Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

**Ash Wednesday & the Season of Lent**

Today marks the beginning of the Church’s season of Lent. Our community will be marked with ashes to symbolise our membership of the Christian family. It is also a reminder that we will be journeying with this world-wide family for forty days up to the important time of Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. At this morning’s parish mass Father Ken Howell, our Parish Priest, urged us to use this time to do good things for others and to actively listen to the word of God in our lives. He went on to say that sometimes we need to have ‘quiet time’ so that we can fully hear God talking to us. Lent provides us with this time – time to take stock of how we are living as followers of Christ and to re-centre ourselves on being the Good News people to others. Today then, is a significant day for us all – one which should challenge us to live as a disciple of Christ.

Father Ken also blessed ashes which were brought back to our school and the College for use in our respective school Ash Wednesday liturgies. Our ashes came from palms which were used as part of our Palm Sunday prayer service last year.

**Congratulations to Marymount College**

Next Wednesday, 20 February, our College will celebrate the official opening and blessing of their new Visual Art, Media and Technology Centre. It is a wonderful building with state of the art equipment and contemporary learning spaces. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will lead the celebration in his first official visit to our parish. I would like to congratulate the Principal, Chris Noonan, and his community on this significant achievement in the life of the College.

**Year 7 Leadership ceremony – Friday, 15 February**

This Friday our Year 7 students will be receiving their Leadership badges for the year. Fr Ken Howell will be leading our prayer liturgy and blessing our children and their badges. Parents are most welcome to come along for this liturgy which will be finished by approximately 9.30am. We will be using the Doyle Centre and starting at 9.00am.

**Parent Information Nights – Tuesday, 19 February**

Each year our class teachers conduct a Parent Information Meeting at which they share with parents what they will be doing in their classes for the year.

Topics such as class timetables, classroom management, parental involvement in classes are discussed, as well as a general overview of our major curriculum areas.

Our meeting timetable is outlined below. It runs to a tight schedule with each meeting running for approximately 45 minutes.

As these meetings are a general forum, it is not a place for parents to discuss individual student concerns. These may be addressed by co-ordinating a suitable time with your respective class teacher.

Our teachers will be discussing the various channels and protocols of parent/teacher communication during the meeting.

**Prep – Year 1** 5.00pm  
**Year 2/3**—5.45pm  
**Year 4/5**—6.30pm  
**Year 6/7**—7.15pm

As no supervision is provided for children during this evening I ask that you make arrangements for their care away from school.

**Prep and New Students for 2014 Information Night – Monday, 11 March**

We will be hosting an information session for families looking for Prep enrolment or enrolment in other year levels in 2014 on the above evening at 6.00pm in the Doyle Centre theatrette. At this meeting we will run through general information about our school and our policies in relation to curriculum, uniform, school fees, religious life, and the daily happenings of our school. Our meeting usually runs for just under fifty minutes and there is an opportunity for general questions as well as a chance to meet with our school Leadership Team. If our current families know of any parents who are interested in enrolling their children at our school it would be great if you could please pass on this information.

This meeting is not technically for our existing families but you are most welcome to come along. Our March P & F meeting follows immediately after this meeting and parents would be most welcome to join in with this forum.
Swimming Carnival Success

Yesterday we held our annual Swimming Carnival for our Years 5 to 7 and our A Division swimmers who are 8 and 9 year old. The day was very successful with some great performances over the course of the day. Our Senior PE teacher, Paul Hill, convened the carnival and its success was a testament to the hard work he put into the organisation of the day. There was a lot of great sportsmanship displayed by the children and much positive energy present. From this carnival we will select a squad for the upcoming Catholic Schools Swimming meet which is held on Friday, 8 March as well as the Gold Coast South District carnival to be held next Tuesday.

Holiday Works Completed

Over the course of the Christmas break there were numerous annual maintenance tasks completed as well as some new systems for the general upkeep of our school introduced. Rena Harvey, our school’s Office Manager, helped to co-ordinate many of these activities and our thanks is extended to Rena for this work. Below is a list of these jobs:

- Yearly painting maintenance;
- Oval top dressed;
- Repairs to multi-purpose building;
- Whole school carpet shampooed;
- Tuckshop professional full clean;
- All AV equipment serviced;
- Prep – Year 2 block toilets stripped back;
- Maintenance work to pool area (tiles and painting of safety signs);
- Two new photocopiers installed - Parent Reception and Learning Enhancement Centre;
- New cleaning contractor commence January;
- Changed to ‘green’ school with cleaning products—set up all cleaner rooms to WH&S standards;
- Plumbing repairs to Year 3 & 4 block and Year 5 block and pool;
- All balconies and walkways pressure cleaned;
- Maintenance work to seating on Frank Shine Walk and LOTE room pergola.

Archbishop’s Flood Appeal

Well done to all for your support of the Archbishop’s Flood Appeal which for us came in the form of our Pancake Day. I would like to thank especially Kevin Yates, our Acting Assistant Principal Religious Education Co-Ordinator, and Vicki Turner, our Tuckshop Convenor, for the tremendous amount of work which they put into ensuring that it was a fun-filled and successful day. I know that Vicki had a great team helping her and this was appreciated as well. Our staff also hosted a Morning Tea in support of this appeal. All monies will be sent to the St Vincent de Paul Society for their dissemination to those needy families affected by the recent flooding. Thanks again to all involved – it was great to see our fantastic Marymount spirit shine through to again help out those in need.

Newsletter to go to Electronic From Next Week

From next week our newsletter will only be printed in limited numbers as we will look to reduce our paper usage. The newsletter will be available on our website or it can be emailed to you. Details to explain how to get on to our distribution list are on the website. We will still have some hard copies available at our Parent Reception office if you wish to obtain one of these.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the rest of the week

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

Marymount Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who competed at yesterday’s Marymount Swimming carnival. The level of competition and participation was excellent, with the breaststroke, freestyle and relay events proving very popular.

Special congratulations to Jolie Belle Cook for setting a new record in 13 year old girls butterfly, (34.65) and also to Lewis Treggiden for setting a new record in the 9 year old boys freestyle (37.63).

Age Champions and House points will be presented at next week’s assembly in the Shed.

District Swimming Carnival

The District Swimming Carnival will be held next Tuesday 19 February at Somerset College Pool. The carnival is for students turning 10, 11 or 12 only. Students who have qualified for the District carnival will be provided with information on notes distributed today.

Catholic Swimming Carnival

The Catholic Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 8 March at Miami Pool. This carnival will include students turning 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 and 13 years old. More information will be sent out at a later date.

Paul Hill

Congratulations to Toby and Matthew Sexton on their selection to play in the Oztag State of Origin series. The boys were chosen from games played at the Junior State Cup recently held in Caloundra. We wish Toby and Matt all the best for their upcoming carnival and once again hope to see a sad New South Wales tale.

DATE CLAIMERS 2013

20 February—Fr Ken Howell Installation Mass (7pm Miami)
8 March—GCCPS Swim Carnival
11 March—Prep 2014 Orientation Evening—(6pm Doyle Centre)
11 March—P & F Meeting—7pm
26 March—Marymount Cross Country—9.00 to 11.30am
28 March—TERM 1 ENDS
29 March—Good Friday
15 April—Term 2 Comences
22—24 April—Yr 5 Camp
25 April—ANZAC Day
30 April—School Photos Day 1
1 May—School Photos Day 2
13, 14 & 15 May—Yrs 3,5,7 NAPLAN
15-17 May—Yr 6 Camp
30 May—GCCPS Cross Country
10 June—Queen’s Birthday
20 June—Beach-a-thon
21 June—TERM 2 ENDS

TERM DATES 2013

Term 1—January 30—March 28
Term 2—April 15—June 21
Term 3—July 8—September 20
Term 4—October 8 – December 6

Pupil Free Day Monday 21 October 2013
Parents’ role in Our Friendly School Program
Professor M. Bernard (Melbourne Uni) makes a valid and important point:

It’s time to educate all young people that things are neither good nor bad but thinking makes it so.

Through our Friendly School and Families program we hope to weaken attitudes and thought patterns that contribute to negative mental health and strengthen those attitudes and behaviours that promote wellbeing.

Whilst all areas of the curriculum are important, it is hard to argue that any should take priority over programs that promote mental health. The staff are certainly embracing our new program and striving to achieve the set goals. At the next Parents’ and Friends’ Meeting (Monday 11 March) the committee will speak about the program in more depth and we would encourage as many parents as possible to be in attendance to learn how to support the program at home and thus aid success.

Research has demonstrated that efforts to change attitudes and behaviour of students are more likely to be successful if parents are actively involved and feel a sense of shared ownership of the process.

The program outlines the following ways that parents can support:

- Talk regularly with your children about social situations;
- Encourage your children to ‘ask for help’ if they are having difficulty getting along with other children;
- If your children are fighting at home, help them discuss their problem and come to a mutual solution to the problem;
- Encourage your children to be assertive by helping them practise speaking in a firm but friendly way, making eye contact, looking calm and smiling and feeling good about themselves;
- Encourage your children to play with other children at school, at home and in the neighbourhood; and
- Discuss with your children the things they are good at, encouraging them to ‘have-a-go’ at new activities, and encouraging them develop their own independence by allowing them to care for their belongings or eg. managing their pocket money.

I hope you are all back into the routine and things are settling down nicely for Term 1. Our thanks go to all of the staff for ensuring a smooth transition into the new school year. During the Christmas break your P & F secretary Genevieve Sly was busy bringing together the upcoming Parents’ and Friends’ Trivia Night.

How well do you know your geography, celebrities, sports? Mark Saturday the 9th of March in your diary as the night you can show the world how clever you are (or just come along and have a great laugh).

A special thanks to Vicki Turner in the tuck shop. I would not like to take her on in an arm wrestling contest after she (and her fantastic team of helpers) scooped nearly 1000 scoops of ice cream (complete with topping) on nearly 3000 pancakes for the flood relief appeal. That is a huge effort.

At the P & F meeting last night your committee was briefed by John McArule about the upcoming School Mission school review. We are looking forward to working with John and the school Leadership Team on this important project. We also discussed adjusting some of our upcoming meetings to provide information nights on topics that are relevant to the school community. More on that later but for starters at our next meeting on 11 March, we will hear from the Friendly Schools and Families Committee about this new initiative.

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7pm. As always, your attendance is more than welcome.

Anthony Touzell
P & F President

I wish you happy family times and look forward to seeing you on 11 March at 7:00p.m. in the Staff Room.

Annette O'Shea

P & F TRIVIA NIGHT
9 March 2013
EARLY BIRD PRICE $7 EACH
AVAILABLE NOW FROM PARENT RECEPTION
Lent 2013

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. Lent is journey of forty days leading up to Easter. It is a time to stop and consider our lives, our actions and our relationship with God. This season is one of prayer, reflection and working to make a change in our lives and the lives of others.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time to give up a food or items we enjoy. Today we are called to do something more in an effort to become a better person.

This morning, many students, families and school staff joined the congregation at Infant Saviour Church for Ash Wednesday mass. At this mass, ashes were blessed for our school community before they were brought to school and distributed to classes. Palm fronds used to celebrate Palm Sunday last year were burnt to supply ashes for today. Classes shared times of prayer throughout the day, where students were marked with these ashes.

Project Compassion – Opening Doors into the Future

Project Compassion is one of the main fundraising initiatives undertaken by Marymount Primary each year. Fundraising efforts for Project Compassion coincide with Lent and support the work of Caritas which works throughout the world to support those whose lives are often quite different to our own.

This year, the theme is “Opening Doors into the Future”, with a greater focus on education and providing people with skills in an effort to help others improve their lives.

Today, students will have received a collection box for their family. Please take time to read the information on the boxes about the difference our fundraising can make, and place the box in a prominent place in your home.

The work of Project Compassion is an ideal way for our students to make a difference in their global community through Lent. By raising funds, we are being people of justice and people of action. It is also an important opportunity for our students to experience a spirit of altruism, working for the benefit of others with no expectation of thanks or reward.

Pancakes for Flood Relief

Earlier this week, students enjoyed Pancakes for Flood Relief to raise funds to support those affected by recent flooding in Queensland. Pancakes are a traditional food on Shrove Tuesday, just before commencing Lent.

The response was enormous with more than 700 orders received! That’s a lot of pancakes!

In all, a monstrous $1650 was raised by students and staff to benefit the St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal.

Special thanks must go to Vicki Turner, our Tuckshop convenor, and her team of volunteers who made sure that thousands of pancakes, smothered in ice cream and maple syrup were distributed like a well-oiled machine.

Many thanks to families and staff for their support of this initiative – it will make a difference in the lives of many families affected by Cyclone Oswald.

Pope Benedict XVI

After eight years, Pope Benedict XVI has announced that he will resign as Pope at the end of the month due to health concerns. This is an historic event in our Church, with no Pope having resigned since the Middle Ages.

Having attended an audience with Pope Benedict XVI some years ago, I was amazed to see such energy and vitality from a man in his late seventies. It is saddening to see the impact of his service on his health and I ask you to pray for Pope Benedict XVI and for his successor, who will take over the Papacy closer to Easter.

Year Seven Leadership Liturgy

A reminder that the Year Seven Leadership Liturgy will take place this Friday, 15 February at 9am in the Doyle Centre. All are welcome to attend.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Kevin Yates

Student Information Validation Letter

Please remember to send back your Student Information Validation Report that you received in the mail. The purpose of this report is to make sure that the information we have on eMinerva (our family database) is correct.

I would ask that you check carefully through the information. In particular Addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, and medical information. Please make any necessary changes and return the form to your class teacher.

We would like ALL forms returned to your class teacher by this Friday February 15.

Newsletter via Email

There are two ways which you can access the school newsletter electronically. Option One is to visit the school website at the following address - http://www.mps.qld.edu.au/News/SchoolNewsletter . Option Two is to subscribe to the newsletter email list. If you take this option the newsletter will be delivered to the email address of your choice. Instructions for Option Two are available at http://www.mps.qld.edu.au/News/SchoolNewsletter.

Whilst the first two school newsletters this year are distributed in hard copy, from next week the newsletter will be available electronically. If you are already listed on our email distribution list then you should not need to re-list yourself. If the newsletter is not coming through however, please follow the above advice.

As discussed at Monday night’s Parents’ and Friends’ meeting, later this term we hope to have a Parent Portal up and running, which will hopefully be an easy place to access lots of information from around the school. More on this later.

Have a great week

Tony Barron
**Uniform/Bookshop**

**WINTER LAYBY ORDERS DUE NOW**

We keep limited stock on hand. If you want to be assured of a jacket for your child please complete the order form included in this week’s newsletter and return it to the Uniform shop with payment/deposit before the 1st March 2013.

**BANKING NEWS**

Welcome back! Banking has started again and our banking day is Tuesday. The token system continues again this year so any tokens you have are still valid for prizes this year. There are some new prizes for 2013! In Term 1 we have a wallet, handball, knuckles game or a money box of your choice. In Term 2, SBB will be a torch available and in Term 3 there will be a calculator. All prizes are worth $10 tokens and you will continue to receive 1 token each time you bank at school. In the next few weeks all students will receive an information pack which will explain how to open a bank account if you want to join student banking, as well as a new redemption card for this year’s prizes. The Book Shop has a display set up with the new prizes if you want to see them.

If you would like to open a new account for your child you may come along to our account opening morning which will be hosted by the Commonwealth bank on Tuesday 5th March. Simply come into Student Reception between 8.45 and 9.45 on the 5th March. Your child does not need to be with you. However if you are not a Commonwealth account holder you will need to bring in your driver's licence to be able to open the account for your child.

The Commonwealth bank pays us $5 when a student opens a new account and makes their first deposit. Plus we receive a 5% commission on every deposit made each Tuesday at school. This is a great fund raiser for Marymount and we usually receive about $2000 each year which goes towards projects the P & F need to fund. However if you are not a Commonwealth account holder you will need to join student banking, as well as a new redemption card for this year’s prizes. The Book Shop has a display set up with the new prizes if you want to see them.

So get out your money boxes and bring your banking in each Tuesday!  
**Happy Banking**  
**The Banking Ladies**

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Performing Arts Class with Anna Waters-Massey** All classes are held after school in the Doyle Centre Drama Room, Marymount College on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Payment is by the term. If you would like to enrol your child, call, text or email me watersworks@bigpond.com PH 0417 584290.

**Tennis Coaching** commences Monday 4th Feb. Held each day Monday to Friday. You can join anytime during the term. Beginner and development 1/2 hour classes. Squad training 1 hour sessions. Private lessons. Further information please call John: 0417634524. Trish: 0439722369, or 55363463.

**Wild After School Art classes** – Marymount Primary each Wednesday 3.15pm to 4.45pm. Meet outside the library. Most art materials supplied with expert tuition. Free snacks supplied. Don’t miss out! BOOK NOW! Text your name and school to 0402 328 987 or call 5577 3293 after 7.00pm.

**Drum Lessons**— Marymount College on Tuesdays by Civitan Barac. All lessons are one on one. $30 for 30 mins. More details at www.cvitandrums.com or call 0408 722539

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**Tuckshop News**

WOW what a fantastic day we had on Pancake Monday! With over 700 orders we managed to raise over $1400 for the Queensland flood victims. Thank you to all the boys and girls for supporting this very worthy cause. A huge thanks to the mum and dad helpers who volunteered on the day. There is no way these days can happen without your help. Thank you from all the students, staff and management of our school.

Our Caritas Project Compassion collection boxes are on the counter of the tuckshop. I was hoping our children may consider FROGS FOR CARITAS! Why not pop your 10c frog money in the Caritas box instead. A child from our school missing out on a frog can bring great joy to those less fortunate. Please discuss this with your children.

**ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Monday 18 Feb..............** Tanya Allomes  
**Tuesday 19 Feb.............** Tracey Smith  
**Wednesday 20 Feb...........** HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE!  
**Thursday 21 Feb...........** Lesley Gamble  
**Friday 22 Feb...............** Stacey, Michelle and Silvia

**VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. PLEASE CALL INTO THE TUCKSHOP IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP US OUT.**

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers! See you soon.

Have a great week

**Vicki Turner**

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We have received a note of thanks and appreciation to our school community from Ms Hanh Phan Hong. Ms Phan Hong and her children, who are students both here and at the College, lost their home in a house fire last November.

The family has now relocated to a new home and would like to extend their sincere thank you to Marymount and the Burleigh Heads Parish for the generous donation of items. The financial and emotional support was overwhelming and received with much thanks from the family.

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Recently Separated / Divorced?

Centacare is conducting a Divorce and Separation Recovery Workshop commencing on Monday Evening 4th March 2013. The workshop will run for seven weeks from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Centacare 50 Fairway Drive Clear Island Waters, at a cost of $10 registration plus $5 each week. Refreshments will be provided. This gentle non-confrontational and supportive workshop provides a wonderful opportunity for people who are struggling to overcome one of life’s challenges. If you wish to register or for more information about this workshop please call Centacare on 07 55277211.
Trivia Night
P & F Social Event

Saturday 9th March 2013
Arrive 6.30pm for 7.00pm start
Doyle Centre
St Patrick’s Day theme

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL $7

Tickets available to purchase NOW from Parent Reception.
CASH ONLY PLEASE
(Tickets must be pre-purchased as they will not be available on the night)

Make up your own table of 6 to 8 or join a table and meet new people.

BYO Drinks & nibblies
Lots of prizes to be won!

All enquiries to
Genevieve Sly
0412 211 854

All money raised will go to St Vincent de Paul.