Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Parent Information Nights – Wednesday, 15 February
Each year our class teachers conduct a Parent Information Meeting which they share with parents what they will be doing in their class for the year. Topics such as class timetables, classroom management, parental involvement in classes are discussed as well as a general overview of our major curriculum areas. Our meeting timetable is outlined below. It runs to a tight schedule with each meeting running for approximately 45 minutes. As these meetings are a general forum, it is not a place for parents to discuss individual student concerns. These may be addressed by co-ordinating a suitable time with your respective class teacher. Our teachers will be discussing the various channels and protocols of parent / teacher communication during the meeting.

Prep – Year 1 5.00pm Year 2/3 5.45pm
Year 4/5 6.30pm Year 6/7 7.15pm

New Curriculum for all Schools
As parents may have seen in the media, all Queensland schools are now engaging in the Australian Curriculum which is a shift from the individual state-based curriculum which has been the standard for many years. At Marymount we have been working in the areas of English, mathematics and science from the Australian Curriculum for a year and a half so this state-wide shift is nothing new to our teachers. They have actively been engaged in it for just under two years and this is a credit to their professionalism and commitment to change. Whilst there are some significant changes for us as teachers the children shouldn’t notice major differences. Some of the main changes will occur in our Prep classes where there will be an increase in our expectations of what the children can achieve. The basis for this Australia-wide change is that there will be consensus and consistency in what is being taught in all states. I believe that it is a great move for all children and especially good for school children here on the Coast as our population is one which is very transient in nature and this can only help families if they come into or move from the Gold Coast area.

Well Done to Kevin
At this morning’s assembly we presented our Assistant Principal, Kevin Larkin, with a plaque and memento from Brisbane Catholic Education to mark his 30th year teaching in Catholic schools. Kevin completed his teaching degree in Brisbane and then spent time between Brisbane and the Gold Coast in his early teaching years where he worked in various parish schools. For the last 15 years he has been on the Gold Coast where he first took up leadership positions in our schools. Kevin has been at Marymount since 2005 in his present role as Assistant Principal. Our congratulations are extended to Kevin on reaching this significant milestone.

Please Remember in Your Prayers…
During the holidays two members of our staff suffered the loss of a loved one. Sadly Annette O’Shea’s father, Frank Pickering, passed away on 10 January in Brisbane after being hospitalised earlier in the holidays. Frank’s funeral was held on the Monday in the week before school. Then last Tuesday, Sharyn Herbertson, from our Accounts office lost her mother-in-law, Fay. Sharyn and her husband, Larry, have been in Portland, Victoria, since early last week. Fay’s funeral was held last Friday. I am sure that Annette, Sharyn and their families would appreciate your prayers and support as they travel through these next few challenging weeks.

Electronic Newsletter from next Week (Wednesday, 8 February)
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 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 Swimming Carnival – Tuesday, 7 February
Our swimming carnival for our Years 5 to 7 children is set down for next Tuesday at Pizzey Park at Miami. Please check our main newsletter for a note from Paul Hill (PE teacher) with more details on this day and who is involved. If the weather or the state of the pool grounds become an issue we will put a notice on our school website by 7.00am on the carnival day. We have booked a tentative back-up day just in case for Monday, 13 February. Good luck to all of those children competing. Here’s hoping for good weather and good fun on the day.

School Swimming Lessons to Start next Week
Please be advised that our class level swimming lessons for children in Years 3 to 7 will commence next week in our school pool. As we have to fit in with classes from the College the timetable is not as yet finalised. The class teachers will be able to let the children know of their day by the start of next week. We welcome back Mrs Kerry Homer as our Swimming Instructor. Kerry has many years of experience as a swimming coach and we thank her for sharing her expertise with us.

Traffic Flow Out of School
As we start to settle back in to our normal school and traffic routines, I would again like to thank our parents for setting the right example to our children on following the correct road rules. Even with all of the wet conditions last week we were, on the whole, able to do the right thing. Unfortunately some families haven’t been able to fully comply with our requirements and this is especially the case at the end of the day. I have seen parents parking illegally in our council car park and picking up children in the bus lane. Both of these practices not only slow or block traffic but they seriously endanger the children. The car park is signed and I would ask our parents to follow these signs for the safety of all. Please note also that traffic should not turn left at the traffic lights when looking to go east on Reedy Creek Road. There is a specifically designed slip lane for this purpose.

Parent Meet ‘n’ Greet Morning Tea
We will be holding an informal Meet ‘n’ Greet Parent Morning Tea in the next few weeks as a way for parents to meet members of our school Leadership Team and to meet other parents. We have no fixed agenda and it is simply a chance to say hello and talk generally about things happening in the school. Our Morning Teas will be split into two groups - 4-7 and P-3. Dates for these Morning Teas are:

Yr 4 – 7 – Thursday, 16 February 9.00am – Staff room
Prep – Yr 3 – Thursday, 1 March 9.00am – Staff room

I look forward to having the chance to chat in casual surrounds.

Thanks for reading this week.

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

In today’s newsletter, you will find information about exercise programs we offer before and after school. We make no secret of the fact that we expect all our children to engage in a range of physical activity and we work to spread the message that a direct link exists between diet; exercise and health.

Australian statistics reveal that one in four children is overweight or obese and that the figures are steadily increasing. In 1960, the percentage was 2 – 4%; in 1995, the percentage was 19-24% and now it is 25% - 30%. Surveys conducted on children show that they rate being overweight as worse than having an impairment. Children have also been shown to be less likely to choose pictures of fat “friends” than average weight “friends”, suggesting there is a serious link to social problems.

Medical research suggests that there is also a close link between nutrition in early life and energy metabolism and health in later life. Alarmingly, Australian studies reveal that as many as one in four children do not eat breakfast and 50% of children do not consume fruit or milk during a whole day.

Influences on food choice include:
- Parents;
- Food availability;
- Advertising and media, and
- Peers.

Health implications for children who are overweight include:
- Hormonal problems;
- Orthopaedic problems;
- Gastro-intestinal problems;
- Respiratory problems;
- Immunological problems;
- Metabolic problems;
- Psychological problems;
- Cardiovascular problems;
- Cancer, and
- Arthritis.

At school we teach the children about aspects of health and nutrition as part of our Health and Physical Education syllabus. However, we can only appeal to parents to consider the effects of diet and lifestyle choices on their children’s present and future health.

Regarding lunches for school, a treat once in a while is a welcome addition to a child’s lunch box. However, it is alarming to note the number of children who eat junk food each and every day.

We are so very fortunate at Marymount to have teachers who volunteer their time and talents to out-of-school hours’ programs, such as the upcoming exercise sessions. The sessions are free and offer expertise that many parents from other schools pay for. In this instance, thanks to Jackson Elliott and Therese Hockings who are coordinating and running the programs.

I leave you to ponder the following inspirational caption.

Annette O’Shea

From our Assistant Principal
Come along to ‘Meet and Greet’
To create an opportunity for members of the Leadership team to chat informally with parents, we have introduced ‘Meet and Greet’ sessions to our calendar. There will not be any agenda or particular issues to discuss but rather this is an opportunity for new and existing parents to gather with us and to meet each other. Parents and carers are most welcome to drop in for a cuppa to meet Fr Pat, Greg, Annette, Kevin and myself. We look forward to catching up with you and meeting many of you for the first time.

We will gather in the staffroom after drop-off time in the morning for an hour or so on:

- Yrs 4-7 parents on Thursday 16 Feb
- Yrs P-3 parents on Thursday 1 March

Marymount Primary – a Marian charism
Many Catholic schools have a charism that can be seen in the particular way they talk about and live out their everyday religious life. The charism is generally an expression of the influence of the person their school is named after. This can encompass such areas as styles of prayer used in the school, naming of awards, focuses for social justice actions and art works displayed in the school.

At Marymount we have articulated a Marian charism, based on scripture references and our understandings of Mary, the mother Jesus. We have identified five qualities that Mary displayed and that we hold up as examples of ‘walking with Mary’ when we live good lives in a positive and achievable ways of living. We see ourselves as ‘walking with Mary’ when we live good lives in relationship with God and with each other.

Each month we publicly recognise particular students for the way they demonstrate qualities of Mary in their everyday interactions with others. Five qualities displayed by Mary in her life have been identified as ones which adults and students would aspire to here at Marymount.

We walk with Mary when we:
- Say ‘yes’ and face hard challenges (Mary of the Annunciation)
- Show love for our family members (Mary of the Visitation and Holy Family)
- Are thoughtful and considerate of the needs of others (Mary at Cana)
- Pray to God (Mary of the Magnificat and the Rosary)
- Work with others to build community at school, at work and at home (Mary as disciple and at Pentecost)

Bernadette Christianson

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School Banking 2012
Welcome back!! School banking beings Tuesday 7th February. Remember to bring your deposits to school every Tuesday and give to your teacher. The reward system continues this year and any tokens you have are still valid. You will receive one token every week you bank. Ten tokens can be redeemed for some great new prizes....more details next week!

Anyone wishing to open a new Commonwealth bank student account and join school banking can easily do by following one of the four options below. Marymount receives $5 for every new account opened, so if you open a new account in a branch of online make sure you mention it’s for a Marymount student.

Options for opening a new account:
1. Complete the form below and bring into school on Tuesday. A new account application will then be sent home;
2. go into any Commonwealth bank;
3. If you are already a Commonwealth customer, open an account online;
4. Come to school on Tuesday 28th February when staff from the Commonwealth bank will be here to assist you with opening a new account.

Happy Banking
The Banking Ladies

PLEASE SEND ME A NEW COMMONWEALTH BANK INFORMATION

NAME:__________________________________________________________

CLASS:__________________________________________________________

(please include in class banking bag)

Students in Years 7M and 7A have been provided with an offer of oral health care pack to take home. The pack includes:
- Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service Brochure;
- Examination card.

Please familiarise yourself with the process by reading the information provided. If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above and did not receive a pack and you would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850, Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm (excluding Public Holidays). Other year levels will be notified at a later date.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre operator.

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
On Tuesday the NRL All Stars came to our school. Their names are Kade Snowden and Adam Blair. The 5, 6 and 7’s watched a video in the shed. It was about “Believe, Achieve, Dream”. At the end we asked questions to the All Stars. After that they left.

Toby Sexton—Year 6
Marymount Swimming Carnival

Our annual Marymount Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 7 February 2012 at Miami Pool, Pizzey Park (weather permitting). The carnival will include 10, 11.12 and 13 year old ‘A’ division competitors as well as all Year 5, 6 & 7 students. ‘A’ division swimmers will be competing for age champion medals and representative selection.

Students are expected to wear their school sports uniform and must have a hat and sunscreen. Morning tea, lunch and water will be required for the day.

Students will travel to and from the venue by bus. The buses will depart school at 8.40. Therefore, students are required to be at school by our usual starting time.

Parents are invited to attend the carnival and may wish to take their children out from and to the pool.

Students who have qualified in 8 & 9 year old ‘A’ division will compete in our Marymount pool on Friday 10 February (weather permitting).

However, if wet weather forces the postponement of our Marymount carnival on Tuesday 7 February all ‘A’ division swimmers, 8 – 13yrs will compete in our Marymount pool on Friday 10 February.

Students and parents may consult the notice board outside the school computer lab to check the lists of ‘A’ division swimmers.

District Swimming Trials
District Swimming Trials will be held on Thursday 16 February at Somerset Pool.

District 100m events will be by paper nomination to me (Paul Hill) by 7 February. District 200m events will be by paper nomination to the District convenor on 16 February.

Paul Hill

Cross Country Training/Exercise

Running will start on Monday the 13th February, Training will be on every Monday and Thursday at 7.45am and on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm finishing at 3.45pm. Meet for all sessions at the Doyle Centre stairs. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy getting fit.

Jackson Elliott

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

Elite Rhythmic Gymnastics - ALL AGES WELCOME!
Rope, Hoop, Ball, Clubs, ribbon, Acrobatics and Dance
Marymount—Doyle Centre
Beginners class—Monday 3.30pm to 4.30pm
For more information call 0403 034 914 or 5593 8197

DRUM LESSONS

Available at Marymount College on Tuesday.
Cost $30 per hour.
Call Cvitan Barac on 0408 722 539 for further details.

PREP FUN FITNESS

COMMENCING WEEK 4

Prep Fun Fitness will be happening every Tuesday afternoon. We will be doing exercises; sprints; hurdles; obstacle courses and having lots of fun! Please feel free to join in the fun from 3.15pm to 3.45pm. It will be a light fitness program preparing children for the Cross Country and Athletics carnivals. We will meet down at the bottom fields near the shelter shed. I hope to see you there. If it is raining Prep Fun Fitness will be cancelled.

Therese Hockings—Prep Teacher (OP)


Bond Pirates Rugby Union Club, Pizzey Park Sporting Complex. Friday 3rd Feb 3pm – 6pm; Saturday 4th Feb and Sunday 5th Feb 10am – 2pm (Note: New sign ons please bring copy of birth certificate). Contact – Cameron Zacka Ph: 0429 790 396 www.bondpirates.com.au Blades Basketball Club sign on. Players from 7 - 16 years. Friday 3rd & 10th February from 5pm at Marymount College Stadium. For more info call 0434 512 440 or www.bladesbasketball.com

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.