Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Assistant Principal – Religious Education (APRE) Appointment

One of our key leadership positions in the school is our APRE. Bernadette Christensen is our current APRE even though she is on secondment to the Northern Territory Catholic Education Office and we have had Diane Anderson in as Bernadette’s replacement this year. Diane is moving to St Augustine’s Catholic School atCurrumbin Waters next year to take on the full time role as their APRE. As Bernadette was at the end of her contracted time with us we have had to advertise nationally and conduct an interview process for the role from 2016. This process included Fr Ken Howell, our Parish Priest, Trevor Doyle, our Area Supervisor, one of our Brisbane Catholic Education office’s Religious Education officers and myself as principal.

Following this process I am pleased to be able to announce that Bernadette has been re-appointed to the role for a new contract period. Bernadette brings a wealth of experience to our school and her current role and experiences learnt at Santa Theresa school will also bring new perspectives to our school community. In saying this Bernadette’s secondment is for a two year time and therefore we have decided to appoint another staff member as our Acting APRE for next year.

I am pleased to be able to announce that Maree Wright will take up the role for 2016. Maree has been a staff member here for 13 years now and is an active member of our Burleigh Heads Parish where she has been the Chairperson of our parish’s Pastoral Council for the last two years. Maree has a Masters of Religious Education and a Masters of Educational Leadership both from the Australian Catholic University which makes her more than qualified for our role here. We are blessed to have the calibre of teachers like Bernadette and Maree and on behalf of our school community I would like to congratulate them both on these appointments.

New Parents & Friends Association Executive

On Monday evening we conducted our P & F Annual General Meeting. At the meeting our Executive committee for 2016 was elected. I am pleased to announce the following parents as our position holders for the new year.

President – Anthony Touzell
Vice-President – Jenny Wood
Secretary – Sarah Price
Treasurer – Jace Cosgrove

At the meeting we said thanks to Genevieve Sly who has been our President for the last two years after previously holding the position of our Secretary for two years. Genevieve has been a strong supporter of our association for over five years now and we have greatly benefitted from her passion for helping our children and parents.

It was also the last meeting for our out-going Treasurer, Richard Treggiden. Richard has been involved with our P & F for over 7 years now and he has held the Treasurer’s post for the last seven years. This has been a massive task which Richard has handled with calm and poise and we are very much indebted to him for helping to ensure that our association is in a strong financial position.

One of the roles of the AGM is also setting our P & F Levy for the coming year and appointing our external auditors for our books. The meeting agreed to keeping our P & F Levy at $160 per family for the year and our audit company was re-appointed for 2016. If any parents wish to view our audited reports from this year then this can certainly be arranged.

Thanks to those who came to our meeting and my best wishes to our new committee for next year.

Class Lists 2016

On Monday next week we will send our Class lists for 2016 home with the children at the close of the day. Our staff have been working on these lists since the end of last term and we have utilised input from parents, current teachers and other sources like our Learning Support staff to formulate them. Our main goal is to look at what environment we believe will work the best for each child. Sometimes this may mean that children may not be with their best friends as often best friends don’t always work well together. 

End of School Year

Friday 4 December - 12 noon finish

Mass Times

Children Mass
(Doyle Centre - children read at Mass)
5.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
(Doyle Centre - children read at Mass)
5.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Parish Mass Times
Sat—5.00pm Miami;
5.00pm at Palm Beach;
6.15pm at Burleigh Heads;
Sun—7.00am at Palm Beach & Burleigh;
8.30am at Mudgeeraba & Miami;
10.00am at Doyle Centre;
5.30pm at Doyle Centre
We make the practice of changing our groups around each year so that the children will get to meet many children across the year levels over the years. It is our belief that this is an important life skill for our children and it is important that as parents we help the children work through these issues if they have them. Change is a major factor in our world and we need to skill the children on how to handle it. My thanks is extended to our staff for the marvelous efforts which they have put into the development of these lists.

**Swimming Carnivals Next Week**
Our Year One, Two and Three classes will be conducting their fun carnivals on separate days next week. The dates and times are located elsewhere in this newsletter for your awareness. I would like to wish the children well for these fun days and I thank our staff for helping to create the days. Parents are, of course, most welcome to come along on the days to cheer the children on.

**Traffic Issues**
Over the last few weeks we have had a number of concerning traffic issues arise around our school. These have ranged from children being hit by cars to physical confrontations and children running the gauntlets of crossing the main roads in the wrong and most unsafe places. I would ask that parents please speak to their children about correct and safe traffic matters regularly and even show them (especially good for our younger students). At this time of the year the children tend to get hyped about the coming holidays and this can lead to them forgetting basic road rules and road safety and this can be where accidents happen. A simple five-minute reminder could help to save a life.

As for us as adults, I would ask that we really look to set the right example for our children. We should be modeling the appropriate way to deal with delays and frustrations caused by the traffic around our school. Speeding or trying to jump around other cars or parking in the wrong places tells our children that it’s okay to disrespect others and public laws and regulations. We need to model patience and respect for others and other people’s rights. These are simple things and they shouldn’t be superseded by the need to be the first out of the car park or to quickly get our children and be away. The cost of a child’s life is not worth it. I would like to thank the huge majority of our families who do the right thing in and around our school- these people are being great role models for our children. It is my hope that the good example set by these people would flow on to others. Our children’s lives demand this.

Thanks for reading, my best wishes for the rest of the week.

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

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**URGENT REMINDER**

**Medical All Stars**

The updated paperwork for the 2016 Marymount Medical All Stars is now due. We ask parents and caregivers to attend to this very important matter and return the necessary forms as soon as possible.

A reminder that if your child’s Action Plan does not require any changes, it can be kept for signing by your medical practitioner and returned to the school at your earliest convenience.

**ASTHMA ACTION PLANS 2016**

If your child is currently listed as suffering from asthma and requires medication, you will receive a letter outlining the requirements for a 2016 Asthma Action Plan within the next week. If you do not receive this information please contact Deb Keillah in Student Reception.

Many thanks

Helen Brosnan - LEC teacher

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**A Note from the Guidance Counsellor**

Friday’s tragic events in Paris were outrageous and heartbreaking. The American ‘National Association of School Psychologists’ states that in helping schools and families provide appropriate support for children and youth, it is important to “emphasise children’s natural strengths, the positive actions people can take to help others, and the need to prevent prejudice and harassment. We also are reminded that, while the world can sometimes seem out of control, schools are incredibly safe places where children experience security, normalcy, inclusion, and connections to positive possibilities”. Locally, Michael Grose has posted some valuable advice on his parenting ideas ‘facebook’ page. I have included a copy of his suggestions for your consideration.

With best wishes to all

Mary Sanders

msanders@bne.catholic.edu.au

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**UNIFORM/BOOKSHOP**

**REMEMBER**

Bookpacks payments are now overdue. The Uniform/Bookshop will be closed after Monday 30 November at 3.15pm.
Today we presented our Semester Two Mary Amongst Us awards. The children who received this award were chosen because of the special qualities they have exhibited throughout this semester. They have been generous with their time, and give of themselves to others without expecting anything in return. They accept challenges and are kind and considerate of others. Every child at Marymount is eligible to be considered for this award. It is a testament to the high regard in which teachers hold these children that has allowed them to be awardees today.

We are also launching our Christmas Appeal today. Every year families at Marymount are generous in donating toys and gifts which we pass on to the St Vincent de Paul Society. The difference these gifts make to children and to adults who struggle to provide the bare necessities is heart-warming. Please donate if you can. Send in unwrapped gifts, (this allows St Vincent’s to match items with a family without having to unwrap and re-wrap) to Student Reception. You will put a smile on the face of someone you don’t know this Christmas, but rest assured they will feel your love through your kind act of giving.

Don’t forget the Senior Band and Guitar group will be performing in the Doyle Centre theatrette tonight at 6:30 pm, all welcome.

The following address will allow you to access our Religious Education weebly. This website formed part of the presentation for the validation of our RE program. I would encourage you to explore the site to see what we achieve, and how we structure our program. Your feedback is welcome. http://marymount curriculum.weebly.com

**Loan of Flags**

Next Wednesday, (Nov.25th) for assembly we would like to display flags from different countries as part of the theme. If you have a flag which you could loan to us just for assembly would you please send it in to me. Make sure you have your name attached so it can be returned to you. Thanks in advance for helping with this.

Have a great week.

*Diane Anderson*

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**Academic Awards**

Congratulations to Oliver Kelly (1P) and Harry Saliba (4P) on receiving Academic Awards at assembly today.

Oliver received this award for excellence in English, Mathematics and History. He always strives hard to excel and has demonstrated outstanding results this year. Harry received an Academic Award for excellence in Religion, English, Mathematics, Science and Computer Technologies. He has worked very hard this Semester and is a conscientious and reliable student who consistently sets a good example. Congratulations Oliver and Harry.

**Marymount Justice Crew**

As a final effort this year to support children who live in poverty, the Marymount Justice Crew are selling sausages at the disco next Wednesday. The money raised from this will support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The sausages will be $2 each and can be purchased from the canteen inside the Doyle Centre. All family members are welcome to buy a sausage for dinner as you drop off your child. With this money Marymount Primary School will buy Christmas presents for St Vincent de Paul to give to those children who receive little at Christmas.

Have a great week.

*Maree Wright*

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**School Banking**

Next Tuesday 24th November will be last Banking day for 2015.

**Book Club**

Book Club orders due Monday November 28. Thankyou!
**Representative Netball**
Congratulations to Charlee Carr (5P) who has been selected into the U11yrs South Coast Rep team to play at the State Carnival here on the Gold Coast in July 2016.

**Physical Culture National Competition**
Congratulations to three more of our Marymount students who did very well at the State Physical Culture Championship in October.

Avalon Price (1M) placed 4th in the National competition for 6yrs last year and is hoping to get onto the podium this year after placing 2nd at State championships last month. Jemima Price (4A) also made it to the National competition last year and will be heading to Sydney again after placing 3rd at the State competition and would love to bring home a medal. Emma Harris (6A) also placed 2nd at the State competition and her aim is firmly set on a place at the Nationals in Sydney on 22 November.

Next year the Team will be travelling to Disneyland California to perform. They have been working weekends doing fundraisers to help raise money for their trip.

**Swimming Carnivals and Trials**
Next week we will be running our junior swimming carnivals.

- **Year 1** - Monday 23 November 9am - 12.30
- **Year 2** - Wednesday 25 November 9am – 12.30
- **Year 3** - Friday 27 November 9.00am - 12.30

**Swimming Trials**
Students in Year 4 and 5 who wish to qualify into ‘A’ Division for our Senior swimming carnival very early in term one next year will need to participate in our swimming trials. These trials are for students turning 10, 11 or 12 in the 2016 school year. Students in ‘A’ Division will be competing for positions in representative teams and age champion medals. Trials will be held on Monday 23 November 12.30 – 2.45 and again on Friday 27 November 12.30 -2.45.

**Paul Hill**

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**Christmas Disco**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25**

**Doyle Centre**

**Wear your best Christmas gear!**

- Prep to Yr 3 - 5.00pm to 6.00pm
- Yr 4 to Yr 6 - 6.30pm to 8.00pm

**Drinks $1 Chips 50c**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE - $2 for St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

Please refrain from sending older children (Years 4-6) to the junior disco with their younger siblings until 6.30 as this creates a supervision and safety concern.

Disco is strictly for students of Marymount Primary School.

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**Tuckshop News**

As we are nearing the end of the school year all accounts will need to be finalised. If your child has been issued an invoice please make sure these are paid. Letters will be sent out this week if your child owes any monies. Tuckshop will be closed on the last day of school. Munch Monitors closes on Thursday 3rd of December. Thanks everyone. Acacia
Parentingideas.com.au

Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few days, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terrorist attacks. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Explain what happened. Sounds obvious but it’s important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what’s happened. Be calm and stick the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.

3. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support children’s concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.