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

Last weekend, many of our talented Whip Cracking students competed in the Queensland Whip Cracking Titles at Clifton. You will read of our students’ excellent results later in this newsletter, but I would like to thank Mrs Arrell, Mr Erwin, Mr Paul Sims, our dedicated band of parent helpers and our talented Whip Cracking team.

For the past couple of years, we have run the Active After Schools program at Saint Mary’s for Prep – Year 6 students. The government has closed this program and will reopen it in Semester 2 as the new Sporting Schools program. More information on the program will appear later in the newsletter. We are looking to begin the program from next week on Mondays (Kidzfit); Tuesday (Auskick – AFL) and Thursday (Kanga Cricket).

The remaining 7 weeks of term 1 will cost $20 per child per activity as there is no government funding. There is also a new dance school opening up on Wednesdays, which is not part of this program, so there will be something available each Monday—Thursday afternoon for our Prep—Year 6 students.

Beginning next week, we will be splitting our Year 10 classes into smaller groups. I would like to acknowledge the work of our Assistant Principal – Curriculum Mr John Dalton, who has worked hard to find a workable solution. I have also spent a lot of time working with our Brisbane Catholic Education Area Supervisor to negotiate the funding of these changes. This will mean some minor class changes in other year levels and having to hire a new specialist Prep – Year 7 teacher. As discussed in my earlier newsletter, we are very tight for room allocations at present, but this will be alleviated in 2015, when our new buildings will be open thanks to the generous grants from the Queensland and Australian Governments and funding from loans taken up by our College community.

Planning is well underway for our Combined Anniversaries Celebrations and College Open Day on Saturday May 30 and Sunday May 31. We will be celebrating the opening of: St Mary’s Convent School - 1929; St Mary’s Secondary College – 1965; and South Burnett Catholic P-12 College – 1990. All past and present Saint Mary’s student, staff, families and community members are invited to our Combined Anniversaries Celebrations. Past staff and students can register their contact details at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SM2015

Sat May 30, 2015:

1.00 pm: Nanango Races including the Saint Mary’s Combined Anniversaries Stakes. Buses to and from Kingaroy (and hopefully Saint Mary’s Catholic College). Best dressed prizes - Race Day Fashion Theme is ‘Vivid Velvet & Vintage’

6.00 pm: Combined Anniversaries Mass – Saint Mary’s Maryknoll Centre
7.00 pm: Food stalls, coffee vendors and live entertainment - Saint Mary’s Maryknoll Centre
11.00 pm: Night ends

Sun May 31, 2015:

10.00 am: College Open Day, memorabilia sales, P&F sausage sizzle, classroom displays and tours.
12.30 pm: Official welcome, past students and staff time line and past staff and student roll call,
On Thursday, we will hold our annual College Swimming Carnival at the Kingaroy Pool. Parents, grandparents and younger siblings are very welcome to attend; but high school aged students from other schools are not welcome and will be asked to leave. Our first College P&F meeting for the year will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, February 17 in the College’s Board room. All parents, carers and community members are welcome to attend. Our P&F has already shown off their incredible contribution to our community through their P&F Family Fun day and will also help to fund our new outdoor sports court.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

**Deputy News**

**Queensland Whip Cracking Titles – Clifton**

Last Sunday, seven students from Saint Mary’s whip cracking team travelled to Clifton for the Qld titles. The judges were very impressed by the manners and decorum shown by our students throughout the day. The students representing the College were:

Samuel Erwin Year 4, Cooper and Tom Pennell Year 6, Nicholas Erwin Year 6, Jorja Curran Year 7, Meg Wernecke Year 7, Stephanie Arrell Year 8

The following students received places in the various divisions:

- Samuel Erwin - 1st - 8 years and Under
- Meg Wernecke - 2nd - Novice Division
- Stephanie Arrell - 1st - Novice Division
- Jorja Curran - 3rd - 9 to 12 Years Division
- Stephanie Arrell - 2nd - 9 to 12 Years Division
- Samuel Erwin - Encouragement Award for all Divisions

Students received cash prizes and Samuel received a brand new pair of whips. Winners from the state titles are eligible to compete in the National titles held at the Royal Easter show in Sydney on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to Mr Sims for coaching the children every week.
Thank you to all the parents who drove 3-4 hours so their children could compete and gain valuable experience watching some National champions in action.

Congratulations to all involved. You are a credit to our school.

God bless

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

**APA News**

During 2014, teachers in the College began work on a Homework Policy.

It soon became apparent that the target audience would be in three distinct groups:

1. Parents
2. Students
3. Teachers

The policy is now in draft form and ready for comment and final editing. As a part of that process, below are the notes that teachers have made that suggest ways parents and carers can help students complete useful homework.

I would welcome any feedback that you may have on this first draft. It can be sent to my email: jdalton@bne.catholic.eu.au

Parents should:

- Encourage
- Engage with your children.
- Be involved.
- Encourage students, but in the case of Senior students, keep involvement to minimum.

realise your dignity
• Encourage any type of appropriate reading.
• Motivate, encourage and guide.
• Pay attention to students in the middle school who need help with focus and attention issues.
• Value all types of literature as long as kids are reading.

Manage
• Provide and protect homework time.
• Help students become efficient time managers by showing them how to use the Student Diary as a management tool. Other devices such as term or weekly planners may also be used.
• Help students manage commitments to sport, family and work, and the impact that this might have with preparation for assessment.
• Assist students by ensuring that they have a healthy diet and regular exercise, especially during times of increased stress at assessment time.
• Ensure students have adequate breakfast before school.
• If students are spending too much time on the internet or watching TV, ensure that computers, phones, and TVs are not in a room (such as a bedroom) where parents are unable to monitor student usage. “If its distracting, do some subtracting”.
• Plan homework completion.

Provide
• Provide an encouraging study space (computer, desk, no distractions etc)
• Ensure students use electronic devices (such mobile phones, computers) in a way that does not interfere with attention to expected homework. Students who use such devices excessively should have them confiscated and be trained to self-monitor usage.
• Help students manage time and plan for periods of increased homework needs at the end of term.
• Where necessary, provide computer and books at home.

Other
• Keep parental involvement to minimum
• Do not contribute to student assignments in a manner that inflates the student’s results.
• Explain questions

Year 9 Laptop Computer Information and Handover Night
An important event for Year 9 students each year is the allocation of laptop computers to each student.

It is important not only because it is an essential tool for modern learning, but also because misunderstandings about ownership, approved use, maintenance and breakage can cause considerable angst.

To ensure that all students and parents fully understand the rights and responsibilities associated with these computers, we strongly encourage all students and parents attend the information evening (detailed below).

Year 9 Laptop Computer
Information and Handover Night
7-00pm to 8-00pm
Wednesday 11th Feb
Maryknoll Centre at SMCC

Students will receive their laptops during the days following this evening.

Thank you,
Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal

APRE News

Lent
The season of lent begins next Wednesday on Ash Wednesday. This season of preparation and reflection begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians get ready for Easter by observing a period of moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to reflect on the humanity of Jesus and the sacrifice he made for us all.

As is normal practice there will be no meat served at our canteen on Ash Wednesday and every Friday until after the Easter break. Next Wednesday classes will take part in a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes. The ashes historically signify repentance and remind us that we are of the earth and not perfect, but also that we belong to a global Catholic community united by the story of one man, Jesus.

realise your dignity
**Project Compassion**

Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia and provides them with most of the money they spend in areas of need.

In Project Compassion 2014, run by Caritas, nearly $11 million was raised to help the world’s poorest communities. From humble beginnings in 1897 Germany, Caritas, named after a Latin word meaning love and compassion, grew to become one of the world’s largest humanitarian agencies. The Catholic Agency for Aid and Development, Caritas, began in Australia in 1964 and many people, then and now, feel that supporting Caritas is a great way to reach out to people in need.

**2015**

The theme for Project Compassion 2015 is “Food for Life”.

Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how to afford or how to access their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate: how can you plan for the future or educate your children when you fear you will be hungry?

As Pope Francis says: *“It is a well-known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation. This is truly scandalous.”*

Project Compassion 2015 explores how Caritas Australia is helping the world’s poorest people establish sustainable food, walking with them as they free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future.

**At our place in our way**

Students and staff have been provided many resources that support the ‘Food for Life’ theme which will also be an integral part of our Ash Wednesday ceremony. Every member of the college community will get the chance to donate or participate in some way to Project Compassion. The soon to be formed college Student Representative Council will be a driving force of any fundraising initiatives before we break for Easter.

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

**From the Office**

**2015 College Fees and Levies**

The Term 1 Statements will be processed this week and mailed out to all families. Families are welcome to contact the office to make payment earlier should they wish, however issuing of Term 1 Statements will be delayed until secondary student electives and College bus rolls are finalised.

Families without a direct debit in place and wishing to use this payment method should contact the office immediately to start instalments now. The longer the time frame over which instalments are spread, the smaller the instalment amounts. If you are planning to pay your account by BPAY instalments again please ensure that the College is aware this is your nominated payment method.

Regards
Miss Kym Schultz
Business Manager

**Library Corner**

**Textbooks and Consumables**

Textbooks and consumables are being distributed to classes. Detailed information about the textbook hire scheme will be sent home to Year 7-12 students this week. Below, for your information is the summarized version of the library process for overdue books/textbooks.

**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 – 23 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.

realise your dignity
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.

**Library Borrowing**

Library borrowing has begun this week with an orientation session, including borrowing procedures and responsibilities of borrowers. Please ensure that students in Prep-Year 6 have library bags for their library lessons.

**Reading Programs**

The Take-home Reader Program (Yr 1-2) has also begun this week. Please note that Preps begin the Take Home Reader Program in Semester 2. Your child will receive a pack of four readers in a labeled plastic bag. These readers are meant for your student to read to you and not the other way around. It is a great way for them to practise their sight words and word recognition. Please return the pack in the plastic bag to the yellow box in your child’s classroom each Tuesday morning.

The Lexile Program has been replaced with Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is an online tool that motivates students to read more often, with a focus on comprehension and at a level that is appropriate to them. The most powerful aspect of Accelerated Reader is the data it provides to teachers, schools and parents about their students’ reading habits and abilities. It is planned for Accelerated Reader to begin in a few weeks. More detailed information will be provided to parents and families soon.

Yours in reading

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

**Curriculum Corner**

**Assessment Calendars**

Year 7-12 assessment calendars will be distributed to students this week.

**QUT Science Visit**

Our Year 7s and 8s had a wonderful learning opportunity last week when the QUT visited the College to facilitate hands-on science workshops with the students. The students rotated between our activities for the day which were run by enthusiastic QUT staff and students. Among the activities were podiatry and build a boat.

Regards

Mrs Melanie Burr
Year 7-10 Teaching and Learning Leader

**Student Wellbeing - Prep to Year 6**

It’s been a great start to the year. It’s lovely to see the new Preps up in the Area B eating area and playground. As with any new year we are working through issues as they arise in the playground and classroom. A conversation (or three) between the students, teachers, Leadership, and myself gives the students an opportunity to ‘restore’ friendships and relationships and get back on track.

A big thank you to the teachers, who are working consistently on their classroom management and tirelessly on their classroom environment. Please see your teacher if there are any concerns about your child, as many concerns can be cleared up quite quickly, or if need be, further meetings can be scheduled to resolve major issues.

A reminder that only the students in Year 5 and Year 6 who can competently swim 50 metres in any of the four strokes will be attending the swim carnival on Thursday this week. There are 26 students who have nominated for this carnival. Notes have gone home to these children. The Prep to Year 6 will have their fun carnival in Term 4. 2014 was the inaugural Prep to Year 6 water carnival. The review of this event has ensured positive changes for this year. As many of the students P to 6 aren’t strong swimmers, this event gives all the students P-6 an opportunity to demonstrate their skills learnt in the swimming lessons held in Term 4.

Thank you.

Ms Pamela Radcliffe
Student Wellbeing Leader Prep to Year 6
This week and into next week, as part of Homeroom time, students will be working with their teachers to develop the essential skill of prioritising.

Prioritising enables students to use their time more effectively. Reflecting on and then arranging their daily/weekly activities and commitments in order of importance builds growth mindsets and assists in developing their element of wellbeing. The reality is that most students find it very difficult to apply themselves to Home Learning/Study unless it is planned ahead of time. The ‘spontaneous’ approach of just letting it happen doesn’t work, even though our students may disagree.

The best way for students to build their resiliency is to prioritise their activities and then design a structured timetable that includes all the activities that occupy their time, including:

- Sport training
- Part-time jobs
- Study, reading and home learning
- Socialising and networking with friends
- Favourite television shows and games
- Family commitments
- Leisure activities

Because our students’ brains are still developing, they need our support and explicit guidance in learning how to arrange activities in the right order. It’s not that they won’t do it; they just need encouragement to do it consistently. Their positive efforts towards achieving a balance will benefit them considerably, particularly when they are willing and able to become more discerning in identifying ‘musts’ and ‘options’ in their lives and the time they allocate to each of them.

Adapted from ‘Learning Curve’ 2015

Student Wellbeing - Year 7 to Year 9

The Saint Mary’s experience is new for me this year and so far I would have to say it has provided a refreshing change in my teaching career. The strong spirit of community and the welcoming faces around the school have made the move from Gayndah very rewarding. I’ve been blessed to have worked in a diverse range of school settings and roles over the last 20 years and the staff and students here at Saint Mary’s are providing the encouragement needed for the challenge ahead.

Being part of the school year opening mass last week and sharing in the Year 12 Senior Leader installation brought a feeling of pride and thankfulness for the pleasure of being part of their final Saint Mary’s year. This week will see the Student Representative Council (SRC) executive coming together to initiate a process for electing representatives from each pastoral care group as well as discussing the kinds of committees needed to serve the school and the wider community. Mr Neil Hutton and Mr Martin Perrett will bring a wealth of ideas and support to this process. Year 12 students are also encouraged to participate in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

The fresh start to 2015 has bought with it the hopes and dreams of a very committed school community. A collaborative approach towards the wellbeing of students has been reflected in recent discussions. Meeting parents at the opening mass as well as listening to issues and concerns presented in telephone conversations have reflected promising support for students and the interests of the parish and college community.

There is a real excitement about being part of the newly formed wellbeing team who are all strongly committed to the interests and needs of the students. I’m sure the year ahead will bring an array of challenges but there remains a confidence which dispels all apprehension with the team at hand.

Peace and blessings for the 2015 school year ahead!

Regards

Ms Sonia Robertson
Student Wellbeing Leader Year 7 to Year 9

Student Wellbeing - Year 10 to Year 12

Tutoring News

After school Homework Club/Tutoring will begin on Thursday, 19th February due to the swimming carnival this Thursday. It will be held in rooms 42 and 43 for assistance with homework and assignment work.
Thank you to all those families who have handed back their Instrumental Tuition forms.

A reminder that all students must have an Instrumental Tuition form handed in for 2015. I have given a list of student names to the instrumental teachers, so please contact them directly if you are unsure whether you have returned a form or not.

Regards
Mr Michael Scanlan
Music Teacher

Friday Specials
Morning tea and lunch - Chicken and Gravy Rolls $3.50
Lunch only - Spaghetti Bolognaise $3.50

There is a new tuckshop menu for the year, please use the 2015 tuckshop menu as prices have changed. Bags are available to purchase from the tuckshop for 5c. Please ensure that you send your child's tuckshop order in a paper bag, it is not safe to put hot food in plastic bags.

Donated Items
Donations of self raising flour, caster sugar and any dry goods, as per back of the Tuckshop Menu, would be greatly appreciated. A big THANK YOU to all those people who have donated dry goods.

On Thursday, 5th February 4 of our students Hayden Boney, Miranda Blackman, Jessica Barron and Bonnie Winch started Tafe to undertake a Certificate 2 in Agriculture. This course will be studied over 2 years every first Thursday of the school months, with a lot of hands on work with cattle, tractors, weed spraying and much more. We wish them all the very best in their new adventure.

The College swimming carnival is on Thursday 12th February at the town pool. A detailed information sheet was sent home last week via homeroom classes.

All parents are most welcome to come along and support their children. It's shaping as a great day. The House captains have come up with a tribal theme and will run some fun events in the morning and lunch breaks.

All students will be transported to the pool after roll mark and be back in time for after school bus runs.

Although we will remind students regularly throughout the day, please ensure students are aware of sun safety.

A number of students have nominated for South Burnett Secondary summer sports trials on 11th February. We wish them well. I will report on these in the next newsletter.

Thanks
Mr Allan Medlen
Year 7 to Year 12 Sports Coordinator
May I start this week by welcoming all our new parents and students to the best P-12 school in Australia. I love Saint Mary’s and this will be the 15th year I have had children attending. What a huge start the P&F have had to 2015 with the most wonderful Family Fun Day on the 31st of January. I know Suzanne Mungall already thanked everyone for attending and helping with the day but may I also extend my gratitude to everyone who attended and helped on the day, especially Suzanne for organizing everything for the event. It was such a great way for new and old students and parents to mingle and become more aware of the school’s surroundings.

Next Tuesday the 17th of February we will hold our first meeting for 2015 at 7.00pm – 9.00pm in the board room. This year the P&F will try and plan all of our fundraising and social events at the beginning of the year so all parents, staff and students are aware of our calendar for the year. If you have any ideas that you wish to share please come along or you can email me drbmartoo@yahoo.com.au. So come along for a cupper and a chat. I promise it is very, very relaxed.

Our AGM will be the following month, March 17th, starting at 7.00pm followed by a short general meeting. At the AGM we will choose the committee for the year so if you feel you would like to take on even a tiny role please come along.

Finally I would like to welcome all our new teachers this year. I have already had the privilege of meeting many of them and they are all very keen to challenge our students academically, physically and spiritually.

Until next week
God Bless
Mr Damien Martoo
P&F President

Sacramental Program

Sacramental Program – Confirmation and First Eucharist (Holy Communion)
There will be a parent information session for Confirmation and First Eucharist at Saint Mary’s Catholic College on Monday 23rd February. This will commence at 1.30pm. The session will be repeated that same night at 6.00pm in the Biscuit Tin behind the Saint Mary’s church in Kingaroy. It is important that a parent attend to revisit these sacraments and what they mean and to decide if their child is ready for the commitment to prepare for and receive these two very important final sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Faith. The Enrolment Ceremony will be at the 6.00pm Saturday night liturgy and the 10.00am Sunday Mass the weekend of 28th February and 1st March.

A schedule will be handed to parents at the parent meeting on Monday 23rd February 2015.

This is for children who have made their Reconciliation last year or in previous years. The actual celebration will be Sunday 31st May at 10.00am; the secretary of Bishop Finnigan locked in this date in 2014. It does coincide with our whole school celebrations, which is wonderful.
Images from the Family Fun Day can be viewed and purchased from our gallery at: www.ksphotographers.shootproof.com

K&S Photographers will donate 30% of profits towards Saint Mary’s Catholic College.
ksphotographers@gmail.com
Raylee 0400033074
Nancy 0439797222

MUSICIANS WANTED

Have you ever wanted to play with an orchestra? Are you a musician who has just moved to the wonderful South Burnett? The South Burnett Community Orchestra is looking for new members! Come and join a great bunch of musicians and support our local community. The Orchestra caters for Brass, Strings, Percussion and Woodwind players. If you are interested come and check out our rehearsals, Wednesday nights from 6pm to 8pm at Kingaroy Uniting Church Hall, Alford St or email us for more details.

www.sbc.com.au sbcorchestra@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/sbcorchestra

realise your dignity