Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

**Blessing of the Foundation Stone – Mary Mother of Mercy Church**

This weekend is a significant time for our local Burleigh Heads parish as we celebrate the blessing and laying of the Foundation Stone of our new church, Mary Mother of Mercy Church. Our Parish Priest, Fr Ken, will be joined by two very special visitors for this special ceremony. The first is the Pope’s representative in Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana. He has the official title of Apostolic Nuncio to Australia and he is based in Canberra. Our other important visitor is the Archbishop of the Brisbane Archdiocese, Archbishop Mark Coleridge. There will be a mass in the Doyle Centre at 10.00am and children from both schools will join in with the parishioners from all five worship centres in our parish – Infant Saviour (Burleigh Heads), Our Lady of the Way (Palm Beach), Calvary Church (Miami), St Benedict’s (Mudgeeraba) and the local Doyle Centre. Following the mass there will be a blessing of the Foundation Stone and then Morning Tea will be provided in our Multipurpose Centre. Parents are most welcome to come along to this celebration.

**Thanks to our Parents and Friends Association**

I would like to thank our P & F Association for their ongoing support of the children of our school. Recently they purchased just over $15 000 worth of reading books for use across all year levels. Yesterday our President, Anthony Touzell, wrote to Cr Greg Betts of the Gold Coast City Council in regards to the council pathway which leads down to the Sunlight Drive area from behind our school. Anthony was following up on our original contact which asked for the Council to place some fence panels on the edge of the road at the intersection of Reedy Creek Road and Sunlight Drive. We asked for this as a safety measure for the now increased volume of pedestrian traffic utilising this access way. Sadly our request was denied under the issue that our concerns weren’t warranted. We would estimate that over four hundred children and adults use this path each afternoon (as well as mornings) and we are concerned that the path comes to within about a metre from the very busy street. I would like to applaud our P & F for this action and let others know that if they wanted to support this initiative they could contact the council directly through their Traffic Engineering Department.

**Car Park Challenges**

Our new car park and set-down / pick-up area is continuing to be well utilised by families and staff from both schools and it is helping to ensure a safer environment for our children at these busy times. I would like to ask our parents to please be aware of the pedestrian crossing areas in this new zone. There are two – one at the top as you enter the school and the other half-way along the internal road. It is vitally important that we observe the normal road rules when it comes to these crossings and ensure that we slow down and give way to pedestrians. We are still waiting on speed bumps which will be placed near these crossings to remind drivers of this safety aspect as well as speed signs. All of these measures have been designed to address the safety of our children and I appreciate your continued support for these matters.

**Retention of Children for a School Year**

Outlines below is a repeat of an article I placed in our newsletter last year. It outlines our policy on the retention or repeating of children for a school year. From this year on we will, as many of our sister schools across the coast do, not allow children to repeat a year level. I urge you to take the time to read through this.

“Over the last few years we, as a Leadership Team, have been debating over the issue of retaining children from one year to the next. We have also consulted with our leadership and other relevant departments within Brisbane Catholic Education. There is now considerable research available on the outcomes of retention (repeating) a child in schools.

The following findings have been consistently reported. The overwhelming evidence suggests that the majority of children who repeat a grade, or who are delayed entrance to school, do not necessarily do better as a result. Although some children do appear to benefit, there is no agreement on factors that are predictive of successful outcomes resulting from retention. Some of the main points in relation to retention and its worth are outlined below:

- Late birthdate children who are retained or kept out of school for an extra year initially may do better on academic measures, but these differences tend to disappear over time. In general, differences in achievement related to age tend to disappear by middle time. In general, differences in achievement related to age tend to disappear by middle time.

- Children retained at the pre-school level generally have multiple needs indicating that specific intervention is required, rather than ‘more of the same’.

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Volunteer Student Protection Training

All volunteers are required to complete the Volunteer Student Protection Training before they can volunteer to help out at our school. The training only takes around 15 minutes of your time, you only need to complete the training once a year and it ensures that you are aware of the procedures we have in place to protect our students.

For family who would like to volunteer but aren’t parents, e.g. grandparents, aunties etc., will be required to apply for a Blue Card. This can be processed through the school and at no cost to the potential volunteer. Parent Volunteers are not required to hold a Blue Card.

I will be holding another course on Tuesday March 8 at 2:30pm in the staff room. Please email me to let me know if you are able to attend.

Just a reminder for all volunteers to sign in and out at the Parent Reception. It is important to know who is at our school and where at all times, especially in the event of an evacuation or lock down.

Thanks for your support in this matter.

World Science Festival

As a self-confessed science nerd myself, I encourage everyone to make some time to visit Brisbane’s Southbank Cultural Precinct during the World Science Festival March 9-13 if you can. I know that Street Science will be visiting some year levels at our school this year for some science incursions, but this is a great opportunity to immerse your children in some fantastic science opportunities.

Have a lovely week everyone and stay safe, Tina.
From our Assistant Principal

Tony Barron

**Parent Teacher Interviews - Online**

By the end of the week you will receive another email about our Parent Teacher Interviews. The process for booking an interview is fairly simple. It is via PTO website, where you will receive a PIN and login information. Once in the system, you will be able to book a time to see your child's teacher. This system will go live on Friday, and will be open for bookings until Thursday 10th March. (Another reason why your email address needs to be up to date!!!!!!)

**Parent Portal**

Have you logged onto the new Parent Portal yet??????

We will be making increasing use of the Parent Portal to provide a range of information to parents in the future. The Parent Portal will be used for Newsletters, Class Blogs and Information, accessing Teacher details, Parent/Teacher Interviews, and many other things. It will be the one place to find out what's happening at Marymount!

![Parent Portal](https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/marymountprimary)

The initial login requires you to verify your identity and set up a password. This document will run you through the process. https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/marymountprimary

**School Photos**

Our school photos will be held next Tuesday 8 March and Thursday 10 March. Most class photos will take place on the Tuesday, while family photos will be held on the Thursday. Please ensure children are in their dress uniform (white shirt). A timetable will be available on our Parent Portal in the coming days.

**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.

Thanks and have a great week,

Tony Barron

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**CONCESSION APPLICATIONS ARE CLOSING**

Please note that completed concession application forms must be sent to the Accounts Office marked to the attention of Janelle Holmes no later than Friday 4th March 2016 to be considered for this Term. If you do not submit your application within this timeframe you will jeopardize your chances of approval being granted for Term 1. Applications must be received with **All Supporting documentation** attached including a **Current Centrelink Income Statement & Taxation Assessments**, before an interview can be made. At this stage the last appointment date with our School Fees Co-ordinator will be **Wednesday 9th March 2016**. Please phone Janelle Holmes from our Accounts Office on 55208417 if you have any queries.
Laying of Foundation Stone- Mary, Mother of Mercy
This Sunday, 6 March marks an auspicious occasion for Marymount Primary and College, along with the Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish. Pope Francis’ representative in Australia, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Yllana, along with Archbishop Mark Coleridge will lead the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone of Mary, Mother of Mercy Church. For many of us, this may be a once in a lifetime experience.

Since the establishment of Marymount Primary and College, the students haven’t had a church on site where they can gather for masses and liturgies. Mary, Mother of Mercy Church as a focal church on site, is much needed to add to the religious life of both communities.

It would be wonderful to see our families be part of this momentous occasion on Sunday. Mass will be celebrated in the Doyle Centre at 10:00am. This will be followed by a procession to the Mary, Mother of Mercy construction site at the top of Frank Shine Walk where the foundation stone will be blessed and laid on the site of the altar. Refreshments will then be served in the Marymount Primary Multipurpose Shed, where you are invited to stay for tea, coffee, snacks and cordial for the children.

Our new church, Mary, Mother of Mercy, will be utilised by Marymount Primary and College students for opening liturgies, mass as a whole school, sacramental celebrations, graduations, and liturgy of the word. Therefore, it would be wonderful to see the support of our families on this occasion.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday for this celebration.

Social Justice Crew
Ten Year Six students who together form the ‘The Social Justice Crew’ for 2016, lead assembly today. Mrs Bellis and Mrs Krueger work with this group to raise awareness of social justice issues. Their mission is to aspire to live the Gospel message by serving the poor with love, respect and justice and to work to shape a more just and compassionate society both within our school community and beyond. Throughout the year, this group will lead fundraising initiatives to support Caritas and Catholic Missions whilst also raising awareness within our community here at Marymount of the suffering of so many in our world due to hunger and poverty.

Day for Refugees- 2 April 2016
We heard from Mrs Lennon at assembly about the Day for Refugees at Tallebudgera Beach which she assists with. Please see the appeal from her in this newsletter to assist in making this day a success. We always have a wonderful response from our families and thank you for your support.

Ozanam Villa
Year 2M, Mr Pearson’s class visited Ozanam Villa today. The children sang songs, read books, and shared morning tea with the residents. These visits always raise the spirit of the residents as well as giving the children an opportunity to interact with older members of the community.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Maree Wright

Refugee Day at Tallebudgera Beach
Every year the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Group unites with their Woodridge branch and gives new refugees to Australia a day at Tallebudgera beach. This year the date for this event is the 2nd April which is the second Saturday of the school holidays. The Marymount community has supported this wonderful day for a few years now.

We need your help! Please go through your cupboards this week as we need clean swimmers for children, women and men [please no bikinis as the women are very modest]. They all need hats, towels [bath or beach towels], backpacks, wet shirts and the women love to wrap themselves in sarongs. Beach toys like plastic buckets and spades, any type of balls, frisbees, soccer or footballs are so appreciated by the children. Please make sure the clothing has no holes and are clean and the toys aren’t broken. Please send any of these items to the Student Reception area and I will make sure they all get there on the day. This is our opportunity to share our good fortune with our brothers and sisters who have suffered much hardship. The items need to be in by the last Wednesday of this Term. Last year everyone was so generous and I am sure it will be the same this year.

Families are invited to this day but you must bring your own lunch and drinks as St. Vincent de Paul only provide lunch for the refugees.

Thanks for your support

Jane Lennon
I have recently been contacted by some parents regarding assessments of their child’s speech and language.

Griffith University offers 2 clinics:

1. Clinic for 3-5 year olds. Commences Thurs 10th March – Thurs 9th June (Thursdays only)
2. Clinic for adults/children of all ages, on a Tuesday and Friday (9.30-5.30) and every other Monday (8am-4pm)

For further information contact Jennai Beckett, Speech Pathologist on 56789220 or j.beckett@griffith.edu.au

A list of private clinics on the Gold Coast is listed on the Therapy Matters website www.therapymatters.com.au. Follow the ‘Links’ link to the GOSIPP- Gold Coast Speech Pathologists in Private Practice, for a list of service providers.

Kind regards,
Sharon Cummings

PATRON PARENTS

Book Club orders due Friday 11 March.
Parents can order online, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download app for iPhone and iPad from the App Store. Thankyou!

Thanks to the quick action & generosity of the P&F we already have $15 000 worth of new books for the children to learn from and enjoy!

There are books for each and every year level and we are so grateful to the P&F for enabling us to purchase all different types of texts with their donation.

What a wonderful way to start the year!

Deb McKeown-Nunan – Early Years Literacy
Deb Cronin – Curriculum Support

Our delightful Prep Aides with some of our Preppies and their new take home books to enjoy with an adult at home!
South Coast Regional Swimming
Well done to our Marymount Primary students who competed on Monday evening at the South Coast Regional Swimming Trials. Several of our students have already qualified for State Swimming. Congratulations to them. The second night of competition is due to he held tonight at Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, Southport.

Best of luck to those students swimming tonight.

Gold Coast Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival
The Catholic Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday 4 March at Miami Aquatic Centre, Pizzey Park. This is the first of our inter Catholic school carnivals for this year.

The bus to the carnival will depart Marymount at 8.15 sharp. If your child is taking the bus please meet Mr Barron at the main bus stop just after 8am.

If you are taking your child to the pool, please check in with Mr Casey at the Marymount tent.

For approximate times please see carnival program below;

Paul Hill

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BURLEIGH HEADS CATHOLIC PARISH
Parish Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm
Parish Manager: Mr Jim Littlefield
Parish Pastoral Team
Parish Pastor: Fr Ken Howell
Associate Pastors: Fr Lucius Edomodi & Fr Stephen Camiolo
Phone: 5576 6317/5576 6466 FAX: 5576 7143
Email: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au