Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

**Staff News**

Every year teachers from across our Brisbane Catholic Education schools can apply for a change of school. These applications can be made for a wide variety of reasons – changes in family circumstances, to experience other school communities and how they work, for the professional challenge of new environments with schools of different cultures and so on. This year two of our staff – Gemma Walker and Jo-Anne Henderson applied for a system transfer and both have been successful in gaining a position in another school on the Gold Coast. Gemma, who is currently on Maternity Leave, will move to a school closer to her home and to near where her children attend school. Jo-Anne is also moving to a school closer to her home which will make the early morning run a lot shorter. Jo-Anne has been a member of our school community for just over ten years, and Gemma for just under ten so they will both be well-known to our families. These changes will take effect from the start of the 2016 school year so we will pass on our thanks to Jo-Anne and Gemma at a later time.

We will have two new teachers transferring in to Marymount next year and both come from our sister schools on the Gold Coast. Rebecca Lester (Guardian Angels - Ashmore) and Kristie Podmore (St Kevin’s – Benowa) will join our teaching group from January. We will have the opportunity to meet them later in the year but I can report that both are very keen to become a part of the Marymount community.

On another note with Staff News, I will be taking up a seconded position with Brisbane Catholic Education as an Acting Area Supervisor for six weeks later in this term. I will be replacing the Area Supervisor for the Gold Coast schools, Trevor Doyle, from Monday, 31 August through until Friday, 9 October. Trevor will be taking time off for his Study Leave. This is an exciting prospect for me and one which I am looking forward to. In my absence Annette O’Shea will take on the role of Acting Principal. Annette has performed this role many times before in a number of schools across the Gold Coast and I’m sure that our families will support her during this time.

**Another Step in their Faith Journey**

There are a number of children from our school and the College who are currently in their preparation time for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. These significant times in their faith journeys will be celebrated across our parish next Thursday, 6 August, (Confirmation) and at the weekend masses following this night. The children and their families have been working through the programs for these celebrations with members of our Burleigh Heads Sacramental Team since June and they are nearing the final stages of their journey. Confirmation and Eucharist complete what the church calls the Sacraments of Initiation. This initiation into the Catholic faith begins with Baptism and then ends with these two sacraments at which time the children become fully participating members of our church. I would ask that you please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they go through these last few weeks of preparation. Bishop Joseph Oudemann from Brisbane will be confirming the children at St Benedict’s church at Mudgeeraba next Thursday evening and then the children will receive their First Communion at their respective weekend parish church masses.

**Marymount Schools’ Car Park & Set-Down / Pick-Up Project**

At a meeting of our combined schools Advisory Council last night, authority was given to move ahead with the plans to construct our new set-down / pick-up zone and associated car park area. This area is to be established on the western side of the Doyle Centre between the edge of the building and ouroppers log fence line on our ovals. The existing buffer access roads will be made over and we will have a properly sealed and channeled car park. There will also be some adjustments made to the existing Main Roads car park to allow the freer flow of traffic through our new zone. It is envisaged that this zone would become the major thoroughfare for drop-offs and pick-ups. We are hoping for work to start in the next few weeks with a view to having the project reach Practical Completion stage by the end of November. There will obviously be some issues which arise during the construction phase and staff from both schools will be meeting with the external consultants as well as the contractors to ensure that the safety of our children is held paramount. Details of any changes to normal traffic conditions will be passed on through our newsletters, on our Website, and through our P & F meetings. This time will be an exciting one for us all and there will be some issues which will arise as we work through the “build” program but I would ask for your patience and assistance as we meet these challenges and work through them together. Hopefully next week I will be able to provide another update as we will be looking to meet with the successful tenderers within the week.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Term 3 school fees were emailed and/or posted on July 9 & 10 with a due date of August 3 2015.

If you are receiving your accounts by email and have not received your account please check your junk/spam email boxes.

If you have not received your School fee Account, please contact our Accounts Department on 55208412 or 55208417 to avoid incurring late fees.

Junior Athletics Field Events – 8 & 9 Year Olds
As parents would be aware we had to postpone our Field Events for the above children again due to the inclement weather last week. We still have plenty of time between now and our Catholic Schools’ Athletics and Ballgames Carnival which is gazetted for Thursday, 3 September, but we are waiting for the areas where we hold the Field events to effectively dry up. Another day will be scheduled when we can work with this issue and also fit in with our College’s timetables. Thanks for your patience here.

Class Placements 2016
We are about to begin the process for formulating our classes for next year. Our process is a very thorough one which takes in many considerations and our decisions for placing children in certain grades are not made lightly. As has been our usual practice we will consider feedback from parents should you feel the need to request a certain placement for 2016. As such I would ask for this input to be made over the next few weeks so that all details are in by Friday, 7 August. Please note that this information forms only one part of our process and often requests cannot be accommodated. It is our professional responsibility to place the children where we believe that their educational needs can be best met. Once our decision is made and the class lists are sent home we will not be changing them as one change may cause a knock-on effect for other placements. We have confidence that the system we use best meets our overall school needs as well.

I would ask that parents not nominate respective teachers as our staffing (i.e. teacher placements) will change from what it is for this year. Any information for requests should only be on medical or specific educational grounds. We would look to send out our class lists on the Monday of our second last week of Term 4 (23 November) and then hold our ‘New classes for 2016’ day on the last Tuesday (1 December) of the year. I would like to point out again that once these lists are finalised and sent out, no changes will be made.

All class placement details need to be either emailed to pburleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au or sent to our Parent Reception Office in a written form so that we have a hard copy of your request. Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Thanks for reading – enjoy the rest of the week

Yours in Christ
Greg Casey

A Note from the Guidance Counsellor

This week Michael Grose shares his belief that ‘Adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence’. When we provide opportunities for children to: develop self-help skills, take real responsibility and give them autonomy, we are opening the gate to their independence. Conversely, if we do too much for them; rescue them from learning opportunities and if we fail to build ‘scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to use public transport) we may be underestimating their ‘abilities to the detriment of their development’. Michael reminds us that there is ‘no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they have mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear’. The attached Insights article encourages us to interact with our children with ‘an endgame in mind’. To become ‘redundant as parents’ by enabling our children to stand on their own two feet physically, emotionally and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

With best wishes for the week ahead

Mary Sanders
msanders@bne.catholic.edu.au

acara
AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY

PRIVACY NOTICE

Information required to determine the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) for schools

This notice is from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), to advise you that ACARA has requested your child’s school to provide ACARA with information about you and your child. Your school may disclose to ACARA information such as your child’s gender, date of birth, country of birth, background language, school, year level, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency Status with Visa sub-class number and arrival date in Australia, parental occupation, parental education and main language of parents.

This information is disclosed to ACARA under the ACARA Act 2009 for one or both of the following purposes:

• Formulating national reports consisting of aggregated data on school performance, and
• Assisting government in formulating policies in relation to education reform.

ACARA will not disclose this personal information to any third party. If you do not want your school to provide this information to ACARA, please advise your school within seven (7) days of receiving this notice.

Further information about ACARA can be obtained from the ACARA website at www.acara.edu.au.
Incursions
Week 3 brings two exciting incursions for our Year 3 and 5 classes. Yesterday, our Year 5 classes visited the Starlab Cosmodome to experience the ‘Oasis in Space’ show. This incursion aimed to enhance student learning and understanding in the Earth and Space sciences. On Friday, ‘The Wild Man’ will visit our school to present the ‘Aboriginal Survival Technology’ show to our Year 3 classes. I can still vividly remember The Wild Man’s enthusiasm and passion from last year’s show so I hope the students are ready for an energetic experience!

Book reviews for TXT4U
I’m not a footy fan but after reading some of the attention-grabbing book reviews on the AFL Footy Kids series by Mrs Hick’s class, I could be converted. 2R took to reading the series with gusto and produced 14 book reviews. The reviews have been forwarded to the Gold Coast Bulletin so keep an eye out for possible publication! Well done to Mrs Hicks for encouraging a love of reading and also to her students for their efforts in both reading and reviewing.

Visible Learning
Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) is committed to improving teaching and learning for each student within their system. As part of this on-going commitment, BCE schools are involved in ‘Visible Learning’. Visible Learning refers to John Hattie’s meta-analysis of international research about what educational leaders and teachers do that has the most positive impact for each student’s learning, progress and achievement.

We do great things here at Marymount Primary and as we start our journey on the Visible Learning path, we will be able to identify our practices that are assisting our students learn and those we need to improve to better ensure all our students’ progress in their learning. At the time of writing, Mrs Wright, Mrs Crowe, Mrs KuiperSmith, Mr Casey and myself form the Visible Learning Team here at Marymount Primary School.

Wishing you a wonderful week.
Warm regards
Laura Mitchell
Year 6 French Language Perfect Awards

Last term the Year 6 students competed in the French Year 6 Language Perfect World Championships. This is a ten day online competition where children from over Queensland, Australia and the world compete to get the highest scores in reading, writing, spelling and understanding French. This is the second year Marymount students have entered the contest. The children displayed so much enthusiasm and commitment to this program, which showed in their wonderful results. Overall, Marymount came 12th in our category out of 47 Queensland schools. There are a total of 62 awards, with 33 credits, 24 bronze, 3 silver and 2 gold awards for Marymount students. The gold awards go to students who reach 3000 or more points in the ten days. Daniela Komada and Mitchell McLaughlin received gold awards are in the top 2% of the 300,000 competitors. Mrs Curry and Ms Redman are very proud! Fantastique effort!!

Ms Redman
LOTE Teacher

BBQ Chicken pizza - $4
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BURLEIGH HEADS CATHOLIC PARISH
Parish Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm  3 Sunlight Drive, Burleigh Waters (Postal PO Box 73, Burleigh Heads) Phone: 5576 6317/5576 6466  FAX: 5576 7143  EMAIL: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Manager: Mr Jim Littlefield Parish Pastoral Team  Associate Pastors: Fr Lucius Edomodi & Fr Stephen Camiolo
Do you let your kids amaze you?

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?”

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the protectors for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills by their own school bags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms, provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following their interests, making choices about pocket money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tie their shoes, pack their school bags, make them simple snacks) rescue them from learning opportunities make forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quick of parenting that many parents think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end and then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourseles redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting worthwhile. These awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

If the idea of promoting real independence in kids entices you then join me at ParentingIdeas Club where we work in and week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.

Michael Grose

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NSW ParentingIdeas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

http://www.parentingideas.com.au

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