Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Prep 2014 Orientation Events

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we hosted a Prep Orientation meeting for our current parents and then an Orientation morning session for the new intake of Prepgeries for 2014. Both events went very well and I would like to thank our Prep staff of this year and next for their efforts. The opportunity for our new children and new families to the school to familiarise themselves with our staff and school environment is an important one and it was great to see so many people turning up. I would also like to thank our existing parents who have a Prep child starting next year for attending and welcoming our new families – this community spirit was very evident at both sessions.

We will have a ‘New Class’ for 2014 session in the last week of school for all of our current children. This will take place on Tuesday, 3 December. This is a chance for our children to familiarise themselves with their new class surroundings for 2014 and is also a chance for our new children to our school to come in and meet their future teachers and classmates.

Year 4 Camp

As mentioned last week our Year 4 children and staff are spending the next three days at Tallebudgera Creek Outdoor Education Camp. The children were very excited this morning as they boarded the buses for what promises to be a great camp. I would like to thank our teachers – Laura Mitchell, Marie Quinlan, Chris Buzolic, Sheree Caldaia, Leigh Dornan and Jo-Anne Henderson for organising this camp and preparing the children for their first experience with our school camp program. We also have John Jensen, Paul Hill, Sylvia Kelvin, Libby Gorrie (one of our Year 4 Prac Teachers) and Diane Anderson attending for all or part of this camp to help our teachers out. Without all of these staff members’ support this camp would not be possible. Good luck to all for a successful camp.

Prayers and Best Wishes for our Sacramental Program Children

Our Assistant Principal – Religious Education, Bernadette Christensen, has listed within this newsletter the names of children from across the school who last weekend celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist (First Communion) in our parish churches. The children were honoured by the presence of the main faith leader of our archdiocese, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, for the celebration of Confirmation on Thursday evening at St Benedict’s Church at Mudgeraba. They then received their first Communion on Sunday at their respective parish masses. I would ask that we please keep these children and their families in our prayers.

Class Liturgies of the Word

During the course of this year children from all year levels have been able to join with one of our priests, Fr Ken, Fr Huong or Fr Lucius, to celebrate a Liturgy of the Word. This liturgy follows a similar format to our mass but it does not involve the celebration of Eucharist. There are readings by the children from the Bible, a Gospel passage which is read by our visiting priest, a short homily or sermon, Prayers of Intercession and songs. The children are actively involved and have direct contact with one of our priests which makes for a beautiful prayer time. I would like to thank our teachers for their preparation of these liturgies and for their co-operation with Frs Ken, Huong or Lucius. These liturgies would not have been possible without the organisation led by originally Kevin Yates when he was our Acting APRE, and now by Bernadette Christensen. The liturgies have been a blessing this year and we look forward to similar initiatives next year.

Fete Meeting – Monday, 4 November

Next Monday evening we will be holding a Fete meeting at 6.00pm in our school staff room. This meeting will be an opportunity to close off this year’s successful Fete and to pool ideas and suggestions for future festivities. All parents are most welcome to come along and offer input but if you can’t make it your thoughts can still be put forward via an online survey tool which is provided below. The survey is very simple and only takes about five minutes. Thanks for your help with all of the Fete work and I look forward to closing off this at next Monday’s meeting. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/marymountspringfete

Thanks for reading this week, enjoy the rest of the week.

Yours in Christ
Greg Casey
Hi all Marymount Males

The male staff at Marymount Primary have decided to take on the challenge, that is, Movember. We are also encouraging any other members of the Marymount community to join our team. Our team is known as the Marymount Primary Mo Bros.

You can find information on the website listed below. Here you can join us, register, or donate. Your donation will support world class men’s health programs that combat prostate and testicular cancer and mental health challenges.

These programs, directed by the Movember Foundation, are focused on:

- awareness and education
- living with and beyond cancer
- staying mentally healthy, living with and beyond mental illness
- research

All programs work to achieve our vision of an everlasting impact on the face of men’s health.

The Movember Foundation is authorised by the Australian Tax Office as a deductible gift recipient and tax-exempt health promotion charity.

Movember Team is- Marymount Primary Mo Bros
Register and Donate on- http://au.movember.com/donate

Tony Barron

From our Assistant Principal -

Annette O'Shea

Here it is again; yes, my annual Halloween blurb. I do apologise if it’s your eighth read, but I do not apologise for the sentiments as I feel strongly about children’s safety and our Australian culture and way of life. I believe both deserve protection.

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. 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-seven) 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 2013 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 hype and appeal to 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 a perverted 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. At very least, children deserve the security of an adult in close proximity all times during any door-knocking activity. 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
From our Assistant Principal - Religious Education
Bernadette Christensen

Congratulations
Our congratulations and prayers are with the following students and their families who have recently received the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation in the Burleigh Parish. Along with Baptism, we recognise these Sacraments of Initiation as important milestones in a child’s faith journey. We wish the students well as they grow in understanding and as their relationship with God deepens in the years to come.

Jarah Frogley; Zane Frogley; Isabella O’Keefe; Liliana Pooley-Venz; Rozalija Macpherson; Aleksei Macpherson; Andrei Macpherson; Isabella Van Wilk; Nicholas Graham; Emma McCutcheon; Holly McLintock; Jessica Myles; Gabrielle Ruscitti; Anaya Swaddling; Mia Birtwistle; Kiana Young; Isaac Krueger; Jade Murphy; Zara Murphy; Eva Sobczyk; Will Pieterman; Kasey Collins; Tyson Collins; Sophie Devine; Oscar Devine; Harry Devine; Montana MacFarlane; Jack MacFarlane; Lilly Nicholson; Mia Swaddling; Patrick O’Brien; William O’Brien; Aimee Riddell; Emma Riddell; Zoe Riddell and Whitlam Smith.

Enjoy the rest of the week.
Bernadette Christensen

PATRON PARENTS EVENTS
0A - Thursday 7 November - 7.00pm
Parent Evening - Justin Lane Pizzeria & Bar, Burleigh Heads. RSVP - 4 Nov. to Kim 0412066635
NEW DATE 1R - Friday 15 November - 6.00pm
Family Evening - Dog & Parrot, Robina
RSVP - 6 Nov. to Jo 0414572901
5Y - Friday 22 November - 7.00pm
Parents - Groove Train, Robina Town Centre
RSVP - 19 Nov. to Lisa 0424381931

CORRECTION
ABPATERSON PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
In last week’s article Carina Serong (Yr 6) was incorrectly named as Carina Young. We apologise for any confusion.

Congratulations to Art Union 1st Prize winner Rochelle Cassells. She has a daughter Niamh Gordon-Mills in Grade 8 at the College.

The 1st prize in the Marymount Spring Fete 2013 Art Union was $5000.

ACADEMIC AWARDS
Congratulations to Academic Award winners. Zoe Inglis (7P) for Excellence in Writing; Indigo Murphy (5A) Overall Excellence; Nathan Rached (7P) Excellence in Mathematics; Dylan Perera (7P) for Excellence in Mathematics and Carina Serong (absent - 6M) for Excellence in Project Skills, Research and Public Speaking.

School finishes Friday December 6 at 12noon.
YOUR TUCKSHOP NEEDS YOU!
The tuckshop volunteer list has hit an all time low. We have lost many volunteers due to jobs, moving interstate, and babies. Many days have no volunteers at all, which makes it extremely hard to get the children’s lunches out on time, and once again the tuckshop lines at lunch time go on forever, shortening their play time. Please consider helping out, if only for one hour. I really need help over the next 5 weeks.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday 4 November........Sharon Lewer
Tuesday 5 November........Deb Hopkins
Wednesday 6 November...NO HELPERS
Thursday 7 November.......NO HELPERS
Friday 8 November..........SANDY KENNEDY....TOO MUCH FOR ONE HELPER!

*** I HAVE NO HELP FOR THIS THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER...ANY TAKERS?

Munch Monitors is going great, thanks to all who have registered.

Tuckshop theme day coming soon! More info soon!

Have a great week

Vicki Turner

Calling for volunteers - we need your help!

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. Every time students make a deposit at school they receive a Dollarmites token which can be redeemed for a range of exciting reward items in recognition of their regular savings. Students have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool gifts.

Our School Banking Co-ordinator is leaving Primary School after running the School Banking program for many years & so now we need a volunteer parent or guardian to be the School Banking Co-ordinator from 2014. We also require some more volunteer helpers. Both of these only take a small amount of your time every Tuesday morning and you are able to bring along any younger children with you. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising. The Commonwealth Bank pays our school a commission for running the School Banking Program and we currently earn approx $2000 per year.

The Commonwealth Bank provides support to our School Banking Co-ordinators with the running of the program.

If you would like to meet our current School Banking Co-ordinator or some of the volunteers to ask any questions or just see what school banking involves please pop in any Tuesday morning to the staffroom between 9am and 10.30am. Simply come into Student Reception to sign in and someone will be happy to show you where to come to. The Banking Ladies are a very friendly group and offer a chance to network, meet new friends and help fundraise all in a friendly Morning Tea environment.

Please indicate your interest in volunteering for this great program by filling in the tear-off section below and returning it to Student Reception or your child’s class teacher.

Yes, I would like to help with School Banking!

Name: _____________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________________
Email: ______________________________________________________
Availability: __________________________________________________
Kids and bats can’t be friends

Bats and flying foxes carry germs which can make you very sick.

1. If you see a bat or flying fox, don’t go near it or try to touch it—even if it looks hurt.
2. You are much bigger than a bat and it may get scared and try to scratch or bite you if you go near it.
3. The bat’s germs can be passed on to you if you get scratched or bitten—this can make you very sick.
4. If you do get scratched or bitten by a bat or flying fox tell your parents, a teacher or an adult straight away.
5. An adult can help you wash where you were scratched or bitten with soap and water for about five minutes.
6. They will then need to take you to a doctor very quickly, who will look at the scratch or bite and then treat you to stop the germs making you sick.

If you do see a bat or flying fox that’s hurt you should tell an adult and they can call:

- RSPCA—1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—1300 130 372
- your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.