Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Parents and Friends Association February Meeting – Monday, 10 February
Our first P & F meeting for the year is on this coming Monday evening at 7.00pm in the school Staff Room. All parents are most welcome to come along to hear what’s happening in our school and parent community. The meeting has a standard format with reports on our association’s finances, a Principal’s report and then general business matters discussed. This year we will be holding a Combined Schools’ Art Show as the main social and fund-raising activity – it is set down for late July. Our P & F will also be conducting their annual Trivia night which is slated for later in this term. This night was a success last year and we are hoping to make it bigger and better this year. During this meeting I will be able to provide the latest information on the college and parish building programs as well as update families on the Year 7 to Secondary move. It would be great to see as many parents as possible come along – our meetings are conducted in a casual and welcoming environment and they are usually finished just before 8.30pm.

Parent Information Evening Meetings – Wednesday, February 19
Each year our class teachers conduct a Parent Information Meeting during which they share with parents what they will be doing in their class 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. It is important that at least one parent endeavour to attend these meetings as they are a crucial communication form for us.

As these meetings are a general forum, it is not a place for parents to discuss individual student concerns with teachers. These types of queries may be addressed by co-ordinating a suitable time with your respective class teacher. Our teachers will also be discussing the various channels and protocols of parent / teacher communication during the meeting.

Teacher Planning Days
Each term our teaching staff meet as a year level group to co-ordinate their classroom planning and curriculum goals. They will meet with Diane Anderson, our school’s Curriculum Support Teacher, and Bernadette Christensen, our Assistant Principal – Religious Education, to ensure that they are adhering to the relevant school, Archdiocesan and government syllabuses. The meetings are an important sharing time for teachers to reflect on the latest curriculum foci and best practice. Our teachers will be starting these meetings over the next few weeks and as such we will have relief teachers taking your children’s classes for these days. We have a very good band of relief staff here at Marymount, many of whom have taught in our school for a number of years so our children will be well catered for whilst these meetings take place.

Marymount Swimming Carnival – Thursday, 13 February
Our annual Swimming Carnival for our children aged 8 to 13 years is being held at Pizzey Park Swimming Complex at Miami on Thursday week. Included in this newsletter is a timeline of events and further information for your awareness. Parents are most welcome to come along and cheer on their children on the day. The children will come to school as usual and then be transported to and from the pool via buses. If you would like to take your child home from the pool I would ask that you please contact your child’s teacher in order to sign them out. Please note that not all of our 8 and 9 year old children are competing in this carnival. The carnival will include 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 year old ‘A’ division competitors as well as all Year 5, 6 & 7 students. ‘A’ division swimmers will be competing for age champion medals and representative selection.

continued over
Newsletter Change to Electronic Form
From next week we will only produce a limited number of hard copies of our newsletter. Some of these will go to our churches in this parish and some will be held in the Parent and Student Reception areas. If you would prefer a hard copy of our newsletter then please come to one of these points to collect it. Our newsletter will always be posted on our school website – www.marymountprimary.qld.edu.au by the end of Wednesday. The details as to how to be included on our school’s email distribution list are located in this newsletter and the great majority of our families utilise this service. If you have trouble receiving or accessing the newsletter please contact our office on 55 351 803.

School Fees Term 1
Our Term 1 School Fee accounts will be sent out by the end of this week. As with many mail-outs these days we send these accounts out via email. It is important that our Accounts Department has the correct email address for you and I would ask that if you don’t receive your account that you please contact our staff – Janelle or Sharyn – to let them know of this. I would like to remind parents that our accounts are 21 day accounts. We have other payment methods – b-pay and direct-debit for example and I thank you in advance for your commitment to your financial responsibility.

End of Child Care Benefits & July Cut-off
Following a government legislative change last year schools can no longer be recognised as a Service Provider for parents to claim Child Care Benefits for Prep children. Therefore this facility has ended as of this year. If parents are eligible to claim CCB’s for a Prep student from 2013 they have until 30 June of this year to lodge your application.

Hours of School
Our school hours are set out below for your awareness. We have teachers come on to supervision duty from 8.10am in the morning and our last duty at the end of the day finishes at 3.30pm. For their own safety children should not be at school before or after these times unless they are here for a specific school facilitated activity ie. drama practice, sports training. Our school has an Outside School Hours Care unit which is located on our site at the back of the Multi-purpose Centre. This unit is open from 7.00am till school starts and then from 2.45pm until 6.00pm at the end of the day. If your children cannot be picked up from school before 3.30pm or can only be dropped off earlier than 8.10am then you would need to look at booking a placement in this unit as they will be unsupervised at these times. The OSHC contact number is 5576 3756.

School Starts – 8.35am
Children go into class – 8.40am
Morning Tea – 10.40am – 11.10am
Main Lunch – 1.10pm – 1.50pm
End of School – 2.55pm
Senior Adventure Playground Closed

Please be advised that we have closed off access to our Senior Adventure Playground area so that we can do some regular maintenance and replacement work. This couldn’t be done during the holiday break for a number of reasons. We should have it up and running again within the next few weeks.

College Building Program
As many parents may have seen the progress of Marymount College’s new teaching block is coming together quite well. There is still a fair amount of internal work to do however and it is envisaged that it won’t be completed until at least the end of February. We are assisting the college with room space for some of their smaller staff groups like specialist music lessons and other administrative groups as they currently have no designated place due to the new buildings and the demolition of the old class block near the College Administration block. I would like to thank our staff for accommodating our sister school and also thank you, our parents, for your patience with this whole project.

Thanks for reading this week – I hope that the rest of the week goes well for you.

Yours in Christ
Greg Casey

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SCHOOL FEES
The school’s financial records are currently being updated to recognize Joint and Several fee responsibilities of customers. For this reason, Term 1 fee statements may display name details slightly differently to previous or future fee statements. Below the name and address block – the names of those customers who share the debt responsibility will be displayed in a field named Account Holder(s). As the school is progressively updating this information – for this term - the information may not be complete.
New Friendly Schools movie release!
Thank you to 5R who led our first assembly for the year this morning in the MPC. Mrs Norton-Smith and the class shared scripture and prayer with us before launching their new movie. Their very simple message was conveyed in images and song – Marymount is Happy! There is much evidence around us of the happiness and well-being of staff and students alike at Marymount as we go about the daily business of our work and play. You can view the movie on the school website http://www.marymountprimary.qld.edu.au/Students/Pages/Friendly-Schools.aspx.

A reading from the Old Testament.

A faithful friend is a sure shelter.
Whoever finds one, has found a real treasure.
A faithful friend is something beyond price.
You cannot measure their worth.
Those who love the Lord will find real friends.

The Word of the Lord.

Advanced notice – Yr 6 leadership assembly 19 February & Yr 7 leadership assembly 26 February, both in Doyle Centre at 9am. All are welcome.

Enjoy the rest of the week
Bernadette Christensen

Year 6 Canberra Trip
This year both our Year 6 and Year 7 children will be participating in our Southern Excursion to Sydney and Canberra.

Our Year 6 classes will travel from 1st to 5th June, while our Year 7 children will travel from 14th to 18th September.

Year 6 students should have received the initial information regarding the trip. We are also holding a Parent Information evening for the Year 6 trip on Monday February 10th at 6pm in the Doyle Centre Theatrette. This is a chance to find out about the trip and ask any questions.

A Year 7 info night will be held later on in Term 2.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Souvenir Hoodies
All children in Year 6 and 7 will receive an order form for their Senior Hoodies this week. Please return these to your class teacher by the date on the note.

Thanks and have a great week

Tony Barron

SCHOOL FEE CONCESSION INTERVIEWS - CLOSING DATES
We advise that Parents/Caregivers who are applying for a school fee concession will need to do so URGENTLY as interviews are being conducted for FOUR WEEKS ONLY this year at the Primary School:-

Monday & Wednesday 17 & 18 February 2014 to
Mondays only 24 February to 3 March 2014

These dates will be dependent on the number of applications received. Please note that if you do not submit your application within this timeframe you will jeopardize your chances of approval being granted for Term 1. Applications must be received with ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION attached including a current Centrelink INCOME STATEMENT, before an interview can be made. Please phone Janelle Holmes on 55208417 if you have any queries.
Welcome back for 2014. School Banking starts next Tuesday 11th February. Simply bring your school banking into your class on a Tuesday and give to your teacher. The token system continues again this year with some great new prizes to be announced soon. The Commonwealth Bank pays Marymount $5 for all new accounts opened for school banking (providing you mention it is for Marymount school banking when you open the account) and also pay Marymount a percentage of the total amount banked each week. Marymount usually earn about $2000 each year from the Commonwealth Bank for school banking which is used by the P & F for purchases such as the wonderful new electric sign near the swimming pool. So as well as being a fantastic way to teach your children the value of saving, school banking is also a very easy way to fund raise for our school.

If you would like your child to participate in school banking but they do not have a Commonwealth dollarmite account there are a few ways to open a new account such as:

1. Go into any Commonwealth bank and open an account (please tell them it is for Marymount school banking)
2. If you are already a Commonwealth customer and use netbanking you can open a new account for your child on line (please nominate Marymount for school banking)
3. Come along to our account opening morning on 25th March (more details closer to the date)

Thank you - Happy Banking
The Banking Ladies

P & F News

The 2014 school year has started again which means that P & F meetings will become regular events each month. On behalf of our school's P & F Association, I would like to welcome the new families who have started here at Marymount and provide some background on what the P & F’s role is within Marymount Primary.

The main role of the P & F committee is to foster a sense of community throughout the school. This is done through fundraising and allocating P & F funds around the school where they are needed. We ensure that the needs of the parents and children remain the major priority when meeting and making decisions.

Last year we helped to co-ordinate (along with our College counterparts) a very successful combined schools fete. The money raised from this event will assist the P & F to contribute back to the school with some resources and some up and coming projects. Last year we gave back to the school through providing funding for the electronic sign, bought new equipment for the prep students outdoor play area, with our College P & F committee donated $1000 to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, and provided sports sponsorship to some of our leading athletes within the school. These are just some of the things that the P & F contributed to last year and this year will be no different.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be held on Monday, 10 February, in the primary school staffroom at 7.00pm with an expected closing time of 8.30pm. I encourage all parents to come along to our meeting and have your own input into many of the issues that I have mentioned above.

Genevieve Sly - P & F President

Thoughts from your School Counsellor

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back into our Marymount Community. I trust that you enjoyed a pleasant holiday and that your family is settling into our normal school routines. Whilst I have noticed a few tearful faces as young ones separate from their parents, most children seem to have re-established their friendships and are presenting with happy faces, which is wonderful to see. Should you have any concerns about your children I am happy to provide appropriate support. I may be contacted by phone (5535 1803), by email (below) or if appropriate, by sharing your concern with your child’s class teacher. Please look for Michael Grose’s Insight Article in our newsletter next week and remember that you may access his website for some helpful parenting tips.


Mary Sanders
msanders@bne.catholic.edu.au

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to these boys from Marymount that represented Miami in the U12 Boys team at the Queensland Oztag 2014 Junior State Cup over the weekend. Pictured from left to right: Saxon Henderson, Kai Harris Conall Crowley and James Barnes.

The team was undefeated throughout their pool and quarter-finals. Their semi final went into overtime where unfortunately they lost.

Mary Sanders
msanders@bne.catholic.edu.au
We are calling on all mums, dads, Nans and Pops, Grandmas and Grandpas or any other family members who may be interested in contributing a few hours a month, term or week to help us out in the Tuckshop.

We guarantee you lots of laughter and the opportunity to meet new parents and make new friends. The greatest thing though is that your children love to see you in their tuckshop.

The Tuckshop roster is once a month from approximately 9.00am to 1.30pm or mornings only if you are unable to do a full day. Please feel free to call 5520 8413 if you have any questions or simply fill in the form below and return it to the tuckshop as soon as possible.

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - TUCKSHOP**

Name: ____________________________

Contact Phone: ____________________________

Child's name and class: ____________________________

Preferred Day/s: ____________________________

Anyone in particular you would like to work with: ____________________________

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**CHILD AND ADOLESCENT ORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Students in Prep have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is Prep or is new to the school and has not received an examination card and you would like to arrange an for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre on 1300 300 850 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm (excluding Public Holidays). If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

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**Lost Property**

Please name all children’s items including lunch boxes, drink bottles, shoes etc. If named they can be returned.

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**Community Notices**

**Tennis & Tennis Multi Skills Programs**

Term 1 2014 Enrolments being taken now! BOOKINGS and ENQUIRIES

Contact: 0417634524 John 0439722369 Trish

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**School Newsletter**

The School Newsletter is produced each week and is a vital component of the channels of communication with parents. The newsletter is prepared each Wednesday for distribution to families. It is placed on the website on a Wednesday afternoon, or is sent via email (details below). Please note, should you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please speak with your child’s teacher or contact student reception.

If you would like to receive your School Newsletter via email, please send a request to pburleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au to be added to the list.

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter email list, again, please send us an email to the above address.
Marymount Swimming Carnival

Our annual Marymount Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 13 February 2014 at Miami Aquatic Centre (weather permitting). The carnival will include 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 year old ‘A’ division competitors as well as all Year 5, 6 & 7 students. ‘A’ division swimmers will be competing for age champion medals and representative selection.

All swimmers must wear a swimming cap.

Students are expected to wear their school sports uniform or house coloured shirt and must have a hat and sunscreen. Morning tea, lunch and water will be required for the day.

Students will travel to and from the venue by bus. The busses will depart school at 8.40. Therefore, students are required to be at school by our usual starting time.

Parents are invited to attend the carnival and may wish to take their children to the pool.

However, if wet weather forces the postponement of our Marymount carnival, all ‘A’ division swimmers, 8 – 13yrs will trial for District/Catholic selection in our Marymount pool on Friday 14 February.

Students and parents may consult the notice board outside the school computer lab to check the lists of ‘A’ division swimmers.

Any students who are not participating in the carnival will remain at school under teacher supervision.

District Swimming Trials

District Swimming Trials will be held on Tuesday 18 February at Somerset Pool.

District 100m and 200m events will be by paper nomination to me (Paul Hill) by 13 February.

Paul Hill

Marymount Swimming Carnival Events Timetable 2014

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

We write to enlist your support. This year we have over ten children at Marymount Primary School who suffer from Anaphylactic shock which is a life threatening situation.

Some foods that may cause anaphylaxis for some children at Marymount are:
* Dairy           * Nuts           * Peanuts         * Fish           * Egg

We hope you appreciate that direct contact with any of these foods, even on the handrails and bubblers after eating ‘trigger’ foods, can be life threatening for some of our children.

In order to provide some assistance in preparing your child’s lunchboxes we ask that you consider the suggestions listed below. Please note that some suggestions relate to the entire school community whilst others relate only to children from Prep to Year 2.

Regarding food brought from home, we ask you to consider (all children Prep to Year Seven):

- Avoiding **dairy** products that are prone to spillage (for example, yoghurt, custard and milk)
- Avoiding **dairy** products that are particularly sticky (for example, spreadable cheese, chocolate coated products and ice-cream)
- Avoiding any **fish**
- Avoiding **peanut and nut** products (including peanut butter, chocolate nut spreads and muesli bars containing peanuts, nuts and sesame seeds).
- Avoiding products that have **Sesame seeds** (for example, Sesame Snaps and bread and rolls with seeds).
- Avoiding **eggs**

Please note:
- Although a lot of products contain dairy, the items listed above (yoghurt, custard, milk and particularly sticky dairy items) are considered to be the most dangerous.
- Block cheese and cheese slices are considered acceptable food.
- You may like to use **Nuttalex** Spread (which is dairy and nut free) as an alternative to butter.
- Often manufacturers have precautionary warnings on the products that state “may contain traces of nuts /and or milk”. These products are safe to be consumed at school as long as peanuts or nuts are not the ingredients in the products.

As a Marymount community we cannot guarantee a risk free environment. Each child with Anaphylaxis has an individual Action Plan in case of an anaphylactic reaction. We do however ask for your continued support in helping minimize the risks of food related problems for some of our children.

Yours sincerely

Greg Casey
Principal