Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Welcome back to the start of another exciting year at Marymount Primary School. Along with our new intake of just under 130 Prep children, we have 32 children and their families who are new to our school. On behalf of our Marymount community I would like to welcome these families. I hope that your time at Marymount is a rewarding one and that you will acquire many great memories and friendships over your time here. Welcome back also to our existing families – I trust that your Christmas break with your children was enjoyable and that you had the opportunity for some fun family time. It has been great to see the children looking resplendent (if a little damp) in their uniforms over the last two days and I would like to thank our parents for this. Thanks also to Jenny Mellifont and Deb Rowlings (School Uniform Shop) and their band of volunteer parents who have helped to fit and supply our children over the last few months.

Welcome to New Staff

We have a number of new staff members who started with us this week. I am sure that our community will make them feel very welcome. Welcome to Kevin Larkin – returning after study leave to complete his Doctorate in Computers in Education, and Long Service Leave – Kevin is back as one of our Assistant Principals

Sophie Allen, Whitney Reid and Ben Short – These three are all beginning their teaching careers with us here at Marymount. This is an exciting time for them and they each have much to offer to our children and our profession.

Angie Finn – Angie is joining us as a Teacher Aide for the year. She will be working with Helen Boyes in prep. She has previously worked in early childhood classes at St Augustine’s atCurrumbin Waters. Angie is replacing Sharon Cooke who is taking this year off.

Welcome to two New Priests

Our Parish Priest, Fr Pat Molony, has also had a few changes to his ‘staff’ over the holidays. Fr Rafael finished his time in our Burleigh Heads parish at the end of December and he has taken up the position as Parish Priest at Nerang. Fr Peter Gablonski and Fr Huong Van Nguyen have joined our parish in the roles of Associate Pastors to assist Fr Pat. Burleigh Heads is one of the largest parishes (population-wise) in Queensland so it is great that Fr Pat has this extra support. On behalf of the school community I would like to welcome Fr Peter and Fr Huong.

Children and Traffic

It has been great to see how well our traffic has flowed over the last two days, especially given the horrific weather we have had to start the year. This is a credit to your patience and understanding of the situation here with traffic and also the conditions we have at present. It is always difficult at the start of a new school year as parents and children settle in to new routines. I would ask for your continued patience as our younger children, and our new families, adapt to the Marymount precinct and all that it entails. The safety of our children is paramount and your help can go a long way to ensuring all of our children’s safety.

Construction Work in the School

Following one of our regular maintenance inspections of the school it was noted that some of our older port racks which contain asbestos were in need of replacing. This process was done during the school holidays and the relevant racks outside our Year 3 and 4 classes plus those outside two of our Year 5 classes, were removed by registered asbestos removalists. Unfortunately we have not been able to fully complete the work of installing new fences and port racks but hopefully (weather permitting) this will be done in the next few weeks. We do have approved temporary fencing installed and we ask for your patience as this project draws towards its conclusion.

Our school does have other asbestos containing material and these are listed on our official register. They mainly consist of other port racks and some external wall panelling and soffits. These areas are checked regularly as part of our ongoing maintenance. We will be looking to allocate funds to the gradual removal and replacement of these parts of our school over the next few years. If anyone has any concerns on this matter please feel free to contact me.
Electronic Newsletters
This year we will continue our usual practice in regard to the distribution of our school’s newsletter. For the first two weeks of the year we will send out hard copies to each family and then from the third week, starting 6 February, we will only do just under 100 hard copies. These hard copies will be available from our Student Reception office at the end of the school day for those who don’t have computer access. The newsletter will from then be posted on our website or emailed to families. Kevin Larkin has posted instructions on how to do this in another section of this newsletter. The newsletter will be sent out each week on Wednesday.

School Duty Hours
I would like to remind parents that our school hours are 8.35am to 2.55pm. We have staff members on duty from 8.10am in the morning and until 3.30pm in the afternoon. This means that children should not be on our school premises before or after these times unless they are participating in a school-supervised activity eg. Sport and cultural activities. If these times do not fit in with families then you would need to contact our school’s Outside School Hours Care unit (phone: 55763756) as this service can cater for the children outside of the above times. It is potentially dangerous for children to be here unsupervised before 8.10am and after 3.30pm. Thank you for your anticipated support of this matter.

Weekly Assembly
Each Wednesday our school holds a whole-school assembly starting at 9.00am. The majority of these assemblies are held in the Doyle Centre (large building opposite the pool) and seating is available for any parents who wish to attend. These assemblies always begin with a class leading our school in prayer and then we have messages or present awards to the children for community, academic or sporting success. We occasionally hold assemblies in our Multi-purpose centre and parents will be notified when this happens. Please be aware that when there are bad weather conditions assembly is usually cancelled.

Early Date Claimers
Our first Parents’ and Friends’ meeting for the year will be held on Monday, 13 February. This meeting will be held in our school Staff Room with a 7.00pm start. This is a great forum for parents to hear about what is happening in the school and to be able to take an active part in discussions on the expenditure of our P & F Levy. Our meetings are usually complete by 8.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

In the same week we will be holding our annual Parent Information Evening. Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, 15 February, and will start at different times for various year levels, from 5.00pm onwards. The meetings are an important way for our teachers to pass on information in regards to their class and the curriculum that they will be covering for the year. It would be great if at least one parent or guardian of each child could attend these meetings. Full timetables for these meetings will be published next week.

School Information System changes
With the introduction of the new system which is being integrated into all Brisbane Catholic Education schools, children’s attendance at school will be electronically noted.

Teachers are required to enter attendance data at the beginning and the end of each day. As well, a record of late arrivals is to be noted each day. Any arrival after 8:45am at Marymount, will be recorded as late.

If a child arrives after 8:45 the record of late arrival is to be noted at Student Reception. We would encourage parents to escort their children to this sign-in area.

Thanks for your time, enjoy the Australia Day holiday, and here’s hoping the Aussie Cricket team can make it 4-0 against the Indians!

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

The weather this week has of course added to the challenges of a new school year. I have to say how pleased I was with the smooth way school at Marymount began, despite this added challenge. I am well aware of the energy and expense in having children ready, both physically and emotionally, for this particular day of the year.

Whilst the children’s readiness and attitude is in part due to personality, it is also largely a reflection of parental attitude and modeling. For those who are settling into a class which was not their first preference, I thank you for working with us and with the child. Please remember that we do have extra support measures should this be necessary.

What really struck me yesterday morning as I greeted the familiar and not-so-familiar faces again, was the respect and manners of both parents and children. This friendly spirit is a trademark of Marymount and even away from school, it is very common practice around the neighbourhood to be given a happy wave or greeting.

I particularly want to acknowledge the extra effort of the very vast majority of parents who found parks amongst the congestion, armed themselves and younger siblings with umbrellas and rain gear etc to walk children to classes. It is most frustrating that a very small minority of able-bodied students and parents ignore the rules that others abide by. These few offer very poor modeling to able-bodied students and parents ignore the rules that others abide by. These few offer very poor modeling to

I look forward to continuing our partnership caring for your beautiful children throughout the year.

Annette O’Shea
Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a major influence in the religious life and culture of our school. We were named after her by Fr Frank Shine at the establishment of the campus over forty years ago. Her example continues to influence the everyday living of students and adults alike at Marymount Primary.

Most of us have an image that comes to mind when Mary is mentioned, quite likely that of a piece of art we have seen. A quick Google image search will reveal that most cultures interpret the physical attributes of Mary through their own eyes. Thus one can find African images of dark-skinned women, European images of dark-haired and dark-eyed women and the blonde-haired, blue-eyed woman we often see in a western culture.

The scriptures are not intended as biographical documents about Jesus and Mary so they give us very little information about Mary and no physical description of her. What we read of her is written in the light of Jesus, his ministry and Mary’s role in that work.

Fr Michael Trainor is the author of several books that lead us to a different view based on what is known of the times. Mary (known as Mariam or Miriam in her time) was a young Jewish village woman, who lived in northern Palestine in Galilee, part of what we today call the Middle East. She was likely to have been small in stature, with dark eyes and an olive complexion as were many women of that area. Her family would likely have been peasants, people whose survival was linked to the production of crops, like the majority in her time. Her social and cultural worlds were quite different from our own as we are reminded in the scriptures by the great concern around Mary being pregnant before marriage.

The images published here are an indigenous interpretation painted for our school by Elisa Carmichael, a young artist with family ties to the Nguhi people from Quandamooka Waters (Moreton Bay) and Minjerribah (known as North Stradbroke Island). Elisa’s work reflects her background in the blues of the sea and the large circle and rays of the sun. The influence of God’s Spirit is shown in the use of the circle and dots on both the Mary, Jesus and child figures. The paintings depict Mary and child Jesus; We Walk With Mary – Mary and students; Mary in our local environment.

Enjoy the rest of the week
Bernadette Christensen

Accessing the School Newsletter Electronically
There are two ways which you can access the school newsletter electronically. Option One is to visit the school website at the following address - http://www.mps.qld.edu.au/News/SchoolNewsletter. Option Two is to subscribe to the newsletter email list. If you take this option the newsletter will be delivered to the email address of your choice. Instructions for Option Two are available at http://www.mps.qld.edu.au/News/SchoolNewsletter.

The first two school newsletters will be sent home in hard copy. From Week Three the newsletter will be available electronically. If you are already listed on our email distribution list then you should not need to re-list yourself. If the newsletter is not coming through however, please follow the above advice.

Cheers
Kevin Larkin

TERM DATES 2012
Term 1 — January 24 — March 30
Australia Day Public Holiday Thurs. 26 Jan.
Term 2 — April 16 — June 22
Term 3 — July 9 — September 21
Term 4 — October 8 — December 7
Pupil Free Day Mon. 22 October 2012

Performing Arts Classes
Performing Arts classes are run by Anna Waters-Massey and her daughter Cleo Massey. With years of experience in theatre, live performance, film and TV, Anna and Cleo will guide your child through acting, roleplay, script work, improvisation, character work, drama games, basic choreo and film work for the older students.

Classes will be starting the second week back of Term 1 and are available for students from Years 2-12. Classes are held weekly in the Doyle Centre Drama room on Tues and Thurs after school. Enrol now by contacting Anna

Ph: 0417 584290
Email: watersworks@bigpond.com
www.annawatersmassey.com.au

Welcome to new students and experienced players! Classes for all students will begin on Wednesday 1 Feb and Band rehearsals for experienced players will begin at 8AM on Wednesday 15 Feb. Timetables will go out via class teachers this week. Please see Ms Christensen at the office if you have any questions.
SPEECH & DRAMA EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Speech & Drama classes are available for Marymount Primary students in Years 1 - 7. Lessons consist of poetry, theatre sports, speech and breathing exercises, improvisation, drama, miming and puppetry. Classes aim to give the children confidence, improve speech skills, explore creativity and develop the art of performing. During Term 3 children have the opportunity to participate in the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and Somerset Performing Arts Festival. Children from Years 4 – 7 may also take part in AMEB Speech & Drama exams in Term 4.

Weekly half hour Speech & Drama lessons are held in small groups of 4 - 6 children. As lessons are held during school time, class teachers are consulted regarding a suitable time for the children to attend.

If you are interested in your child learning Speech & Drama this year, please send an email to marymount-drama@yahoo.com with your child’s name & class and your name & phone number. Further information will then be sent to you. Alternatively, fill in the information below and hand it to the school office in an envelope marked “K. Crosby.” Please do this asap so the Speech & Drama timetable can be finalised.

NB – All existing Speech & Drama students have been sent an email regarding re-enrolment in 2012 classes.

Thank you
Katy Crosby

SPEECH & DRAMA – Attention: K. Crosby
I am interested in my child learning Speech & Drama.
Child’s name: ________________________________
Class: ______________________________________
Parent’s name: _______________________________
Phone: _____________________________________
Email: ______________________________________

Year 6/7 Musical
The ancient one spoke, “All is as was foretold. Two babies, chosen ones, will be born in the gathering darkness. Only they can unite the gifts of the Ancients and defeat the Dark Queen”.
A Farie Tale
Auditions next week.

Tuckshop News

A very warm welcome to all our new and returning families.

The tuckshop menu is prepared with a strong focus on Healthy Eating, whilst keeping tuckshop favourites and treats.

Please encourage your student to choose healthy sandwiches, salads and fruits when ordering their lunch. Throughout the year the tuckshop will host theme days. The children love them!! Notes will be sent home with your student providing all details.

Tuckshop volunteers are vital to our school so please consider joining our band of wonderful helpers. Volunteer forms will be sent home with this newsletter.

Should you have any queries regarding our tuckshop please do not hesitate to pop in and have a chat.

Looking forward to a healthy happy 2012!

Vicki Turner
Tuckshop Convenor

TENNIS
Coaching commences Tuesday 31st January
Great new programs:
Tennis and Gross Motor Programs for beginners.
Advanced and Squad Training
Private Lessons
For further information:
Call: John: 0417634524 Trish: 0439722369

WILD AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES
Learn to create, draw and paint!
Wednesday 3.15pm to 4.45pm
Meet outside the library.
Most art materials supplied.
BOOK NOW!
Text 0402 328 987 (Include your name and school)
or Phone 5577 3293 after 7.00pm.

Blades Basketball Club sign on. Players from 7 - 16 years.
Friday 27th January 3rd & 10th February from 5pm at Marymount College Stadium. For more info call 0434 512 440 or www.bladesbasketball.com

Palm Beach netball sign on Saturday 28 January from 9am to 11am at Palm Beach Parklands in the meeting room next to Dune café. Ages 6 to seniors. New players welcome. For more information go to www.palmbeachnetball.org.au

Open Day 1st February—have fun and get fit at Mermaid beach Physie. 3.00pm to 6.00pm at Miami Primary hall. www.mermaidbeachphysie.com.au. Contact Alison 0417 265 106.

FOR SALE—Temby student flute. Excellent condition, just been serviced. $450. Phone Sonia 5576 6776

BURLEIGH HEADS CATHOLIC PARISH
Parish Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm
3 Sunlight Drive, Burleigh Waters (Postal PO Box 73, Burleigh Heads)
Parish Manager: Mr Jim Littlefield
Parish Pastoral Team
Parish Pastor: Fr Pat Molony
Associate Pastor: Fr Rafal Rucinski
Pastoral Associates: Sr Patricia Tomlinson, Sr Moira Broderick

PHONE: 5576 6317/5576 6466 FAX: 5576 7143
EMAIL: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au