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

We have just purchased a new 25 seater bus for use by classes for sports, excursions, camps etc. It is hoped that this new bus along with our current 12 seater will help to reduce the costs of travel for our students. It is very important that our rural students can access the same educational opportunities as their metropolitan counterparts.

Our new parents and carers may be unaware of some of our major facility developments last year. I am very proud of just how far our community has come in these past two years. Some of around $400,000 in new and refurbished facilities included:

- Refurbished Art, Home Economics and two general classrooms.
- New Year 4/5 Playground and upgrades to P-3 playground.
- New carpeting for Years 2 – 6 classrooms.
- P6 Technology upgrades including: iPads for classes especially Early Years & Years 2-6 computers increased to 38 machines in our primary long room redevelopment.
- Increased sporting facilities: retractable basketball hoop, cricket nets, futsal nets, multipurpose goals (League, Union and Soccer).
- Sound, lighting, stage curtains and dressing room upgrades for our Maryknoll centre Dance & Drama centre.
- New signage for oval, Maryknoll and Trade Training Centre.
- Completion of our beautiful Bunya Dreaming Garden.

I would like to acknowledge our state government’s Flying Start program for providing $250,000 toward Art, Home Economics & classroom upgrade. This program was designed to assist schools to meet the additional needs of Year 7s moving into secondary. Our Home Economics and Art rooms were desperately in need of improvement to meet this need.

You have probably heard the statements that “there are no perfect children and no perfect parents” and “parents are not given a manual on how to raise each child”. Being a parent or carer is the toughest job all of us will face because it involves a life-long commitment to our children. Of course, it is also the most rewarding thing that any of us will ever do.

As a parent to two beautiful daughters now in their mid-20s, I like all parents have seen my fair share of both joys and struggles. From time to time, even the best child will have struggles and as loving parents and carers, this will affect us greatly. The best advice that I have for parents is to hold strong to your positive family values. As a parent, you will often hear, “…but So & So’s parents let them do it!”. Don’t fall for it! I would encourage all families to stick to their strong family values and not get fooled into a “race to the bottom” dropping down to the lowest values that we are told others hold.

One of the best examples of this is with alcohol for teenagers. Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, other doctors, psychologists and health professionals have made it very clear that there is no acceptable level of alcohol consumption for teenagers, as the risks for our children increase greatly with the earlier they start drinking. Because of the risks associated with the early consumption of alcohol, many are pushing for 21 years of age to be the minimum. I would strongly discourage any of our families of supplying alcohol to your children. This philosophy has changed significantly over the past decade from the times when giving a teenager a drink at home was “encouraging drinking in moderation”.

Helping our children with their homework can be pretty stressful at times. Last year, I encouraged all in our community to access “My Tutor” via the South Burnett Library website.
It is proposed to buy more lockers this year if funding permits. If your child wants a locker, please see Mrs Rutley. Valuables can be stored in lockers or handed in to the office (preferred option). Have a great week.

God Bless.

Mr Sean Erin
Deputy Principal

APRE News

Very shortly our school and wider community will be participating in CARITAS – Project Compassion. This is an event that our school supports every year. The support runs through Lent leading up to Easter. CARITAS is one of our major fund raising events of the year. The message this year is “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full” a passage from John’s gospel. To share stories with your children you can visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

There will be more information about Shrove Tuesday and fundraising over the coming weeks.

Mass is at the College every Wednesday at 8.15am. Mass is in the Media Room of the Resource Centre. Please come to the front counter and you will be directed to the Media Room.

Confirmation and Communion information session and workshops will be starting shortly. We are waiting on confirmation of dates from Brisbane Archdiocese.

This week’s Sunday readings:
1st reading – Ecclesiasticus/Sirach 15:1-20
2nd Reading – Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel – Matthew 5:17-37

Our College led parish Mass is Sunday 23rd February. Year 9 and Year 6 are the leaders of this Mass. All students are welcome to come to our monthly school and Parish Masses. Next one is 30th March where the staff of Saint Mary’s will be commissioned by Fr. Nigel Sequeira. Thank you

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

Swimming Carnival Arrangements-
Tomorrow

Prep-6 classes will run as normal.

Mrs Johnston will escort swimmers in Years 4-6 to and from the pool and ensure they compete in all their nominated events. Years 7-12 students will attend homeroom in the morning and afternoon so rolls can be marked.

Students will be transported by bus to the pool and return by about 2-30pm.

Students may bring money to purchase food from the canteen but it is advisable to bring food as well. No student will be permitted to leave the pool to go to town to purchase food.

Parents are most welcome to attend and help with timekeeping would be appreciated.

Best of luck to all competitors and let us all enjoy the day!

Lockers

Lockers have been allocated to students in years 7-12. The new lockers outside room 46 are for years 10-12.

Library Corner

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 week. Below, for your information is the library process for overdue books:

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 soon. Once invoiced, there can be no refunds even if books are returned.
Library borrowing
Library borrowing has begun this week with an orientation session, including borrowing procedures and responsibilities of borrowers. The Take-home reader and Lexile Programs (detailed information will be sent home this week) has also started.

Library – Process for overdue books
There is a library overdue books process in place to help maintain our library resources.
First reminder (1-15 days overdue) – Each week, class teachers are emailed a list of students to remind
Second notice (16 – 25 days overdue) – Library staff give the student a printed record to take home
Final notice (24-31 days) – Library staff talk to the student individually and give them a final record slip
Letters home to parents/caregivers (31 days + overdue) – Letters with the names of the book and replacement cost are posted home to parents/caregivers
Failing a response/payment after a week, account will be forwarded to the Business Manager. Once invoiced, there can be no refunds even if books are returned.

Please ensure that students in Prep-Year 6 have library bags for their library lessons.
Library volunteers needed!!! We would really appreciate some help with covering books (both contact and plastic). Please contact the library if you are able to help.
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Active After Schools
The active after school program is running again this term and notes went home on Monday. The notes had the previous weeks dates on them as this was when we were due to start but were unable to due to coach availability. Please bring the notes in signed to the student counter as soon as possible. Only students with returned notes will be placed on the list. If you have two children attending you must submit two forms.
Kind regards,
Wade Toms
7-10 Pastoral Care Coordinator

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.

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.
Thank you
Val Matthews
Indigenous Education Support Officer

Sports News
College Swimming Carnival is on tomorrow, looking forward to some terrific results from all participating students.
Mr Allan Medlen
Sports Coordinator

Tutoring News
No tutorial this Thursday due to the swimming carnival.
Mr Sean Erwin
Year 12 Mathematics Teacher

Tuckshop News
Friday’s tuckshop specials:
Morning Tea and Lunch
Torpedos - $3.50
(pie mince inside a long hot dog roll with cheese melted on top)
Lunch Only
Hawaiian Baked Potatoes - $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

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.
As our Uniform Shop is short on space, please only come into the shop if YOU are purchasing uniforms.

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

P & F News
Hello everyone and welcome to another fantastic year at Saint Mary’s. I would like to on behalf of all our parents on the P&F welcome all our new families to our beautiful school community and welcome back to our returning families. I look forward to trying to meet each and everyone of you at sometime throughout the year.

The P&F have some huge projects we wish to undertake this year and to start it all off we will hold our first meeting of 2014 next Tuesday the 18th of February starting at 7.00pm and finishing at 9.00pm in the board room which is located at the school office.

Our AGM will be the 18th of March. At this meeting all committee positions will be announced to be vacant and calls for nomination for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be taken. There is no pressure to take on any of these roles so feel free to come along.

God Bless
Damien Martoo
P&F President.

Swimming Carnival
Draft Timetable for swimming carnival

9.45/10AM-Freestyle-Girls and boys
Breast stroke-Girls and boys

Morning Tea

11.30am- Backstroke-Girls and boys
Butterfly-Girls and boys
Lunch
1PM- Relays-Girls and boys and any Novelty races
2PM- Presentations
Buses back to school.

8.15am Wednesday
Media Room
Saint Mary’s College
Staff, Parents, Students and Parishioners.
All welcome

Mass
Mr B’s Professional Tennis:
is looking for more enthusiastic students to join in our after school tennis lessons. We run group lessons from 3.15pm on weekdays; we also offer private lessons throughout the week and are available on weekends or before school. We are located at the Kingaroy Town Courts. We are also launching a new program ‘Cardio Tennis’. For more information or to book in please call Brad on 0409 895 527 or 07) 4162 7210 or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/mrbsprofessionaltennis.

Kingaroy Midweek Market
Thursdays 7.30am to 1.00pm
O’Neill Square, Haly Street
Only locally grown, chemical free produce.
Only locally produced arts and crafts.
An initiative of “Growing The Burnett Inc.”
Stall holder enquiries please phone 0417 756 528

Kingaroy Junior Redbacks
“SIGN ON DAY”
Saturday 8th February 2014
9am – 1:30pm Redbacks Junior Clubhouse, Oliver-Bond Street (off Youngmen St)
Follow-up Sign-on opportunity Saturday 15th February 2014 at Kingaroy Shopping World, between 9am and 12pm, next to Shopping World Butchery.
All enquiries welcome.

Have you joined the Redbacks yet?
Want to enjoy having fun with your friends while playing a great team sport?
Join Kingaroy Junior Soccer…!!!
“On-line” registration available NOW by going to www.myfootballclub.com.au
Pay in full on, or before, Sign On Day (8th February) for a chance to be in the draw for a refund of one registration!

All enquiries to:- Registrar : Krisy Carroll – 0400 961 991
Boys and girls welcome aged 5 and upwards.
(We also have a SQOUTS program for 3 to 5 year olds)

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

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 $450.00 table of 10.
RSVP: 24th Feb 2014; Alison Otto - ph 4162 3582
or alison.otto@bigpond.com or Wendy Tully – ph 41623485
or justally@gmail.com

Lucky Door Prize Progressive raffles
Proudly sponsored by South Burnett Regional Council and RSL
Proceeds to the South Burnett Private Hospital