To A Child

In the faint light of the attic, an old man, tall and stooped, made his way to a stack of boxes that sat near one of the little half-windows. Brushing aside cobwebs, he began to carefully lift out one old photograph album after another. Eyes once bright but now dim searched longingly for the source that had drawn him here. Silent as a mouse, he patiently opened the long buried treasures and soon was lost in a sea of memories. Setting aside one of the dusty albums, he pulled from the box a journal from his grown son’s childhood. He could not recall ever having seen it before, or that his son had ever kept a journal. Opening the yellowed pages, he glanced over a short reading, and his lips curved in an unconscious smile. Even his eyes brightened as he read the words that spoke clear and sweet to his soul. It was the voice of the little boy who had grown up in this very house, and whose voice had grown fainter and fainter over the years. In the utter silence of the attic, the words of a guileless six-year-old worked their magic and carried the old man back to a time almost totally forgotten.

Entry after entry stirred a sentimental hunger in his heart. But it was accompanied by the painful memory that his son’s simple recollections of those days were far different from his own. But how different?

Reminded that he had kept a daily journal of his business activities over the years, he closed his son’s journal and headed down a carpeted stairway that led to his den where it was kept. Opening a glass cabinet door, he reached in and pulled out an old business journal. He sat at his desk and placed the two journals beside each other. His was leather-bound and engraved neatly with his name in gold, while his son’s was tattered and the name “Jimmy” had been nearly scuffed from its surface. He ran a long skinny finger over the letters, as though he could restore what had been worn away with time and use.

As he opened his own journal, the old man’s eyes fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words:

Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy, Didn’t catch a thing.

With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took Jimmy’s journal and found the boy’s entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read:

Went fishing with my Dad. Best day of my life.

Lance Wubbels

This story illustrates the difference in perception between adults and children with regard to daily events. Children want parent’s time and will do anything to get it. The constant juggle between work and home life is a difficult situation to deal with, however we must try at all times. No child has said “Gee I wish Dad worked a bit more”. Quite the opposite.

May God bless all parents in their quest to raise their wonderful children to their fullest potential.

I would like to congratulate Angelique Cook, Kaitlyn Tucker, Wade Toms and Michael Scanlan as they move towards completion of their studies in Religious Education. Completion of the REAP program for beginning teachers equates to one unit credit for Masters degree, should these teachers wish to undertake further study. Well done!

Fees for 2014 are included as an insert in this week’s newsletter. In accordance with BCE policy tuition fees have been increased by 2 %. Levies have remained unchanged for 2014. If you have any queries regarding next year’s fees or intend applying for a concession please contact the office in the next couple of days.

God bless and have a lovely week
From the Deputy

Hot Weather
With the onset of summer it is timely to remind students to drink lots of water, bring and wear their hats and look after personal hygiene. As in most schools, aerosol cans are not permitted, so roll-on deodorant is the way to go.

Return of Books
The Resource Centre staff is busy trying to collect all outstanding library and text books. Parents will be invoiced for books that are not returned by the end of year. You can assist your children by reminding them and perhaps checking their bedrooms for library items.

The Finish
Any decent short to middle distance runner has their longest most efficient stride working at the end of the race. I might be hopeful in expecting the entire student body to be the same, but it is aspirational.

In the remaining days teachers are expecting students to be punctual and turn up ready to engage in what has been organised. These are possibly new and different activities. The temptation may be to slacken right off, but now the academic pressure might be easing, we will be encouraging students to remain on task, open to new experiences and be helpful and cooperative.

Mr Marty Perrett
Acting Deputy Principal

APANews
Who Do You Thank?
There are many people and groups who perform tasks that are essential to the functioning of our College. And yet are completely unknown to our College Community (students, staff and parents).
Consider for a moment the importance of bus fare assistance to our College. At the moment, families only pay a $25 per week threshold fare, irrespective of how many students use the bus or how far they travel. That is a lot better than paying the full fare, which for a couple of students from Murgon or Blackbutt, could be as high as $9-00 / trip /student (or $180 week, $7200 per year). It’s not hard to see the impact on enrolment that paying the full fare would have.
For many years, before the advent of the current subsidy arrangements, the Murgon / Wondai parents ran the bus run to the College and also conducted weekly bingo in Murgon just to keep the bus fares low enough for families to pay.
It all became a lot easier for everyone in 1998 when Leo Dunne, Qld Catholic Schools P and F President assembled a group consisting of Allan Todd (Principal of Redland College Brisbane) and myself (representing rural Catholic schools) to devise a scheme to divert State money (Class E conveyance allowance for those who remember it) into a fund managed by a new group with representatives from both Catholic and Non-Government Schools.
Leo Dunne retired many years ago, and at our last management meeting I gave a vote of thanks on behalf of our school community to Mr Allan Todd who is retiring this year. Allan has been a great spokesperson for the NGSTAS scheme (Non-Government School Transport Assistance Scheme), a very perceptive Chairman of the group, and a much respected Principal for Redlands College since it started 27 years ago.
So we thank Allan, (someone most of us have ever met) for his part in ensuring our bus fares are payable and that our College can have students from Blackbutt, Yarraman, Nanango and also from Cherbourg, Murgon, Wondai attending school with us,

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.

Prep to Year 6 News
What a lovely morning we had yesterday meeting with the new Prep’s and their families. It was an industrious morning for the littlies and the parents had what could be considered information overload. We meet again next Tuesday when the children stay in the classroom and the parents come to Room 2 for their presentation.

A reminder that the uniform shop is open next Tuesday (Orientation Day) from 8.00am to 11.00am and again on Wednesday 8.00am to 11.00am.

Thank you to the Year 3 students who have been consistently selling plaited wool bracelets to the students. The money raised goes to the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.
The Christmas appeal for Saint Vincent de Paul has been very successful and a tribute to the big hearts of the people of the Saint Mary’s Community. A big thank you to all the parents and students who have contributed to this appeal. This appeal officially finishes up this week but we can still take donations up until the Christmas Carols night – next Thursday.
The Aussie Animals collector cards are coming in thick and fast. Thank you. I am sure that the children in the Bacolod Kindergarten will love them and that it will take their minds of their much bigger problems. As mentioned last week, while there is no official word we have heard from Sr. Leonie Duenas, SGS, that in the early days all were well. The Free Dress day raised over $330 dollars and we will send that and the cards to Bacolod as soon as we have sold and reliable communication with the Kindergarten staff.

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
From the Guidance Counsellor

Signs your child may be struggling with change

As parents, we can sometimes watch anxiously as our children head off into new frontiers. It’s important that we give them positive messages about their ability to cope with the changes they are dealing with. And while we should monitor how they are going, with older children and teenagers, it’s important to give them some independence and a sense of responsibility appropriate to their age. This kind of attitude will help build their sense of being able to cope with change.

Sometimes, however, there will be changes that our children struggle to adjust to. Or, there may be elements of the change that are causing undue distress. This is when we need to step in and take some action. Signs your child or teenager may be struggling include:

- Avoiding social situations, wanting to stay home and not go to school or participate in normal activities
- Persistent low mood
- Sudden tearfulness
- Withdrawing from family relationships
- Problems getting to sleep, or regular wakefulness in the night
- Loss of appetite

The best way to assess whether your child is having difficulties adjusting to their new situation is to keep the lines of communication open. Really listen, in an engaged, non-judgemental way, without problem solving or advising. If your child communicates a worry or concern they have, try to tune in by saying words like, ‘You seem really worried about that’ or ‘I can see that must have been pretty upsetting.

Meanwhile, we need to step in and take some action.

Miss Tucker will not be conducting tutoring on Thursday afternoons for the remainder of the term.

Best regards,
Kaitlyn Tucker

P & F News

As this is the second last week of school for 2013 I see it fit that we end the year on a lighter note instead of facts and figures. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the active members of the P & F. Our members have selflessly volunteered their time and skills week after week month after month over the school year to provide the extra funding and support for our school so that the facilities, grounds and educational and sporting needs of all students can be met.

I am not one to single people out but there are a couple of people I feel have gone above and beyond. Fiona O’Kane for not just being our Treasurer but a driving force and parent representative of the SWPPB. Fiona makes everything look easy. Nichole Moller was the driving force behind the St Mary’s Spring Racing Marquee at the Wondai races back in October. I think Nichole may have a twin or triplet as I think she single handedly organised the entire event. Every time I asked a question she had already covered it. Well done Nichole, I can’t wait till next year’s race day.

Over the past two weeks a very busy parent has been doing a huge job for the P & F. Not only is she a parent and runs a business she also is acting in the theatre restaurant Jess call me Cowboy. The P & F are currently applying for a grant to purchase an outdoor gym circuit and our very good parent and friend Abby Andersson kindly put her hand up to write the grant application which has saved the P & F and you the parents of the school at least $550. So thank you Abs.

Finally a huge thanks to all our staff and teachers at St Marys Catholic College. If it was not for the support from you the P & F could not do its work so well. Thank you everyone and I hope we can all work closely together again in 2014.

On behalf of the P & F I would like to wish everyone and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are travelling please do so safely and take a break.

Blessings to all,
Damien Martoo
P & F President

Tuckshop News

Friday tuckshop specials are as follows:

- CHICKEN & GRAVY ROLLS – $3.50
- CHICKEN RICE NOODLE SALAD – Lunch only – $3.50

Reminder that Wednesday 4th December will be last Tuckshop day for this year.

THANK YOU

A big thank you for your support throughout the year.

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 our Christmas hampers to Mrs. Heather Barrett the local Saint Vincent de Paul store manager.

P & F News

Invites applications for the positions of

Finance Secretary - Term Time 38 hours per week
Contract Term 1 and 2 2014
(Long Service Leave Replacement - with possibility of continuing)

Student Services Officer – Term Time 35 hours per week
Continuing position

Applications need to be lodged via www.catholicjobsonline.net.au
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. Nomination forms or more information can be obtained from the Secretary, Cathy on 0408072 238

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

Prep to 14 years High School ID must be brought
Start: 6:00pm Finish: 8:30pm

Kingaroy Netball Association AGM
will be held on
Monday 9 December, 6 pm at the
club house at the
corner of Fisher and Alford Streets

Kingaroy Town Hall
Blue Light Disco
29th November 2013
5 entry
Superhero Theme

Prep to 14 years High School ID must be brought
Start: 6:00pm Finish: 8:30pm

Parents must collect their children from inside the hall and may at anytime