Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

This Sunday our church celebrates Palm or Passion Sunday which marks the start of our most important week of the Christian calendar – Holy Week. On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. His followers lined the streets thinking that Jesus was going to release them from the bonds of Roman governance and start a new era for the Israelites. Sadly this wasn’t the case as Jesus came to earth to let people know about His father’s kingdom – the Kingdom of Heaven – not a worldly one. This was His whole life message and throughout His time on earth Jesus showed all through His words and actions the way to reach God’s Kingdom. His care for all, even the poor and the marginalised, were hallmarks of His message – this was the example He set for us. Our new Pontiff, Pope Francis I, has these similar key values as he takes on his new ministry as the leader of the Catholic faith in the world. He appears to be a man of simple means with a powerful message of care for all, much like Jesus did. Maybe this coming week is a chance for us all to reflect on how we treat others and how we help those in need. Maybe we need to refocus our energies as our Holy Father is challenging us to do. This would really show that there is a hope which stems from the story of Holy Week and that we can rightfully call ourselves people of hope for the future.

Draft Mission Statement Presentation – Wednesday, 27 March

Next Wednesday afternoon our Mission Statement Review committee will present our draft document to our school staff at our normal staff meeting. This will be the result of the last four weeks of consultation and reviewing of existing school, church and government policy documents. Prior to our Staff meeting we will be making a shorter presentation to any parents who may wish to join us in the staff room from 2.00pm. This meeting should go no longer than 30 minutes and parents are most welcome to attend and ask questions for further clarification. All suggestions from these two meetings will be considered in our final document. We will also present our draft document at our April P & F meeting which is set down for the first day of Term2 – Monday, 15 April.

School Goals for 2013

Recently our Leadership Team attended a meeting with our fellow Gold Coast Catholic Schools as part of our annual Goal-Setting process for this year. At this meeting we met with Brisbane Catholic Education office personnel and generated or re-adjusted our goals for the school for this year. We have developed these goals under four main areas which relate to our BCE School Renewal processes. They are attached to this newsletter and can also be found on our school’s website under the Parent drop-down box or by following this link http://www.mps.qld.edu.au/Parents/AnnualReporting – I would encourage all parents to take some time to read through these goals as they provide our main direction for 2013.

Teacher Change for Year Two & Three in Term Two

Parents of Mrs Annette Straker’s Year Two class would be aware that Annette will be finishing up work at the end of Term One and taking time off on Maternity Leave to prepare for the impending birth of her child. We will welcome Mrs Deanne Krueger to the full time role for Term Two and Three after Easter. Deanne is currently working as a co-teacher with Mrs Kim Jones in Year Three on Thursdays and Fridays and is well known to our school community. Also in Term Two, Mrs Gemma Walker will return to our school after being away for an extended period of Maternity Leave and she will team up with Kim for the remainder of the year in Year Three. In welcoming back Gemma, I would also like to thank Deanne for her work with Kim and our Year Three’s. I would also like to wish Annette well as she and her husband Alex and her other children await the exciting times ahead.

Marymount Cross Country Day – Tuesday, 26 March

We will be holding our Marymount Cross Country carnival on the College ovals on next Tuesday morning. Parents are most welcome to join us for the morning session (times and full details outlined later in the newsletter).

The decision to move our run was necessitated by the development of the Bermuda Street fields. These fields have also had some redevelopment work done on them and they are also suffering from the recent continuous wet weather. We have done our best to plot courses that keep away from the worst affected areas and allow for safe running. I would ask that parents please stick to these sections (largely on the western side of the cricket pitch) as it will allow for the races to run without the children having to dodge through parents.

If bad weather and unsuitable oval conditions come up we will post a notice on our school website by 7.30am on the day to let families know of our postponement. We have set aside Thursday, 28 March, as a back-up day if we cancel Tuesday. Good luck to all of our runners on the day.

This newsletter is a map of the courses for the various age groups which are basically centred around the Bermuda Street fields. These have been set so that we could effectively fit our new tracks in around the college fields. These fields have also had some redevelopment work done on them and they are also suffering from the recent continuous wet weather. We have done our best to plot courses that keep away from the worst affected areas and allow for safe running. I would ask that parents please stick to these sections (largely on the western side of the cricket pitch) as it will allow for the races to run without the children having to dodge through parents.

Coming Events

- **Wednesday March 20**
  - Whole School Assembly - 2A Oozanam Villa - 1P
  - School Disco - details inside

- **Friday March 22**
  - Yrs 5-7 winter sport trials

- **Monday March 25**
  - Parent/Teacher interviews commence

- **Tuesday March 26**
  - Marymount Cross Country

- **Wednesday March 27**
  - Whole School Assembly - 5M 2.00pm - Draft Mission Statement presentation

- **Thursday March 28**
  - Last day of Term 1

- **Monday April 15**
  - Term 2 commences

Mass Times

- **Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
  - Doyle Centre - children are withdrawn for brief lesson
  - 10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays;
  - 9.30am each Sunday (school term) at St Benedict’s, Mudgeeraba

- **Parish Mass Times**
  - 5.30pm at St Benedict’s, Mudgeeraba
  - 8.30am at Mudgeeraba & Miami
  - 10.00am at Doyle Centre;
  - 5.30pm at Doyle Centre

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Preparatory Enrolments 2014

We are now calling for enrolments for Preparatory classes in 2014. Many of our parents have already filled out an application form for their prospective Preppies, but there are still many not yet submitted. If you wish for your child to be part of our great school in Prep next year, please contact the Administration Office to complete and submit your Application for Enrolment form. Children eligible for Preparatory in 2014 need to have been born between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009. Applications close at the end of Term 1, 2013.

Refugee Day at Tallebudgera Beach

Every year the St Vincent de Paul Parish Group unites with their Woodridge branch and gives new refugees to Australia a day at Tallebudgera beach. This year the date for this event is the 13th April. The Marymount community has supported this wonderful day for a few years now.

We need your help! Please go through your cupboards this week as we need clean swimmers for children, women and men (please no bikinis as the women are very modest). They all need hats, towels (bath or beach towels), backpacks, wet shirts and the women love to wrap themselves in sarongs. Beach toys like plastic buckets and spades, any type of balls, Frisbees or any beach toy are so appreciated by the children. Please make sure the clothing has no holes and are clean and the toys aren’t broken. Please send any of these items to the Student Reception area and I will make sure they all get there on the day. This is our opportunity to share our good fortune with our brothers and sisters who have suffered much hardship. The items need to be in by the last Thursday of this Term as the beach day is the Saturday before we come back to school.

Thanks for your support.

Jane Lennon
We welcome Pope Francis

After quite a quick conclave, we woke last Thursday morning to the news that Pope Francis had been elected as our new Pope. Pope Francis has taken his name in honour of St Francis of Assisi which is significant for us here at Marymount Primary as we have Franciscan origins. Since his election and commissioning in recent days, Pope Francis has spoken many times of his focus on the defending and supporting the poor.

Project Compassion Fundraising

Thanks and congratulations to all students for raising $1100 for Project Compassion last Friday. Students had the chance to observe St Patrick’s Day by wearing green or the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence by wearing orange. Whatever children chose to wear, they were asked to contribute a gold coin to Project Compassion. Yesterday approximately 250 students supported our Fried Rice and Water fundraiser. Funds raised by this initiative are still being finalised.

As we enter the final weeks of Project Compassion, I ask you to encourage your child to raise one dollar each week as we move towards Easter. In its truest sense, our support of Project Compassion is about altruism, a care and concern for others with no thought of reward or thanks. While we enjoy our free dress and fund raising days, the greatest learning for our students can come at times like this when they give simply out of concern for those whose lives could be made better.

Mary Amongst Us Awards

Today at Assembly the first Mary Amongst Us Awards for 2013 were presented. At Marymount, we emulate several qualities of Mary, who:
- said ‘Yes’ to challenges
- showed love for family members
- worked with others to build community
- was thoughtful and considerate of others
- prayed to God

We acknowledged these qualities in our students today. These students keep the qualities of Mary ‘alive’ in our school. Congratulations to each of our award recipients.

Helping Hands

In recent weeks a group of Year 6 Students has begun to work for social justice within our school community. The ‘Helping Hands’ group has worked to support fundraising efforts for Project Compassion in recent weeks.

This voluntary group is an excellent opportunity for Year 6 students to prepare for their student leadership next year and supports our efforts to build community and help those in need.

The group is coordinated by Mrs Deanne Krueger with support for Mrs Chris Britton and Mrs Leigh Doman. The group will be formally introduced to our school community at assembly on March 27. For more information see the section below written by the group.

Helping Hands

This year at Marymount we have formed a wonderful new group of volunteer Year 6 students called “Helping Hands”. You may have already heard about some of the activities we have been lending a “helping hand” to, including our recent free dress day and the Fried Rice and Water lunch.

“Helping Hands” is an active group of students and teachers within our school community who aim to make a difference to those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

We meet to discuss and organise ways to raise awareness about social justice issues and to help others in need, within our school and beyond, by co-ordinating and participating in student driven projects, events and initiatives.

We are certainly an enthusiastic bunch of students full of fantastic ideas. Keep an eye out for some of our exciting initiatives throughout the year.
It was fantastic to see over 250 children eating fried rice on Tuesday. Our Caritas Project Compassion awareness day was well supported. Thank you to all families for their participation. A very big thanks to the mums who came in to help. Many hands make light work!

Students, keep up the great work with your "red frogs for Caritas" We are opening many doors with your wonderful generosity and compassion.

A little surprise is coming your way! As Thursday 28 March is our last day of school before our Easter Holidays, Thursday and Friday specials will be available on this day. You will be able to order from the Thursday or Friday specials, i.e. sushi or pie/pizza/sausage roll. Every order will receive a little Easter surprise. So remember to order on THURSDAY 28 March.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 25 March</th>
<th>Helper needed please</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 March</td>
<td>Deb Hopkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>Marg.....<strong>HELP NEEDED PLEASE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Karen and Matt Harrison and Romina Fomhoff</td>
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Have a great week

Vicki Turner

District AFL

Congratulations to 5 of our Marymount boys who were selected in the Gold Coast South AFL team last week at the District Trials. Ethan Dawson, Charlie Harmelin, Tom Dean-John, Liam O’Brien and Nathan Rana-Smith have all been selected to play at the Regional AFL trial on 16 April as part of the Gold Coast South team. Well done boys.

District Basketball trails

Congratulations to Jack Johnston. Jack has been selected in the District Basketball team. He will be part of the Gold Coast South team to play at the Regional Basketball trials on 30 April. Best of luck Jack.

Marymount Cross Country

We will be holding our Marymount Cross Country carnival next Tuesday 26 March. All events will start and finish on the College ovals this year. New courses have been designed for all age groups.

The event is a house points competition so children may wear house colours on the day. All participants receive points for completing the course. If children wish to represent the school or be in contention for Age Champion awards, they must run against other children born in the same calendar year. If this is not of interest to the children, then they can run with their year level. In other words, for example, if children in Year Two are turning eight this year, and they wish to represent the school at the upcoming Catholic carnival, or if they wish to compete for Age Champion status, they need to run in the Eight Years event (otherwise known as Year Three event). If they simply want to have a run, then they can run with their peers in the Year Two event. We do appreciate that this can cause some confusion but we do ask that you take the time to consider the options for your child should he or she be affected. Once a decision has been made which race your child will compete in, please discuss this with your child.

The events is also used to determine age champions (8-13yrs), District representatives (10 -12yrs) and Catholic representatives (8-13yrs).

Children need to bring their hat, water bottle, and any medication that may be required to the College ovals for the event. All events will be finished by morning tea so food and school bags will not be required.

Please see program and course map attached with this newsletter.

Paul Hill

Prep Fun Fitness has started! Come join the fun down at bottom ovals every Monday afternoon from 3.15 to 3.45pm.

We will be doing exercises, running, hurdles, ladder sprints and not to forget - lots of fun games. Prep fitness will continue on in Term 2, Monday afternoons.

Hope to see you there. Mrs Hockings, Mrs Yates and Mrs Finn.
Marymount Cross Country  
Tuesday 26 March 2013

Race Timetable

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<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
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<td>Prep boys</td>
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<td>Prep girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 boys</td>
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PREP – YR 2 - BLACK
8/9yrs (YR 3/4) ORANGE
10yrs (Yr 5) – PURPLE
11-13yrs (Yr 6/7) - BLUE