Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Saint Mary's

On the 10th February we will celebrate Ash Wednesday as a College community. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and is a highlight on the Catholic Calendar. The next six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter provide a wonderful opportunity for self-reflection and for thinking about how we can become the best version of ourselves. The season of Lent is a special time when you might share with your children the concepts of prayer and giving to others. My own memories of Lent as a young child were of always having to give something up. As an adult, I prefer to reflect on how giving something up might free up time, money or energy to do something positive for others. Perhaps this week, you could consider as a family how you might help others in need by giving of your time or resources during Lent. 40 Days can be a long time for very young children, so something like the following activity might be helpful to get the conversation started:

**Jellybean Lenten Activity**

On Ash Wednesday set out a glass jar for each child in your family. Determine a behaviour to go with each jellybean colour (see below). Each day the kids can earn a jellybean of any colour for these positive behaviours, **but they cannot eat the jellybeans until Easter**. The kids can’t earn white jellybeans, as these represent the Grace of Christ, which is a gift to us. On Easter morning, the kids wake up to find any empty section of their jars filled up with white jellybeans (the grace and love of God).

Possible colour interpretations (you can always make your own ideas based on the ages and needs of your children):

- **Red** - chose something that the children have to give up for that day to earn the red jellybean. It has to be something they would have had the opportunity to have or do on that day
- **Green** - for good deeds done for others
- **Yellow** - for sharing God’s light through kindness to others
- **Orange** - for prayers at twilight (good behaviour during bedtime prayer time and/or story time)
- **Black/Blue** - for going to bed well
- **Purple** - for apologizing to anyone we hurt with our words or deeds that day
- **Pink** – for forgiving those who apologised to us for hurtful behaviour

Of course, you could easily adapt this for older children and even adults... It’s just a helpful way to remind us of what is important during this time.

**Bomb hoaxes**

You would be aware that a number of schools in Queensland and interstate have been the subject of bomb hoaxes this week. Police believe the calls have originated overseas and are designed to cause disruption and alarm.
Should such a threat be received at our school, we have a critical incident management procedure which would be implemented immediately. The safety of students and staff is always our first priority. Dependent on the nature of the threat, students are either evacuated from buildings to safe areas (which is generally the procedure that would be followed in the event of a bomb threat) or the school is placed into lockdown (in the case of the threat of an intrusion). Students and staff take part in drills each year to practise such scenarios.

Should such a situation arise, we follow the directions of Police at all times. We would endeavour to contact parents by SMS or via the BCE Connect app, to alert you to the situation and any action which Police may request.

It’s unfortunate that a spate of these irresponsible hoaxes has occurred, especially during the very hot weather this week, causing further distress for students in those schools involved. Nonetheless, please be assured that we will always take any such threats seriously and do everything in our power to ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

**Crossing Supervisors**
Thank you to our lovely crossing supervisors who ensure that our children get safely across the road each morning and afternoon. Could I ask that you direct your children to always use the crossing, rather than crossing the road in other places. It is a busy place at the beginning and end of the school day, so it is very important that everyone follows the directions of the crossing supervisors. It is also important for our older students to set a good example for our young ones by showing them how to do the right thing.

I hope that the first full week of classes has gone well for you and your families.

God Bless

*Mrs Angela Myles*
Principal

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**Head of Secondary News**

**Preparing for Lent: Helping Children understand fasting**

On Ash Wednesday, we will hear Christ teaching his disciples how to do penance (Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18). He focused on three traditional areas for penance in Jewish life. These are fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

How to apply these principles to our school-age children’s lives? What can we do to teach them (not force them) to do penance for the love of Christ?

This week, we will discuss the concept of fasting:

**Fasting**

C. S. Lewis makes a very interesting point about gluttony in his books. He points out other types of gluttony besides overeating. These include being overly concerned about what, when and how we eat. For our children, this translates into refusing to eat anything but pizza and doughnuts, or, in the less extreme cases, into a strong dislike for vegetables.

Let’s encourage our children, instead of doing the obvious, giving up sweets, to try to overcome one of their food aversions. Make sure they understand that this change should be from the heart, and should not be done grudgingly. If it is done well, it will be a true penance which will have a lasting benefit.

Be sure they understand that it’s not necessary to like the food, only to overcome their dislike of it enough to eat it. Because of our fallen human nature, we can’t always control our likes and dislikes, and God doesn’t expect this superhuman ability from us.

He does expect us to bring obedience to the table.

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**Updating Parent Contact Details**

Parents are reminded that if they need to be contacted, the details on our computer system need to be correct and current. In the event of student injury or serious behaviour breach, parents need to be contacted immediately. Please use the following link [https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/sbcc](https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/sbcc) if you have activated your Parent Portal and click on the Update Details icon to change phone numbers or addresses as needed. If this is not possible please email the College at pkingaroy@bne.catholic.edu.au to update your details. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

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**Student Counter**

I would like to remind parents and students of the following procedures to ensure smooth running of the student counter. If your child arrives from 8.50am he/she will need to sign in late. Students wishing to sign out to attend appointments etc will need to provide a note or phone call from home advising the office and will need to sign out at the student counter. We ask all parents of primary students to please come and sign in and sign out their children via the student counter.

**Consent forms** need to be returned preferably in the morning to the student counter to facilitate correct marking of each event. All realise your dignity
Consent forms need to be returned prior to the excursion/activity your child is attending.

**Mobile phones** need to be handed into the student reception before homeroom of each day. This ensures the safety of your child’s valuable equipment. Students are not to contact parents via their phones during the day. Please remind your child if they are unwell or need to contact home please come and see Mrs Rutley or office staff at the student counter. All valuable items will be returned to your child after homeroom each afternoon.

**Student absences** can now be lodged via the direct student absence line 4160 0950 out of office hours. This facility enables you to lodge your child’s absence quickly and efficiently. You can also lodge your child’s absence via the parent portal or phoning the College between 8am and 4pm.

If your child requires medication during school time, please provide it to Mrs Rutley at the student counter with a chemist label to state your child’s name and dosage etc. You will need to complete a Medication Distribution Form which can be located on the College website or at the student counter.

**College Photos**

Parents and students are reminded that College photo day is Friday, 26th February. Students are expected to wear full formal uniform including ties. Students will be expected to wear their formal uniform on Tuesday as per normal. Photos will be taken in the Maryknoll Centre. A schedule will be sent out next week. Sibling photos are available. Please see student services for a sibling photo order form.

God bless,
Mr Sean Erwin
Head of Secondary

**GPA News**

**Laptop Computers Induction Night**

All Year 9 students and parents / carers are required to attend the Laptop Induction Night to be held in the Maryknoll Centre on Wednesday, 10th February at 7.00pm.

You are probably aware that all Year 9 students will be required to use the College laptops for the next 4 years of schooling at Saint Mary’s. These computers are an essential part of student learning.

However, there are many issues that need to be understood and agreed upon before students assume possession of these computers.

These issues include: breakages, insurance, ownership, cyber bullying, classroom etiquette, etc.

The College laptop program also carries with it some responsibilities for both students and parents. Below is a summary of important information about this matter, and it also contains some useful advice for parents who have to manage the students and their laptops at home.

**Laptop Computer Essential Information**

- It is not the student’s laptop. It is the property of the College until the end of Year 12.
- It becomes the student’s laptop at the end of Year 12, after the laptop has BCE licensed software removed.
- If a student leaves before Year 12, the laptop is returned to the College.
- Students should not share passwords with friends under any circumstances.
- The College tracks all websites that students visit using the College Internet.
- It is the parent’s responsibility to track what sites are visited at home.
- At home, suggest all internet connected devices (phones, laptops, tablets, etc) are handed over to parents at 9pm each night.
- Laptops should be fully charged at home ready for the next day at school. (There is no guarantee that a student can sit near a power point and chargers get borrowed, broken or stolen.)
- Not to be used at Morning Tea and lunch times.
- All damages/faults should be reported to Mr Lesleigher ASAP. If the damage/fault requires action an Incident Report Form will need to be completed.
- All instances of loss, damage or theft are the responsibility of the student. The College will insure the laptops whilst the student is attending Saint Mary’s Catholic College. If damage is found to be from neglect the cost of repairs and replacement may be up to $1,000 (payable by the student/parents). If insurance will cover the repairs parents will still be responsible for the $150 insurance excess.

**realise your dignity**
Social Media use is not acceptable at school
Teacher will indicate when laptops are to be used - Do not assume that in every lesson, a computer will be used

Regards
Mr John Dalton
APA

ASH WEDNESDAY - 10th February

Sackcloth and ashes have been identified with sorrow and repentance since ancient times. In our time we are signed with ashes on our foreheads at the beginning of the Lenten season. Ashes not only sign us for Christ with the mark of the cross, but they also remind us of the fragility and weakness of human life. We are on earth only for a relatively short time and at our inevitable death our bodies will return to dust and ashes.

Our Christian faith teaches us that death is not the end. We have been given the assurance of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Christ. The Church provides us with the Lenten season of fasting and prayer to invite us to turn again to Christ in response to his saving love.

The Collect prayer of Ash Wednesday speaks of Lent as a ‘campaign of Christian service’. Our campaign of service is spelt out for us in today’s Gospel. Fasting and prayer and the doing of good deeds for others in the form of almsgiving, such as through giving to Project Compassion, are the ways we are invited to live our discipleship during this time.

Project Compassion
Pope Francis declared, education is an act of hope. Today at our Ash Wednesday Liturgy we also introduce this theme for Lent. Even though in Australia, every child is offered an education, it is important our students realise this is not the case globally. Education is a privilege and one that comes at great cost to many parents and families around the world.

There is a story of great courage, brutality and triumph in the life of a young girl named Malala Yousafzai. She spoke out about girls’ right to education and nearly lost her life for it. I would encourage parents and families to research a little about her and talk about the story with their children. I will only touch on her story as part of our theme and the story comes with a warning, that there are some websites and youtube clips about this girl that can be quite graphic and disturbing and will require parental supervision.

Kind regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

Office News

2016 College Fees and Levies

Term 1 Fees Statements will be processed this week and emailed out to all families who have provided a valid email to the College. If you have not provided an email address, statements have been posted. If you wish to check your details or update your email, please contact the College office. Families are welcome to contact the office to make payment earlier should they wish, however issuing of Term 1 Statements has been delayed until secondary student electives and College bus rolls are finalised.

Families without a direct debit in place and wishing to use this payment method should contact the office immediately to start instalments now. The longer the time frame over which instalments are spread, the smaller the instalment amounts. While the College will accept payments by instalments, we do need to know the amount and timing of these payments and it’s preferred that these instalments be done via Direct Debit or BPAY.

Kind regards
Miss Kym Schultz
Business Manager

Uniform Shop News

The Uniform shop is open every Wednesday from 8am to 11am and Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

Thanks
Mrs Joanne Bellert
Uniform Shop

realise your dignity
The Anxiety of Opening
- Pema Chodron

A first step [in remaining open] is to understand that a feeling of dread or psychological discomfort might just be a sign that old habits are getting liberated, that we are moving closer to the natural open state. To practise wakefulness we could find ourselves in a constant state of anxiety. Personally, I've found this to be true. After a while I realised that since the shakiness wasn't going away, I might as well get to know it. When our attitude toward fear becomes more welcoming and inquisitive, there's a fundamental shift that occurs. Instead of spending our lives tensing up, as if we were in the dentist's chair, we learn that we can connect with the freshness of the moment and relax.

Kind regards
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

Library Corner

Library Borrowing Times

- Mondays - Year 4, Year 4/5, Year 5
- Tuesdays - Prep A, Prep B, Year 1A, Year 1B, Year 2
- Wednesday - Year 3
- Friday - Year 6A, Year 6B

Reading Programs

The Take-home reader Program (Year 1-2) has begun this week. Please note that Preps begin the Take Home Reader Program later in the year. Your child will receive a pack of four readers in a labelled plastic bag. These readers are meant for your student to read to you and not the other way around. It is a great way for them to practise their sight words and word recognition. Please return the pack in the plastic bag to the yellow box in your child's classroom each Tuesday morning.

Accelerated Reader is an online reading program that motivates students to read more often, with a focus on comprehension and at a level that is appropriate to them. The most powerful aspect of Accelerated Reader is the data it provides to teachers, schools and parents about their students' reading habits and abilities. It is planned for Accelerated Reader to begin next week. More detailed information will be provided to parents and families this week.

Overdue Library Books from 2015

Please insist that your child returns all textbooks that they may still have from last year. Several reminders for outstanding books as well as a final letter was sent out last week. Please note that there is a period of a week for these books to be returned or the library contacted. Invoices will be sent out at the end of this week should this not occur. Once invoiced, there can be no refunds even if books are returned.

Kind regards
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Assessment Calendars

Year 7-12 assessment calendars will be distributed to students by the end of Week 3.

Kind regards
Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7 to 10 Teaching and Learning Leader

Year 7 to 12 Sports Coordinator News

Swimming Carnival - Thursday, 11th February

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held this Thursday at the Kingaroy Aquatic Centre. All students are to go to Homeroom to get their names marked off the class rolls. Students will be transported to and from the pool by our College buses. Please remember to bring sunscreen, towel, hat and water bottle. House colours may be worn to and from school. Students are not to leave the pool without parental permission or permission from a member of Leadership (Mr Erwin, Mr Dalton, Mr Perrett, Mrs Myles).

All parents are welcome to come and watch the carnival events.

realise your dignity
Please see the schedule of events below:
1) 9.20am - Carnival commences
2) 10yrs to Open Boys and Girls Freestyle Heats
3) 10yrs to Open Boys and Girls Backstroke Heats
4) 11.00am - Morning Tea
5) 10yrs to Open Boys and Girls Breaststroke Heats
6) 10yrs to Open Boys and Girls Butterfly Heats
7) 12.30pm - Lunch
8) 10yrs to Open Boys and Girls Relays, including medley relays (if time)
9) 2.15pm - Carnival completed students transported back to the College.
10) 2.55pm - Students dismissed from Homeroom

Mr Allan Medlen
Year 7 to 12 Sports Coordinator

Year 10 to 12 Student Wellbeing News
The fresh start for 2016 at Saint Mary's brings with it the new spirit of leadership within the Year 12 classes. The strong spirit of community and the encouraging faces of students and parents bring lots of hope for the New Year.

As the year progresses I will be speaking individually with Year 11 students. The Latin phrase 'Quo Vadis' meaning 'Where are you going?' will be the focus of these discussions and it is of benefit to make use of the school's Benedictine tradition to form goals for their future direction. Individual commitment to the student's senior role will provide a good foundation for the leadership camp later in the year consolidating further these goals and aspirations.

There is a real excitement about the college especially under the guidance of our new Principal. It is also a pleasure to work with a wellbeing team who are all strongly committed to the interests and needs of the students. I'm sure the year ahead will bring an array of challenges but there remains a confidence which dispels all apprehension with the team at hand.

God's Blessings for the 2016 school year ahead!
Mr Paul Fomiatti
Year 10 to 12 Student Wellbeing Leader

Music Notes
Orchestra is GO!
The Senior Orchestra had its first rehearsal for the year on Monday, and I am happy to report that we managed to tackle a brand new piece of music with ease. The acoustics of the new Music Centre are great, too. New players are welcome to join, but must be at Book 2 standard.

Our Secondary Choir Needs a Name
I am interested in giving the Secondary Choir a better name than 'Secondary Choir'. I welcome any suggestions, and these can be emailed directly to me. There will be a small prize for the person who submits the winning name.

Singing Teacher
Our new Singing Teacher, Ms Shannon Cridge, will be starting lessons soon. If you would like to arrange lessons, please complete an Enrolment Form, which is available from the College Office. Students may learn individually, or in a small group, which is a more cost-effective option.

Tuition is also available on woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, strings, and guitar.

‘Little Shop of Horrors’ Auditions
Congratulations to our Saint Mary's students who bravely auditioned for the South Burnett Musical Comedy Society's new production on the weekend. The Director, Mr Warren Wintour, has places available in the Chorus, and I encourage the singers, dancers and actors of all ages within our College community to participate. It's great fun and wonderful for musical theatre skill development. Mr Wintour is also looking for people who are interested in rolling up their sleeves to paint sets and create costumes; and the new digital sound desk needs a Tech Crew (aged over 15 years) to operate it.

Warren Wintour, can be contacted via the company email: sbmcs@gmx.com or 41690447.

realise your dignity
**Wanted: Drum Kit and/or Piano Teacher**

The College is experiencing strong demand for intermediate to advanced tuition on drum kit and piano. If you are a Drum Kit and/or Piano Teacher and would like more information about these part-time vacancies, please email your resume to the College by Friday, 11th March 2016.

Yours in Music,
Mrs Jane Izslaub
Music Coordinator

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**STEAM News**

**STEAM Residents**

Stuartholme School runs residential programs for intellectually and creatively gifted girls who demonstrate interest and academic talents in areas known collectively as STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths.

Students are taught by experienced teachers who provide challenges in STEAM subject areas. Each Residential has an advanced program of workshops to engage gifted girls intellectually, academically, socially and emotionally.

During the residential, students will meet women working in STEAM related areas to learn about career opportunities and find out what it takes to achieve personally, academically and professionally.

Gifted girls will have an opportunity to learn alongside students with similar abilities and interests. They will be engaged and challenged, have fun and learn with other students who think like them and share their interests.

Girls will learn about themselves and others while gaining knowledge and developing skills essential for building bright futures. Each girl is encouraged to discuss issues that are important to learning and thriving, so she can discover how to be the best she can be.

**Venue:** Stuartholme School, 365 Birdwood Terrace, Toowong, Brisbane

**Dates:** Years 5&6 - 6th to 9th April 2016, Year 7&8 - 26th to 29th June 2016

**Students:** Gifted girls

**Cost:** $420 (includes accommodation, meals, workshops and activities). Subject to successful sponsorship, rural families may be eligible for travel subsidy.

**Information:** Contact Michele Juratowitch on email michele@clearingskies.com.au or telephone 07 3871 3561

**Updates:** To receive updates, please email michele@clearskies.com.au

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**Home Economics News**

The Home Economics department is looking for donations of fabric for textiles projects in 2016. If you have any fabric you no longer need (large pieces are preferable), please contact the school or drop it into the office.

Regards
Ms Amy Woodruff
Home Economics Teacher

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**Senior Dance News**

On Tuesday the year 10, 11 & 12 Dance students had the opportunity to experience a full day workshop with the Luis Pinto from the Megalam dance company. Based in Brisbane, Louis is world renowned for his innovative and current Hip Hop style and choreography.

This experience was invaluable for students, as it enabled them to gain an understanding of Hip Hop Dance styles such as; popping, locking, gliding, crumping, street jazz and lyrical hip hop. The aim of this activity was to expand students’ repertoire of performance and choreography styles and further develop their knowledge and confidence in Hip Hop dance.

Students will be performing this dance at the Kingaroy Eisteddfod and later at the annual Celebration of the Arts night.

Regards
Mrs Angelique Arden
Senior Dance Teacher
Friday Specials
Morning Tea and Lunch - Potato Scallops - $2.00
Morning Tea and Lunch - Baked Ravioli - $3.50

Please note: Due to supplier issues some stock will not be available for purchase. We will substitute where necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

***During Lent we will not be serving meat on Ash Wednesday (10th February) and every Friday until the end of the term.***

***There are NO Pies or Sausage Rolls sold on Fridays.***

LENT
Next Wednesday, 10th February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent where no meat will be served. From the 10th February there will be no meat sold, this includes chicken products at the tuckshop on Fridays until the end of Term. The alternative menu will include fish etc. Menu options will be published each week in the newsletter.

You will note that our menu has been revamped. There have been some items withdrawn and others added in. There have also been some price rises have occurred. Please make sure you have the current menu at home on your fridge. If you have misplaced your menu, they are available from the office.

Donation of Goods
If you are able to donate any of the following items during the year, it would be greatly appreciated. Below are the main ingredients we use, however, any donations are more than welcome.

- Self Raising Flour
- Desiccated Coconut
- Plain Flour
- Brown Sugar
- Caster Sugar
- Beef Stock Powder
- Small Tinned Pineapple Slices
- Small Tinned Corn

These can be dropped into the Tuckshop on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or to the College Office.

Ordering and Payment
For Prep to Year 5 students it is recommended that you use the paper bag system. Your child’s order can be placed in the tuckshop baskets in their classroom in the mornings and this is then delivered to the tuckshop. Orders will be filled and returned to the classes at morning tea and lunch. This will ensure that they will have their lunch on time. Please do not use sticky tape or staples when using paper bags for ordering. It makes it difficult to get the bags undone without tearing. Plastic bags are not suitable for ordering, it is very difficult to place your child’s order inside them. Bags can be purchased from the tuckshop for 0.5c each.

The paper bag ordering system is for Prep to Year 5 as well as High School. The high school students place their bag orders at the tuckshop before school.

Slush Puppies
Please make sure your child is aware that if they order slush puppies, they must collect them from the tuckshop. They are not able to be placed into the tuckshop baskets.

Have great week!

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Parents and Friends News
Welcome back to all our families. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to any new families to our College. We had a wonderful start to the College year by holding our annual Family Fun Day. Thanks go out to Suzanne Mungall for all her efforts in organising the day. Here’s how the day went in Suzanne’s words:

An enthusiastic group of nearly 200 people turned out despite the weather on Saturday 30th of January for our 2nd annual Family
Fun Day. New and old families enjoyed a range of free activities and games: jumping castle, tug of war, target throwing, thong throwing, face painting and biscuit making. But as expected, the real interest and competition was in the fiercely contested 3 legged race. I am sure that the winners will be back next year to defend their title.

This year we had very mature and hard working group of year 12 students come along and help run activities. The P & F will be thanking the year 12s for this effort by making a contribution to their Valedictory fund.

A number of the school staff took the opportunity to mingle and mix with families they teach. They have reported that the Family Fun Day has helped strengthen relationships with students. Sincere thanks to Mr Marty Perrett for his untriring leadership at the Family Fun Day.

The success of the day, relied on our volunteering families. Thank you to the following families: Andersson, Bottrell, Burnarge, Crane, Corbett, Cridge, Erwins, Hetherington, Jeffs, Hunts, Jacob, McCarthy, McFarlane, Reinbotts, Ritchie, Robertson, Somers, Watson. Our volunteering families’ warmth openness, and generosity cannot be fabricated. I am sure new parents who attended the day now feel they now belong to a wonderful group of families.

Our next P&F meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th February at 7pm in the College Boardroom located in Administration. Everyone welcome to attend.

Looking forward to another exciting P&F year.

God bless
Mrs Susan Robertson
P&F President

Whipcracking News

Whip Cracking Team Upcoming Events
• Saturday, 5th March Proston Show - (Whipcracking Competition & Performance)
• Saturday, 2nd April Kilkivan Great Horse Ride (Performance)
• Thursday, 19th May Rural Queensland Show Rural Discovery Day (Performance)
• Saturday, 6th August Royal Queensland Show Australian Stockwhip Challenge (EKKA Competition & Performance)
• Friday, 14th October Chinchilla Grandfather Clock (Performance)

Whipcracking Practice
Whipcracking practice every Wednesday morning tea. Please meet outside Prep A. Please bring your whips, hats and safety glasses.

Queensland Whipcracking Championships
The Queensland Whipcracking Championships were held on the weekend at Clifton Showgrounds. The Saint Mary’s Whipcracking Team sent representatives to the competition. The students performed extremely well on the day and came home with ribbons, prize money and smiles all round. The judges and organisers once again congratulated the Saint Mary’s students on their presentation, manners and high standard of sportsmanship and skill.

• Juvenile (12yrs & Under)- Molly Wernecke 1st & Milly Airs 2nd
• Junior (16yrs & Under)- Steph Arrell 2nd, Isla Airs 3rd
• Novice - Molly Wernecke

Kind regards
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Whip Cracking Coordinator
Kokoda Challenge News

**Kokoda Sausage Sizzle**

A sausage sizzle will be held at school at big lunch 12:30-1pm outside the Maryknoll canteen on the following date:

- **Tuesday, 23rd February**

All students will be able to purchase a sausage on bread and 100% fruit juice. Primary and Secondary students will be served in separate lines. The prices are:

- Sausage on bread: $2.00
- Fruit juice popper: $1.50

Students and Staff continue training for the **20th of March** Kokoda challenge in Toowoomba according to the following schedule:

**Kokoda 2016 Training Dates and Events**

The actual event for the Toowoomba Kokoda Challenge (30km walk) is held on **Sunday the 20th March**. We will be staying at St Saviour’s College hall on Saturday 19th from 4pm till 6am on Sunday Morning.

The Kokoda Training days leading up to the event are as follows:

1. **Sunday 14th Feb.** Bunya Mt. (13km) 11pm - 3:30pm (buses leave school 9:40am return 4:45pm)
2. **Monday 22nd Feb.** Local walk 3pm -5pm railway walk (bus travel not provided)
3. **Sunday 28th Feb**. Moore to Benarkin (15km) 11:30pm - 3:30pm (buses leave school 9:00am return 5:30pm)
4. **Monday 7th Mar.** Local walk 3pm -5pm near Mt Wooroolin (buses provided)
5. **Monday 14th Mar.** 3pm Meeting at school and cross training
6. **Saturday 19th Mar.** 1.40pm Buses leave from school for St Saviour’s College hall
7. **Sunday 20th Mar.** Kokoda Event: Toowoomba hinterland (map available on line) Starts at 6:30am end around 2:30pm buses arrive back at school 5:30pm.

EVENT DAY: Students will be expected to bring their own food and drink during these training walks along with a light backpack.

Parental involvement is encouraged during training and at the actual event.

A full list of event requirements, including sunscreen, hats, walking shoes, backpack etc. will be provided at the next training session.

Should you require more information please do not hesitate to contact us during school hours. Further, you can access event information using the following web link: [http://kokodachallenge.com/toowoomba-kokoda-challenge-event-details](http://kokodachallenge.com/toowoomba-kokoda-challenge-event-details).

I am looking forward to undertaking the Kokoda challenge with this fine group of dedicated students and teachers.

Kind regards

Mr Wayne Dunbrack
Event Coordinator

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International Competitions & Assessment for Schools 2016

To Parents and Carers,

**Each year** more than one million entries are accepted to participate in ICAS from over 6300 schools across Australia, New Zealand and 20 other countries. Students from Year 2 to Year 12 at St Mary’s are invited to participate in this year’s ICAS. The assessments comprise of an **English** test, **Maths** test, **Science** test, **Spelling** test and **Writing** test. While the ICAS competition is not compulsory, the experience has proven to be beneficial for students and is highly recommended.

**realise your dignity**
The subject categories, closing date, competition date and costs are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
<th>FEE  $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>17th May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>16th August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
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<td>2nd August</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>13th-17th June</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPELLING</td>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>2nd August</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparation for ICAS tests is not required as the assessments are skills based. However, practice questions are available on the ICAS website.

A letter of permission will be sent home to all parents this term. To participate please sign the nomination form and return the form along with fees to the school office.

For further information please contact Mr. Dunbrack during school hours.

Kind regards
Mr Wayne Dunbrack
Year 11 to Year 12 Teaching and Learning Leader
Kingaroy Junior Redbacks

“On-line” Registration is NOW OPEN for ALL re-registering and new players.

Go to www.myfootballclub.com.au and follow the prompts…. by registering and paying in full by Saturday 13th February you automatically go in the draw to receive a refund of one Registration.

REDBACKS Sign On & Information Day - Saturday 13th February, 2016

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions and to try on / purchase any gear required at great prices.

9am – 1:30pm, at the Junior Clubhouse located at Oliver-Bond Street (off Youngman Street).

Both boys and girls (turning 5 to 16 years) of any playing ability are encouraged to join the REDBACKS club.

Every player receives a free training ball when fees are paid in full.

For more information please don’t hesitate to contact our Club Registrar (Denise) : 0456 236 697

Both returning & new players are to “Register On-line” as early as possible so that organising of teams can commence.

Please also checkout our Website (google Kingaroy Junior Redbacks) and our Facebook page for more details.
National Poetry Competition – 2016

The AAEGT (Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented) is holding a national poetry competition as part of Gifted Awareness Week 2016.

The Poem:
Submitted poems should be an expression of what giftedness means to the author. The poem can be any form or text type and should be suited to national publication. This includes, but is not limited to, state, territory and AAEGT websites, social media and written publications.

Age Categories:
1. 8 and under
2. 9 – 12 years
3. 13 – 17 years
4. 18 years and over

Judging Criteria
Poems will be judged on the expression of giftedness and the quality of expression, with recognition of both originality and creativity. State/territory winners will be chosen by the AAEGT affiliated association representing each state/territory. National winners will be chosen by the AAEGT and will be selected from the state and territory winners for each category.

Submission
Poems must be submitted to your AAEGT State/territory affiliation association no later than 8pm on Friday 26th of February, 2016. Details on the form below must be included with the poem submission.

Announcement of Winners
Winners will be announced during Gifted Awareness Week 2016 via the AAEGT website and Facebook page.

### AAEGT National Poetry Competition - Entry form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME:</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARENT CONTACT DETAILS (if under 18 years):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME:</td>
<td>PHONE NUMBER:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please select the following:

1. I certify that the submission is the complete work of the entrant named above.
2. I understand judging and submission requirements outlined on this form.
3. I agree that my work may be published in association with Gifted Awareness Week events.
4. I understand that the judge’s decision is final.

SIGNATURE: DATE:
MEDIA RELEASE

02 February 2016

Up to 484 Census Area Supervisors needed across Queensland

Are you a good communicator, care about your community, and have strong project and people skills? If you answered yes, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is keen to hear from you.

Up to 484 Area Supervisors are needed for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing on 9 August 2016, to manage Census operations across the Gold Coast in the southeast, to Cairns in the north, and Mount Isa in the west.

Queensland Census Director, Sally Pritchard said that Area Supervisors will play a key role, earning close to $35 per hour, and working flexible hours for up to five months.

“Every five years the Census provides an important statistical snapshot of our nation.

“We can’t collect information from close to 10 million dwellings and approximately 24 million people in Australia without the help of the large workforce we recruit each Census,” Ms Pritchard said.

Charles Passi is typical of the passionate Area Supervisors who participated in the 2011 Census.

“What I really liked about being involved in was seeing people as they really are in their communities, getting involved, and showing that we care about our communities,” Mr Passi said.

Fellow 2011 Census Area Supervisor Fraser Nye agrees.

“To me the Census is about the humans behind the number. We are valuable and important and it’s about us telling our story,” Mr Nye said.

The roles and responsibilities of field staff will reflect the 2016 Census digital-first approach, with 65 per cent of Australian households expected to complete the Census online.

“Area Supervisors will need to be tech-savvy and have a home based computer to access online training and manage team workloads.

“Each Area Supervisor will recruit, train, lead, and supervise a team of up to 12 Field Officers who will visit homes to support people completing the Census. They will also quality check delivery and collection activities, protect data security, and ensure the health and safety of their teams,” Ms Pritchard said.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or have the legal right to work in Australia, and hold a valid driver’s licence. Applications close on 21 February 2016. To view the applicant information kits and to apply online, visit abs.gov.au/careers
MEDIA RELEASE

Background information on the 2016 Census of Population and Housing
Data collected from the 2016 Census will support funding decisions for services and infrastructure including housing, transport, education, industry, hospitals, and the environment.

The Census will also track Australia’s changing social and economic landscape. The Census also provides an important statistical snapshot. For example, the 2011 Census revealed that 4.3 million people lived in Queensland and the median age was 36.

For further information on the 2016 Census, visit census.abs.gov.au

Key 2016 Census dates:
21 February 2016
2 May 2016
Late July to early August 2016
9 August 2016
Mid-August to late September 2016
First half of 2017

Area Supervisor applications close
Field Officer recruitment begins
Instruction letters and forms will be delivered
Census night
Field visits
The first results from the 2016 Census released

Media contact:
National Media Manager (P) 1300 175 070 (E) media@abs.gov.au

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.
Apply now to be a 2016 Census Area Supervisor!
The Australia Bureau of Statistics is seeking motivated and community minded project managers to work on the 2016 Census and make a difference in your community.

Area Supervisors are:
• Non-office based positions requiring travel
• Casual temporary positions, with flexible working hours.

As an Area Supervisor, you will:
• Recruit, manage and train a small team of temporary Census field staff
• Implement and manage the Census delivery and collection processes and procedures
• Undertake a range of administrative tasks, including the receipt, handling and storage of a range of Census materials
• Earn $34.76 per hour (inclusive of 25% loading).

As an Area Supervisor, you must:
• Know your local community
• Hold a current driver’s licence
• Be comfortable using computer, tablet and mobile devices
• Comply with ABS work health and safety policies
• Hold Australian Citizenship or have the legal right to work in Australia.

Job seekers from diverse backgrounds, including non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are encouraged to apply.

More information is available from the ABS website. Apply online at abs.gov.au/careers

realise your dignity