From the Principal

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

BCE Leadership Program for teachers

Once upon a time there was an old man who used to go to the ocean for peace and quiet and inspiration. One day as he was walking along the shore after a storm, he saw someone moving back and forth, bending, and then wading into the waves, arms extended.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a young girl. The girl was reaching down to the sand, picking up starfish one at a time, and throwing each one gently back into the ocean.

He called out, “Good morning! Why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?”

“The starfish have been washed up after the storm, the sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them in they’ll be stranded on the beach and die.”

But don’t you realise that there are thousands of starfish stranded all along the beach. You can’t possibly make a difference!”

The girl listened and then she bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. As he watched it sink into the life-giving water she said, “It made a difference to that one!”

Last Wednesday, six college staff graduated from year-long leadership courses designed and run by Brisbane Catholic Education.

Mrs Arrell, Mrs Burr and Mr Richard completed the Aspiring Leaders program. Aspiring Leaders is a leadership development program for teachers and middle managers, interested in developing their own leadership capabilities or determining whether leadership is for them.

Mr Richard and Mr Curran completed the Looking Forward program. This program is designed specifically for middle leaders who anticipate a future role as AP, DP, APRE or P-12 Head.

I completed the Stepping Up program for Deputy and Assistant Principals aspiring to the role of Principal in the future.

Mr Nayler completed the Leading Learning program, a specific leadership program for all principals and BCEO senior staff with a focus on instructional leadership.

Christmas Carols

On Thursday 5 December Prep—6 students will be performing Christmas Carols in the Mary Knoll Centre. This is a wonderful night of celebration for our community. All students are invited to attend. The P & F will be running the BBQ on the night and Year 9 students will be assisting. I encourage all parents and family members to attend what will be a fun and memorable occasion.

God bless and have a lovely week

Sean Erwin
Acting Principal
From the Deputy
Bullying – against the law?
I recently saw in the news a move to make bullying a crime, an offence against the instigator and possibly against the parents of a minor who is caught bullying. Regardless of my thoughts or feelings and my average comprehension of our legal system, the issue and resultant debate is probably going to be around for a while and the devil will be in the detail. I was relieved to see the first press release did not mention the role of a school or even the school as a stakeholder. Obviously the school is a major stakeholder, sometimes by default, because this is where our kids spend the majority of waking hours during a normal week, so these issues may spill out here. What I would like to make very public and I often tell students is; no parent, teacher, deputy principal, police officer or magistrate can stamp out this insidious behaviour completely.

I feel a real double standard when I hear the advice, “walk away, ignore it” when I know how hard that can be even for an adult. The wisdom in that advice is that we can only control ourselves and no one else. Do we sit back and take it, no. We need a strategy that has us prepared for it, and helps us manage our response to avoid harm or hurt to ourselves and others.

A bully gets most of their power from a silent stakeholder, the crowd, the onlooker, the passive consumer. What weight, if any, will courts put on those with a voice they don’t use? My wish for students of this College is that they would always advocate for the marginalised, just as we do this on a school wide level in our fundraising and work with charity, so we should do on a micro level. ‘Charity really does begin at home’, and that may be closer and less materialistic than we think.

Make up, mascara and eyeliner
There seems to be an increase in the number of female students wearing make-up, especially eyeliner and mascara. Students have no reason to wear this to school. It is not part of our uniform and is not acceptable. What is allowable is a very small amount of cover up for skin blemishes. Please remember one earring only in each ear.

Mobile Phones
If your student needs to bring a mobile phone to school the device must be kept at the office for the day and if the student needs to use it then come down and sign themselves in and they do it well. If your student needs to bring a mobile phone to school the device must be kept at the office for the day and if the student needs to use it then come down and sign themselves in and they do it well. Students who arrive by themselves after 8.50 am know to come to the student office to sign themselves in and they do it well.

Late Arrivals - Signing students in
If you bring your child to school and arrive after 8.50 am, please go to the office to sign your student in. It will prevent you getting an SMS that your student is late and makes it a lot easier to keep track of who is on the premises.

Students who arrive by themselves after 8.50 am know to come to the student office to sign themselves in and they do it well.

Mr Marty Perrett
Acting Deputy Principal

APRE News
Congratulations to the seven children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday. Kaitlin Ritchie, Aidan Davis, Lachlan O’Kane, Adrienne Howard, Abby Perrett, Claudia Di Marco, Joanna Haak. I look forward to continuing on the journey of initiation into the Catholic faith with these students.

News to hand, it appears that none of the students or staff in the Bacolod Kindergarten have been killed by the typhoon. Many families have been affected all the same. They had a very secure evacuation centre and they bunkered down there. Our prayers may have been answered to some degree.

Just on that note. The children at the Bacolod Kindergarten might like something to cheer them up. I was hoping that any children out there who have ‘double ups’ of the Woolworth promotion of Australian Animal cards could send them into the school. We’ll wait a couple of weeks and then when we can, we will send them on to the kindergarten. I’m sure they’ll love seeing our Australian animals. So please send in any double ups, or cards you no longer want, to your class teacher or to the office. We don’t need the folders just the cards.

Year 11 are holding a Free Dress Day for Prep to Year 11 to raise money for our friends in the Bacolod Kindergarten. It will be a gold coin donation. This Thursday 21st November. If you are going to wear plain clothes then remember why you are wearing them and bring in the gold coin. Cassie Firman and Ellen Nixon will be heading this cause – thank you girls.

Starting 5th January 2014 the Liturgy of the Word that is celebrated at 10.00am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month at Saint Mary’s Church Kingaroy will now be starting at 8.00am and not 10.00am. The Sunday Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday will remain at 10.00am. New year, looking forward to a new start. It might take some getting used to the change of time but it’s worth a trial.

Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is still going strong. Thank you to all who have brought some Christmas goodies in to their class. Keep them coming in and they will be presented by Mrs Arrell and Year 4/5 to Mrs. Barratt the manager of the Kingaroy Saint Vincent de Paul on the night of the Christmas Concert – 5th December.

Any more volunteers for the Mass this Sunday? Fr. John Hong is leaving this parish and we are having a morning tea after Mass. It is the last college and parish Mass for this year. Thank you to the children who have already seen me but I am looking for two more readers. Please see me if you can come along to Mass next Sunday 24th November.

In the afternoon where does my child wait?
All students wait under the trees that stand tall and provide cool shade out the front of the school. It is a waiting area and not a play area.

There is a supervisor there from 2.50 to 3.10. After that time the children move to the courtyard at the back of the school to wait for parents. Parents usually pop their head into the office to let staff know they are collecting their child.

No student (P-12) is to wait near the staff car park or the driveway of the loading bay, or on the steps out the front of school. All students wait under the trees in the front of the school until 3.10pm when all students move to the courtyard.

Thank you
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

APANews
Reporting.
Staff are currently in the midst of Semester 2 tests, marking and reporting.

The reports will be issued by post in the week beginning Monday 9th December 2013.

The package of posted material will include a copy of “Maryknoll” (the annual College Magazine) and also beginning of 2014 material such as stationery lists, instructions about uniforms and textbooks, and of course important beginning of new year dates.

Homework Support in 2014
We are planning to run support and information sessions for parents in 2014 that cover some of the widest issues associated with students doing homework and studying:

• a dedicated space at home
• the environment at home.
leaving mobile phones in the kitchen
managing the tendency to use social media (Facebook) instead of doing real school work
parents checking on students
sleep, exercise and diets
time management
managing part time work
the intersection of study for exams, completing assignments and doing nightly homework
reading to students
how much help should parents give
what type of help should parents give
what help should parents not give
what is reasonable and effective homework.

Expect more information about Homework early in 2014.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the 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

Swimming has begun this week and will continue all week and next week. The weather seems to be holding. Let’s hope all will be well for the coming weeks.

There will be a letter going home before the end of the year outlining the changes to the Swim Carnival held the second or third week back in 2014. It will affect the Prep to Year 6 students.

The Leadership team is currently working on classes, rooms and teacher allocation for the whole school. The information will be published in the newsletter when finalized.

Prep 2014 Induction morning

Next Tuesday 26th November all the new Prep students for 2014 and their parents are invited to come to Saint Mary’s Catholic College. The Prep students and their parents will have an experiential hour or so in the Prep classroom. This will be followed by a morning tea at around 10.15 for all the parents and their children and teacher. Please arrive at the College ready for a start at 9.00am. Come to the front office and you will be shown the courtyard where you can wait till 9.00am. The current students in Prep will be heading up to their Buddy Classroom during this time. Look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Concert

Christmas Concert P- 6 is on Thursday night 5th December. We start with a sausage sizzle at 5.00pm. Thank you to the P & F for cooking the BBQ. The 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 will be held during the evening. We will also hand 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.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
P-6 Curriculum Support Teacher

Library Corner

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could volunteer some time to help out in the Library over the last few weeks.

From the Guidance Counsellor

Postnatal Depression Awareness Week

According to the Post and Antenatal Depression Association (PANDA) every week in Australia more than 1,000 new parents are diagnosed with Postnatal Depression.

Postnatal Depression Awareness Week started last Sunday 17 November and will finish on 23 November. The week provides an opportunity to raise community awareness about mental health issues in the 'perinatal' period which covers pregnancy (antenatal) to the first year after birth (postnatal). This is a time when women are at higher risk of developing Depression and Anxiety, as well as the less common Bipolar Disorder or Puerperal Psychosis.

Postnatal Depression affects 1 in 7 women following childbirth in Australia (according to statistics from PANDA). Whilst it is commonly believed that only women are affected by postnatal depression, research shows that many men will develop it themselves.

There is now growing recognition that it is just as important to monitor the mental health of new fathers as new mothers. To learn more, we recommend you visit the beyondblue and PANDA websites that offer high quality information and support for both men and women with perinatal mental illness.

Mr Graham Turnbull
Counsellor

Tuckshop News

Friday’s extra choice menu
Cheese Pizza $2.00
Nachos $5.00 Lunch only

Please note because it is nearly end of year some items may not be available.

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor
**SOUTHBURNETT 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 15 November. Nominations forms or more information can be obtained from the Secretary, Cathy on 0408 072 258**

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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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**Prep to 14 years High School ID must be brought**

**Start:** 6:00pm  **Finish:** 8:30pm

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**KINGAROY TOWN HALL**

**Blue Light Disco**

**29th November 2013**

**$5 entry**

**Superhero Theme**

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**Parents must collect their children from inside the hall and may at anytime throughout the night.**