Dear parents, carers and friends of Saint Mary’s,

Last week, we had a number of great events at Saint Mary’s including:

**Girls Night In:** On Friday night, more than a dozen ladies gather in our Home Economics room for a **night of fun, friendship and laughs**. It was wonderful to see such a great mix of staff, parents and parishioners gathering to enjoy each other’s company.

**Caritas Dance:** Congratulations to our Seniors, Mr Curran and staff who helped with our dance on Friday night to raise money for the world’s poorest people. Our Seniors did an amazing job entertaining our P-6s with games and dances like *The Macarena* and *Gangnam Style*.

Last week, I mentioned *Rural Connect*, which was organised by St Mary’s Primary School Laidley to support our drought-affected farmers. **We have put the money we raised from Harmony Day into the Rural Connect convoy** which hopes to bring 80 tonnes of hay, one tonne of supplements and 400kg of dog food to some of the worst affected farms in the South Burnett. To get behind the great work of *Rural Connect* go to: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rural-Connect-St-Marys-School-Laidley/549036258543006

I would encourage all of our families to celebrate Easter in their own Christian communities to remember Christ’s sacrifice and His great gift of eternal life for all of us. Our Parish’s Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations are listed later in the Newsletter.

I would like to remind parents and carers that **Term 2 begins on Wednesday, April 23**, due to Easter Monday (Apr 21) and the extra rural teacher travel day (Apr 22). We will celebrate ANZAC Day with an assembly at 9am on Thursday, Apr 24. All parents and carers are welcome. Once again, we hope to **celebrate ANZAC Day across the South Burnett** at the various ceremonies. We would like to get our equestrians to ride at our Cherbourg parade to recognise Cherbourg’s WW1 Light Horseman like Frank “Big Shot” Fisher (Cathy Freeman’s Great Grandfather). We have had equestrians at Kingaroy (2012) and Yarraman (2013). Any equestrians who can assist with our Cherbourg parade, please contact me at the College.

Each term we celebrate our Benedictine Awards which recognise the two students in each class / homeroom who most live up to our College’s Benedictine values. We will celebrate our **Term 1 Benedictine Awards with a special assembly at 9am on Wednesday, April 23** (our first day back). Parents and carers of award winners will be notified and invited to the ceremony by mail. We ask parents and carers (if possible) to keep your child’s award a secret from them, so that they get the maximum surprise on the day. These are extremely important awards in our community.

Hopefully, all of our parents and carers are **prepared for our newsletters to go electronic next term**.

Each week, we have reminded parents and carers to update their email address or let us know if we need to prepare a paper copy for younger students. Older students can collect a paper newsletter from the office and parents can also see a copy of our newsletter on our website.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

**APA News**

Parent-Teacher Interviews and Reports
Term 1 2014

Students should receive their Term 1 reports on Wednesday 23rd April (the first day of term 2).

These reports reflect the first 8 weeks of the year only. A much fuller report will be issued at the end of each Semester, and will contain much more detailed information about student results and achievements.

Our Parent-Teacher interviews will be held for years from Prep to Year 12 on Tuesday 29th April from 3:20pm.

Interviews will be of 10 minute duration.

The interviews are to be booked using the Parent Teacher On Line facility.

Go to the school’s home page www.saintmarys.qld.edu.au

Click the Parent Teacher Online link in the Quick Links

Enter your surname and PIN, provided on the attached slip.

This booking system will be available and on-line from 9:00am Thursday 23rd April.

Close time is 4:00pm on Monday 28th April (the day before the interviews).

Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best.

**Camp Bus Times**

Parent and students should note the camp bus departure times from Saint Mary’s as summarised below.

Additional pick-up and drop-off points may have been advised in camp information packages already sent home.

**Wednesday 2nd April**

Year 8: 8:30am to Alexander Hds
Year 9: 7:00am to Bli Bli & Coolum
Year 11: 7:00am to Emu Gully
Year 12: 9:00am to Bunya Mts

**Thursday 3rd April**

Year 7: 7:00am to Duckadang via Linville

The next three weeks of Footy Picks is on the back of the Newsletter. Please remember to submit these before Friday afternoon.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

**APRE News**

Thank you to everyone for your support while I have been in this role for the past 6 months. It’s a privilege to be part of Leadership and to play a role in the Religious Life of our school. Next term I resume my role as STIE and P-6 Curriculum Coordinator.

This Sunday will be the 5th Sunday of Lent.

First Reading – Ezekiel 37:12-14; Second Reading – Romans 8:8-11; Gospel John 11:1-45. This is then followed by Palm Sunday also known as Passion Sunday on Sunday 13th April and Easter Sunday on 20th April.

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

**Prep to Year 6**

Teachers participated in a Professional Development short course yesterday after school. Niki Kennedy worked with staff from this school and Wooroolin State School. Sound Waves is the P-6 literacy program that has been in place for a number of years. This program has a weekly focus on a specific phoneme. This letter sound is the same across all the years.

Each builds on the previous year. E.g. if in Unit 15 the ee sound is the focus then it is the focus in Unit 15 from Prep through to Year 6. There have been a few upgrades and online aspects that teachers need to keep updated so it was both timely and beneficial.

The next P-6 assembly will have a new start time 2.10pm for the rest of 2014. First assembly will be week 2 – at the NEW TIME 2.10pm Friday 2nd May 2014.

NAPLAN practice test is in week 2 – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – replicating the ‘real thing’ which starts in week 4 on Tuesday 15th May 2014 and goes for three days. If you have any questions or queries about NAPLAN please speak with Ms. Radcliffe or Mrs. Burr. There will be letters going home shortly to all students in year 3, 5, 7 and 9.

God Bless
Ms Pam Radcliffe

**Counsellor News**

Staying connected: you and your teenager By Raising Children Network

As teenagers become more independent, they often spend more time away from home. It might also feel like your child is less interested in talking to you. But there are plenty of things you can do to maintain a strong positive relationship and stay connected with your teenager.

**Being connected**

Adolescence is a time when parents and children begin to spend more time apart. This is partly because teenagers need to explore relationships with friends and others outside their family. It helps them:

- develop a sense of independence
- understand their place in the world as young adults
- work out independent values and beliefs.

But your teenager still needs a strong relationship with you to feel safe and secure as she meets the challenges of adolescence.

**Staying connected is about building closeness** in a relationship by being available and responsive to the other person. It’s more than just spending time around each other, as family members can share the same physical space without really connecting.

Connecting can be casual, which involves using frequent everyday interactions to build closeness. Or connecting can be planned – this is when you schedule time to do things together that you both enjoy.

**Keeping it casual**

Casual connecting is a way of using everyday interactions to build closeness. The best opportunities for casual connecting are when your child starts a conversation with you – this generally means he’s in the mood to talk.

**Tips for casual connecting**

- Stop what you’re doing and focus on the moment. Even for just a few seconds, give your child your full attention.
- Connecting works best when you send the message that ‘Right now, you’re the most important thing to me’.
- Look at your child while she’s talking to you. Really listen to what she’s saying. This sends the message that what she has to say is important to you.
- Show interest. Encourage your child to expand on what he’s saying, and explore his views, opinions, feelings, expectations or plans.
- Listen without judging or correcting. Your aim is to be with your child, not to give advice or help unless she asks for it.
- Just be there – you might be in the kitchen when you child is in his bedroom. Teenagers benefit from knowing that sources of support are available.

You can also actively try to create opportunities for casual connecting, but don’t push it if your child doesn’t want to talk. Trying to force a conversation can lead to conflict and leave the two of you worse off.

Graham Turnball
Counsellor

**ANZAC Day**

Each year at school we have a photographic walk on Anzac Day at school. We would like to once again include images of staff and school family’s relatives.

If you have any photos of your own family members who have ever served in the
Defence Forces we would love to get a copy. I will then get it laminated and add it to the walking trail.
I would also like a brief description - to make an A4 explanation to sit next to each family image...It could also be a photo of them later in life etc. a photo of their medals...anything.
So if possible could you email a jpg or get a copy A4 size of your photo in to me be about the 23rd of April, thanks
Mrs Langford Martoo.
blangford@bne.catholic.edu.au
God's blessings
Mrs Bronwyn Langford Martoo
Teacher - Visual Art, English, Home Economics

Office News
A reminder that the College Finance Software upgrade will be in progress over the Easter holidays and that we will be unable to access financial information from lunch time on Friday 4th April until the morning of Wednesday 23rd April. Families can still pay funds into the College bank account during this period but we will not be able to provide receipts nor look up Statement Information for families until after the upgrade is finalised. We apologise for any inconvenience that families may experience during this period. The College Term 2 Fees and Levies Statements will be sent out later this week. The office will close this Friday, 4th April 4pm and will reopen on Wednesday 23rd April.

Kym Schultz
Business Manager

Tuckshop News
This week’s Friday Tuckshop Specials are as follows:
Mini Spring Rolls (4) $3.50
Morning Tea & Lunch
Fish & Chips $5.00
Lunch only
Last Lent day for Tuckshop, wishing you all a Happy & Safe Easter.
Tuckshop will resume on Wednesday 23rd April—the first day back for Term 2.

Thank You
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Volunteers Needed
Wanted any parent or community members who might have tractors or earthworks equipment to help aerate and top dress our main oval. Please contact Miss Kym Schultz our Business Manager on 4162 2011.

School Holiday Fun
The Wondai Regional Art Gallery in conjunction with GOMA and the Cai Guo-Qiang exhibition are running a free workshop on Saturday 12th April from 9:30 until 1 pm. Open to all children ages 6 - 11, materials supplied and parent are welcome to stay. Ring 4168 5926 to book.

Thanks to the parents who have started donating some of the following items to the Art Room.
We still need more of the following:
- newspapers
- magazines
- glass jars
- cereal boxes (large ones)
- ice cream containers or large buckets
- sculpture items such as old rolls of wire, old pieces of pipe, offcuts of timber etc. if you are able to donate any of these just drop them into school, thanks

From the Science Department
WANTED: If anyone has an old freezer they no longer need the science department would benefit greatly from it. It only needs to be a small freezer, it is needed to store science experiment materials to keep them fresh.
If anyone can help with a small unwanted freezer please contact the office.

From the Art Department

The Cherbourg Ration Shed: is conducting a Reconciliation Fun Run/Walk from Murgon to Cherbourg on Sunday, 27th April commencing at the Murgon Showgrounds at 8am and ending up in Cherbourg for a day of fun, entertainment and family activities. Cherbourg is keen to welcome their neighbours and regional communities in the name of friendship, reconciliation and future possibilities. We also aim to celebrate the Cherbourg community, its culture and achievements while raising both funds and awareness of the Ration Shed and their range of cultural education programs and facilities.
More detailed information and online registration can be found at www.rationshed.com.au/funrun. Nomination forms are available at the College office.

Holy Week & Easter Mass Times
A friendly group gathered last Friday for the first “Girls Night In”.

Some clever costumes from Friday Nights Dance.

Round Five

Name:
- Roosters
- Bulldogs
- Broncos
- Eels
- Sharks
- Warriors
- Panthers
- Raiders
- Dragons
- Rabbitohs
- Storm
- Titans
- Tigers
- Sea Eagles
- Cowboys

Round Six

Name:
- Panthers
- Rabbitohs
- Titans
- Broncos
- Raiders
- Knights
- Eels
- Roosters
- Dragons
- Cowboys
- Storm
- Bulldogs
- Sharks
- Sea Eagles
- Shirts
- Storm
- Dragons

Round Seven

Name:
- Rabbitohs
- Bulldogs
- Knights
- Broncos
- Sea Eagles
- Cowboys
- Dragons
- Warriors
- Sharks
- Roosters
- Storm
- Raiders
- Titans
- Eels
- Tigers
- Panthers