your child to find the words to express their feelings – try asking them to describe it, ask about whether the feeling is more or less intense than it has been before, ask about where and how they feel it in their body;
- Pick your time – young people tend to talk more when they are busy doing other things or don’t have to look you in the eye (try driving in the car or washing dishes together);
- Let your child know that you love them. They may not always admit it, but this is likely to be very important to them.

Mr Graham Turnbull
Counsellor

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu
Morning Tea & Lunch:
Hot Dogs $3.50
Lunch Only:
Macaroni Cheese $3.50
Stock maybe low due to end of year.
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

P & F News
Another week is nearly over and only a few more until the end of term and of course the school year. As part of the busy end of year school calendar I was given the privilege last night to attend the 2013 Senior Graduation Formal as the representative of the P&F. It is so wonderful to see the dedication our staff, parents and students who selflessly volunteer their time to organise, set up, attend and clean up after these events. I am proud to be associated with our wonderful school community and the P&F.
At this point, on behalf of St Marys P&F I would like to sincerely congratulate our Graduating Seniors of 2013 and wish them all gods’ blessings in their future endeavours as they step out into a very exciting new time in their lives.

Next week sees our P&F meet for the final time this year. Next Tuesday night we will hold our informal meeting at the Carrollee Hotel over dinner to celebrate the achievements the hard working dedicated members of the P&F have accomplished.

Please feel free to come and attend but we do ask that everyone pays there own way. We will meet from 6.30am in the beer garden. RSVP for numbers by Friday 15/11/2013 by txt to 0408068485 or email drbmartoo@yahoo.com.au. This could be a great opportunity to meet other parents on the P&F and see if you would like to take on an official role at next years AGM as President, Treasurer or Secretary.

God Bless
Damien Martoo
P&F President

A teacher was teaching her class about bullying and gave them the following exercise to perform. She had the children take a piece of paper and told them to crumple it up, stomp on it and really mess it up but be careful not to rip it. Then she had them unfold the paper, smooth it out and look at how scared and dirty it was. She then told them to tell them they’re sorry, Now even though they said they were sorry and tried to fix the paper, she pointed out that the scars left behind. And that those scars will never go away no matter how hard they tried to fix it. That is what happens when a child bully’s another child, they may say they’re sorry but the scars are there forever. The look on the faces of the children in the classroom told her the message hit home.
**SOUTH BURNETT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**

**Concert at Murgon:**
- When: Saturday 23 November
- Doors open 6.30pm. Concert at 7.00pm
- Where: Murgon Town Hall
- Cost: Tickets are $15 each (children $10)
  - Tickets can be purchased at the Murgon Visitor Information Centre.
  - Includes a delicious supper

**Concert at Kumbia:**
- When: Saturday 20 November
- Doors open 5.00pm. Concert at 5.30pm
- Where: Kumbia Hall
- Cost: Tickets are $15 each (children $10)
  - BBQ dinner concert—meals can be pre-purchased or BYO!

Family Tickets available for $40/family and can be purchased at Kingaroy Office Central.
- Pre-School age children FREE.

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**Kingaroy Junior Soccer Club AGM**

Wednesday 27 November 2013
- 7pm at the Clubhouse, Oliver Bond St Kingaroy
- All members are encouraged to attend
- Nominations for ALL positions close at 5pm on Wednesday 13 November. Nominations forms or more information can be obtained from the Secretary, Cathy on 0408072 238

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**Looking for a Summer sport?**

**Come Play Softball!!**

Burnett Softball Association invites interested players to sign-on for the upcoming summer season.
- **When:** Friday afternoons from 4pm
- **Where:** Nanango Sports Grounds – Burnett Street
- **Commences:** 8th November 2013
- **Who:** Males & Females of all ages & abilities – 5yrs to Masters
- **Contact:** Karen 0422204661 or secretaryburnettsoftball@hotmail.com

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**Violin for Sale**

3/4 Violin (with hard case)
- Price - $240 o.n.o.
- Very Good Condition only 12mths old
- Contact Amanda on 0437 533 499

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**South Burnett Regional Council**

Yesterday at 9:27 PM

Council is currently advertising the following four (4) traineeships:-

1 x Information Technology
1 x Soil Laboratory
2 x Horticulture

Applications close on Friday, 15 November 2013

For further information and application packs please contact South Burnett CTC on 07 4162 2566 or email: admin@sbcetc.com.au

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**KIAH PARK** will be running 7 weeks of horse camps over the Christmas holidays.

**7 DAY HORSE CAMPS**

- **30 November – 7 December**
- **7 – 14 December**
- **14 – 21 December**
- **28 December – 4 January 2014**
- **4 – 11 January**
- **11 – 18 January**
- **18 – 25 January**

(Camp caters for all riding levels)

**DAY TRIPS AVAILABLE**

Kiah Park offers 7 Day Riding Camps for children 6yrs – teens and all riding abilities are catered for. Camp includes full accommodation and each child is given their own pony/horse to love, care for and ride twice a day. There are arena lessons, trail rides and a gymkhana.

Fun night activities include a night walk, camp fire with marshmallow roasting and stories, talent show, bingo/line dancing and movie night. Children enjoy real outdoor fun, feeding the animals, collecting chicken eggs and milking the house cow…… a very happy, healthy holiday and an amazing opportunity to develop independence and create lifelong friendships and memories.

Please contact us for more information

Nick and Tilana Qually

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/KiahPark1](http://www.facebook.com/KiahPark1)
**Email:** info@kiahpark.com.au
**Ph:** (07) 5486 6166