Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

**Multi-Purpose Centre & Outside School Hours Care Facility Blessing & Official Opening**

Next Monday, 14 May, at 10.00am, Senator Claire Moore, Senator for Queensland, will be officially opening our school’s Multi-purpose Centre. Senator Moore will be representing the Federal Minister for Schools. Our building was constructed with funding ($3 million) under the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution program and it is important that we acknowledge such support for our school community. During the ceremony on Monday, Fr Pat Molony, our Parish Priest, will bless our facility. We will start the proceedings with a Blessing ceremony and then move on to the civil part of the service in which the Senator will officially open our building. We will have representatives from our local government levels – Karen Andrews - Federal Member for MacPherson and Michael Harte – State Member for Burleigh Heads as our special guests on the morning. Paul Allen (past-Principal of our School), Director School Service Centre South representing David Hutton, Executive Director – Brisbane Catholic Education, will be here to speak to our assembly as well. He will be one of our three speakers.

All parents are most welcome to come along to our opening ceremony and Morning Tea which will follow our assembly. The Morning Tea will be served in the Outside School Hours Care facility. I would ask that parents ensure that their children are well groomed for this special day in our school’s life. The children are asked to wear their full dress uniform.

**Welcome to the World Taylor Lane**

Last Friday afternoon was a special day for Angela and Tyson Lane as they welcomed their newest daughter, Taylor Jane, into the world. Taylor was born at 4.30pm and is a sister to Tiffany who will be three in August. Both mum and baby are faring well and they have gone home to settle in to a new lifestyle. I am sure that Angela and her family would appreciate your prayers and support at this special time.

**May Parents’ and Friends’ Meeting – Monday, 14 May**

Our next P & F Association meeting is set down for next Monday evening at 7.00pm in the school staff room. It would be great to see a number of parents come along to support our association as we discuss a number of issues affecting our school. On Monday some of the agenda items are:-

- Combined Schools’ Art Show, Queensland Parents & Friends Conference report, Marymount College plans for new building, Brisbane Catholic Education Resources Grant (technology) expenditure, Principal’s report.

Our meeting is expected to finish by 8.30pm.

**Traffic Issues**

Included with this newsletter is a letter from one of our Crossing Supervisors, Jo Dey, in relation to the traffic issues arising in the council-owned car park area. Jo has a first-hand view of many of the breaches of basic traffic laws and common sense that occur on a daily basis in the car park. Jo has been in this role for over 10 years so she speaks with a great deal of wisdom as to some of the common concerns and errors that parents and others make. I commend Jo’s letter to you and ask that we take heed of her concerns and work together to create a safer environment for our children.

**School Photographs**

Thank you to our parents for having the children looking great for our class photographs today. We will hopefully be able to complete the classes today and then move on to the family groups tomorrow. There are some classes set down for tomorrow and these have been notified. My thanks goes to Kevin Larkin, Assistant Principal, for his co-ordination of this major task.

**NAPLAN Testing next Week**

Our children in the Year 3, 5 and 7 classes will be sitting for the national tests in Literacy and Numeracy next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The tests are administered here but are marked externally and the results usually come back to us by September for dissemination to parents. I would ask that parents ensure that their children are here at the normal school staring time so that our testing protocols can be properly followed.
**Curriculum News**

**Our new SRS reporting system**

We have changed this year to a new program for reporting to parents. It is known as SRS, or Student Reporting System. Physically the reports you will receive at the end of this semester will not look substantially different. However there has been an enormous change behind the scenes.

Teachers now enter their judgements online and these are processed at a central location in Brisbane along with many other BCE Catholic schools. When all judgements are finalised and checked, the reports are generated and printed locally. The main advantages are: when children move between Catholic schools their reports are portable and will be able to be easily compared to those in the new school. Being online also means that access for schools, in the event of a lost report, is possible. Our network here will also be under less pressure. Teachers have recently undergone training in the new system and overall there is a very positive response.

The interim reports for this semester are being marked in accordance with the New Australian Curriculum which has standards for each year of schooling. You will see that your child’s mark will be reflecting their year level, i.e. a Year 3 child will now be marked in a range for Year 3 and not above or below that year level etc. The Australian Curriculum standard is the expected level of achievement for each subject area. Teachers will mark work using a five point scale. At Marymount we have chosen; A – E, for each year level, including the Early Years classes. I will discuss this scale further in the next newsletter.

**NAPLAN- MAY 15th, 16th and 17th**

As the time draws closer for these National tests I would again ask that parents of children in years 3, 5 and 7 be cautious in placing too much emphasis on these days. Whilst we hold high expectations of all our students to perform at their best, we do not want children to feel that these tests are the only measures of their ability.

Teachers have been conducting trial tests and have reported that the children are very comfortable and are enjoying the challenges they have been given. On the days of the tests we are required to start and finish at prescribed times. Therefore; children must be on time for school and not be rushing in at the last minute. Having your child at school for the normal start time of 8.40am will assist the teachers to conduct these tests as set down NAPLAN.

Diane Anderson

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**Queensland Catholic Primary Principals’ Conference**

Last week I attended the bi-annual QCPPA conference in Mackay. The conference was an excellent chance to share with colleagues from Catholic schools from across Queensland on many common issues and look at how our schools are reacting and working with these issues. We had a number of very good guest speakers who challenged us and informed us on current trends in curriculum, special needs education, spirituality in Catholic schools, parental involvement and staff development. I appreciated the time to attend the conference and I thank Annette O’Shea, Assistant Principal, for filling in during my absence. Thanks also goes to Bernardette Christensen, APRE, and Kevin Larkin, AP, for shouldering the load with Annette – we are blessed with a very experienced and gifted group of Assistant Principals here at Marymount - they do an excellent job.

**Happy Mothers’ Day**

This Sunday is celebrated across Australia as Mothers’ Day. It is a chance to thank our mothers and other women who help in the mothering role for the many wonderful things they do on a daily basis. Mums don’t ask for big things like these special days because they see it as just what they do. At my conference last week many speakers affirmed the crucial role that parents play in the development of the child and for many of us it is the mum who has the key role. To all of our mums, grandmothers and other women (and those who stand in for mothers) who play a significant role in the lives of our children may I wish you a Happy Mothers’ Day for this coming Sunday. I hope it is one where you are richly rewarded, not so much in gifts but in the sharing of time with loved ones and those who love you.

Enjoy the weekend

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey
Online applications for the Bus Fare Assistance Program and the Student with Disabilities Scheme are being accepted now until 31st May 2012.

To lodge an online application to receive a rebate for either program, go to:  www.schooltransport.com.au

Further enquiries to:  3336 9192 or schooltransport@qcec.catholic.edu.au

Applications received after 31st May 2012 cannot be processed.

Is your “Child on Loan?”

It is concerning to witness the number of parents who continually endanger the lives of their children and others despite repeated reminders of driver’s duty of care expressed by both the Primary and College Leadership teams in their many pleas through school newsletters.

On a daily basis I witness parents dropping off children in the bus lane only for these children to meander and dodge their way through traffic. Equally disturbing are those parents/grandparents who park on the yellow lines in the bus lanes and thereby encourage their children to run across three busy lanes of traffic.

With the recent tragic death of a 38 year old mother in Sydney who was hit by a school bus on her way to collect her child from school; the 6 year old child in Sydney currently on life support in an induced coma after being hit by a car near his school and the 16 year old Logan teenager who was killed by a truck on his way home from school, we do not want a Marymount child to be another statistic.

In my role as School Crossing Supervisor I am saddened to see parents putting their child’s lives at unnecessary risk here at Marymount. I would hope these parents will learn from the many other caring and wonderful parents who do the right thing for their children every morning and afternoon by taking the time and care to value these precious children.

Jo Dey
Crossing Supervisor

Around the classes…
Patron Parent Events

These are details of upcoming events organised by Patron Parents on behalf of the families in the respective classes. Invitations have also been distributed via your child. In most cases, there is no need to RSVP; you are most welcome to simply turn up and enjoy the company of others!

Year 2M—Coffee Club, Stockland
Friday 11 May — 8.45am—Cristina & Tanya

Years 3P & 5Y — Burleigh Town Tavern
Friday 11 May - 5pm—RSVP Karen, Rachel or Akiko

Years 2P & 23R — 2B Kids Indoor Play Centre
Wednesday 16 May - 9-11am—Rachel

A Mother’s Love

If you feel a little alone,
And you think that nobody cares,
I know a very lovely person,
Who no matter what, is there.

She lives a little near to this,
In a cute warm house, not for one;
Her chocolate fingers are priceless,
And her cupcakes fill your tum.

Her family and friends adore her,
Because she is so sweet,
Her advice to us so loving,
And she accepts all those she meets.

I do not know anyone else like this,
Who always stops to love and care,
I admire her and respect her,
The quality she carries so rare.

Mum, you are my budding rose,
And like the rose,
My love for you continues to grow.

Julia Buxton 2002

Year 1 students remembered all mothers at today’s assembly.

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Sports News

Congratulations
Congratulations to Lachlan Brough who has been chosen to represent the Gold Coast at the Under 12 Little League National Baseball Championships to be held at Tallebudgera baseball fields from 24 to 28 May. Lachie plays either centre field or catcher.

Well done to Lacey Bowshire who recently competed in the Queensland Diving Trials and came 2nd in 12yrs springboard and 3rd in platform.

Cross Country
Congratulations to the following students who competed at yesterday’s District Cross Country and will now go on to compete in the Regional Cross Country Championships:

Jake Marek;
Zara Giifos;
Ethan Dawson;
Amelia Redgrave-Brandt.

Congratulations to our 13 year olds who competed in Cross Country at the College yesterday and will now go on to compete at the Oceanic Trials as members of the College team.

1st—Ruby Price;
2nd—Withheld;
3rd Ashley Giifos;
5th Lilian Boyes.

Paul Hill

A very big thank you to all who helped out in the tuckshop whilst I was away. Sharon Lally did a great job along with a group of mums who came to the rescue. Thank you all very much.

Our Caritas Fish and Fried Rice Day was a great success. Thanks to the support of the students, we raised $360 towards this important charity.

What’s good eating? Fruit is fantastic at the moment...mandarins; watermelon; apples and bananas are just the best! Add a piece to your child’s order!

We are still receiving orders from the old menu. Please ensure you have the new Autumn/Winter 2012 menu. There are plenty available at the tuckshop.

State of Origin Sausage Sizzle
Wednesday May 23
Get the footy fever and join in our sausage sizzle before the big game.
$3.00 sausage sizzle PLUS a surprise.
Order form and info will be sent home next week.
Go the Blues! Go QLD!

Urgent message—Marymount primary school tuckshop needs more help! Please give thought to helping out. Why?

* It’s fun;
* your child will love seeing you in the tuckshop;
* you will be helping the students of your school;
* get to know others;
* you don’t have to cook;
* you can help out for an hour or two or whatever suits you;
* tuckshop people are really great people!;

If you are hesitant, why not give it a try? Should you not enjoy your day, that’s OK; at least you gave it a go. Please consider offering your time. We need you!

Roster for next week
Monday 14 May...Sharon Faire, Angela Sauvarin, Jo Kane
Tuesday 15 May.....Lisa and Karen
Wednesday 16 May...Sarah Weise, Brigitte Mallos
Thursday 17 May......Sharon Lally, Louise Gimellaro
Friday 18 May..........Silvia Wilkinson & Michelle Tonks

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers. Please let me know if you are unable to make your shift.

Enjoy your week
Vicki Turner

Tennis — Saturday 12th May
4pm - 7pm

We are conducting a tennis information and playing night on Saturday 12th May. Come along and have a social hit with your family and friends, enjoy a sausage sizzle and discuss the following opportunities:

Coaching Information - Meet and discuss our coaching programs; Practice tips and routines.
Playing opportunities: Beginner Fixture Program; Teaching the basics of fixture play and available times; Friday Night Social Teenage Doubles Challenge; Term 2 could see the re-introduction of this once popular program; Court Hire: casual or permanent;

We need advice on numbers to help with catering on the 12th May. Book at Tennis Courts or phone the numbers below. Remember: Mums, dads and the children. Bring your rackets and runners and join in this fun night.

John & Trish Greig 0417 634 524 - 0439722369

John & Trish