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

My Lenten reflection this week, is one of my favourite stories from the Buddhist tradition. Like many other world religions, Buddhism and Christianity share many of the same truths and a basic philosophy of non-violence and care for others.

**The tale of the monk and the scorpion**

"Once in a monastery two monks walked about doing their morning duties. As they passed a small bowl, filled with rain, they saw a scorpion was drowning in the water. One monk reached in to save the creature. As soon as his fingers touched the panicking Scorpion, it stung him and the monk dropped the Scorpion back into the water. The monk sighed, and reached back in. This time his grip was a little firmer, but he still dropped the Scorpion when he was stung. He kept reaching in, as his friend looked on in confusion. After dozens of attempts, the other monk spoke up saying ‘Brother, why do you keep trying to save that scorpion? It stings you every time you come near it? The monk paused before reaching in again. As another sting bit into his hand, he smiled ‘Because it is his nature to sting, and my nature to save. Don’t forget brother, soon either I’ll stop feeling the pain of the sting and he will be saved, or he will stop being afraid and be saved. Compassion cannot be stopped so easily.’"

I am sure that many educators and parents can relate to this story. The challenge of this story and of Christ’s messages of ‘Turn the other cheek’ (Lk 6:29) and ‘Let the children come to me’ (Lk 18:16) is to not change our loving, caring and compassionate nature despite the pain of what seems like rejection. Our children and the young people we care for will react negatively towards us at times, but we always need to remember that we are the adults in these situations and that young people are always on a steep learning curve. Their reaction to us, is often more a reflection on their own personal struggles than on their feelings toward and relationship with us.

Lent is a time when we are called to be people of compassion and forgiveness. What better place to practise these virtues than with our own families.

Each year, I like to make sure that parents understand that we are a Catholic school and not a “Private” or Independent school. There are many obvious differences, but most obviously in our fees. While we charge the suggested BCE minimum for fees, ‘Private’ schools are charging many times our fees. One of my nieces was looking at Year 5 at a ‘Private’ school in Brisbane with fees and levies of over $15,000 per year. Catholic schools were originally set up to help the poor and marginalised Catholic community in Australia who did not have the rights of others in the Australian community. We must never forget our ‘option for the poor’

The other thing that it important for parents to understand is that even with school fees included, we operate on around 85% of the funding that a state school student receives. Remember that our fees are set at the BCE minimum which is less than most other Catholic school in Queensland. We aim to provide quality, affordable education to all.
On Sunday, we celebrated our Commissioning Mass with our parish community. I would like to thank all of the staff, students and parents who came along and participated in this wonderful celebration. I was very pleased to see so many students singing, reading and helping out at this Mass.

On Monday, we unfortunately had to close our Tuckshop for the day with Michelle our convenor away sick. I would again encourage parents and carers to volunteer at the Tuckshop if available. I appreciate the efforts of the many parents and community members who assist at the Library, in classes and at our Tuckshop.

On Tuesday night, we had a staff evening with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents at Cherbourg. I would like to thank our Indigenous Department staff – Mrs Bond, Mr William and Mrs Erwin for overseeing this night and all of our staff, parents and students who came out for this evening. I believe that these nights are very important as we strive to bridge any perceived cultural divides to benefit all of our students. As well as helping to provide additional Teacher Aides which benefits all students, our Indigenous programs also bring in the Deadly Ears program was set up by government to assess the hearing of Indigenous students, but is open to all. We are very grateful to the Deadly Ears program for its work for students with hearing concerns.

On Wednesday Night, our College Captain Richelle Bethke will represent our community at the Lions Youth of the Year competition. We wish Richelle all the best.

Yours in Christ

Mr Michael Nayler
Principal

Deputy News

Pride in our Uniform

Please be aware that when students are wearing our College Uniform, the reputation of the College is on show at all times. The College uniform must be worn correctly before, during and after school. Do not mix and match the uniform with a singlet or t shirt at any time. If you need to do sport after school such as football or futsal, make sure you have a complete change of clothes. If any student is seen in public with the uniform incorrectly worn I will meet with the student upon return to the College the next day and deal with them in the appropriate manner.

I thank all parents for their assistance with the wearing of the College Uniform by their child in and out of school. Please also ensure that black shoes are worn that completely cover the feet of your child. Vinyl or leather shoes, not slippers or canvas must be worn for WHS reasons.

Cherbourg Meet and Greet

Last night I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of our Cherbourg parents at the Catholic Church. It was a great way to strengthen our relationship with the wider community. I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Bond and Mitchell for their excellent cooking skills and help setting up the meeting. I would also like to thank the 25 or so staff who attended to show the support we have for the children in our care.

God bless

Mr Sean Erwin
Deputy Principal

CAPA News

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the teachers at the College have been working on a Homework Policy that has sections applicable to students, parents, and staff. Thank you for the feedback on the parents policy which I published last week.

These policies have been drafted after staff meetings reading research about the effectiveness of homework, looking at so called ‘best practice’ schools, and also feeding in views and experiences of our own College staff.

This week, I am presenting the guidelines for teachers for your consideration. As a P-12 school, the ways of learning are different through the developmental years of the students, and hence the need for additional notes for the different year levels. Again, your constructive feedback would be appreciated.

Teachers should set homework which is

- Short and frequent.
- Highly relevant to current class work.
- Has a strong literacy and numeracy focus.
- Can be completed independently.
- Is followed by feedback.

realise your dignity
• Supports students who have difficulties learning.
• Challenges students who benefit from the task.
• Has success criteria for the task clearly defined.

SHORT AND FREQUENT
• Short exercises that consolidate classwork.
• Reinforces daily learning.

CAN BE COMPLETED INDEPENDANTLY
• All set homework should be able to be done by the student without the assistance of help from at home.

SUBJECT TO FEEDBACK
• Meaningful feedback should be given on all set homework.

TIMELY
• Be mindful of homework set by other teachers at the time.

SUCCESS CRITERIA DEFINED
• The purpose of the homework should be defined and articulated.
• The success criteria should be stated and understood by the student.

SUPPORTS AND CHALLENGES
• Has success criteria defined.
• Is varied according to student ability.
• Extension tasks for students who can manage and enjoy the challenge.
• Beneficial for higher ability students.
• Engages and challenges the student.

P-6 TASKS
• Rote learning tables.
• Reading that is aligned with their reading ability.
• Revision past work.
• Sight words and spelling.
• Practice summarizing and comprehension.
• Focuses on the weeks topic.
• Adapted for some students.
• Strong literacy and numeracy focus.

7-12 TASK OR SUBJECT SPECIFIC
• Read notes from class and text.
• Complete assignments that the student is capable of completing.
• Prepare for tests by revising classwork, writing notes and memorising facts.
• Relevant to current classwork and engages the interest of students.

Thank you
Mr John Dalton
Assistant to the Principal
**APRE News**

**R.I.C.E (Remember I Can Eat Day, many can’t)**
On Friday 13th March, as part of Lent and to raise awareness and money for Project Compassion, the school will participate in R.I.C.E day. There will be nothing except for boiled and fried rice (meat free) served at the canteen. Water will also be available.

Food for Life is the theme for project compassion this year and the whole school has been made aware of the importance of food security for many places and people in the world today. Food security is something we might take for granted but it, and potable water, are lacking for many reasons in the lives of millions of people.

Our students can buy fried rice for $1 a cup or boiled rice for 50 cents a cup on that day. The staff play their part in this by providing all the ingredients and will only have the same food on offer. The canteen does not collect a cent from the day.

I remember doing the same thing as a year 5 student in Cairns and thinking how incredibly lucky I was to be able to go home to some honey sandwiches. Hopefully the event and the significance of food will not be lost on anyone in our community.

| Remember | Friday 13th March | “There is enough food to feed the planet. We believe that with your help, and with the help of governments and the UN, we can end hunger by 2025.” | Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I        | All day – no regular Tuck-shop |
| C an     | Boiled Rice 50 c |
| E at     | Fried Rice $1 |
| Day      | Proceeds to CARITAS |

Regards
Mr Martin Perrett
APRE

**From the Office**

**Update of Bus Travel Arrangements for Prep to Year 6 students**
To keep our records up to date, please fill in and return form ASAP. Form have been given to students yesterday (Tuesday).

Regards
Miss Kym Schultz
Business Manager

**Library Corner**

**Library Book Returns**
Please remind your child to return their library books on time each week. Here is when the classes borrow/return each week:

- Year 4, 7B – Mondays
- Prep, Year 1, Year 2 (includes take home readers) **Wednesday morning** (Per 1) is available to students who were away on Tuesday.
- Year 3, 5, 5/6 – **Wednesday**
- Year 3/4, 7C – **Thursday**
- return/borrow for those students who were away/didn’t bring pack the previous day.
- Year 6 - **Monday**
- Year 7A - **Friday**

All students P-12 are encouraged to borrow/return books at **lunchtime** every day as well. This is a good opportunity for students! Please encourage your child to bring a library bag!
Textbook Hire Process
Last week, a letter was sent home explaining the Textbook Hire Scheme process at our College. Please notify me if you haven’t received one as yet.
Yours in reading
Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher Librarian

Student Wellbeing - Prep to Year 6

Celebration of Learning - Prep to Year 6
CHANGE OF DATE Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles are all welcome to the Celebration of Learning Breakfast on Thursday 19th March 2015.

Cooking starts at 6.30am with brekky served at 7.00am. We have bacon and eggs and toast, juice, sausages, tea and coffee. The idea is that parents and special family members, especially those who work, get an opportunity to check out their child’s classroom and see where they sit and see some of their work. It’s a chance to say hello to the teacher and have a wonderful family breakfast together.

The classrooms will be open from 7.20am till 8.20am when the bell goes. We ask that parents leave at the bell so that the school day can start at 8.40. That 20 minutes gives the children a chance to settle before the school day starts. This is particularly important for Prep and Year 1.

You don’t need to bring anything just your appetite and a sense of adventure as you explore your child’s daytime domain. See you in a few weeks at Brekky Central outside the Maryknoll Centre.
Thank you
Ms Pamela Radcliffe
Student Wellbeing Leader Prep to Year 6

Indigenous News

Deadly Ears Van
The Deadly Ears Van will be here this Thursday 26th February.
Forms must be in by Thursday 8.30 if you would like your child/children to be tested.
Regards
Mrs Karen Bond
Indigenous Support Worker

Prep to Year 6 Sport News

10 - 12 Year Old South Burnett Sports
Please remember these dates for South Burnett Sports trials for 10-12 year olds.

- Softball and AFL- 2/3/15 at Taabinga State School
- Touch and Basketball- 9/3/15 at Kingaroy State School
- Rugby League (boys only), Netball (girls only), Tennis, and Soccer- 20/3/15 at Kingaroy State School

Thanks,
Miss Ellen Inwood
Prep to Year 6 Sports Coordinator

Year 7 to Year 12 Sport News

The Wide Bay Trials for summer sports were postponed last week due to weather conditions. They are to be played Tuesday this week and I will pass on our results in the next newsletter.

On Thursday this week, a number of our students who qualified will compete in the South Burnett swimming trials. They run from 2-5pm at the Town pool. We wish the following students all the best:
Alex Dunemann, Emma Cran, Carmen Sowden, Rahab Murray, Deidre Murray, Sarah Haack and Renee Irvine.

The selection of the QISSN netball team should be concluded this week and I will announce the team next week. All girls will be required to attend training sessions which will start soon.

The next set of South Burnett trials for winter sports are on the 11th March. I do not have confirmed venues yet but can at least get nominations done and permission sheets out starting Friday this week. Any interested students should see Mr Medlen to nominate. The trials usually run from 2pm-4pm and students are required to find their own transport to and from these.
Sports are:
- 15yrs and Open Rugby League
- 15yrs and Open Rugby Union - nominations only
- 15yrs and Open Netball
- 15yrs and Open Boys and Girls Soccer
- Open Boys and Girls Hockey - nominations only
- Australian Football - Open and 15yrs-nomination only
- Golf-Open Boys and Girls - nominations only-must have a club handicap.
- 15yrs and Open Boys and Girls Basketball

Please do not leave nominating to the last minute. I usually have to send names to the convenors early in that week.

Yours in Sport
Mr Allan Medlen
Year 7 to 12 Sports Coordinator

Whip Cracking News

Upcoming Events
- Proston Show Competition and Performance - Proston Showgrounds - Saturday, 7th March
- Crackup Sisters Workshop (To attend Gympie next weekend) - SMCC Oval - Saturday, 14th March 9am to 11am
- Crackup Sisters and SMCC Crackers Performance - Gympie Community Kindergarten - Saturday, 21st March
- Gympie Show - Gympie Showgrounds - Friday, 8th May (evening) or Saturday, 9th May TBA

Thank you
Mrs Lauren Arrell
Whip Cracking Coordinator

Tuckshop News

Friday Specials
Morning tea and lunch - Garlic Cheese Pizza Muffins (1) - $2.00
Lunch only - Mac N Cheese - $3.50

There is no party pies or sausage rolls sold on Friday's.

Volunteers
Friday, 27th February - Jessica Langley and Jacob Arden
Monday, 2nd March - Rhonda Van Beelan and Jacob Arden
Wednesday, 4th March - Lee Ponder and Jacob Arden

Tuckshop Menu
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.

Regards
Mrs Michelle Davis
Tuckshop Convenor

FOR SALE
Ashton Alto Saxophone
Used for 1 year, had a service and some pads replaced and hasn’t been used since. $500

Please contact the office if you are interested.

2014 COLLEGE MAGAZINE
We have a few 2014 College Magazines available at the College office for purchase.
If you would like to purchase one they are $15.
Hurry while stocks last.

realise your dignity
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.

**Head Lice**

There has been an outbreak of head lice at the College, and your child may have contracted the condition. We are asking that all parents examine their child’s hair for signs of lice infestation. The lice themselves are often hard to find because they move around on the head. Therefore, you should be looking for the eggs or nits. These appear as tiny silvery white specks attached to the hair shaft near the scalp. Dandruff and hairspray may look similar but these are easily brushed away, the eggs are not. Other signs of lice infestation may be a red rash and scratch marks on the scalp, nape of the neck or behind the ears.

If your child has contracted head lice do not be alarmed. Although the condition is unpleasant, it is easily treated with a specialised treatment available from your local chemist. After using the treatment use a fine tooth comb to remove the dead lice and eggs. Any articles which may harbour lice such as clothes, towels and bed linen should be washed in hot water and detergent. Combs and brushes should be washed in hot soapy water.

As head lice are highly contagious it is suggested that you examine and treat all members of the family at the same time.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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**Kingaroy Golf’n Girls**

Women & Girls- Learn to Play Golf
- Free lessons from a golf pro
- Free equipment loan
- Saturday afternoons at Kingaroy Golf Club
- Phone Jane on 0438609301 for information.
- Starts 7 March

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**South Burnett Saints AFL**

Comes and Try Aussie Rules Football (AFL) (for 8 – 16 year olds)

Free Saturday morning clinics
Saturday 21st and 28th February
Saturday 7th and 14th March 2015
Time: 9.30 am – 11.00 am
Venue: Wondai State School, Kent Street, Wondai

Attend 3 out of the 4 clinics and receive a free South Burnett Saints pack (on the last clinic day)

For any enquiries please contact:-
President: Dan Clacy – 0413 853 103
Email: southernburnetts Saints@gmail.com

Proudly supported by the South Burnett Regional Council’s Mayor’s Community Benefit Fund

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**TAEKWONDO**

- Develop physical fitness and flexibility
- Build confidence and self esteem
- Have fun, work hard and feel good about it
- Learn a vital life skill
- Family friendly rates

**When**: Monday & Wednesday night 6.00pm - 7.30pm
Tots class Wednesday 5.00pm - 5.45pm
**Where**: Kingaroy State High School assembly hall
Call Helen 0407 372 764 or FB South Burnett Russell Macarthur
Taekwondo www.macarthurtae kwondo.com