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

On Tuesday, we celebrated a beautiful Opening Mass and Induction of Senior Leaders in our College’s Maryknoll Centre. Our Prep class even joined us for their first major College event. I was just so impressed with the great reverence shown by all of our students. I would like to thank Ms Radcliffe and Mr Hutton for the wonderful liturgy, Fr Nigel for his powerful homily and his friendly presence in our community, Mr Erwin, Mr Curran, Mr Cook, Ms Molloy, Mrs Lutz, Mrs Humphreys and all of the staff and students who assisted in making this such a special occasion.

During our Mass, our Senior Leaders and Senior class received their badges of office. I would like to congratulate our entire Senior class and especially their elected leaders:

- College Captains: Cassie Firman and Gabe Crane
- House Captains: Matt Harch (Polding); Sam Hudson (Quinn) and Ellen Nixon (Rush)
- SRC Committee Leaders: Brittani Murphy & Stephanie Ross (Faith and Community Committee) and Teleah Brydon & Thilini Ranasinghe (Citizenship and Culture Committee)

Our Seniors gave their Statement of Commitment to our entire College community, in which they promised to work together to bring forward new ideas to benefit our whole College community. Their symbol captures their desire to share these new ideas.

On Monday, I employed Dallas Brown as our new Year 6 teacher. Dallas has worked for a number of years at Southern Cross Catholic College, Scarborough. Dallas and his family will move to Kingaroy and he will take over as Year 6 teacher as of Monday on Feb 17. I would like to thank Mrs Amanda Erwin for coming to our rescue and getting the year off to a great start with our Year 6s.

Each year, our College develops its Annual Goals which provide a focus for our Professional Development and budget. This year’s priorities are:

- Continuing working with Brisbane Catholic Education to introduce the LIFE program which will give our students and parents online access to class and extension work and activities. This program stalled at a system level in 2013.
- Intensive training programs for staff in delivering English and Maths.
- Continuing development of our Visible Learning project to improve student outcomes.
- Improving our RE resources
- Developing building applications for new classrooms and music room in 2015.
- Seeking greater opportunities for staff and students to experience Christian Meditation.
- Continue developing our School Wide Positive Behaviour program and philosophy.
- Look at developing an overseas social justice immersion for older students to either Bacalod Kindergarten in the Philippines, East Timor or similar.
- Attempting to have the same staff member teaching across each subject in Yrs 7 – 10 to ensure a consistent approach.
- Continue to strengthen ties with St Joseph’s, Murgon and St Patrick’s, Nanango communities.
- Develop more programs to challenge our many “Gifted and Talented” students.

**Year 9 Laptop Evening: 7 - 8pm, Tuesday February 18th. All Year 9 students, parents and carers are encouraged to attend** this important evening, so that they are fully informed about our laptop program and their responsibilities under this program. Parents of Year 10 - 12 students who have not had a laptop evening are also invited to attend.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy Opening Mass

Yesterday we had a wonderful opening Mass where new teachers and Father Nigel were introduced. Senior students and leaders of our College were awarded their badges in recognition of duties they will perform this year. Thank you to all the parents who attended and stayed for morning tea. We were also blessed to have Mr Keith Campbell and Mrs Marion Campbell in attendance, representing the Mayor. Mr Darren Schmidt from ACICC also joined our celebration and we thank him for his continued support of our College. The Senior oath was very moving and the students were very sincere in their commitment to the College in 2014. Thank you to Ms Radcliffe and Mr Hutton for their excellent work in preparing this celebration.

Hats
Please ensure Hats are worn when outside at all play times. It is still very hot and we are a registered SunSmart school. Sunscreen is also available for further protection if needed.

Being Respectful
It has come to my attention that some students are speaking to each other in a disrespectful manner. This will not be tolerated and will be dealt with through class teachers, Pastoral co-ordinators and finally by the Deputy Principal. Being respectful is one of our key Benedictine values and must be adhered to at all times.

Have a lovely week.
God bless
Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APRE News
A big thank you to the students in Prep who behaved so beautifully during our Opening Mass yesterday morning. We had a contingency plan but it was not needed. When I looked over at their faces they were transfixed with Fr. Nigel and were happy to look at the pictures during our final song. It was wonderful to have them there. Our senior class of 2014 stepped up today. These Masses are very important and it can be a bit difficult to let go.

I have met with Fr. Nigel already and will have further meetings to fine tune when First Eucharist will be in Saint Mary’s Parish, Kingaroy. The children who made their first Reconciliation last year will be preparing for their First Eucharist early in March. More details to follow.

Shrove Tuesday is 4th March with Ash Wednesday 5th March. There will be a liturgy with the Anointing of Ashes on Wednesday 5th March. This is the beginning of Lent, culminating with Good Friday 18th April and Easter Sunday 20th April. Keep an eye on the Parish website for Easter Masses as the school holidays are before the Easter break this year and school resumes on the Tuesday 22nd April. There will be more information about Lent and Easter in the next few weeks.

The College led Parish Mass is Sunday 23rd February at 10.00am. Year 6 and Year 9 students will be the leaders. However, all students and staff are very welcome to attend any and all College led Parish Masses. I will be approaching the students and teachers of those year levels very shortly to allocate readings.

Thank you
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

APA News
Year 9 Laptop Computer
Information and Handover Night
7-00pm to 8-00pm
Tuesday 18th Feb
Maryknoll Centre @ SMCC

A separate letter has been sent home with students setting out the process for the night.

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

Prep—Year 6
The Preps and their teacher are still finding their feet and doing really well. I am very proud of the Preppies and their parents. It’s a big journey for some of our parents and it can be a bit difficult to let go.

To keep in touch with all our parents we try to have some gatherings throughout the year. Our first one is in Term 1 around week 6. We are having our annual Celebration of Learning for parents of children in Prep to Year 6. More details to follow but be prepared for a wonderful cooked brekkky and a chat with teachers and other staff. Brekky is served from 7.00am. This gives parents who work a chance to pop in to the classroom and see what their child or children are up to. Teachers in Prep to Year 6 are invited to the brekky and will be in the classroom from 7.45 to chat with parents and show them around. Parents are asked to leave no later than 8.40 as children get ready for the school day.

If you would like more time to speak with your child’s teacher then please make an appointment with that teacher to discuss any concerns you may have. This is for any time during the year.

A big thank you to all the teachers: Miss Sexton, Miss Van Dyk, Mr Collier, Mrs Weier, Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. McNamara, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Arrell and Mrs. Erwin for a great start to the year. We welcome the appointment of our new Year 6 teacher, Mr Dallas Brown. I also thank our school officers, Mrs. Parfett, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Mazzer, Ms. Molloy, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. Paterson and Mrs. Higgins for all the work they do with our students both in and out of the classroom. It’s going to be a great year.

Thank you
Ms Pam Radcliffe
Prep—Year 6

Counsellor News
Great Scores But Unhappy Kids
You’d be well aware that late last year, the OECD published the latest of their PISA tables.

But did you know that as this article shows, the tests are not all about numeracy and literacy?

As part of the tests, students were asked to agree or disagree with a whole range of statements. One of which was:

“I feel happy at school.”

When I saw the responses, I was immediately conscious of the fact that Australia rates fairly low on the “happiness” score.

Sure we can get into a debate about the true meaning of happiness or whether you feel school should be “fun” or not, but I’m more interested in exploring why it is that so many kids would say they are not happy at school and what the potential knock-on effects of this might be.

But what do we make of the fact that the least happy students happen come from countries that top the academic tables—South Korea, Finland, Estonia & Poland?

Great test scores do not a happy child make. Some may argue that a schools responsibility is to raise achievement first and foremost.

But what if, instead of the incessant focus on “raising achievement”, we focused on enhancing engagement and wellbeing first and foremost in schools, so that kids feel happier about being there and as a result achievement would rise as a by product.

As it appears the current trend seems to focus on achievement at the expense of engagement & wellbeing of students and teachers.

Author Dan Haesler is a teacher, consultant and speaker at the Mental Health & Wellbeing of Young People seminars. His website is: http://danhaesler.com/ and he tweets at @danhaesler

Mr Graham Turnbull
Guidance Counsellor
Textbooks and Consumables
Textbooks and consumables are being distributed to classes this week. Detailed information about the textbook hire scheme went out to Year 7-12 students last Friday. Please contact Mrs. Burr in the library if your child did not receive one. Textbooks are very expensive resources which are loaned out to students for the year. It is understood that students use and carry these books frequently, but there is an expectation that they are responsible for these books and maintain them in good condition. Lost/damaged books must be reported to library staff immediately so that they can be repaired where possible or replaced and made available for student use.

Overdue library books from 2013
Please insist that your child returns all textbooks they may still have from last year. Several reminders as well as a final letter were sent home last year. Invoices for these will be sent home by the Business Manager in Week 4. Once invoiced, there can be no refunds even if books are returned.

Library borrowing
Library borrowing will begin next week with an orientation session, including borrowing procedures and responsibilities of borrowers. The Take-home reader and Lexile Programs will begin next week as well. (Detailed information will be sent home next week) Please ensure that students in Prep-Year 6 have library bags for their library lessons.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner
Assessment Calendars
Year 7-12 assessment calendars will be distributed to students next week.

Student Diaries
It has been lovely to see Year 7-12 students carrying their diaries to classes. Please keep encouraging your child to use these as they are a great tool to assist with organisation and communication.

Year 9 Laptops
A parent/student information session will be held on Tuesday 18th Feb at 7pm in the Maryknoll prior to handing out Year 9 laptops. More information will be sent home via a letter this week.

Indigenous News
Bush to the Coast Camp Trip
We are planning a trip to the Gold Coast for our Yr. 7s to Yr. 12s Indigenous students from 17-19 February. St Michael’s College at Merrimac on the Gold Coast will be hosting this Indigenous Cultural Exchange Program. Students will be bringing home a Consent Form next week. Please make sure you return this Form to the front office on the due date. This will be a unique opportunity for our students to learn about the local Aboriginal history of the Traditional Owners, the Yugambeh people, including learning about their traditional bush food, fishing and hunting practices.

Sports News
College Swimming Carnival for students ages 10 years to 18 years will be held on Thursday, 13th February at the Kingaroy Aquatic Centre. This carnival is the first of two swimming carnivals this year and will determine which students are required for the South Burnett Team trials. Further details will follow next week.

Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

Tutoring News
Tutoring for students in Years 7 to 12 will commence Thursday, 6th February 3pm to 4pm in Rooms 41, 42 and 43. Students will be able to commence assignments and receive help in Mathematics and Science. Year 7-12 Maths tutoring will be in room 42, with Miss Tucker and Mr Dunbrack. This tutoring is free and I thank the teachers who give up their time to assist students in their learning.

Mr Sean Erwin
Year 12 Mathematics Teacher

Tuckshop News
Friday’s extra choice menu:
Morning Tea and Lunch
Chicken & Gravy Roll - $3.50
Lunch Only
Ham Pasta Salad - $3.50

A new menu for 2014 came home with your “Back to School Pack” last year. It is a yellow menu. If you do not have the correct menu please come and see Mrs Rutley at Student Services, desk at the office.

A gentle reminder of the donated food items listed on the menu, these can be sent into the College at any time throughout the year. Anyone wishing to donate their time in the Tuckshop please contact Mrs Michelle Davis on 4162 2011. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

Lost Property
There is still a large collection of lost property from last year. There are many hats in this collection. Please feel welcome to come to the Student Services counter via the court yard door and look through the box if you are missing any clothing.

Uniform Shop
A reminder to parents that all Uniform Orders must be paid at the time of purchase by cheque, cash or card. All other payment arrangements must be pre-approved by the Business Manager. Please don’t send your child to the uniform shop without payment as we do not wish to offend or disappoint any students.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for Uniform Shop. If you are able to volunteer a couple of hours of your time to assist in the Uniform Shop (Wednesday mornings), please contact the Office. Thank you.

Amanda Jensen
Uniform Shop Coordinator

Library Corner

Indigenous News

Lost Property

Tuckshop News
**Instrumental Music Tutors**
Students who see Mr Jepperson, Mrs Hopkins or Mrs Kennedy your music timetables are displayed in the Music Room window. Please come and see when your lesson is. All lessons start this week.

---

**Wondai Proston JRLC**
Wondai Proston JRLC will be holding a free Combine Sign On & Come & Try Rugby League Day on Sunday, 9th February hosted by NRL Development Officer Colin Huxtable from 10am to 12noon followed by a sausage sizzle.
Fee’s for 2014, $75 for the 1st child.
All enquiries to Wally Knight 4169 0971.

---

**YEAR 12 FORMAL MAKEUP**

*Mink Makeup Artistry* is taking appointments for the 2014 Formal. Book now to secure your appointment.

Contact - 0402 649 883, find us on facebook or email minkmakeupartistry@gmail.com

---

**QUOTA**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY DINNER**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**JENNY WOODWARD**

ABC TV NEWS AND WEATHER PRESENTER

DATE: 1st March 2014
TIME: 6.30 pm
WHERE: RSL Tobruk Room - Kingaroy
PRICE: $50.00 per person or $450 table of 10.

RSVP: 2nd Feb 2014; Allison Otto - ph. 4162 3582 or allison.otto@bigpond.com or Wendy Tully - ph 41628485 or jsottally@gmail.com

---

**South Burnett Saints AFL**

**SIGN ON DAY**

Junior and Senior Players
Saturday 15th February 2014

Time: 9am - Midday
Kingaroy Cricket Club - Lyle Vidler Oval
Jumping Castle, Activities & Sausage Sizzle

For any enquiries please contact:-
President: Dan Clacy – 0413 853 103
Vice President: Troy Miller – 0438 313 030
Email: southburnettafc@gmail.com

Special thanks to sponsors of the sign on day