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

Wow, wow, wow… I can’t wipe the smile and sense of pride off my face for our wonderful community. I feel so blessed to be part of such an amazing community that has seen so many great events and achievements over the past few weeks.

Yesterday, we celebrated Reconciliation Week with a moving ceremony which began in our Bunya Dreaming Garden with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by Uncle Eric Law and Aunty Valerie Mathews. This was followed by a procession to the Maryknoll Centre for a powerful retelling of the story of The Woman Caught in Adultery by our senior drama students in which the story became that of bullying a new student. All in our community were challenged to symbolically place down a rock that they had been given before the ceremony as a sign that they will not take part in bullying, threats and racism. I would like to thank Uncle Eric, Aunty Val, Mr Perrett and all of the students who took part.

I would like to thank Mr Hutton, Mr Richard and Mrs Humphreys who took our some of our senior students on this year’s first Street Retreat. These retreats are life changing experiences for all involved. Our seniors were congratulated by David Campbell, the Claver Cares Van Captain for their amazing efforts in working with the homeless.

I just wanted to pass on my appreciation and gratitude to the staff and students of St Mary’s who came out to Street Van with us on Monday. The students were present to the patrons, talking and engaging well with them. They were also very sociable with the students from Claver, and very helpful when cooking the BBQ, handing out biscuits and assisting with tea and coffee. They were some of the most respectful young adults I have ever encountered.

Last night, we had the Installation of Fr Nigel Sequeira as our Parish Priest by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. The Mass was extra special for me because of the large numbers of our Saint Mary’s students, staff and parents who came along and participated. I was particularly impressed by the incredible choir led by Ms Sudull which featured many of our talented students, staff and parents. Both Fr Nigel and Archbishop Coleridge were thoroughly impressed with our broader St Mary’s Parish community and with our wonderful Saint Mary’s College community.

Last night, we also heard the great news that our U14 Boys’ Futsal team had taken out 3rd place in the South West Queensland Futsal titles in Toowoomba. This is an amazing effort considering that we were playing against schools five to ten times our size. We still have other teams still competing over the next few days at these titles. I would like to thank Mr Toms for his great work in preparing our teams and to Mr Cook, Mr Brown and all of the staff and parents who have supported them.

On Friday, we held our magnificent Saint Mary’s Feast Day to recognise the Feast Day of our Patroness, Saint Mary, Help of Christians. The day began with a beautiful Mass, celebrated by Fr Nigel and organised by Mr Perrett and Mr Hutton. We followed this up with a whole-school
I have attached a photo of Olivia Frahm from Year 9 being interviewed by Duane about how a whip actually breaks the sound barrier when it cracks. This is just another example of St Mary's students being their best! Well done to all.

Out of Bounds areas
Some students need to be aware of certain areas that are out of bounds:
- Large water tanks at the end of Mary Knoll
- Steps leading up to room 41
- Upper part of the school before 8-20am
- Students must stay out of these areas at all times unless supervised by a teacher.

Please remember to always wear a hat outside as UV ratings are still in the extreme range.

God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News

There are many significant Learning and Teaching projects underway at the college at the moment:
1. Gifted and Talented students
2. Visible Learning (Writing)
3. Visible Learning (Homework)
4. LIFE (Learning Management System (LMS))
5. Assessment and Plagiarism Policy and Posters
6. Developing a whole school College Assessment Cover Sheet.

This week, I will give a brief explanation of LIFE learning management system that some of the College staff are currently being trained in. When fully operational throughout the college, students will also use some of the LIFE features at home on their laptops or on home computers.

LIFE is an online Learning Management System (LMS) hosted by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office. The LMS allows teachers and students to share information, participate in online learning activities, create engaging content and share their experiences in a secure and safe place.

You can access LIFE from home if you have a BCE student Username and Password and have successfully used these to access LIFE from school.

It's good practice and important for you to maintain the security of your password and not to share it with other users. LIFE is an online tool and you will need to be connected to the internet via a broadband connection (Cable or ADSL) to use it.

LIFE works best on current operating systems and browsers. Regards
Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

APRE News

On Tuesday the college observed Reconciliation Week with a ceremony in two parts. The theme for 2014 is ‘Walk the Talk’ and the college was fortunate to have Uncle Eric address the students and welcome us to country in full view of the Bunya mountains at our Dreaming Garden. The senior dance class performed a modern translation of the Woman caught in adultery story from the Gospel according to John. How is that relevant? Well the crowd had judged the woman and the Pharisees were ready for a stoning. Jesus challenges them as he does us today. Who are we to judge?

The students were encouraged yesterday to look more closely at their attitudes towards others and to commit to improving relationships that might not be great. Clothes, colour, culture should not be a point of difference. If our words don’t match our actions then our integrity is questionable. ‘Walk the Talk’ is a very appropriate theme for reconciliation of any type.

God Bless
Mr Martin Perrett
Assistant to the Principal

Office News

For those with accounts in arrears, Term 2 Fee Reminder Statements are being posted out this week and your prompt response would be appreciated. Please don’t hesitate to contact the College office should you have any queries. Opening hours: 8am to 12am or by appointment.
This year the Premier has challenged all state and non-state school students from Prep to Year 2 to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 to read 20 books and Years 5 to 7 to read 15 books.

‘Experiencing’ books can include shared reading, listening to stories, or reading picture books.

**Book Fair**

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – Reading Oasis: A Cool Place to Discover Hot Books! – takes students on a journey back to Ancient Egypt to an oasis overflowing with a treasure of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practise reading, the better they’ll get.

Reading is vital to every child’s success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they’re young. Now is the time. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent’s direct involvement in his/her child’s education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

**Book Fair Dates:**

- **6th – 20th June**

**Shopping Hours:**

- 8am – 8.40am
- 2.55pm – 3.45pm

Regards

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

**Counsellor News**

**Genetic Basis of Procrastination and Dawdling**

www.generationnext.com.au

A new study has found that procrastination has genetic links. The research could help scientists understand the evolution of dawdling.

The study conducted by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder shows that the tendency to procrastinate has genetic roots. The research explains why some people are more likely than others to dawdle and why these people are more likely to make impulsive decisions too.

“Everyone procrastinates at least sometimes, but we wanted to explore why some people procrastinate more than others and why procrastinators seem more likely to make rash actions and act without thinking,” explained psychological scientist and study author Daniel Gustavson of the University of Colorado Boulder, according to a news release. “Answering why that’s the case would give us some interesting insights into what procrastination is, why it occurs, and how to minimize it.”

The idea of humans wanting to be impulsive makes sense. In ancient times, our ancestors had to stay on high-alert all the time to avoid being eaten by a large predator. According to researchers, procrastination might have more modern origins as humans now have to work on long-term goals, meaning that we have more time to get distracted.

Several studies have shown that procrastination in positively linked with impulsivity. In the present study, researchers wanted to see if genetics are involved with these two traits. The study was based on data from 181 identical-twin pairs and 166 fraternal-twin pairs. Participants were asked to complete questionnaires that collected information about their ability to maintain life goals. Researchers found that both procrastination and impulsivity share genetic links and that there are no genetic factors accountable for either traits. In other words, genes controlling impulsivity and the tendency to dawdle over tasks have some genetic foundation.

In the next part of the study, the team will try to find whether or not there is a genetic link between procrastination and other higher cognitive functions. “Learning more about the underpinnings of procrastination may help develop interventions to prevent it and help us overcome our ingrained tendencies to get distracted and lose track of work,” Gustavson concluded, according to a news release.

**Volunteer Training**

Parents wishing to volunteer at the College are required to undergo Student Protect Training. Training will be held at the college on Friday 30th of May at 9am. Please contact the College office on 41622011 if you are interested in attending.

Thank you

Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor
Uniform Shop News

**Girls' Slacks**
We have now girls' and ladies' slacks in for Years 6-12 formal uniform. Sizes range from girls 6-16 and ladies 8-20. These will be available from next Wednesday and will be $42 a pair.

**Hair Accessories**
There are now hair accessories available to purchase from next Wednesday.

Have a great week.
Regards
Mrs Amanda Jensen
Uniform Shop Convenor

**Tuckshop News**

Friday specials are as follows:
- Morning Tea & Lunch $3.50
- Hawaiian Muffin Pizza (2)
- Mexican Baked Potatoes

There are NO pies, party pies or sausage rolls sold on Fridays.

Volunteer Roster:
- Friday 30th May - Rebecca Stokes
- Monday 2nd June
- Wednesday 4th June - Rebecca Stokes

If you are unable to make your rostered tuckshop day please contact me at the College as soon as possible.

Just a friendly reminder that we only accept Australian currency.

A big THANK YOU to all those people who donated dry goods this week. It is very much appreciated.

Regards
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

**P&F News**

May I start this week with a huge thank you to all those who attended our working bee on the weekend. Although it was a very busy weekend of events we still managed to get a lot of work done at our school including the bank above the staff carpark, gardens at the school entrance and at the bus stop/prep playground and the huge task of trimming trees along the carpark on the parish block. This will allow easier mowing for anyone who takes on this job in the future and will hopefully stop rubbish build up.

A huge shout out to our whip crackers who performed in Brisbane and made the news last week. What an amazing display and what an asset they are to our school, looking very dapper in their uniforms that the P&F helped purchase. Well done to all the parents teachers and students. Please keep our wonderful teachers in our prayers this week. They do such an amazing job educating our children. Also let us keep our indigenous community in our prayers this reconciliation week. We are so blessed to have leaders like Uncle Eric and Aunty Val working in our school community educating us all. Let our generation be the generation to unite as one people.

Blessings
Damien Martoo

**Whip Cracking News**

Saint Mary's whip cracking team took out the whip cracking prizes at Goomeri Pumpkin Festival.

Olivia Frahm-1st in 13 to 16 years
Jorja Curran 1st, Louisa Frahm 2nd and Stephanie Arrell 3rd in 9 to 12 years

Eight students from Saint Mary’s in the competition. Olivia gave a speech to the crowds about the team and how they practise at school. Thank you to all our students, parents and staff supporters.

Regards
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Coordinator

**Classroom News**

**Year 8 Mathematics**
Attention parents of year 8:
The mathematics mid-term exam advertised on the assessment calendar will be postponed until Wednesday next week.

Best regards
Miss Kaitlyn Tucker
Mathematics Teacher

**Home Economics**

Year 8 Home Economics

This week: Practical lesson. Students are required to bring a large plastic container to transport cooking home, work books and a recipe planner.

Next week: Cooking demo. Bring workbooks

Thank you
Miss Angelique Cook
Home Economics Teacher

**Year 10 Science**

Your mousetraps racer for your science assignment must be in on Monday 2nd for the final results to be recorded. Failing to do so will mean that you will not have results for your assignment and therefore it will not be possible to write up your report.

Best regards
Miss Kaitlyn Tucker
Science Teacher

**Futsal News**

Congratulations to all the futsal players who represented the college in the Inter-School Futsal Shield last Wednesday night. The shield is now ours again for another year! A special mention needs to be made for the primaries and Year seven students that stepped up to play in the Year eight division, you did a great job! The shield will be proudly hanging in the foyer of our college until next year.

Regards
Mr Wade Toms
Coach

**QISSN News**

Hot milos and baked goods for sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays at morning tea in the Mary Knoll Centre Canteen.

- Milo $1
- Assorted Baked Goods 50c

Thank you for supporting our QISSN team.

**Net Retreat News**

On Friday, 20th June the Brisbane based net retreat team is facilitating a retreat for students in Year 8 to 12 at the College in the Maryknoll Centre. This starts 2pm and will conclude at 9pm and dinner will be provided. Students can wear casual clothes if they choose to attend. Any interested students should register with Mr Perrett at the College Office. This is Archdiocese initiative that is College is happy to host.
South Burnett Autism Support Group

TRIVIA NIGHT
A Trivia Night fundraiser is being held to create awareness about Autism and help improve educational opportunities for autistic children, adults and families in the South Burnett.

Date: Saturday, 14th June 2014
Time: 7pm start
Place: Kingaroy Town Hall - Glendon Street
Cost: $10 per ticket
Theme: Movie Characters - Scooby Doo & Friends, The Mask, Star Wars, Flintstones, Austin Powers etc.

A multi draw raffle will be held on the night with loads of great prizes to be won. Get together with family and friends to make up a table of 8 players or join a table on the night. Supper will be provided at half time but BYO drinks and nibbles to keep you going throughout the night. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL to register and for further information, please call Melissa on 4162 5339/0427 691 017 or Tracey on 0420 920 112 or email sbautisngroup@hotmail.com.