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

I am away this week recovering from an eye operation. Hopefully, all going well, I will be back on deck next Tuesday.

We had many great events over the last week including:

Orana Retirement Home visits: It was wonderful to join our students for their visit. It is a great opportunity for our students just to take the time to sit and chat whilst learning a little about yesteryear. We visit Orana each Thursday, so that students can travel home in the study bus. These visits are open to all students in Year 6-12.

Thursday afternoon study: We had so many students at study and Orana that last week, we had to use our 25 seater bus to get students home to Wondai, Murgon and Cherbourg. I am very grateful to the staff members who volunteer their time to support our students.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: A huge thanks to Ms Radcliffe, Mr Hutton and students for our reflective Ash Wednesday liturgy. Our Preps and Miss Saxton deserve a special congratulations for their beautiful Lenten song to finish our liturgy.

International Women’s Day Breakfast: A huge thank you to Mrs Langford-Martoo for organising our breakfast and to Mrs Burr for sharing her story with our staff, parents and students.

Indigenous Family BBQ: I would like to thank Aunty Valerie Mathews and Uncle Eric Law for organising our first Indigenous Family BBQ at the Ration Shed, Cherbourg. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to my operation, but would like to thank all staff, parents and students for supporting this wonderful evening.

On behalf of the College community, I would like to welcome Peta Rowen as our new Career & Employment Transitions Coach. Peta brings a wealth of experience in the employment industry and strong local business connections. I would again thank Jenny Rix for her wonderful work in developing this role and for the many students she has assisted and supported. I would echo the sentiments of so many staff, parents and students who have expressed their gratitude for Jenny's great work.

Over the coming weeks, a few of the upcoming events are:

P-6 Celebration of Learning Breakfast: 7 am. Friday, March 14. I would encourage all of our P-6 families to join us for breakfast and to celebrate their wonderful work.

P&F Working Bee: All parents, carers and students are encouraged to join in our first Working Bee from 7.30 – 11.30am, Sunday, March 16. I have put together a flyer later in this newsletter outlining a list of the important jobs and equipment needed. Many thanks in advance for supporting our community.

St Patrick’s Day Celebrations: Monday, March 17. We will have our P-6 Green Hat Day parade at 9am in the Mary Knoll Centre and that evening we will be follow up with St Patrick’s celebrations at the Parish Hall. More details later in the newsletter.

Harmony Day: Thursday 20th March. Students are encouraged to wear National Dress / Cultural Gear or Farm wear and donate a Gold Coin to the “Buy a Bale of Hay” for our struggling drought affected farmers.

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal
From the Deputy

Cherbourg Visit

Yesterday, 23 staff and 15 students visited the Ration Shed at Cherbourg. Uncle Eric Law, (former Superintendent of Cherbourg and now Saint Mary’s Indigenous Support Teacher) explained the history of Cherbourg and the place of the Ration Shed and the role of Superintendent. New staff have commented on how valuable an experience it was and how they have started to develop an understanding of the history of Indigenous settlement in the South Burnett region. It is hoped that we can visit the Ration Shed each year to further develop our understanding. After the talk and tour, staff met with parents and we shared a meal together and talked about issues that had arisen this year. I have been very impressed by the dedication and attitude of our Indigenous students, particularly new Year 8’s. Our Indigenous Support Team of Uncle Eric, Auntie Val and Mrs Erwin, are on run at present with helping keen students with assignment work. This is fantastic to hear and I hope the enthusiasm continues for the rest of the year.

Thank you to the parents who attended, it was lovely to see the support for your children as we embark on this journey of education together.

Uncle Eric spoke of the need for a permit to enter or leave the community and presented me with my own permit as shown in the photo below. I was stunned that this practice was only stopped in 1986! Thank you to Eric for his insights and history tour!

Camps

Camps will be held in Week 10. Students who misbehave on camp will be sent home, regardless of the time of day or night. Camps are a wonderful learning time and enjoyable experience for all students and staff. Rarely do we need to send a student home, but it can happen. I will make the decision as to whether or not this occurs as I will be at school during the 3 days of the last week. Camp leaders will contact me and I will contact parents to inform them of the need to drive to the camp and pick up their child. If you have any concerns about camp, please contact Mr Dalton who is organising the camps and during camp time please contact the College office. Please do not contact your child directly via text as this causes major problems. Phones and ipods are banned from camps. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Have a great week.

God Bless.

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

APA News

Year 9 Laptop Update

The signed original copies of the Laptop Booklet were sent home with students last week. This will give all students and parents both the full collection of information, and the original copy of the contract. A copy of the signed portion of the document has been retained by the College. Parents and students should also note another full copy of the Student Laptop Information Kit is located on the College Website.

Changing Classes

Student and parents should note that requests to change Home Classes will only ever be approved in rare or exceptional cases. Some students and parents approach the College seeking to change classes because they do not like a certain class member or teacher. These are not valid reasons for changing classes and these request are rarely approved.

Changing Subjects (electives)

Students wishing to change an elective subject may apply to do so by completing the "Change of Subject" form available at the office. This form ensures that all aspect of subject changes are considered before approval is given. Issues such as existing class size, eligibility for OP and QLD Certificate of Education, units of credit, changes to fees and levies etc have to be resolved before approval is given.

NRL footy Picking:

A reminder that the compilation started this week, so all weekly picking should be dropped off at the office no later than Thursdays by 3.30pm. People are encouraged to join the competition and have some fun. It’s for a good cause, and it costs just $10 for the whole season.

Dance Fever Concert

Parents should note that the Term 1 Dance Fever project will come to a finale on Wednesday April 2nd with a Dance Fever Concert in the Maryknoll Centre: 9-00am Prep to Yr 4 9-50am Yr5 to Yr 7

Parents are invited to come along and enjoy the morning watching our younger students show off their new dance move. Have a good week

Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

APRE News

Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

If your child has made their Reconciliation and would like to complete their journey to becoming a Catholic please let Ms. Radcliffe at the College know – 4162 2011. I already have the names of the children who completed their reconciliation last year.

Father Sequeria, has again rung Brisbane to have the date for Confirmation and Eucharist for a weekend in June/July confirmed. There is a parent information afternoon (repeated that evening) coming up which outlines the sacraments and gives parents the two books needed to complete the activities. There will be a cost involved for the books, certificates and medals.

There will be two Saturday activity afternoons – one for Confirmation and one for Eucharist. These dates and the costs will be given out as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience.

Mass is on again this Wednesday in the Media room of the Resource Centre. Mass starts at 8.15am and is on every Wednesday unless otherwise notified.

Easter is approaching and during this time of Lent we reflect about the things we want to change about ourselves. How can we make Christ’s sacrifice mean something to ourselves. What self sacrifice through self discipline am I pursuing during Lent to prepare me for the Resurrection of Christ.

School camps are in the last week of this term. Usually this is just prior to Easter. This year Easter is at the other end of the holidays.

All students P-12 in the last week of school (even if on camp) will participate in liturgy or guided meditation that describes and reflects on some part or all of the Easter story from the Last Supper on Holy Thursday through to Easter Sunday.

Thank you

Ms Pam Radcliffe
Acting APRE

Prep—Year 6

Prep to Year 6 have their assembly on Fridays at 2.00pm (unless otherwise notified). This is held in the Maryknoll Centre of the College. The Year 6 students of the College lead the assembly. These students are on a roster and act as MCs for the afternoon. It is an opportunity for teachers to publically acknowledge the students who are upholding the 5 values of our College and who are working hard in class. It is also an opportunity for the Year 6 Students to demonstrate and practice their skills of leadership. Parents are most welcome to come along to any Friday assembly.

Celebration of Learning. This Friday 14th March hot food will be served from
But Ms Head said girls appeared to have interests for routine and obsessive habits and contact, misinterpreting other people's social skills and a tendency towards inappropriate responses. Other common behaviours among people on the autism spectrum are avoiding eye contact, misinterpreting other people’s moods and emotions, and having a need for routine and obsessive habits and interests.

Ms Head said girls appeared to have "more abilities" than boys in social areas, which helped them manage and conceal some autistic behaviours.

"The girls still have deficits which would be significant enough for them to get a diagnosis (of autism), but what we think may be happening is they are learning superficial skills, coping mechanisms and strategies to deal with social situations, which boys on the spectrum don’t pick up until much later in life. Parents and teachers and clinicians are thinking 'there’s something not quite right here with these girls', but they’re not even approaching the idea of an autism spectrum disorder because the girls chat with other people and they know when to smile at the appropriate times. "So the clinicians and teachers think the girl might have some odd behaviours but she can’t possibly have an autism spectrum disorder."

The number of boys diagnosed with severe autism was double that of girls, but the difference was even greater for high-functioning autism, Ms Head said. Because of the huge difference in the number of boys diagnosed with high-functioning autism as opposed to girls, it had become known as basically a boy's condition, which compounded and further skewed testing and data in the field, she said.

A new Deakin study is now being conducted, looking at the different ways men and women produced, interpreted and reacted to emotions and facial expressions, Ms Head said.

http://www.generationnext.com.au

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Donations of Instruments
At the recent P&F meeting, it was mentioned that some parents may have an instrument or two lying around at their places. The school is very much interested in accepting donations of instruments such as Guitars, Clarinets, Flutes as well as Violas and Double Bass. Unfortunately, the school cannot offer to buy any instruments.

Music News

"We encourage your child to bring a library bag!"

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Curriculum Corner

Dorothy McKellar Poetry Awards P-12
This year, all have the opportunity to enter the well renowned Dorothy McKellar Awards. The Awards aim to inspire students across Australia to express their thoughts creatively through poetry and, by doing so, support the legacy of Dorothea Mackellar and her legendary poem ‘My Country‘. Entries opened on March 1st and close on the 30th June. There are fantastic monetary prizes for each age category as an incentive for students to enter. Students can enter up to 3 poems each. They need to be no more than 80 lines long. There is no set topic. Students can write about anything that inspires them. Poems from school age children can easily be submitted online at www.dorothea.com using the following details: login - pskingaroy@bne.catholic.edu.au - password is students

Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7-10 Curriculum Coordinator

Music News

Donations of Instruments
At the recent P&F meeting, it was mentioned that some parents may have an instrument or two lying around at their places. The school is very much interested in accepting donations of instruments such as Guitars, Clarinets, Flutes as well as Violas and Double Bass. Unfortunately, the school cannot offer to buy any instruments.

Hire Program
Any students who are currently hiring an instrument from the school and have not returned the associated hire form, please do so as a matter of urgency - hire fees are being added to your school fees. If you need a new form, please contact Mr Scanlan through the office.

Thank You
Michael Scanlon
Music Co-Ordinator

Tuckshop News
This Friday Tuck Shop Specials are as follows:

Vegetarian Spring Rolls (4) $3.50
Lunch and Morning Tea

Oven Baked Fried Rice $3.50
Lunch only

A reminder to all that there will be no meat served on Fridays during Lent. This includes ham and chicken. There will be Fish Fingers, Fish Bites and pieces of Fish for sale on these days. Now selling on Mondays and Wednesdays—Mini Sausage Rolls—$1
Thank You
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

P & F News
Parents and friends lend me your ears.
Well eyes anyway. Next Tuesday 18th March will be the P & F AGM, to be held in the College Board Room at 7 pm. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the role of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or Fundraising Co-ordinator please come along. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy and cuppa and a biscuit at the end of the evening.

Blessings
Damien Martoo
P & F President

Pictured Below: Louisa Frahm, year 4. Louisa won 1st Prize for her age group in the Whip Cracking Competition at Proston Show on Saturday. Olivia Frahm, year 9, was placed second for her age in the Whip Cracking Competition. Olivia also won Junior Show Girl.

Round 2

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FOOTY PICKING COMPETITION

Syndicate Name: ..........................Name(s) of participants: ..........................

(Please return this section and your $10 to the office ASAP)

College Working

7.30 – 11.30am Sunday Mar 16
All parents, carers and students are invited to join in our P&F’s first working bee for 2014. The major tasks on the day will include:

- Oil and paint all lunch tables & seats (The College will organise paints, oils, brushes & drop sheets)
- Mulch and tidy all gardens (please bring: wheelbarrows, gardening equipment – hedge trimmers, rakes etc)
- Blow pathways, outdoor areas and Maryknoll Centre (please bring: blowers)
- Tidy embankments around the College (please bring: whipper snippers, brushcutters, utes to remove waste etc)

These working bees save our community thousands of dollars each year, which can then be redirected to our children’s education.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance.
Mike Nayler & Damian Martoo

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH
EAST TIMOR MEETING
Information evening starting at 7 pm concluding approx. 8.30pm.
All interested students and parents should attend.

On the 17 March 2014 there will be a 5.30pm Mass to Celebrate the Feast Day of Patrick at St Mary’s Catholic Church, Kingaroy.

This will be followed by an evening of Traditional Irish Songs, Dancing etc., located in the St. Mary’s Catholic Parish Hall.

Newsletter Request Form
Please return this slip to the College Office

Name: ____________________________

I would like to receive my newsletter □ Electronically □ Paper Copy

Email Address: _______________________

IT HELP NEEDED
A parent / caregiver IT volunteer is needed one to two days a week (excluding Tuesday). Please register you availability at the College office. Ph: 41622011