Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

World Teachers Day – Friday, 26 October
This Friday has been gazetted by the United Nations as a day to celebrate the efforts of teachers across the world. This special day has been an annual event now for more than twenty years and it is one of the very rare ones which is recognised globally. We have a great group of teachers here at Marymount Primary and every day they do things with individuals or classes which show their great love for our children and the passion they have for their profession. The day is an opportunity for ourselves as parents and care-givers to thank these special people in our children’s lives. The career of teaching is an extremely difficult one in today’s world but it can be a very rewarding one. Being a teacher in a Catholic school has an extra onus as we are challenged to be the face of Christ for the children we see every day – we are asked to be like Christ in all that we do and this is a massive challenge. I believe that our teachers and staff at Marymount step up this challenge day in and day out. Perhaps Friday could be a great chance for you to pass on your thanks.

Sacre Coeur Catholic Primary School Visit
This week has been an exciting one for our school community as we play host to just under forty children and their accompanying staff from Sacre Coeur Catholic school in New Caledonia. The children are being billeted with our school families and this too has been fun. At our assembly this morning the children entertained us with some of their traditional singing and dancing which was very good. They also spent time with our Year Six classes who had earlier performed a song in French to the whole assembly. It was great for our children to be able to experience this different culture and interact with the children. Sadly the group will leave us on Friday morning and I would like to thank them for their time with us and wish them well for their journey home.

Thanks to Diane
For the last two weeks Tony Barron, one of our Assistant Principals, has been away on Long Service Leave. I would like to thank Diane Anderson, our school’s Curriculum Support Teacher, for taking on Tony’s duties whilst he was absent. Diane’s effort of wearing the two hats was most appreciated.

Disco Success
Last week we held our last Disco for the year and it was a resounding success. I would like to thank Luke Cervenak, one of our Year 2 teacher, who helped to co-ordinate the evening. Luke was ably assisted by many members of staff who helped to set up and clean up as well as supervising on the night. Thanks also to you as parents for also ensuring that our pick-up procedures worked smoothly.

Children Leaving Marymount
We are currently in the phase of finalising staffing and classes for 2013. This is a very complex process and one which is very dependent on the number of children we have in our school. We have sent preliminary projections through to Brisbane Catholic Education for budgeting purposes and we are now looking to fine-tune our school numbers. If you are not looking at your child/children returning to Marymount Primary school next year it would be appreciated if you could contact our office via a phone message, letter or email (pburleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au) to let us know. This will allow us to offer placements to families we may have on waiting lists before the end of the year. Your assistance in letting us know by the end of this month (next Wednesday, 31 October) would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Maile
Last Friday I received notification that one of Year 3 children, Maile Rickard, had been shortlisted as a finalist in the Brisbane Catholic Education 2012 Prize for Art. The competition is held annually for all schools in the Brisbane Archdiocese (134 of them) so this is exciting news for Maile. This means that her art will be exhibited at the Suncorp Piazza, South Bank Parklands, from 12 noon on Saturday, 27 October, 2012 to 3pm on Monday, 29 October, 2012. Entry to the exhibition is free. The announcement of prize winners will be made on the Monday morning. Over 2,000 entries were received this year so this is a significant achievement for Maile – our congratulations go to her for reaching this stage of the competition.

Thanks for reading this week. Yours in Christ, Greg Casey
**Students inspired to stay safe**

Award-winning injury prevention program, the Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT) will be visiting the school tomorrow.

Run by the Spinal Injuries Association and accredited by Education Queensland, SEAT has a proud 24 year history having reached more than 1.4 million students and counting!

At the heart of the program are 18 volunteer presenters based throughout Queensland, who all have a spinal cord injury and use a wheelchair. Because there’s no cure for a spinal cord injury, they’re committed to educating young people on how to stay safe.

The SEAT team reinforce messages like always wearing your seatbelt, wearing a helmet when on a bike or a skateboard, the importance of playing sports fairly and walking into any body of water to check its depth. These simple tips could save young people from sustaining a permanent disability.

Thanks to the generous major sponsorship by BHP Billiton Cannington Mine, the program is free until 30 June 2013. The Mine’s assistance, along with the support of other sponsors – the Queensland Government, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and the RBSM Foundation – means the SEAT presenters are on track to speak to more than 100,000 children throughout the state this year alone.

For more information on how the Association supports 2,000 Queenslanders with spinal cord injuries, or to support the Association yourself, please visit www.spinal.com.au.

**Uniform/Bookshop**

2013 Booklists have been sent home and are due for payment by 9 November 2012.

**Opening Hours Term 4**

Mon - Fri 8.10am to 10.30am and 2pm - 3.15pm.

The Uniform/Bookshop will be closed from 3 December 2012.

The giant sized pumpkins adorning many shops of late remind me that Halloween is approaching. My thoughts about this tradition have not changed over the years. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, in this column I have included my sentiments of previous years. I encourage all parents to carefully consider the potential risks (despite the children's protests) of any Halloween activities.

It rates as perhaps my most dreaded time of the year. I recall the years of accusations; debate and protestations from my four boys (yes, all those years ago with my youngest now twenty-six) as they jointly mounted a campaign against me with labels such as “the meanest mother in the world”. My children felt they were seriously disadvantaged as they also had to combat my husband, “the meanest father in the world”. My concerns in 2012 are now even greater and I challenge you to consider your children’s involvement in any activity to mark the occasion.

I raise the question as to why Australians would be celebrating what is traditionally known as an American celebration. Surely we need to be culturally stronger and build on our own developing identity. It seems that in many families, there is more attention given to Halloween than Australia Day and this somewhat bothers me. Of course, commercial enterprises look to cash in and create spectacular visual displays to encourage purchases, and this adds to the appeal for children.

My most serious concern however is for the safety and welfare of the children. What is to stop a perverted person (and sadly such sick people do exist in all walks of life) from lacing a lolly or other treat so as to drug a child? What of the risk of a child being dragged into another person’s property and then being harmed? How safe is it for any child to wander the streets amongst busy and sometimes unpredictable traffic? Even from a less sinister perspective, how does one check the “use by” date on treats given by strangers?

I challenge all parents to consider the worth and risks of children participating Halloween events. I particularly caution such activities as door-knocking when it is an expected time and thus plans for the deviants in society can be well laid. What I am extending is the challenge to be one of those “meanest parents in the world.” When your children are safe and secure and well-functioning adults, they’ll likely forgive you!

Enjoy the rest of the week.

*Annette O'Shea*
Catholic Missions – Sock It To Poverty!
You can help children who live in poverty to have better lives.
Wear your crazy socks and shoes TOMORROW
Thursday 25 October
bring a gold coin donation.

A B PATerson
PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Last week Isaac Maurer from Year Four spoke very convincingly about racing cars and their drivers and the adjudicator praised him for his efforts. Unfortunately Tylah Winyard from Year Five was sick and couldn’t attend last night. Dylan Stipancic represented Year Six and spoke very confidently. He has been chosen for the Year 6 finals next week. We wish him all the best as it is quite an achievement to reach the finals. Mrs Leigh Dornan and I enjoyed listening to all the students who spoke in these heats. I would like to congratulate these students for their hard work and also thank their parents for taking them along to participate. I hope to see more children enter the competition next year.

Mrs Lennon
Students in Years 2Y; 2P; 1M and 1A have been provided with an offer of an oral health care pack to take home. The pack includes a Child and Adolescent health Service brochure and an examination card. Please familiarise yourself with the process by reading the information provided.

If your child has not received a pack and you would like to arrange oral health care please contact Oral Health Care Call Centre on 1300 300 850 Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 4.30pm.

If your child requires disability access please inform the operator when you call.

Our new tuckshop menu has been a great success! I am happy to report we have tripled our fruit order to keep up with our Meal Deal orders. The Smash Potato; BLT and BLAT are proving to be welcome additions to the menu. Thank you for your support of our new menu.

A special thanks to Jennifer Cowan who saved the day last Friday. Bet you never walk past the tuckshop on your way home again!

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK
Monday 29 October........Jo Kane, Angela Sauvarin and Sharon Faire
Tuesday 30 October........Lisa, Karen and Emma
Wednesday 31 October.....Christina Ross and Brigette Mallos
Thursday 1 November......Sharon Lally, Louise Gimellora and Lou
Friday 2 November.........Silvia Wilkinson and Michelle Tonks

Thanks ladies, please let me know if you are unable to make your rostered day.

DON’T FORGET
TUCKSHOP HELPERS NIGHT OUT
FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER
at JUSTIN LANE
$28 per head.

Have a great week.

Vicki Turner