Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Welcome to the 2014 School Year
On behalf of our staff I would like to welcome all of our children and families to what promises to be an exciting new year here at Marymount Primary School. It is particularly exciting for us as this year we celebrate our fortieth birthday since our school was established in 1974 on this site. I would like to issue a special welcome to those families and children new to our school this year. We have just over 140 Prep children joining us over the next few days – what an exciting (if not anxious) time for them. We also have just over 60 new children across our Year 1 to 7 classes with children joining us from our local area as well as from other states and other countries. At Marymount we have always prided ourselves on being a very welcoming community and I would ask our existing families to help us to continue this tradition and join with us in making all of our newcomers feel welcome. Good luck to all of our children for the first few weeks as we – staff and children alike - settle in to the new school year.

New Staff
This year we welcome a number of new staff to our community from other schools and into different positions. Please make these people feel welcome as you meet up with them over the next few days and weeks.

Julian Cotter – Acting Assistant Principal (replacing Annette O’Shea for 2014). Julian has previously been an AP at one of our sister schools in Brisbane and has spent the last four years on secondment to Brisbane Catholic Education working on special projects including government-funded initiatives.

Dwayne Thorburn – Transferred in from St Matthew’s Catholic School at Cornubia in Brisbane’s south. Dwayne will be teaching Year 7 this year.

Jacqui Cloete – Jacqui is replacing Jane Weston in our Year 2 class as a Job Share teacher with Trudy Grimsey for Semester One. Jane, applied for, and was granted extended leave to spend more time with her infant daughter. Jacqui will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays each week. Jacqui is well known to the children as she has done a number of contract teaching positions for us over the last few years, many of which were in our younger classes.

Yolanda Weinthal – Yolanda has joined us as our new Tuckshop Convenor. Last year I informed parents that our Convenor’s role was going to be outsourced and we engaged the commercial company, Metropolitan Canteens. Yolanda was appointed just after our school broke up. She comes to us with great experience in two other large Gold Coast schools. Yolanda (or Miss Yolanda as the children usually call her) will be sending out notes asking for Tuckshop volunteers and also letting us know of menu or price changes over the next few weeks. Our previous Convenor, Vicki Turner, has taken this year off and moved to far North Queensland to be closer to her husband’s work.

Please keep in your Prayers
I would ask that you please keep Maree Wright (one of our Year 7 teachers) and her family in your prayers over the next few weeks. Sadly Maree’s mother, Trish, passed away early on Sunday morning after suffering a heart attack. Trish was 83. Maree has flown to Sydney to be with her family as they celebrate their mother’s life at a funeral held in western Sydney today (Thursday). Maree will be away for all of this week. I have asked Nicki Brown to come in as the class teacher for the week. Nicki is an experienced teacher who has taught many of our older classes over the last two years. I would like to thank Nicki for being available at very short notice. I am very sure that Maree would appreciate your prayers and support during this challenging family time.

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School Traffic – Please be Patient & Cautious

The start of a new school year is always exciting for primary school children and sometimes this excitement can lead to times where children forget some of the basics of how to engage with and remember traffic rules. Your role as parent here is crucial in helping to remind them of these things – how to cross the road, using designated crossings, riding in the right areas, wearing bike helmets, and so on. It is vitally important that you run through, and even practise these basic safety measures. Our class teachers will do the same but the one-on-one possibility that you as parent has, gives these lessons far more meaning. Please take some time to talk about and even practise these important life-saving skills over the next few weeks.

It is also important to remember to be patient as the new-year traffic falls back into rhythm. Please be cautious of children as they can be very unpredictable. Please also be aware of where correct parking can be found and ensure that our bus bays are kept free of set-down or pick-up traffic as this can cause major disruptions to the flow through this area. All schools have issues with school traffic times but if we can practise patience, especially over the next few weeks, then vehicles can flow and most importantly our children can be safe. Thank you for your very much needed assistance with both of these matters.

New School Officer Positions for 2014

Before the end of the week we will be advertising for three School Officer positions at our school. We will be looking to appoint a Teacher Assistant for our new Prep class, a Teacher Assistant to work with our Learning Enhancement Centre and also a Library Assistant to replace Mrs Rosemary Arthurson who retired from school life over the holiday break. These positions will be advertised through Brisbane Catholic Education’s online employment system and can be found via this web address – www.catholicjobsonline.net.au. The process is done completely online and applicants will need to download their particulars onto the system. By putting these jobs online we are reaching a very wide audience as this system covers all of our Archdiocese. Each job has different hours and different roles so if you wish to apply for all three you would need to indicate this. The Library position would certainly need some computer skills and an awareness of the Oliver data base system used for libraries. We would look to fill these positions by mid-February.

Newsletter in Email Form

Each year we produce our newsletter in a hard copy format for all families for the first two weeks (this week and next). From Week 3 (10 February), we will only do a small number of hard copy versions. The rest will be sent out via our email Distribution List. Details of how to get your email address put on to this list are included with this newsletter. Our weekly newsletter is also added to our school website which is www.marymountprimary.qld.edu.au. The newsletter can be found under the News and Events drop-down menu and then click on to News Features. If you can’t access our newsletter for any reason please contact our school office for help.

Parent Information Meetings – Wednesday, 19 February

This is just some prior notice that our annual class information meetings will be held in our classrooms on the above date. We will start with meetings for our younger grades at around 5.00pm and finish off with our Year 6 & 7 meetings around 7.00pm. Please check our future newsletters for final details. These meetings are an important way for you to be kept up to date with what is happening in your child’s class and as such it would be great if at least one parent could make it to them.

Thanks for your time – I hope that your children have a magnificent first week.

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

I would like to welcome you to Marymount Primary for 2014 and especially those, like me, who are new to our school community. My previous role took me to a large number of schools across the Archdiocese and Marymount Primary has always been renowned for its vibrant and caring environment.

I have been overwhelmed by the warm and friendly reception I have received and look forward to meeting many more families over the coming weeks.

Julian Cotter
Welcome! 2014 promises to be another busy year for us all. The first major liturgical feast we will celebrate is Ash Wednesday, falling in Week 6 on Wednesday 5 March. This will also launch one of our major fundraising focus events for the year – Project Compassion. During the season of Lent we are encouraged not only to give money to provide resources for families in developing countries, but also to learn more about their lives. More information will be provided about projects we will participate in.

Our weekly whole school assemblies are the only opportunity we have at Marymount to gather as an entire school community for prayer. Family members of the class leading assembly are most welcome to attend but of course, everyone is welcome to drop in each week. The focus varies each week, ranging from major liturgical feasts and events to celebrations of class work from Religious Education. We expect most gatherings to take place in the Doyle Centre but occasionally we meet in the Multi-purpose Centre (aka the shed). Assembly begins at 9am regardless of the venue. Should inclement weather prevent us from gathering on the day, we welcome parents and visitors to the Sacred Space (upstairs near the Yr 5 classrooms) for prayer with the class instead.

In the next few weeks the Year Six and Seven students and their teachers will take part in the annual Leadership Liturgy held for students of all Gold Coast Catholic Schools. At Marymount we believe that every student has the capacity to lead others in some way. We recognize Year Six and Seven students particularly as they take on roles of responsibility in the classroom, playground and daily religious life of the school. We will formally acknowledge these students and present them with their leadership badges in the coming weeks.

Opportunities for class liturgy (public prayer of the church) were introduced in 2013 and proved an outstanding success. We welcome our local priests (Fr Ken, Fr Huong or Fr Lucius) each week to our Sacred Space and look forward to further developing our relationship with them and our God.

Instrumental Music Notes
Mr Col Hoy and Mr Paul Radford will again this year provide lessons in flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. These take place each Wednesday beginning next week – Wednesday February 5. Band rehearsals will begin in the next few weeks. Although I don’t teach music, I support Col and Paul by being the contact for Instrumental Music here at school. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me through the office if you have any queries.

Enjoy the week
Bernadette Christensen

Keyboard – Leisa Kirstein 0414662362
Drums – Cvitan Barac 0408722539
Guitar (group) – Mark Wilkins 0407270467
Guitar (individual) – Andy Mitchelson 0431741489
Vocal (group) – Mark Wilkins 0407270467

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES 2014
Speech & Drama classes are available for all Marymount Primary students in Years 1 - 7 (Prep students can start Speech & Drama in Term 3). Lessons consist of improvisation, drama, theatre sports, public speaking, poetry, speech/breathing exercises, miming and puppetry. Classes aim to give the children confidence, improve speech skills, explore creativity and develop the art of performing. During Term 3 students have the opportunity to perform in the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and Somerset Performing Arts Festival.

Weekly half hour Speech & Drama classes are held in small groups. Lessons are held during school time and class teachers are consulted regarding a suitable time for the children to attend. If your child/children are continuing students, please email me asap at marymountdrama@yahoo.com to confirm their continued enrolment for 2013.

If you are interested in your child/children commencing Speech & Drama lessons this year, please send an email to marymountdrama@yahoo.com with your child’s name & class and your name & phone number. Further information will then be sent to you. Alternatively, new students may fill in the information below and hand it to the school office in an envelope marked “K.Crosby.” Please do this asap so the Speech & Drama timetable can be finalised.

Kind regards
Katy Crosby

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SPEECH & DRAMA – Attention: K. Crosby ---- I am interested in my child learning Speech & Drama.

Child’s name: ___________________________ Class/es: ___________________________
Parent’s name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________
**Orders from our canteen online!**
*Our canteen and has teamed up with MunchMonitor to offer a convenient and easy to use online service.*

- no more writing out canteen lunch orders or looking for lunch money in the morning
- order up to 4 weeks in advance (edit or delete the order right up until 9:00am on the day)
- no more lost or forgotten lunch orders and money
- top-up the account using VISA/MasterCard online or using cash at the canteen
- access account statements online

It only takes a few minutes to set up an account online and you are ready to go!
1. Go to www.munchmonitor.com
2. Enter Username: marymount
   Password: munch4220 then click “login”
3. Click “Sign Up” and follow the simple steps to get started.

There's an account keeping fee of $2.50 (that's less than a cup of coffee!) per Parent Account per Term.

For more information send an email to help@munchmonitor.com or call 1300 796 190.

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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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**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.
The Brisbane International Schools Tennis Challenge
The Brisbane International Schools Challenge is a mixed team Tennis competition for Queensland Primary Schools. The Marymount Primary Team consisted of Sierra-Rose Green; Blake Weise; Tyler Gilbert (Year 6) and Aiden Kinging (Year 7). The team, where the overall winners of the South Coast competition. They went on to play in the Queensland state finals held at the Brisbane International Tennis Tournament from 1 to 5 January 2014. Out of 207 Queensland teams, Team Marymount with their determination and competitive spirit, accomplished a huge 11th place in the State Finals, which was an awesome result. Well done team.

District Cricket Team
Congratulations to two of our Marymount students. Both Harry Tonks and Sebastian Pegler have been selected into the Gold Coast South District Cricket Team. The boys compete in the Regional Carnival on the 12 and 13 February. Best of luck to both Harry and Sebastian.

Marymount Swimming Carnival
Our Marymount swimming carnival will be held on Thursday 13 February (week 3). The carnival will include all students in year 5, 6 and 7, plus 8, 9 and 10 year old students from lower grades who have qualified for ‘A’ division. The carnival will be held at Miami Aquatic Centre, Pacific Avenue, Miami.

Paul Hill

WILD AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES
MARYMOUNT PRIMARY
Learn to create, draw and paint.
Use your imagination - it’s fun for everyone!
Wednesday 3.15pm to 4.45pm
Meet outside the Library
Most art materials supplied and expert tuition.
Free snacks supplied.
DON’T MISS OUT. BOOK NOW!
Text NOW 0402328987
(Please include your name and school).
OR
Ring 55773293 AFTER 7.00pm.

Recently Separated / Divorced?
Centacare is conducting a Divorce and Separation Recovery Workshop commencing on Monday Evening 3rd March. 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.

If you wish to register for this workshop please call Centacare on 07 55277211. Registrations close on Friday 31st.

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.
Kids and bats can’t be friends

Bats and flying foxes carry germs which can make you very sick.

If you see a bat or flying fox, don’t go near it or try to touch it—even if it looks hurt.

You are much bigger than a bat and it may get scared and try to scratch or bite you if you go near it.

The bat’s germs can be passed on to you if you get scratched or bitten—this can make you very sick.

If you do get scratched or bitten by a bat or flying fox tell your parents, a teacher or an adult straight away.

An adult can help you wash where you were scratched or bitten with soap and water for about five minutes.

They will then need to take you to a doctor very quickly, who will look at the scratch or bite and then treat you to stop the germs making you sick.

If you do see a bat or flying fox that’s hurt you should tell an adult and they can call:

• RSPCA—1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
• Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—1300 130 372
• your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.

2014 Junior Rugby Sign On

WHERE: Bond Pirates Rugby Union Club
Pizzy Park Sporting Complex
Sonia Street, Miami
(entry lane between Miami Pool and Burleigh Bears Juniors, behind transfer station)

WHEN: Fri 7th / Sat 8th / Sun 9th February 2014
(See website for details. Sign-ons permitted after these dates subject to team sizes.)

COST: $210.00
Family (2 x Children) $400
Under 6’s and 7’s $100

(Note: New sign ons please bring copy of birth certificate)
Includes Player Pack with Club Shorts, Socks and Training Shirt

Contact – Randall Cook
Ph: 0401 717 560
Website – www.bondpirates.com.au

“Come Get Hooked On Rugby”