From the Principal

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

Our Brisbane Catholic Education Director, Ms Pam Betts has asked that all BCE schools consider freezing their school fees at 2014 levels for 2015 to assist families in the current economic climate. She has also asked that all BCE schools review their levies to be sure that parents and carers are getting what they pay for in each class or subject. Saint Mary's College Board has approved both the freezing of our fees for 2015 and our revision of the College levies. I am very pleased that we will continue to offer quality Catholic Education at an affordable, fair and equitable price.

Saint Mary's currently charges the BCE minimum fees so is amongst the least expensive of all Catholic schools in the Brisbane Archdiocese. There have been some minor changes to levies as a result of our review and these are:

**Prep** - Year 3 General Levy needs to increase by $40 to $340 which is actually slightly less than the 2014 General levy plus the separate charge for the consumable books (iMaths, Soundwaves etc including licenses) which are now in the levies along with the new Accelerated Reader program.

Year 4 the General Levy needs to increase by $50, Year 5 by $70 and Year 6 by $40. Again these increases are only to include the provision of the consumable books and the new student diary. So there is no real increase but only incorporating separate costs paid to the current levy.

The only other change is the ICT Levy for Year 9 – Year 12s which needs to increase from $300 to $400 per student as we have no government assistance anymore for our laptop program and simply cannot operate it on the old levy cost.

Parents using the College's buses will face an increase in bus subsidised fares from $25 up to $33 next year. This is set at a state level and is dependent on the State Government funding each year. With increasing numbers of students around the state accessing this system, the payment gap has increased. Our school and system will continue to push the Queensland Government to put more funding into this system to support families across the state. The families in this Bus Fare Assistance Program (BFAP) will realise that they are actually required to pay full fares to catch these buses and wait 6 months to claim back all but the gap which for 2014 was $25 per week per family. Saint Mary’s has taken on the task of paying the full fares on behalf of the parents which ties up more than $120,000 in funding annually.

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We do this to support our rural families so that they can have the choice to access a quality Catholic Education.

Announcing our Prep – Year 6 teachers for 2015:

- Prep - Mrs Arrell & Miss Van Dyk
- Year 1 - Mrs Johnston
- Year 2 - Miss Saxton
- Year 3 - Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Weier
- Year 4 - Miss Alyssa Thomas (new in 2015)
- Year 5 - Mr Collier & Mrs Greenslade
- Year 5/6 - Mrs Foody-Versace
- Year 6 - Mrs McNamara

Last week, I had the great privilege of joining our Year 6s at their Emu Gully ANZAC Camp. They had an absolute ball despite being pelleted with flour bombs, wading shoulder height through mud, crawling through underground tunnels and surviving the heat. Our students received a wonderful insight into some of the challenges faced by our ANZACs. I would like to thank Mrs Arrell, Mr Richard, Mrs Roberts, Mr Hutton and Ms Tucker for taking the Year 6s away on such an eye opening experience.

On Monday evening, we celebrated the completion of another year of school by our Indigenous students. I believe that with Indigenous school completion rates in Australia of around 40%, we must continue to celebrate and encourage our many Indigenous students to achieve all that they can. For many of our Indigenous graduates, they are the first from their families to make it to Year 12. This may not seem like a huge achievement in many non-Indigenous families, but these students represent a
hope for a better and brighter future and a more fair and just Australia. Thanks to our Indigenous Department, elders, families, staff and students who packed in to the Cherbourg Ration Shed to celebrate this milestone.

Congratulations to Rahab & Deidre Murray who have been selected to play in the Australian Indigenous Netball Championships.

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of leading the Year 12s through their Reflection Day. This day aims to help students transition from our Saint Mary’s community after being a part of it for up to 13 years. If you come to our Graduation Mass at 9am on Friday, you may see our Seniors wearing woollen wrist bands with wool representing each student in their class. This was from one of the activities on the Reflection Day which allowed students the opportunity to say goodbye to their fellow Seniors with the sense of dignity that is at the heart of our Saint Mary’s community.

I also went to the opening of Danny’s Diner on Tuesday night. Danny’s Diner is the new name for the Community BBQ. Its namesake Pastor Danny Russell was instrumental in providing assistance to the poor and marginalised in Kingaroy. Pastor Danny passed away recently, but was represented by his wife and daughter.

Today, we welcomed our 2015 Prep families to our College. It was wonderful to meet our newest students and their families. I am very grateful to all of the staff who helped to put on this great day.

This week also marks the Graduation of our Year 12s and the sending of our Year 11s out on Work Experience. I would like to wish our Year 11 and 12s and their families all the best for the coming holidays and ask that God bless them all. I would also pray for the blessings of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Benedict for the Year 12s and those families who will leave us at the end of 2014. May you carry the spirit of Saint Mary’s with you always.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

**Appointments with Teachers and Leadership**

We encourage parents and carers to keep regular and open communication with Teachers and Leadership. With the growth of the College, it is not possible to see Teachers or Leadership without notice. I am encouraging all Parents and Carers to make appointments through the front office so we can make sure issues that arise are settled as quickly as possible. Thank you to the parents who already do this. The office ladies will process your request for a meeting quickly and confirm your time to see Teachers or a member of the Leadership team. We do not want to offend anyone who turns up unannounced at the front counter, but we need procedures in place to cope with the demands upon our staff. Thank you for your understanding in this manner.

**Uniform last three weeks**

I wish to advise parents and carers that uniform regulations do not change for the remaining weeks of the term.

realise your dignity
I appreciate that shoes may be wearing out but we must maintain our standards at all times. SHOES are a particular problem for some children. Coloured runners are not acceptable at any time. Shoes must be black vinyl or leather, nothing else. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. I will be asking teachers to follow up incorrect shoes today.

Year 12 Graduation
Congratulations to the Year 12 students who will celebrate their graduation on Wednesday night and Friday morning. This is a wonderful achievement and our students can hold their heads high and be very proud of their achievements. Well done to all the teachers who have worked very hard with the Year 12 students over the past year and I hope the Year 12 results are a reflection of the hard work they have done.

Year 11 Work Experience
Next week, Year 11 will be on Work Experience. Please see Mr Curran, Mrs Rowen or Mr Richard if you have any issues.

God Bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News
The Queensland Certificate of Education
At this time of year, various staff members spend a fair amount of time ensuring Year 12 students have completed the required tasks at the required standard to qualify for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

The qualification is internationally recognised and offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs. This allows students to tailor their senior pathway to suit their interests and support their future goals.

The following is a summary of what is required and also the intent of the certificate.

To gain a QCE, a student needs:
1. An amount of learning (completing 20 semesters of study).
2. At a set standard (minimum sound achievement or pass in all subjects).
3. In a set pattern (12 credits or passed at least 3 subjects for the full 4 semesters or 2 years).
4. With additional credits (passed at least another 8 credits or 8 semesters of study).
5. And meet literacy and numeracy requirements (passed at least one semester of Maths and English or Pre Vocational Maths and English Communication).

If a student hasn’t achieved enough credit to qualify for a QCE by the end of Year 12, they can add to their learning account for up to seven years after leaving school. Once they achieve 20 credits and have completed the QCE requirements, the QCAA will award their QCE in the following July or December.

Regards
Mr John Dalton
APA

APRE News
Graduation Mass and College Farewell
On Friday at 9am the entire College community will gather in the Maryknoll Centre to celebrate Mass with the seniors of 2014 and their families. It is a special occasion in our calendar, a time to thank God for the gift of education and the gifts and talents of the individuals that make up the Senior group and also the influence the group had as one body on our College and its culture.

The students chose ‘an Idea’ as their senior identifying theme for the year. I was very curious to see what this all meant and how it might be a creed they could aspire to, and as the year went by I can see some of the wisdom in this concept.

An Idea:
- can be very small – as was our senior class
- has great potential if processed well – as was our senior class
- has no limits – as our senior class probably wished for at school but also now have to come to grips with on graduating
- has the power to create – was evident in some fresh ideas, for example their Rock on Stage performance
- is unique – the combination of students in this cohort celebrated both individual diversity and also stood apart from past years and other year groups at the college this year
- spontaneous – whether it produced positive or sometimes detrimental effects, this group had spontaneity

Every Senior class that goes through a school usually would claim that they were the best or most unique, for whatever reason. I know the class of 87’ certainly did. It is an age old aspiration and, on reflection after graduation, every class could find a category or aspect of school life that they could claim to have made their own or in which they excelled in. More often than not, they won’t put claim to one major physical or tangible legacy, like a major contribution to the school decor, classroom or grounds. It is usually based on a relationship, feeling or interaction

realise your dignity
that they will articulate. We as a College look forward to hearing and witnessing the expressions of achievement with which these young adults leave and following their chosen paths in the coming years.

Please feel free to come and celebrate with us this Friday, even if you don’t have a student in the Class of 2014.

The ‘Religiosity’ of our College
Recently the College was presented with data that compares us with other regional Catholic schools and those within the Archdiocese. The data was collected from parent, student and staff surveys. The Religious Life of the School was one indicator, and in this area we fared reasonably well. What I was encouraged by in the community responses, was the resounding comments about the provision of more religious experiences, like masses and prayer opportunity. I would like to follow this up a little more next year to establish the gap between what we actually do here daily, what the community expects and what is possible. I welcome this and see it as very positive feedback and probably suggest there is an itch that is not being scratched properly. The mission of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese is ‘teach, challenge and transform’ our students in the light of the Gospels based on the life of Jesus.

I would welcome any direct feedback as to ways we can further develop a deeper sense of the sacred here at Saint Mary’s Catholic College and I look forward to the partnerships these endeavors will forge.

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

Library News
Lexile Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have received Lexile awards!

Blue Award (3 books) – Tehya Tones, Hanne Steenkamp
Red Award (5 books) – Ned Madden
Bronze Award (10 books) – Austin Kelly, Ainsley Moller
Silver Award (10 books) – Lachlan O’Kane, Bella Hams

‘Friendly’ Interschool Chess Competition
Last week, some of our primary students played Windera State School in a ‘friendly’ chess competition. Our students were very excited about this opportunity (even more than Windera SS, if possible!). They played four games each with a points system. The overall winner of the day on 12 points (which meant a checkmate in every game he played) was Jim Corbet. Well done, Jim and well done to all our participants for representing our College with such pride.

Textbook Returns Process – Year 11 & 12
All outstanding Year 11 & 12 resources are now overdue. Students have received several reminders and been spoken to by homeroom teachers and library staff. Letters are being posted home to families this week. If books are not returned/paid for within 7 days of the letter, names will be sent to the Business Manager to add to accounts.

Library Borrowing
Please note that library borrowing including the Lexile and Take Home Reader program have concluded for the year in preparation for end of year processes. All library books and readers are due back immediately.

Curriculum News
Year 7 (Wednesday 3rd December) and Year 8 (Monday 1st December) Orientation Days
Orientation day events for Year 7s and Year 8s in 2015 have been planned for Monday, 1st and Wednesday 3rd December. These events include new Year 7s and 8s to the college in 2015 as well as our present Year 7s and 8s. The day will provide opportunities for students to socialise and meet some of their classmates and teachers. Students will participate in activities for the day including sport, science, workshop, art and drama in various specialist rooms. Detailed information via a letter has been sent home earlier this term, including a program for the day. Please contact the office if you have not received the letter and program.

Year 6 Rites of Passage Ceremony
The College will host a Rites of Passage ceremony for our Year 6s on Monday 1st December at 6pm. This event will commemorate students’ transition from one phase of learning into another by celebrating an important milestone within their schooling i.e. Year 6 moving into a new Teaching and Learning Community. An invitation will be sent home to families this week.

Warm regards
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher-Librarian

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Classroom News

Prep Orientation
A big welcome to the new Preppies. They had a lovely morning with their parents this morning. They played together and got to know each other so that next year they would see some familiar faces. Thanks to Ms Van Dyk and Mrs. Arrell for helping the students and parents settle into the class. Our next Prep Orientation Day is in the last week of school Wednesday 3rd December. This is also when the Year 7 into year 8 Orientation Day will be occurring.

Swimming
A special and very heartfelt Thank You to Cathy Gartner, Carmel Trebbin, Damien Martoo, Rosa Di Marco who spent nearly every day at the pool and Sharon McDonald, Shannon Cridge, Erin Jeffs, Jackie Howard, Jodie Harman, Suzanne Mungall, Danielle Maudsley, Mark Shoudra, Abi Andersson, Amanda Jensen, Richard Pennell and Steven Lucey all parents who spent as much time as they could at the pool. Also a big thank you to the school officers – Shirley Kerkow, Ali Humphreys, Pauline Roberts, Beryl Parfett, Ryan Williams and Chris Molloy, who were able to participate during the swim block.

There is a Celebration of Learning Day celebrating the opportunity to display their skills they learnt in the swimming sessions in Week 4 and Week 5 this term. This will be in the last week of school. Tuesday 2nd December the children in Prep to Year 6 will be participating in a Celebration of Learning Day at the town pool. A letter will be going home shortly to parents informing of the events and activities. That day should wrap up fairly early around 12.00om and the students will be back at school for lunch – out of the heat of the day.

In the afternoon there will be a special Swim Assembly in the Mary Knoll Centre. There will be certificates of encouragement and these will be handed out to students who have demonstrated a willingness to participate and improve during their sessions at the pool.

Christmas Concert
The Prep to Year 6 Christmas Concert is on Thursday night 4th December. This carols night is a celebration of the end of the school year, but more importantly a preview of what will be happening in about 3 weeks – the Birth of Christ.

Starting at 5.00pm, there will be a $1 sausage sizzle, 50c frozen icy pops, free cordial, tea and coffee as well as the Big multi draw Raffle. All funds raised go to the Bacolod Kindergarten overseas.

Please bring a rug/pillow for the little ones. There will be chairs all set up. The raffle tickets are available on the night. Tickets are $2 a sheet, the tickets can be deposited into all or one (if you want to increase your chances) of the 10 prizes. There is then a lucky raffle draw at the end of the night. More information to follow about costumes etc.

Indigenous News
Many Thanks to all the Students, their Families and Saint Mary’s Staff who came to celebrate the Indigenous Certificate Celebration. It was a fantastic afternoon and it was so great to see so many people turn up to support our students.

Congratulations to all our Students, we are so very proud of you all.
Regards
Mrs Karen Bond
Indigenous Support Worker

Year 8 Home Economics News
This week is a cooking demonstration. Students need to bring their workbooks to class.

Next week is a practical cooking lesson. Students need to bring their recipe planners, workbooks and a plastic container to bring their food home in.

Music News
Instrumental Tuition News
Enrolment forms for 2015 Tuition will be sent home in the coming weeks. Please return these as soon as possible to the office or Mr Scanlan.

Instrument Hire Forms
Those students who are currently hiring instruments from the College will also have a hire form sent home for 2015 hire. Please note: no instruments will be issued without a signed Hire form. If you are interested in hiring an instrument from the College in 2015, please contact Mr Scanlan through the office.

Regards
Mr Michael Scanlan
Music Teacher
2015 Whip Cracking Team - Save The Date
- Sunday 8th Feb - Clifton Old Whip Cracking Titles
- Saturday 7th March - Proston Show Whip Cracking Competition & Performance
- Saturday 14th March - Oakey Show Performance

Reminder
Thank you to the students who have handed in the blue whip cracking shirts, if you have forgotten could you please do so by next week.
Kind regards
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Whip Cracking Coordinator

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
It's almost Christmas and Saint Vinnie’s Christmas appeal is on once again! Collection baskets have been placed in each of your children’s classrooms, so if you have any spare non-perishable items or want to donate Christmas presents or decorations, you’ll be helping over 2000 Australian households that will be doing it tough this Christmas. Christmas presents however cannot be wrapped. Thank you in advance from the year 9s. No one should have to miss out on Christmas!

Next week, Year 9 students will be running a number of events:

Tuesday: Bake Sale at Morning Tea in the Courtyard Donations welcome!
Friday: Free Dress - Dress Standards apply: no singlets, thongs or inappropriate outfits. Please bring a can of food - not a Gold Coin
Friday: Colouring in Competition announcement

Kind regards
Michael Scanlan + Angelique Arden
Year 9 Religion Teachers

The Peace Child
Rehearsals
It is important that all attend. This is our last full week of rehearsals. We only have three more afternoons left or rehearsals.
Regards
Mrs Tamara Collins
Performing Arts Teacher

Tuckshop News
- Friday specials are as follows:
  Morning Tea & Lunch
  Meatlovers Pizza Muffins (1) $3.00
  Lunch Only
  Nachos with Sour Cream $5.00

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.

As we come to the end of Term 4 we will be running stock low for the Christmas holiday period. Thank you to the families who have donated items through out the year.

Best wishes and good luck to our Year 12s. Thank you to those students in Year 11 and 12 who have helped in the tuckshop throughout the year.

Volunteers Roster:
Friday, 21st November - Amanda Hetherington
Monday, 24th November - Volunteers needed
Wednesday, 26th November - Melanie Pongi

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.
Symphony in the South Burnett
Saturday 29th November
Kumbia Memorial Hall

Join us for a wonderful evening of fine music with the South Burnett Community Orchestra and SBCO String Ensemble.

Our annual concert at Kumbia Memorial Hall will include a range of music that will appeal to everyone. BBQ dinner at interval.

Dessert, cordial, tea and coffee included. Beer and Wine available for purchase

Concert Ticket: $10 Adult $5 Student/Concession $20 Family E: sbcorchestra@hotmail.com
Meal Ticket: $12.50 W: www.sbc.com.au

Alcoholic Drinks: $5 per glass/

Concert Ticket : $10 Adult $5 Student/Concession $20 Family E: sbcorchestra@hotmail.com
Meal Ticket: $12.50 W: www.sbco.com.au

Alcoholic Drinks: $5 per glass/

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM CONTACT OUR OFFICE
4163 1555

The Nutcracker’ Grinch
That FROZE
CHRISTMAS IN TOYLAND!

Kingaroy Town Hall
Sat 29th Nov 5:30 pm

ADULTS $15
CHILD / CONCESSION $10

Tickets on Sale From 4th NOV @ Studio,
Fill out an order form, and bring cash in envelope
Tickets sold at the door, CASH only

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