Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Parent Information Nights
Thank you to the many parents who were able to make it along to our 2016 Parent Information Meetings on Monday. It was heartening to see so much support for our teachers and the genuine desire from our parents to be involved in their children’s educational journey. These meetings are a very important part of the communication process between home and school. The better these channels of communication are kept, the better it is for your child. If you couldn’t make it to these meetings please contact your child’s respective teacher for an overview. Most teachers had their content on Powerpoint so they may be able to send these home to you via email or they could be placed on our new Parent Portal (please see Tony’s piece on this later in the newsletter). I would like to thank our teachers for their time and their professionalism at these meetings, we have a great crew of teachers and there are already many wonderful things happening in the classes.

Year 6 Leadership Day – Wednesday, 24 February
Next Wednesday our Year 6 children will travel to Jubilee Primary School at Pacific Pines to attend the annual Year 6 Leadership Day. This day involves all of the primary school leaders from across the Coast’s Catholic schools. The theme is on leadership and each year we join, firstly in liturgy, and then have guest speakers on the topic. After sharing Morning Tea with our colleagues from the other schools, our children will be involved in group activities before returning to school around 1.00pm. It is a great day for the children and their teachers and it is very rewarding for them all. Thanks to Maree Wright, our Assistant Principal Religious Education, and the other APRE’s from across the Gold Coast for their co-ordination of the day.

Doyle Centre Car Park and Set-down / Pick-up Area
Thank you to our families who are utilising the new set-down / pick-up area near the Doyle centre – the traffic is flowing much better as all families get used to the new system. The extended part of the car park is working well and it is allowing more cars to be able to come into our school grounds and therefore free up Reedy Creek Road and Bermuda Street. This was something which the Department of Main Roads and Transport were very keen for us to do in order to allow these major arterial roads to flow easier. This back section also has a number of designated parks which our parents can use each day and many have been already. We are looking to construct a concrete path alongside these parks leading back into the school over the next few weeks to make it easier for whole school access. Now that this extra part is opened up we have returned to normal school starting times which sees the first bell go at 8.35am and then the move into class bell at 8.40am.

It is our desire to stop the parking on our primary school oval by the end of next week so that we can reclaim it for the full use of our children. It is already inhibiting the normal lunch play times as well as our PE programs. The extra parks in the new section can be used instead of our oval. I would also encourage our parents of the Prep and Year One classes to look at using the Reedy Creek Road Public car park as there are plenty of places in here which allow longer term parking. Parents could be in here from around 8.20, be able to walk your child in and then leave around 8.45 to 8.50 quite easily. The same could happen with the top end of the extra car park. Some parents may also look to start dropping their children off in the designated area if the children feel confident enough to try it. Maybe some could start in the mornings when the traffic isn’t so heavy to see how they go with this. We will have a teacher on duty here each day from 8.10am as well as in the afternoons. Thanks for your help with these arrangements. Please feel free to contact us if you have any issues which you feel we may need to consider.

Finally, could I thank our parents for ensuring that the two Disabled Park areas in the middle of the car park are left open each day. We have a number of parents and grandparents who need access to these parks and your help for them is certainly appreciated.

continued over
Volunteer Student Protection Training
Anyone who wishes to volunteer at the school in 2016 is required by Brisbane Catholic Education to attend Volunteer Student Protection Training once during the year. Volunteering includes listening to students read, helping in the classroom and tuckshop or specialist areas and going on excursions.

This training only takes 15 minutes of your time, but helps to ensure that you are aware of the procedures that need to be followed to protect our students. I will ask you to sign the volunteer register and once you have completed the training you are good to go for the year. I will be running training times as follows:

- **Monday 22 February** in the Staff Room 2:30pm
- **Tuesday 23 February** in the Staff Room 9:00am

If you could please email me on: tokeefe@bne.catholic.edu.au to let me know if you are going to attend it would help me with organising materials.

Thanks, **Tina O'Keefe**
**Parent Portal**

Marymount Primary is excited to launch our Parent Portal.

Yesterday you should have received an email inviting you to log in to the new Parent Portal.

This is really important, as soon, this will be the only place to access information!

You must use the email address that you provided the school. If this is no longer in use, you need to contact Parent Reception urgently to update your details.

Access is restricted to parents of students at our school and a log in is required. Account details were sent in an email to parents yesterday.

The Parent Portal will enable easy access to information about happenings in the school, forms that need to be returned, names and contact details for staff, & policy information. You can also check on information about your child’s attendance, teachers, timetable, and NAPLAN performance.

End Semester Report cards will also be available here. There’s also a special section to allow you to check the details we have recorded in our enrolment system about your children, and if necessary, advise us of any changes.

**Late Arrival and Early Departure**

There is now a new method of signing your child in if you arrive late, or leave early throughout the day. Parents and children need to go to Student Administration and sign in via a barcode/computer terminal. A touch screen terminal is used by parents to add the appropriate information. A slip will then be provided which is to be given to the class teacher. Details of this procedure are available in the announcements section of our new Parent Portal.

**Newsletter**

Currently our newsletter is emailed out via a distribution list. This will cease in the next few weeks. The newsletter will then be available on the Parent Portal, or the school website for your viewing.

Thanks

**Tony Barron**

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At Marymount we are keen to build positive parent-school partnerships. To that end I have maintained our membership as a Parenting Ideas school. This valuable resource is available for teachers and parents to refer to. I will continue to include articles that I feel will be helpful for your consideration and encourage you to access this resource by going to: http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parent_Magazine.html

The attached Insights article seeks to clarify the difference between teasing and bullying. Michael Grose states that it is important for us to “skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing” by not categorising “every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying”. Michael asserts that whilst “bullying needs to be taken seriously, we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours”.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

**Mary Sanders**

msanders@bne.catholic.edu.au

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A group of very excited Year 4 students who received their new laptops today as part of the 1:1 program.
I have had several questions regarding STUTTERING this week. Stuttering is a speech disorder that causes interruptions in the rhythm or flow of speech.

Recent research in Australia indicates 8.5% of 3 year olds stutter and that 70-75% of these are thought to naturally recover. We know adolescents and adults are very unlikely to recover.

Early intervention by a Speech Pathologist is recommended for children who stutter in order to reduce the impact of stuttering on well being and daily life. Evidence based programs such as the Lidcombe program have achieved positive results.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have concerns and would like to discuss a referral.

Kind regards
Sharon Cummings - Speech Pathologist

Year Six Leadership Liturgy
Today at assembly we acknowledged the Year 6 students as leaders of our school for 2016. The students received their Leadership badges that remind them of the responsibility that comes with this role as they interact with others in their everyday lives. The students are challenged as leaders to stand up with responsibility, solidarity, generosity, empathy and justice. We thank Fr Ken for leading our prayer liturgy today and blessing our children and their badges. We wish all the Year Six students all the best for their final year of primary school.

Year 5 & 6 Mass
Fr Lucius celebrated mass with Year 6 students last Thursday and Year 5 students yesterday. This is an important time for these year levels to join together in prayer and worship. We thank Fr Lucius for leading us in prayer. Tomorrow 3M, 4M and 4Y will participate in class liturgies in our Sacred Space.

Enjoy the week

Maree Wright

REMINDER
If they wish to place an order for winter uniforms please complete the attached order form and return to the Bookshop by Friday 19 February.

Thank you.

Book Club orders due Tuesday February 16. Thankyou!
Swimming Age Champions

Congratulations to our Marymount Swimming Age Champions (listed below). Medals were presented at Wednesday’s assembly. As you can see from the results below there was some very close racing for our Age Champion places especially in the 10 and 11 year old boys. Well done to all.

Age Champion Swimming 2016

8 year Girls
1st Chelsea Smyth
2nd Misti Harris
3rd Lillian Richmond

8 year Boys
1st Jake Williams
2nd Oliver Kelly
3rd Tristan Callaghan

9 year Girls
1st Amy Newton
2nd Belle Sly
3rd Lucy Tyson

9 year Boys
1st Dane Fraser
2nd Ben Thomas
3rd Hayden Riddell

10 year Girls
1st Millar Brosnan-Ball
2nd Amelia Wood
3rd Tara Newton

10 year Boys
1st Lachlan Kelly
2nd Ethan Callaghan
3rd Taj Lockett

11 year Girls
1st Zali Williams
2nd Josie McCabe
3rd Rosie Ward

11 year Boys
1st Tom Cervenak
2nd Sean Lunney
2nd Jacob Andrews
3rd Luke Rana-Smith

12 year Girls
1st Hayley Weise
2nd Kiana Young
3rd Mikayla Cameron

12 year Boys
1st Taj Harris
2nd Jaden Wood
3rd Max Tanaka

Oceanic District Swimming Carnival

Best of luck to our Marymount Primary students competing at the Oceanic District Swimming Carnival on Thursday 18 February at Miami Aquatic Centre. Our students will be swimming for a spot in the Oceanic District Swimming Team to compete at the South Coast Regional Swimming trials on Monday 29 Feb and Wednesday 2 March.

District Swimming Team

10yr Girls
Millar Brosnan-Ball
Amelia Wood

10yr Boys
Kai Allen
Lachlan Kelly

11yr Girls
Zali Williams
Rosie Ward
Piper Stockell
Josie McCabe

11yr Boys
Sean Lunney
Tom Cervenak
Carden Skalij
Taj Nolan

12yr Girls
Hayley Weise
Mikayla Cameron
Kiana Young
Ashleigh Brown

12yr Boys
Taj Harris
Jaden Wood
Sebastian Pennisi
Max Tanaka

District Netball

Congratulations to Rosie Ward who has been selected to play in the Oceanic District U11 Girls Netball team. Rosie will be part of the Oceanic team to take part in the South Coast Regional Netball Carnival on Tuesday 22 March. Well done and best of luck Rosie.

Paul Hill
MARYMOUNT PRIMARY WINTER UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Student Name: ___________________________ Class: ________
Student Code: __________________________ Date: ________

To ensure your child has either tracksuit, jumper or sports jacket, order must be placed by 19/2/16.

PREP must wear track jacket with or without track pants.
BOYS may wear track pants with Day or Sports uniform.
YEARS 1 – 6 may wear jumper with day uniform only.
YEARS 2 – 6 may wear either the track jacket or sports jacket with both uniforms.
GIRLS may wear black stockings with Day uniform and track pants with Sports uniform.

TRACK JACKET & TRACK PANTS (Prep – Year 6)

Track Jacket - $50.00 (Compulsory for Prep. Optional for Yrs 1-6 may be worn with Day or Sport Uniforms)
Size: (please circle) 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

Track Pant - $38.50 (Optional – may be worn by boys)
 – may be worn by boys with day or sport uniforms;
 – may be worn by girls with sport uniform only

Size: (please circle) 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

JUMPER (Year 1 – Year 6)

Jumper - $60.00 (Optional – may be worn with Day Uniform only)
Size: (please circle) 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20

SPORTS JACKET (Year 2 – Year 6)

Sports Jacket - $72.00 (Optional – may be worn with Day or Sport Uniforms)
Size: (please circle) 6 8 10 12 14 XS S

Please note: Orders without a deposit cannot be processed.

Credit Card Payment Details

Student's Name: ___________________________ Date: __________________
Student's Class: _______________ Student's Code: _______________

☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ BANKCARD

AMOUNT:

CARD NUMBER: ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________
EXPIRY DATE: ____________ / ____________

Cardholders Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________
Teasing V Bullying

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question- “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.

Michael Grose