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

As we continue our surveys of staff, parents and students, I want to share a few results from our Year 3 – 6 Survey, which was the first to be completed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>Strongly agree / agree percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I understand the school rules and what happens if I break them.</td>
<td>99.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My teacher and the staff care for the students.</td>
<td>98.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Saint Mary’s we hear a lot about Jesus, God, prayers etc.</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Mary’s offers students opportunities to be involved in activities.</td>
<td>97.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have good classrooms, ovals, halls etc.</td>
<td>93.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know and understand our Benedictine values.</td>
<td>93.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Mary’s is a safe and friendly place.</td>
<td>91.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Executive Director has asked all Brisbane Catholic Education schools to consider freezing of 2015 fees to our 2014 level to assist families in these difficult economic times. After speaking with the College Board, we have decided to follow our Director’s direction. I am sure that most parents and carers appreciate that Saint Mary’s has set its fees to the BCE minimum fee for the past few years to keep our College as affordable as possible for our families. Miss Schultz our Business Manager is also currently reviewing our levies to ensure that they accurately represent the education costs.

The College Board has also agreed to discontinue the scholarships that we had previously offered to assist with travel and the instrumental program. We will continue to honour any current scholarships. These scholarships were originally designed to attract students to our community when we were struggling for numbers. I believe that our Concession system is the fairest way to ensure that all families can access a quality Catholic education at Saint Mary’s. Brisbane Catholic Education has devised a concession system which uses a family’s financial information and compares this with the poverty line to come up with a fair fee structure. If your family is struggling financially due to changed circumstances, I would encourage you to consider putting in a concession application. A fee concession form is available on our College website under Enrolment / Fee Structure.

Sadly, Mr Byrne, our Vocational Education Coordinator and Manual Arts teacher will be out for the remainder of the year due to illness. Mr Erwin and I are currently chasing up a replacement teacher. Please keep Mr Byrne and all who are unwell in our community in your prayers.

I would like to congratulate our instrumental students and teachers on their wonderful performance last week. I was extremely disappointed to miss this evening due to illness. It was wonderful to hear staff and parents’ amazement at the depth of talent on display.

I would like to encourage all of our families to attend our Awards Evening from 6pm this Thursday evening in the Maryknoll Centre. Please remember to bring a plate to share at the end of the evening.

From 4 - 6pm on Saturday, our whip crackers will perform at the Southbank G20 parade in Brisbane. I would encourage any families in Brisbane to come along to support our students.

P&F Working Bee: 8am - Midday Sun Nov 9. Please come along to support our community.

We proudly welcome Snr Constable Todd Armstrong on board as our College’s new Adopt-a-Cop.
have been working on getting an Adopt-a-Cop for more than two years now. Srn Constable Armstrong has already had a chance to meet many of our students when he visited at lunch time a couple of weeks ago. He will be officially welcomed at our next whole school assembly. He will come along to school events, talk to classes about legal issues and hopefully be the friendly face of the Qld Police around the school so that students can feel comfortable to approach him with any questions.

Congratulations to Pacey Clegg who scored 16 goals while representing the Australian Futsal youth team in their tour of Britain. Pacey’s team only lost two games on their entire tour and these losses were only by a single point and to the same team.

Understanding Child and Youth Sexuality Parent Evening: All parents and carers are invited to this evening from 7.00 - 8.30pm on Tuesday, November 4. This evening is aimed at helping parents and carers to better understand their child’s stage of sexual development. I have experienced this presentation at a Principals’ meeting and can thoroughly recommend it to all parents and carers.

Yours in Christ
Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Deputy News

Presentation Night Information
Starting time will be 6pm sharp. We will aim to finish about 8-00pm approximately.

The night is divided into two halves:
- Liturgy, P-6 awards, P and F awards, some major awards and Mr Nayler’s speech
- Short break 10 mins
- More Major awards, 7-12 Academic and Sporting awards and Guest speaker Father Nigel.

ALL students attending must be in formal uniform (including correct shoes), even if not receiving an award. Students receiving an award will be allocated seating on the far right side of the hall. Years 1-12 must remain with their teacher for the night. Prep students will sit in the front row until the 10 minute break. Parents may then collect their child at the 10 minute break.

As this is a formal occasion, silence is expected when someone is speaking and full attention and respect given to our guests at all times. No whistling or calling out is to occur. I will ask teachers to monitor student behaviour during the ceremony and report any concerns.

This is a night of celebration and I am very honoured to be handing out many awards to so many deserving students. After 8 years at this College, I am very pleased to see the academic and personal growth of many students. The current Year 12 cohort were in Year 4 when I arrived in 2006. It has been a pleasure to teach these children for so many years and watch them grow and succeed in all facets of College life.

God Bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

What might replace the OP score?
The Queensland Government recently released a review of senior assessment and tertiary entrance.

The review was brought about because the current OP score and senior assessment program is now more than 20 years old, and has inherent difficulties and complexities. Also, the demographics of schooling, training and tertiary study is shifting with more people moving into VET pathways and the number of students going from Year 12 directly to tertiary studies is falling.

Although it is a lengthy and at times complex document, the following is a very brief summary of the outcomes that are being discussed:
- The OP score will be discontinued. Students will no longer get some type of score that combines all their subjects together like an OP score.
- Students will get a result in each subject on a 60 point scale. These will be given to tertiary institutions for them to use to select students.
- 30 of the 60 points or mark will come from some type of external assessment such as the old external senior exam or the NSW system of HSC.
The remaining 30 marks will come from school assessment in the form of three pieces of assessment. All assessment of student work in the school will be graded from 1 to 10 against agreed criteria. Assessment generated by the school will be endorsed by QCAA before the students do the assessment. There will be no scaling of marks in individual subjects. There will be no QCS test, (but as mentioned above, there will be eternally set and marked test for each subject) There will still be a need for moderating student work against work done in that subject in other schools. There will be a need to provide new levels of resources to allow these changes to be understood and implemented.

These are of course major changes, and there is still much discussion to be had before final decisions are made. The changes themselves will not take effect for many years.

No doubt this will be a topic of interest for some years to come.

Regards

Mr John Dalton

APA

APRE News

Spooks or Saints – the real Halloween?

Like Christmas and Advent, Halloween is a good opportunity to ‘reclaim’ or contextualise a sacred event that has been secularised. Growing up in Far North Queensland in the 70s I had not heard of Halloween. I first encountered it in the late 80s early 90s as a dress up theme for parties at university but still had no idea of its religious context. I suppose the westernisation of the world through globalisation (TV included) has brought Halloween into the consciousness of this generation.

All Saints’ Day in the Roman Catholic Church is officially the Solemnity of All Saints and also called All Hallows or Hallowmas, often shortened to All Saints. It is a solemnity celebrated on 1 November by parts of Western Christianity. In Western Christian theology, the day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. It is a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries. In the Roman Catholic Church, the next day, All Souls’ Day, specifically commemorates the departed faithful who have not yet been purified and reached heaven. Catholics celebrate All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day in the fundamental belief that there is a prayerful spiritual communion between those in the state of grace who have died. The Western Christian holiday of All Saints’ Day falls on November 1, followed by All Souls’ Day on November 2.

All Souls’ Day commemorates the faithful departed. The Roman Catholic celebration is associated with the doctrine that the souls of the faithful can be assisted by prayer to attain heavenly status. The Western celebration of All Souls’ Day is on 2 November and follows All Saints’ Day, which commemorates the departed who have attained the beatific vision.

(Reference from: http://www.catholic.org/saints/allsouls/)

If 2 November falls on a Sunday, the Mass is of All Souls as it will be this Sunday at Saint Mary’s Church, Albert Street at 10 am. Fr Nigel has organised a special Mass to honour loved ones lost. As always everyone is welcome to come and this Sunday might be a good time to set aside to reflect on past relationships and pray for the gift of those who have been physically in your life and now rest in peace.

Students and families will have the opportunity at school to come and pray or reflect on someone in their lives who has died. They have been invited to nominate someone by putting their name into the student office. I will have these names run on loop electronically on a screen throughout morning tea and lunch time in the media room. The space will be set up for quiet reflection and all are invited (including parents, carers and other family members) to come and pray silently and remember their departed.

Wednesday Community Mass – 8 am Media Room, Library

Father Nigel is back from leave and Mass every Wednesday at 8.15 in media room is back on. Please come and join us if you can.

Regards

Mr Martin Perrett

APRE

Lexile Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!

Blue Award (3 books) - Cooper Pennell
Bronze Award (10 books) - Taylor Armstrong and Zac Brown
Silver Award (25 books) - Olivia Davis

Textbook Returns Process
Students in Years 7-12 have been given a printed record of all their current loans so that they are aware of what is still outstanding in their names. Please note: Years 9 - 11 students do not need to return their laptops (it appears on their list for their information only). Students will be notified about the end-of-year laptop process shortly.

For the remainder of the term, first, second and final reminders will be given to all students in Years 7-12.

Please refer to the timeline for textbook returns below:

**Monday 7th November** – All outstanding Year 11 & 12 resources due back
**Monday 13th November** – Letters posted home Year 11 & 12
**Monday 14th November** – All outstanding Years 7-10 resources due back
**Thursday 20th November** – Overdue letters posted home - Year 10
**Monday 24th November** – Overdue letters posted home – Year 7-9

Overdue letters, as per the Textbook Hire Scheme Process, communicated to all students and parents over the course of the year, will be sent out after numerous attempts to retrieve outstanding resources. It gives students and parents the opportunity to discuss overdues with library staff. Should outstanding resources still not be returned after 7 days of issuance of letters (or explained to library staff), invoices will be sent to the Business Manager. Please note that no refunds can be given once invoiced, even if the books are found.

It is very important to follow these strict deadlines for returning resources as library staff have to ensure adequate resources are available in good condition for all students at the beginning of 2015. Please support us by assisting your child to return all their textbooks on time.

Yours in reading
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

**Counsellor News**

“Living through enough, we all come to this understanding, though it is difficult to accept: No matter what path we choose to honour, there will always be conflict to negotiate.

If we choose to avoid all conflict with others, we will eventually breed a poisonous conflict within ourselves. Likewise, if we manage to attend our inner lives, who we are will – sooner or later – create some discord with those who would rather have us be something else.”

— Mark Nepo, *The Book of Awakening: Having the Life You Want by Being Present to the Life You Have*

Thank you
Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor

**Indigenous News**

Congratulations to Rahab, Deidre and Torue for participating in the Queensland Indigenous Netball tryouts in Toowoomba last Sunday. A further congratulations to Deidre and Torue on making the Qld Under 14’s Rep side for 2015. Well done girls.

Kind regards
Mrs Karen Bond
Indigenous Support Worker

**Curriculum News**

**Prep to Year 6 – SWIMMING**

A reminder to all parents that it is a policy of Brisbane Catholic Education Office that all students who are participating in swimming lessons run by a BCE school, must wear a swimming cap. These can be purchased from any outlet that sells swim caps. The swim caps can be any colour. The caps are also available from the uniform shop for $7.50. These caps have our swim logo on both sides. In November 2013 every student received a swim cap to be used for swimming lessons.

The swim caps are to be left at school for the duration of the swimming lessons to avoid them being left at home.

Swimming is part of the HPE curriculum and it is an expectation that all students participate in the allotted swimming block. If not participating for a particular reason then a note needs to come to the class teacher.

No swim cap then no going to the pool. Students will remain at school in another class.

Regards
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Early Years Coordinator

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NAPLAN Reports
NAPLAN Reports were posted home a few weeks before the end of last term and should have reached Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 families by now. If you have not received your child’s NAPLAN report in the mail as yet, please notify the office ASAP and another one will be organised to be delivered to the school.

Date Claimers
Orientation Days
Current Year 6s and new Year 7s for 2015 – Wednesday 3rd December
Current Year 7s and new Year 8s for 2015 – Monday 1st December

Rites of Passage Year 6s
Monday 1st December (6pm-7.30pm)

Detailed information about Orientation Days and Rites of Passage will follow in future newsletters.

Regards
Mrs Melanie Burr
Middle Years Coordinator

Classroom News
Year 10 Business Students
A reminder that your final submission for your ASX assignment is due this Thursday the 30th. Please have it ready to submit to ensure the quality of your work.

This submission should consist of a document with your 2 progress tables, your portfolio value graph, your journal entries (all should have been progressively completed over the course of the 2 months we have been working on the task) in addition to a brief commentary on your groups performance over the course of the game. Please ensure your groups name and your name is on this work.

Best regards,
Miss Kathryn Tucker
Teacher

Year 8 Home Economics News
This week is a practical cooking lesson. Students need to bring their recipe planners, workbooks and a plastic container to bring their food home in.

Next week is a cooking demonstration. Students need to bring their workbooks to class.

Thanks
Mrs Angelique Arden
Teacher

Visual Art Department
Nathan Brandon, a Year Nine Visual Art student, was recently awarded the first place prize in the Australian Catholic University’s annual photography competition for high school students, The Pixel Prize. Nathan submitted a photo he took for an assignment, which he had digitally edited using his school laptop. His piece, “Bubbles in the Sunrise”, won first prize in the Digital Darkroom section of the competition. Nathan and his family travelled to Brisbane to receive this honour. Nathan also won a $300 gift voucher to Photographic Chain Store Ted’s Cameras; he is going to buy himself a new camera. Marissa Murray in Year 12 won the Highly Commended prize for the same section, Digital Darkroom. She was awarded a $50 gift voucher for the University Bookstore Co-op.

Congratulations to both students, it is great to see us competing at such a high level. Other winners were from very prestigious Brisbane schools, we are definitely on a level playing field here at Saint Mary’s!

God bless
Mrs Bronwyn Langford Martoo
Art Teacher

Music News
An Instrumental Success!
Well done to all those students who overcame their nerves and performed as part of the Instrumental Evening last Thursday night. I was amazed at the talent and courage our Saint Mary’s students showed to get up and perform in front of an audience filled with family, friends and staff. You did a fantastic job, and should be congratulated for your efforts!

A big thank you to our Instrumental Tutors Jo Hopkins, Grant Jeppeson & Jo Kennedy for their work with these students.

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Thank you also to all the parents and families who have supported these students in their musical endeavours this year - I look forward to seeing their progression as we enter the new year.

Finally, a thanks to the College P&F for providing grants to purchase some of the instruments used on the night, and the Reinbott family for donating a clarinet earlier in the year.

Regards
Mr Michael Scanlan
Music Teacher

Sport News
The primary school sports gala day went off well last Friday. All the kids reported having a fun day with plenty of activity. Thanks to the staff and student refs who helped out on the day.

We had two divisional wins and two seconds in T Ball, and a third in Newcomb. Our Kanga Cricket team came third in their division, so some good results from our youngsters. Well done.

Just a reminder to all our age champions in swimming, athletics and cross country - you will be given your awards at Thursday night's Presentation Night at the College. You are encouraged to attend.

Could parents check to see if you have any school sporting apparel at home and return it to the college.

Congratulations to Clare Adcock who made both 1500m and 3000m finals. She did not medal but she ran PBs and National Qualifying times.

Yours in Sport
Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

Annual Awards Night
Could any staff, families and friends who have nice big pot plants and fresh flowers please bring them in to the canteen area of the Maryknoll Centre next Thursday ready for Awards night. We need flowers to be brought in named buckets or containers that do not need to be returned. We would appreciate nice greenery as well. Pot plants should be named as well if possible.

Thanks
Mrs Bronwyn Martoo and Mrs Jenny Mazzer

The Peace Child

Rehearsals
Monday, 3rd November - All members 3.10pm to 4.30pm
Wednesday, 5th November - All members 3.10pm to 4.30pm

A note will be sent home Thursday, 30th October, but The Peace Child students will be performing at the Arts Showcase on Thursday, 6th November.

Regards
Mrs Tamara Collins
Performing Arts Teacher

Tuckshop News

Friday specials are as follows:

Morning Tea & Lunch
Fresh Fruit Salad Cups with Custard (red and green grapes, pineapple, watermelon and honey dew melon) - $3.50

Lunch Only
Ham Pasta Salad - $3.50

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

Students are asked not to bring $50 notes to the tuckshop, as we don't always have enough change.

Tuckshop Orders

Paper bags are available from the tuckshop for 5c. It is not ideal to put tuckshop orders into plastic bags, as the hot food could melt the bags. If possible please do not sticky tape or staple your orders as it is difficult to remove them from bags without tearing them.
Donated Items
Donations of self raising flour, castor sugar or beetroot would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone for their kind donations of food and time.
Regards
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Celebration of the Arts

Thursday
NOVEMBER 6
6pm - 8.30pm
Saint Mary’s Catholic College –
Mary Knoll Centre

Come along and support the amazing talent on show here at Saint Mary’s!

Halloween Blue Light Disco
31st Oct 2014
Prep to 14 years
High School ID must be brought

Start: 6:00pm
Finish: 8:30pm
Glendon Street

Parents must collect their children from inside the hall and may at any time throughout the night.

Come dressed in your favourite Halloween costume for a chance to win great prizes.

Kingaroy Town Hall
Friday 31st October 2014

Parent Information Night
Presenting
Understanding Child & Youth Sexuality

Thursday, 4th November at 7pm
in the College Maryknoll Centre.

All Welcome.
Kingaroy Netball Association

Born 2000 to 2004?
Interested in trialling for a 2015 Rep Team?
Squad training starts Sunday, 9th November 2.30pm to 4.00pm
at Kingaroy Courts
No need to nominate, just turn up!
See our facebook page for more details.

LOST

Missing from Hodgeleigh (Nanango)
Desexed female dalmation, no collar or chip.
Please phone Graham if you find her on 0407 889 335

The Kingaroy Christmas Carnival is on Thursday 11th December 2014 from 5pm to 9pm.

It costs just over $20,000 each year to run the carnival and believe it or not, on the night, we generally have between 50-60 helpers.

This includes the committee (12), SES staff on rotating shifts (up to 15), ticket stall helpers (8), raffle ticket sellers (6), costume helpers (6). We have volunteers who blow up our balloons, members and other volunteers who help with setup and pack-up, all our entertainers are volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please give our Project Coordinator Will Johnson a call on 0408 644 460 or email the committee sbyoungleaders@live.com.au

If you can assist with sponsorship by way on monetary donations, gift vouchers, products or know someone who can help, please call Tina Torrens on 0417 010 292. More details on our website.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on at the Carrollee at 8pm -9pm, 11th November 2014 in the meeting room.

Visit our website for further information www.kingaroychristmascarnival.com

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