Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Fathers’ Day 2013

I would like to wish all of our dads, grandads and other gentlemen who help to look after our children a fantastic day for this coming Sunday. The role that you play in your child’s life is extremely important and it is fitting that this is celebrated nationally and internationally. Sadly many in the commercial sector see Fathers’ Day as another opportunity to make money and encourage families and children to buy the latest trendy gizmo or clothing to show dads that they are valued. I don’t want to knock this idea (I have suggested Golf Balls to our children!) but perhaps more meaningful is the opportunity for your children to spend some quality time with you. To express more in words and good deeds than in goods, their appreciation for all that you do. I hope that all have a great day and that you end up with some great memories from it – these can tend to last longer than new socks or in my case a dozen golf balls.

Gold Coast Eisteddfod – Thursday, 29 August

This Thursday four of our classes will participate in the annual Gold Coast Eisteddfod which is being held at the Gold Coast Arts Centre at Bundall. The children will be joining in the Verse Speaking sections for whole class groups. Our best wishes go to Therese Hockings and her Prep class who will be starting the day off in the first section of the day at 9.15am and also to the classes of Leigh Dornan (Year 4A), Laura Mitchell (Year 4Y) and Deb Nunan (Year 5M) who will be in the Intermediate Year Level’s section which commences at 2.45pm. The Eisteddfod is an exciting opportunity for our children to be involved in as they can learn many things from it. It provides an opportunity to work as part of a team and to learn new ways of expression in a fun-filled environment. I would like to thank these teachers for taking on this extra workload and wish them and the children all the best for this Thursday’s competition. Parents are most welcome to go along to the day but there is a small admission fee.

P-2 Athletics Day Success

Last Friday we held our annual P – 2 Athletics Carnival on the school ovals and it turned out to be a great day of fun and full participation. The weather was very kind to us and the children were able to move easily through six different rotations from High Jump and Ball Games to relays and Sprints to Hurdles and Frisbee and Large Dart throwing. The children really enjoyed the day’s events and there were a few tired little Vegemites at the end of the day (our staff included). I would like to thank our Junior PE Teacher, Leigh Yates, for her organisation of the day. The whole event went very smoothly and this was a tribute to the work that Leigh had put into the day. Our staff in the Early Years also did a great job in assisting Leigh and their support was greatly appreciated. We had a good crowd of supporters throughout the day and your presence helped to make the day a real success.

Show Holiday – Friday, 30 August

Our school will be closed this coming Friday, 30 August, as this is our gazetted Show Holiday. Our Outside School Hours Care Unit will also be closed for the day and normal services will resume next Monday.

Catholic Education Policy Priorities

Catholic education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1,706 Catholic schools across Australia.

Both major parties have been asked the six questions below. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

Policy Questions

1. How will your policy support parents to choose the education they want for their children and ensure religious freedom for Catholic schools is preserved?
2. How will your policy affect the ability of Catholic education systems and schools to distribute funding according to locally-identified needs?
3. How will your policy deliver additional government funding to support student needs and ensure funding keeps pace with the real cost of educating a child?
4. How will your policy support the needs of students with particular disadvantage, students with disability and other special needs to receive funding to meet their needs, regardless of the school they attend?
5. What government funding for the capital needs of Catholic schools do you have planned? Does this funding recognise Catholic education’s support of disadvantaged communities and willingness to establish in new growth areas?
6. How will your policy deliver funding certainty for schools?

Catholic education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students. For further information please visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au

Thanks for reading this week – enjoy the coming long weekend.

Yours in Christ
Greg Casey

Parish Mass Times

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(Doyle Centre - children are withdrawn for brief lesson)
10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays; 2.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Mass Times

Children Mass
(Doyle Centre - children read at Mass)
5.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(Doyle Centre - children are withdrawn for brief lesson)
10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays; 5.30pm 3rd Sunday
3.30pm each Sunday (school term)
at St Benedict’s, Mudgeeraba

Parish Mass Times
Sat—5.00pm Miami;
6.00pm at Palm Beach;
8.15pm at Burleigh Heads;
Sun—7.00am at Palm Beach & Burleigh;
8.30am at Mudgeeraba & Miami;
10.00am at Doyle Centre;
5.30pm at Doyle Centre

Parish Mass Times
Sat—5.00pm Miami;
6.00pm at Palm Beach;
8.15pm at Burleigh Heads;
Sun—7.00am at Palm Beach & Burleigh;
8.30am at Mudgeeraba & Miami;
10.00am at Doyle Centre;
5.30pm at Doyle Centre

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(Doyle Centre - children read at Mass)
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Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(Doyle Centre - children are withdrawn for brief lesson)
10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays; 2.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Marymount Primary School
P O Box 2506 Burleigh Heads BC 4220 Phone (07) 5535 1803 Fax (07) 5535 1819 Email pburleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au http://www.marymountprimaryqld.edu.au
PATRION PARENTS EVENTS

2A & 4Y - Wednesday 4 September - The Coffee Club, Sockland - Ann-Maree & Leigh

EMAILING OF FEE STATEMENTS – TERM 4 2013

As the majority of parents are now aware, we will trial sending our Term 4 School Fee accounts out via email in the first week of Term 4 (8 – 11 October). I would like to thank the significant number of parents who replied to our recent mail out and advised us of their correct email address for this fees distribution.

If you DO NOT want your statement emailed please contact our Accounts Department on 5520 8412 or 5520 8417. If you do not receive your statement by email or post by the end of the first week of Term 4, please also contact our Accounts Department. I would like to thank you for helping us out with this initiative.

ABPaterson Public Speaking Competition

Each year ABPaterson College holds a public speaking competition in October for years 4-7. The Year 4 students don’t compete for a prize but for the experience. Public Speaking builds confidence in young people. It gives them a chance to improve their skills by listening to other speakers and speaking in front of an audience. All the information on topics, dates and times for the event are on the ABPaterson College website www.abpat.qld.edu.au or you can call in to see me. I encourage all students to give this competition a go as Marymount children speak confidently.

Please complete the form below and return to Mrs Lennon (Year 3Y) by Monday 16th September with the $6 entry fee.

I give permission for my child ____________________________
Year _____ to enter the ABPaterson Public Speaking Competition. I understand I must transport my child to and from the event. I have enclosed the $6 entry fee.

Parent’s Name ______________________________________

Please print

Year 2 Fleays Wildlife Excursion

Bookclub

Due date for orders to be returned is 29 August.
No cash or cheques please.
Marymount Day is coming!

Friday September 6
The St Vincent de Paul Society helps people in our local area who need food, clothing, housing or just a friendly chat.

You can help by bringing in items for donation.

- Prep  packets of jelly; muesli bars
- Year 1  cracker biscuits; Vegemite
- Year 2  2 minute noodles; weet-bix
- Year 3  tea bags; small jars of coffee
- Year 4  canned potatoes; canned corn; canned spaghetti & baked beans
- Year 5  packets pasta & sauce; dry soups
- Year 6  pasta sauces
- Year 7  items for hygiene packs (toothbrushes; combs; roll-on deodorant; sml packets of tissues; cakes of soap)

Enjoy the rest of the week

Bernadette Christensen

Marymount Day
Friday 6 September 2013
All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Mary’s birthday and our school feast day!

- Mass 9.15am start in the Doyle Centre (with the College)
- Food donation to St Vincent De Paul – send items to your class by Wednesday 4 September
- Enjoy a special treat!
- Please note: this is NOT a free dress day for primary students (normal Friday uniform)
Catholic Athletics and Ball Games carnivals
Our annual Catholic Athletics and Ball Games carnivals will be held on Thursday 5 September at Miami Athletics Centre and St Kevin’s Primary School respectively. Please see programs included with this newsletter for both events.

AFL National Carnival
Congratulations to two Queensland AFL representatives, Thomas Deane-Johns and Liam O’Brien (pictured) both travelled to Darwin to represent Queensland at the National AFL carnival. I’m sure the boys will cherish the experience for many years to come.

Paul Hill

JUNIOR SPORTS NEWS

Junior Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to all children who participated in the Prep - 2 Athletics Carnival last Friday. It was a wonderful day watching children give their best during the six activities. The six activities were high jump, sprints, relays, ball games, hurdles and throws (foam javelin and frisbees). Thankyou to all the parents, grandparents and friends who came out to support the children. From all reports the children had a wonderful day and enjoyed showing everyone all the things we’ve been learning about in P.E.

Leigh Yates
Junior P.E. teacher

Students in Year 5 have been provided with an offer of an oral health care pack to take home. The pack includes a Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service brochure and an examination card.

If your child is in one of these grades and did not receive a care pack and you would like to arrange oral health care for your child please contact Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850.

If your child has a disability please let the operator know when you call.
## Gold Coast Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival

**THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2013 – PIZZEY PARK ATHLETICS TRACK, MIAMI**

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<td>13.00 112. 13 years Girls Shot Put – Pit 4</td>
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**CATHOLIC ATHLETICS PROGRAM**
CATHOLIC BALL GAMES PROGRAM

11.45am Start - Order Of Events:

Event 1  Year 3 Girls Leader Ball
Event 2  Year 3 Boys Leader Ball
Event 3  Year 4 Girls Leader Ball
Event 4  Year 4 Boys Leader Ball
Event 5  Year 5 Girls Leader Ball
Event 6  Year 5 Boys Leaderball
Event 7  Year 6 Girls Leader Ball
Event 8  Year 6 Boys Leaderball
Event 9  Year 7 Girls Leader Ball
Event 10 Year 7 Boys Leaderball

Event 11 Year 1 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 12 Year 1 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 13 Year 2 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 14 Year 2 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 15 Year 3 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 16 Year 3 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 17 Year 4 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 18 Year 4 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 19 Year 5 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 20 Year 5 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 21 Year 6 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 22 Year 6 Boys Tunnel Ball
Event 23 Year 7 Girls Tunnel Ball
Event 24 Year 7 Boys Tunnelball

Event 25 Year 1 Girls Over And Under
Event 26 Year 1 Boys Over And Under
Event 27 Year 2 Girls Over And Under
Event 28 Year 2 Boys Over And Under
Event 29 Year 3 Girls Zig Zag
Event 30 Year 3 Boys Zig Zag
Event 31 Year 4 Girls Zig Zag
Event 32 Year 4 Boys Zig Zag
Event 33 Year 5 Girls Zig Zag
Event 34 Year 5 Boys Zig Zag
Event 35 Year 6 Girls Zig Zag
Event 36 Year 6 Boys Zig Zag
Event 37 Year 7 Girls Zig Zag
Event 38 Year 7 Boys Zig Zag

1:45pm Conclusion
Two homes, one heart

With the number of Australian children of separated parents exceeding one million, there’s much at stake when coordinating their back-and-forth movement between two homes, writes Karen Fontaine

A divorced Canadian couple made international headlines last month with the construction of a duplex-style home – at the centre of which are the bedrooms of their children, aged eight and ten.

Doors at either end of the duplex’s central hallway lead to each parent’s self-contained ‘wing’. Each week, one parent has custody of the children; during that week the door to the other parent’s wing is locked, maintaining a relative privacy for that parent. This arrangement provides stability for the kids, who don’t have two homes but rather two parents who alternate their care from week to week.

It’s certainly a novel approach at a time when parental divorce affects the lives of nearly one in five young Australians under the age of 20 – “a disruption related to long-term social and economic disadvantages”, according to the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

This is a position supported by Sydney family law professor Patrick Parkinson. In a recent research paper entitled For Kids’ Sake, Parkinson brought together extensive evidence showing that parental separation is a significant risk factor for children’s long-term emotional wellbeing and educational performance.

Another expert, Dr Nicky McWilliam, a lawyer/mediator with Sydney Mediation Partnership, spends a third of her working week dealing with separating parents. She notes, “there are always issues with contact arrangements for the children”.

Unlike in times gone by, when children automatically lived with their mother and might have spent every second weekend with their dad, shared-care situations are becoming much more common, says McWilliam.

“Most of the time the children are split evenly from week to week and sometimes even from day to day,” she says.

In a shared-care situation, academic challenges can arise, says Jacqui Marquis-Conder, Principal Psychologist at Youth Psychology. This is particularly the case if there is a lengthy commute to one parent’s home on some weekdays, allowing less time for homework.

“Routines are also usually different in each home and some parents are better than others at supervising homework,” says Marquis-Conder. “Academic challenges and even learning difficulties will most certainly arise if there are behaviour issues associated with unresolved and ongoing emotional distress.”

A recent study on the effect of divorce or separation on young children and older children found that, contrary to what many public policy makers believe, children are most affected by changes to their family structure in the first five years of life.

Leading a study of 3,492 children into how remarriage and integration into a blended family affected behaviour throughout their early and mid-adolescent years, Rebecca M. Ryan of the...
Jacqui Marquis-Conder, Principal Psychologist of Youth Psychology, a private practice in Sydney (http://www.youthpsychology.com.au/), offers tips on how parents can ease the pressure on children for whom they share care:

1. Establish a shared-care arrangement that is **child focused** not **parent focused**. “A shared-care arrangement should always reflect the needs of the child first, not the parent. Parents need to ask themselves: ‘Is this about me wanting to get my way or have control of the situation, or is this about what is best for my child?’ For example, if the child must be at both before- and after-school care or do a very long commute in order to spend a particular day with a parent, is this actually in the best interests of the child? This is for the parents to decide, depending on their child’s age and particular needs.”

2. Establish a routine, particularly during the week. “This can be a huge challenge but if it can be achieved for both parents to enforce regular homework, meal, and bedtimes for their children, this will help the school week go smoothly.”

3. No matter how tempting, **never speak badly about the other parent to the children** (this goes for new partners as well). “This doesn’t mean that you have to say nice things about the other parent but in this case it is wise to follow the good old-fashioned advice ‘if you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything at all’. This includes subtle jokes, hints or sarcastic comments – even very young children understand the meaning behind these! And do not under any circumstances share communication from the other parent with your child such as showing them email or text message correspondence.”

4. **Make pick-ups and drop-offs as stress free as possible for the children**. “If the conflict is so high that parents cannot even be in the same room, then try to establish a neutral pick-up and drop-off spot such as a public park or café. All heated discussions should be held well away from the hearing or sight of the children (whether in person, on the phone, or through text message).”

Department of Psychology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. found that children of married parents demonstrated the most dramatic behavioural changes later in life if their parents divorced prior to their first year of school.

When handled sensitively, there are many benefits to shared care as it allows children to build meaningful and ongoing relationships with both of their parents, says Jacqui Marquis-Conder.

“Logistics aside, if parents are able to form an amicable shared-care arrangement, and work out a communication style that does not involve the children in their conflict, then shared care can be ideal for children as well as parents. It breaks from what is often single parenting after separation,” she says.

Interestingly, Ryan’s study also showed that children who are integrated into a new blended family have fewer behaviour problems than those who are not. “In fact, children of blended families actually receive protective benefits that seem to help them avoid some of the negative behaviors exhibited by children who remain in single-parent households,” Ryan says.

For Marquis-Conder, what this study highlights is that “step-parents and step- and/or half-siblings can play a very crucial role in a child’s life if they are able to form a relationship built on warmth and trust”.

“I have certainly seen many cases where a child has a warm, loving and close relationship with their step-parents and siblings and this certainly provides protective benefits and potentially increases the child’s resilience,” she says.

Dr McWilliam agrees. “I have dealt with parents whose separation caused a lot of hurt and anxiety but they have managed to sort out two homes for the kids in a very loving and stable way,” she says.

“A lot of that, I think, is due to giving the kids lots of information – making them aware of what’s happening for the next hour, the next day, the next week, the next year – and doing a lot of talking and communicating.”

“It’s about explaining to the kids that although they are no longer in a relationship with the other parent, they respect that every parent has a different style. And no matter how young a child is, what’s bearing out from my practice is that that really makes a difference.”

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