Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

**Marymount Day Mass Celebration**

Last Friday, Fr Peter Gablonski, one of our Associate Pastors, led our two schools in a very uplifting liturgical celebration for Marymount Day. Each year we celebrate this mass to recognise the birth of the mother of Jesus and the person after whom our schools are named. Our children and those from the college combined in singing, dance and reading throughout the mass which helped to create a warm and caring atmosphere. We presented our grocery hampers and health packs to the local St Vincent de Paul society. This is our usual gesture of support for this group who provide wonderful assistance to the local community. I would like to thank Bernadette Christensen and Dolores Maitland, the Assistant principals responsible for the Religious education programs in our schools, for a fantastic job of organising the mass. To accommodate just over 2000 children in the hall for a mass is a difficult task and they did this splendidly. Our children involved themselves reverently throughout the mass and were a credit to themselves. It is also important to thank Fr Peter for leading us in this ceremony. This was his first Marymount Day mass and his enthusiastic spirit helped to make the day a memorable one.

**Long Service Leave Staff Changes**

As a result of some staff taking Long Service Leave we have a few changes occurring after the holiday break. Mary Sanders, our Guidance Counsellor, will be away for the first four weeks and she will be replaced by Heather Clark on a part-time basis. Heather has filled in for Mary on previous occasions when she has been seconded to our main office.

Paul Hill, our Senior PE teacher, will be away for the last term (9 weeks). Paul is being replaced by Sarah Marks who has done a number of relief and contract stints with us in recent years. Sarah is a qualified PE teacher.

Stan Jacobs, one of our Year 5 teachers, is taking an extended period of Long Service Leave which will take in all of next term and also Term 1 in 2013. Melissa Redman will be taking Stan’s class for the rest of this year from the start of next term.

I would like to wish Mary, Paul and Stan well for their respective breaks which for some of them will include inter-state and overseas travel.

**Athletics and Ball Games Carnival Successes**

Last Thursday saw the running of two of our biggest interschool Catholic carnivals. The Athletics was held at Pizzey Park and it resulted in a resounding win for our team. We won the trophies for the Junior Boys and Girls sections, the Intermediate Boys and Girls section and the Senior Girls section with our Senior Boys coming third in their division. On top of this we collected the trophy for the best Relay school. All of these areas meant that we won the Overall Champion School for the day which was a great effort. Our congratulations go to our Senior PE teacher, Paul Hill, for a job very well done. Paul also had a number of staff who assisted him with the training and preparation of the children and these staff are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Our children were magnificent on the day and put in a huge effort and were justly rewarded.

We also had amazing success in the Ball Games arena where we lifted our position of eighth last year to second overall. This was also a result of much training and preparation from our teachers and children. I would like to recognise Leanne Crowe, one of our Year Two teachers, for her co-ordination of our school’s efforts. Leanne has been involved in the Ball Games carnivals for the last few years and her dedication to our children and their preparation has been very noteworthy. Well done again to our children who put in the effort and delivered the goods on the day.

**Parents’ and Friends’ Annual General Meeting – Monday, 15 October.**

Our AGM for the P & F is scheduled for the Monday of our second week in next term. At this meeting all of our executive positions will be declared vacant and elections will be held to fill these positions. Our Association has been very instrumental in the last year in helping to raise over $70 000 for direct support to our school through our P & F levy and major school functions like our Fete and Art Show. This year the P & F has allocated $50 000 to help upgrade our wireless network and another $8 000 towards the refurbishment of some of our Adventure Playground equipment. It is important for our school to have an effectively functioning P & F and to do this they need the support of our whole parent body. Your attendance at our AGM would be a great way to show your support for our current members and to contribute to ideas for future projects. You may even like to be nominated for an executive position as President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary.
These roles are not arduous ones and help is on hand if needed. Please keep this date in mind for next term and maybe even take some time to think about how you may be able to either be part of the P & F group or possibly even to take on a leadership role.

**Internal Access Road Closure**
This is just a reminder to our parents about the closure times for our internal access road. We will lock off this road each day from 8.10am til 9.00am in the morning and 2.40pm until 3.10pm in the afternoon. This has been done as a safety measure for our children who create heavy traffic issues on the crossing during these times. I would like to thank our College and their staff for working with us on this safety initiative. The closure of the road does cause some other access issues for both schools and the support is certainly acknowledged here.

**Uniform News**
In last week’s newsletter I mentioned about ensuring our children were in correct school uniform. This related to shoes, hats, socks and so on. We have also been reinforcing this message in the classes. One of the issues that we are often asked about is the correct days for the wearing of the Sports uniform.

For children in Years 3 – 7 the sports uniform is always worn on Fridays with the second day being the day that the class has Physical Education. The only exception to this rule is for three of our classes – 4R, 4P & 3M – who already have PE on Friday. The other day for these children will be the day when their class has time on the Adventure Playground.

For Children in Years One and Two the sports uniform is worn on their PE lesson day and their Gross Motor program day.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that the correct uniform is worn. We will be discussing this more with the children between now and the holidays.

**Library Art Work**
If parents are in the school grounds dropping off or picking up children you might like to visit the library to see the great art work decorating the windows. This art has been done by one of our Year One teachers, Carol Hicks. The pieces are taken from the themes or characters of this year’s shortlisted Children’s Books of the Year. Carol spent a lot of her own time in creating and finishing these windows and I’m sure that she would love as many people as possible to take the time to view them.

**Australian Primary Principals Conference Attendance**
I will be attending the APPA Conference in Melbourne next week. This annual conference is held in different cities each year and it provides us with a very good professional development opportunity. This year one of our guest presenters is the world-renowned educational lecturer and author of over 25 books on educational leadership, Andy Heargraves. I have heard him speak on previous occasions and his research and literature has stood the test of time as key work in this area. In my absence, Mrs Annette O’Shea has agreed to be Acting Principal. I would like to thank Annette for taking on this role.

Thanks for reading.
Yours in Christ
Greg Casey

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**New Caledonian Visit**
During Term 4, (October 22nd to 26th) a group of students aged 10 - 12 years old from Sacre-Coeur Primary School, Noumea, New Caledonia will again be visiting the Gold Coast.

We are seeking host families for this exciting visit. If you are interested in hosting one or two of these students please complete the form below and return it to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. On receipt of an expression of interest I will forward home to you an information package. The students are very excited and are looking forward to spending some time with an Australian family so they can immerse themselves in our language and culture.

As was the case last year the students only need to be billeted for the school week (Mon-Fri). This means that hopefully there is less strain on families involved in weekend activities. If possible the teachers would like their students billeted in pairs, but we realise this is not always possible.

Also, it is not necessary to have a spare room for the visitors as the children can bunk down on mattresses or make-shift beds. They do not require special foods or the provision of any special activities.

From our experience the program is an enjoyable one for families. Please consider being involved in this program and I look forward to a very successful Noumean visit for 2012.

Tony Barron

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**PLEASE RETURN SLIP TO TONY BARRON**
Yes I am interested in hosting a student/s from New Caledonia.

**PARENT NAME:**

**DAY CONTACT PHONE:**

**STUDENT NAME:**

**CLASS:**

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** ONE/TWO BOYS/GIRLS
**Catholic Athletics Carnival**

Whilst each year I enjoy training children in preparation for various sporting carnivals, this year was special. Paul Hill and I commented very early in the training program leading up to this year’s Catholic Athletics Carnival, that there seemed to be a better team spirit than in some previous years. This was particularly evident for me in relay training sessions.

These sessions can be rather frustrating for teachers/coaches as it is difficult to get all members of teams together at the same time. For many reasons it seems that set times can conflict with other matters for one or more children at any given time. However this year, for all three weekly sessions, almost all children arrived on time and brought along reserve runners if team-members were absent.

This spirit and commitment was evident across training sessions for all our disciplines. Some children were thus training each and every break throughout the entire week. In this way, team spirit built as the season progressed. In the lead up to the carnival, children were actually reminding me of the training times (I’m not sure whether they felt it might be me, who would forget!). I rather suspect that their enthusiasm was growing as their competence strengthened.

Upon reflection I wonder about the impact of our student leaders. We have enjoyed some great leadership over the years, but this particular group of Year Seven children is quite outstanding. They seem to have a gentle way of persuading and building confidence and spirit in a productive way.

I also thank the teachers and parents who reminded the children of their commitment to the training and offered encouragement throughout. The children very well deserved the outstanding results on the day. I am not surprised on this occasion that we won Champion School and many other Division trophies. Whilst the results are very satisfying, I’m hopeful that the children gained more than the sweet feeling of success. My hope is that the children can realise that hard work, commitment and spirit are hard to beat in any life endeavour.

Special thanks must go to Paul Hill who has gave up every Morning tea and Lunch break (barring only one break each week) for the entire lead up the carnival. On top of a full teaching load, this is surely a big effort.

Thanks also the following teachers who worked training the children in their own break times:
- Leigh Yates (Junior P.E.)
- Jackson Elliott (Yr 7)
- Tony Barron (A.P.)
- Matt Redmond (Yr 6)
- Andrea Bedward (Learning Support)

**Catholic Ball Games Carnival**

One of our sport goals this year was to improve our performance at the annual Catholic Ballgames Carnival. Marymount has had a long and respected tradition of achieving very well at the Catholic Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country carnivals, but has not achieved well at the Ballgames carnivals. We acknowledged that to change this culture and build a competitive spirit, a new approach and much hard work was required.

After initial discussions towards the end of last year, a committee of interested teachers, headed by Leanne Crowe (Year 2), was established early this year. The task of the committee was to come up with a plan to engender a new competitive spirit and train the children to compete to a high standard on the day of competition. It was accepted that it might take a few years for these goals to be achieved.

However, in typical Marymount spirit, we well and truly achieved, or even surpassed our goals. Our dedicated teachers entered into the campaign by selecting children and then training them in their lunch breaks and non-contact time. The children entered into the spirit and gave up their playtime to build the skills necessary to be competitive.

**Prep After-School Fitness**

It is very satisfying to note the outstanding success of our Athletics and Ballgames teams at this year’s Catholic carnivals. It was a particularly pleasing result this year because the result reflected the hard work of many training sessions, and a combined effort of children, staff and parents.

However, for all the expert training in the world, without some degree of talent and fitness, success in these endeavours is unlikely. We make no apologies at Marymount that we expect all children to be relatively fit and that this involves regular exercise.

We are also very fortunate that we have staff members who are prepared to dedicate their own time and talents to training children. This occurs outside of teaching time and is done in a voluntary capacity. For some years now, Therese Hockings (Prep) has conducted weekly after-school sessions for our young children. This year she has been very ably assisted by one of our Prep Aides, Angie Finn. Therese and Angie have offered exercise sessions in a fun way and these have been very well attended throughout the year. It is my belief that this builds a solid base for our children to be enthusiastic about engaging in physical activity. This helps all children who attend, but also is helpful in future success in the competitive arena.

In line with the conclusion of our athletics season in the older year levels, the program has now ceased for this year. We are very grateful to Therese and Angie for the time and effort invested in this special program. Also, we are thankful to the parents who have helped out on a regular basis.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Annette O’Shea
Thank you to all students, staff and family members who participated at Mass on Friday for Marymount Day. Particular thanks to Father Peter Gablonski for his leadership in prayer; his first in our combined community and first at such a large assembly of students. Celebration at such a gathering is a significant event and communicates many messages about the religious life of our school and those things we value. Coming together and inclusion of students; celebration of our identity; public worship and prayer; use of the Arts as a means for reflection, and outreach (through food donations) continue to be important to us at Marymount.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Bernadette Christensen

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!

Yr 1R (Younger children welcome)—Gingernut Café, Sunlight Dve
Monday 17 September—1.30pm—Leigh & Monica
Prep R—Zarraffa’s, Stockland
Wednesday 12 September—9.00am - Kim Irwin
Year 1M—Coffee Club, Stocklands
Friday 14 September 9.00am –Kim
Year 2M (Mums)—Groove Train, Promenande, Robina Town Centre
Friday 14 September—7.00pm - RSVP Wed. 12 Sept.-Cristina/Tanya
Prep A (Mums)—Koi, Broadbeach
Friday 14 September—7.00pm - RSVP by 11th Sept.—Tammi/Fay
Prep M (Coffee catch-up) —Zaraffa’s, Stockland
Wednesday 19 September—after drop off—Kristy & Kylie
Prep M (Class)—Pirate Park, Palm Beach
Monday 1October—9.30am - Kristy & Kylie
Sports News

Catholic Athletics & Ball Games
Well done to all our Marymount children who participated at last week’s Catholic Athletics and Ball Games Carnivals. Our teams practised very consistently in the lead up to the carnival and were certainly rewarded for their efforts.

The Athletics team brought home 7 out of 9 trophies on the day. The children are to be commended for the school spirit, and commitment throughout the event.

The Marymount team won:
- Junior boys trophy
- Junior girls trophy
- Intermediate boys trophy
- Intermediate girls trophy
- Senior girls trophy
- Relay trophy
- Overall point score trophy

Our Ballgames squad was the strongest in my memory coming a magnificent 2nd overall.

I would like to congratulate all of our Marymount competitors on their fantastic effort leading up to and during the event.

Paul Hill

AB Paterson Public Speaking Competition
Each year AB Paterson College holds a public speaking competition for Years 4-7. The Year 4 students don’t compete for a prize but for the experience. Public Speaking builds confidence in young people. It gives them a chance to improve their skills by listening to other speakers and speaking in front of an audience. All the information on topics, dates and times for the event are on the AB Paterson website www.abpat.qld.edu.au or you can call in to see me.

Jane Lennon

Please complete the form below and return to Mrs Lennon (3Y) by Monday 17th September with the $6 entry fee.

I give permission for my child _____________________________________________
in Year _____ to enter the AB Paterson Public Speaking Competition. I understand I must transport my child to and from the event. I have enclosed the $6 entry fee.

Parent’s Name __________________________________________________________

Tuckshop News

With only a few school days left to the end of term there may be some items not available at the tuckshop. We will endeavour to provide your child with their requested order or similar. Please discuss this with your child. Foreign currency once again is being used at the tuckshop. We are unable to accept this for any transaction. To avoid your child’s disappointment at not being able to make their purchase, would you please check the currency type they are bringing to school.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday 17 Sep...........I NEED A HELPER PLEASE
Tuesday 18 Sep...........Claire Milne
Wednesday 19 Sep........Liz Lee and Terrie Burke
Thursday 20 Sep...........Michelle Corker, Karen & Matt Harrison
Friday 21 Sep...........Summa Edwards, Melissa Berriman and Tara Brown

The roster above shows many new faces, even a husband and wife team!! Thanks for putting your hand up to help out our regular volunteers. I look forward to seeing you all in the tuckshop next week.

Have a great week

Vicki Turner

APOLOGY

My apologies to Jade Beard who won 3rd in the Speech and Drama at this year’s Eisteddfod, but whom I forget to mention last week.

Katy Crosby

Banking News

FREE GIFTS!
As a thank you to all students who have banked so far this year, every student who brings in their banking on Tuesday 18th September (next Tuesday) will receive a small gift.

Please also remember to cash in your tokens! We now have USBs; money boxes or drink bottles available for only ten tokens each.

Happy Banking

The Banking Ladies

Yr 7 cup cakes