Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Christmas Wishes
As this is our last newsletter for the year I would like to take this opportunity to wish our school community a very merry Christmas and good tidings for the coming year. As always this year has been a very busy one and without the support of you, our parent body, we could not have done quite as much. I hope that the Christmas break is one which allows you plenty of time to be with your children and to share great times with them and your extended families. If you are travelling as many of us do, may your journeys be safe and rewarding and I ask for God's blessings to be on us all so that we return safely to our homes. Best wishes to all and Merry Christmas.

Thanks to our Staff
On behalf of our parent body, I would like to thank our 2012 staff for the wonderful role that they have played this year in supporting and caring for the children. This includes our teachers, School Officers and support staff, Tuckshop and Uniform Shop convenors and our groundsmen and Crossing Supervisors. Being involved in a school can be a very taxing occupation as things are changing constantly. Whilst certainly not an exhaustive list, changes include:
- curriculum syllabi,
- assessing and reporting proformas,
- Workplace Health and Safety regulations,
- legal and government matters and Student Protection issues,
- class compositions (we have had over 40 new children start with us over the course of the year),
- technology advances
- school environments (and a new building is set to commence near our Year 1 & 2 play space in July 2013 to accommodate increased secondary numbers).

Change is perhaps one of the most important things we need to teach our children about. If we do this then I believe that we are providing them with a very necessary tool to face life and its many challenges with. Our staff work with these issues every day in an effort to provide a safe, healthy and Christian learning environment. My thanks is offered to them for a great job in 2012.

Annual Awards Ceremony
Our yearly awards were presented today at our usual Wednesday assembly. The winners are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Our congratulations are extended to the recipients of this year's awards. It was a very refreshing task having to decide on our winners for this year as there were many very solid nominations for all of our relevant award categories.

Mass Times for Christmas
Included in this newsletter and also on our website are the mass times for our parish for the Christmas celebrations. They can also be found on the Burleigh Heads Catholic parish website. I would strongly encourage you to look to make it to one of these celebrations. Christmas is a great family time and it is important that we use this time to share as a family in the Eucharistic celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Farewell to our Year 7 Class
Tonight we will be joining with the families of our current Year 7 children in a liturgy to celebrate the end of their primary years of schooling. This is a significant milestone in their educational and life journey. I would like to thank this year's group of children for having such a successful and rewarding year. The children have provided great role-models for the rest of the school. This is a credit to themselves and also to their families. Our best wishes go with them for their secondary years of schooling.

Your Prayers are Requested Please
I would ask that you please keep Carol Hicks and her family in your prayers over the coming weeks. Sadly Carol's mother, Elsie Whichello, passed away at the end of last week at the age of 93. Her funeral will be held this coming Saturday morning at St Peter’s Anglican Church at Southport. I am sure that Carol, her husband Doug and son Richard, as well as her extended family would appreciate your prayerful support during this sad time. Carol will be away from school for the rest of this week as she and her family prepare to celebrate Elsie’s life.

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**Welcome to Anna**

I would like to officially welcome Anna Rofe to our school for next year. Anna will take up the position left vacant by Diane Gawler who finishes this Friday as our Parent Reception Secretary. Anna is no stranger to this role having filled in as a temporary for Diane during her health concerns from earlier in the year. Anna will start with us from Monday, 21 January.

**Changes to Year 6 Classes**

It was a remiss of me not to mention anything in the last few newsletters about our changes to our 2013 Year 6 classes. As parents of this year level would now know we are dropping from four class groups to three. This has been necessitated by a drop in overall numbers in this year level over the last few years. This drop has meant that it is economically not sustainable to run with four groupings without incurring greater costs as a school. We are already overstaffed according to our ratio (set externally by Brisbane Catholic Education) of teachers to children and this means that we have to utilise our own school budget to help pay for the extra staff. These classes will move up to 31 or 32 children in each class which is what we have previously had in some of our higher year levels. We have four very experienced teachers on these classes and there will also be extra support for them in 2013.

**Staffing Clarification for Year Three**

In last week’s newsletter I mentioned that one of our Year Three classes would be taught by Kim Jones and Gemma Walker on a 3 / 2 days per week basis. Our class list which was sent home on the Monday listed Kim and Deanne Krueger for this grade. Deanne will be teaching with Kim for the first term whilst Gemma completes the last part of her Maternity Leave. Gemma will start with Kim from Term 2. My apologies for the confusion which may have occurred here.

**End of School – Friday, 7 December**

School will close for the year on this Friday at 12.00 noon. Our Outside School Hours Care unit will be open for those who have bookings, but from 12.30pm onwards there will be no supervision provided for other children and these children will be the responsibility of the parents. I would ask that you please explain your care commitments for your children for Friday as this is a change from the norm. This is especially so for our younger children.

**Start of School 2013**

School will officially commence for our children on Wednesday, 30 January. Our school office and Uniform Shop will be open from the Monday of the week before, 21 January, should there need to be any uniform purchases or enrolment enquiries.

Thanks for your time, please enjoy your time with your children over the break.

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

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As the year draws to a close and we enter wholeheartedly into the festive season I cannot help but have mixed feelings. I join with the bulk of our community and am excited about the holidays and the time spent celebrating with family and friends. Also like most others, the recent tragedies involving our young “Schoolies” remind me of the fragility of life. Whilst these are extreme examples of inherent risks in celebrations and time away from regular routines, they are also very real and touch the lives of so many.

I thank the Marymount parents and supporters for the way in which the children at the school present themselves. It is evident that they are well cared for in physical, emotional and spiritual terms. I feel very privileged to be part of such a community and know that each day I can rely on a child’s beaming smile to give me the motivation to continue in my position. I acknowledge that a large part of the credit for this happy and satisfying occurrence is due to good parenting.

I hope and pray that the children return to school next year after a refreshing break and having remained safe both online and offline. I am particularly grateful that my children were raised prior to the explosion of online temptations. Parenting is a difficult role and I do believe made all the more difficult with online issues to negotiate. I also believe that a good tip is to remember that saying “No” is not only a parenting right, but a responsibility, and that children’s protests or tantrums are not justification for a change of opinion.

May the Angels in their beauty bless you.
May they turn towards you streams of blessing.
May the angel of healing turn your wounds into sources of refreshment.
May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes to the unseen suffering around you.
May the Angel of justice disturb you to take the side of the poor and wronged.
May the angel of Encouragement confirm you in worth and self-respect.

Thanks again for the joys of 2012 and I look forward to returning to smiling faces in 2013.

Annette O'Shea

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**Term Dates 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>January 30 – March 28</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>April 15 – June 21</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>July 8 – September 20</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>October 8 – December 6</td>
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<td>Pupil Free Day Monday 21 October 2013</td>
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**From our Assistant Principal - Religious Education**

Be prepared for the unexpected, the mysterious and the marvellous!

A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. He will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us.

**Marymount Primary annual awards**

Each year seven students are presented with awards that recognise both their skills and talents and the influence of past community members. For the most part these are students from Year Seven. They have been nominated by members of the current school community who may have interacted with them in various contexts. We have much pleasure in announcing the recipients of these awards.

- **Thomas Woodman**—The Charlie Clarke Aussie All Rounder Award recognises the Year 7 student who demonstrates a real love of life in their interactions with others. Charlie was a staff member who was friendly, mischievous and fun loving with just a touch of rogue. Charlie died suddenly during his first year of teaching at Marymount, yet left quite an impression on those who knew him.

- **Lilian Boyes**—The Pat Dolan Award recognises the Year 7 student who clearly demonstrates a genuine friendship and concern for fellow students and particularly by assisting and encouraging them in their school life. Pat supported Marymount for many years, especially during the establishment of the school. Much of what we enjoy now is testament to the efforts of Pat and his crew.

- **Millar Lance**—The St Vincent de Paul Inspiration Award recognizes the student who, in everyday interactions with others, offers a ‘helping hand’ to those in need. This student shows respect for the dignity of others, shares a sense of hope, and encourages others to become the best person possible.

- **Olivia Van der Meer**—The Spirit of Mary Award In her life, Mary the Mother of Jesus, demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to God’s call. She persevered in the face of difficult times to achieve and be the best that she could be. The Spirit of Mary Award recognises the student who has exemplified this attitude and worked hard to achieve in the areas of learning, positive behaviour and high standards.

- **Erin Wilson**—Simon Hogan Award Simon attended Marymount Primary School for six years until 2001 when he lost his courageous battle with Leukaemia. Simon was an energetic student, popular with his classmates and loved especially Rugby League and music. In fact, music was a great companion for Simon especially during his treatment in hospital. He loved music of all styles and this Music Excellence award is named in Simon’s memory.

- **Xavier Coates**—Sportsperson of the Year 2012 Xavier is a very talented sportsperson who shows outstanding skills and promise in a range of athletic disciplines. Throughout last year and this year, he has competed at State and National level in both sprints and Long Jump and is the current 11 years Regional Long Jump champion. As well, he was selected in the South Coast regional Rugby League team which was victorious at the Vic Jensen 11 years State Carnival held in Mackay. Xavier was a valuable team member scoring a number of tries, and receiving accolades from his coaching staff for his attitude and sportsmanship during the Carnival.

We congratulate Xavier and wish him all the very best for future sporting events.

- **Simi Thomsen-Ajayi**—Sports Encouragement Award 2012 Simi has participated in many Marymount, as well as District, Regional and Queensland sporting teams during his years in primary school. He is very skillful and talented in many disciplines. He holds every Marymount high jump record, with the exception of 10 years, and has won every age division (8 to 13 years) at Catholic Athletics. He has many other achievements including placing second at last year’s Australian titles.

Having never played AFL until this year, again Simi showed his athletic capabilities in his role as ruckman. He played a significant role in Marymount’s Championship win in the 2012 Suns Cup.

In training and competitions, Simi is focused and dedicated to performing to the best of his ability. We thank Simi for his contribution to sport at Marymount and wish him every success in future endeavours.

**Bernadette Christensen**

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**P & F Social Event**

**Saturday 9th March 2013**

**Arrive 6.30pm for 7.00pm start**

**Doyle Centre - St Patrick’s Day theme**

BYO Drinks & nibbles

Lots of prizes to be won!

Tickets will be available for purchase from the start of the 2013 school year.

Prices start at $10 per person

Make your own table of 8 - pay only $8 per person

**Early Bird Special $7**

if purchased before Friday 15th February.

All money raised will go to charity.

**All enquiries to Genevieve Sly**

0412 211 854
Congratulations to Mary Amongst Award winners
Shaun Riley; Maddison O’Donnell; Jack Ross and Kale Shepheard.
UNIFORMS
Collection Dates and Times for 2013

Monday 21 January 2013  New Students (& siblings)
- By appointment only
Tuesday 22 January 2013  8.00 am – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 23 January 2013  8.00 am – 4.00 pm
Thursday 24 January 2013  7.45 am – 3.30 pm
Friday 25 January 2013  New Students (& siblings)
- By appointment only
Tuesday 29 January 2013  Closed for staff training
The shop will be closed on the above dates between 12pm – 1pm daily.

BOOKS
Book packs will be distributed to classrooms and will not be required to be collected prior to school resuming.

NB:  Monday 28 January - Australia Day Public Holiday

ENQUIRIES: Jennifer Mellifont
Direct : 5520 8410

Don't forget to mention Marymount Primary when you purchase goods from Amart Sports at Burleigh. This will give us valuable dollars to spend on sporting gear.

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Today is the last tuckshop day for 2012. This school year has certainly skipped by. We have had lots of fun in the tuckshop with the children enjoying our theme days. I would like to thank the students of Marymount Primary school for their enthusiasm to try new things in the tuckshop and their manners and courtesy. There have been many days this year students have had to wait most of their play time to make a purchase from the tuckshop. This was always done with a smile and a thank you! I would like to wish the year 7 students all the best. You are a great group of kids and I have had lots of fun with you this year. I will miss your cheeky smiling faces.

To all our wonderful tuckshop volunteers, a VERY BIG THANK YOU. Without you the tuckshop would not be able to operate. We have had a great year with lots of laughs. I have seen some great friendships made with new parents to the school. I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2013 and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.

THE TUCKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY THIS WEEK. THERE WILL BE NO TUCKSHOP AVAILABLE.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all in our Marymount Community

Vicki Turner