End of the school year
It is hard to believe that the end of the school year has arrived! The year’s end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. So many things have been achieved at St Mary’s College this year. From the Year 12 retreat (in week 2 of Term 1) to the Year 6 Graduation (last Tuesday) — our students have been involved in an extraordinary number of activities and the list of achievements and learning has been boundless.

Primary Concert
Last Friday evening the Primary students performed for their families, friends and teachers. It was a very special way to end their school year.

Year 6 Graduation
Over the past weeks our Year 6 students have commenced their transition to secondary school, next year will be a new and exciting time as they commence their studies in Year 7. Last Tuesday evening the Year 6 Graduation Mass in the Cathedral was followed by a the Graduation Dinner and Disco on the Primary Campus. Congratulations to all Year 6 students graduating from the Primary Campus and thanks to their Year 6 teachers, Miss Harriet and Mr Dave.

Kindy Graduation
The Kindy students celebrated their year of learning with two special events on Thursday and Friday morning. These students are now ready to move into their Primary school years in 2015.

Reports
I have been reading through student reports over the past week. It is pleasing to note the levels of achievement and improvement in many students’ reports. By the end of next week all reports will have been posted home and I encourage all parents to take some time with your son/daughter to review their progress throughout 2014. This is also a good time to set some goals for the coming year in areas where students can focus on further improving. The education your children receive at St Mary’s College is far more than what appears on student reports, as a Catholic school our focus is on educating the whole person, to develop their God given gifts and talents.

Youth Digital Art Competition
A Youth Digital Art Competition run by Notre Dame University and Goolari Media Enterprises for youth in the Kimberley Regions, the theme was ‘Stories of us.’ Congratulations to the winners all students from St Mary’s College! Joel Hill for best use of digital media, Max Healey for best story and the overall winner Kylie Bedford. The lucky winners received ipads for their prize.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every student and their families for the contributions that they have made to St Mary’s College community during 2014. It has been a year packed with so many activities that they all seem to blur into one big long event (or maybe I just need a holiday)!

My sincerest thanks to the staff of SMC. From the men who look after our grounds, the cleaners who tidy our rooms, the canteen ladies who feed us, the administration team who keep things running smoothly and lastly but not least, the teachers and teachers assistants who work with the students, I thank you for continued and ongoing support and for the hard work that you all do. So many of our staff go the extra mile to ensure that St Mary’s is a welcoming place where everyone is valued, and this is what makes our college community so extra-ordinary.

I wish all of you a safe, happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in February, refreshed and ready for an action packed 2015.
The last newsletter write up for 2014 comes with great excitement and a little sadness to be farewelling the wonderful year that was, along with some of our students, parents and families. 2014 has seen us as a campus achieve many of the focuses and goals that we set out to do, we have clear goals for 2015 and are now looking forward to a fabulous start to the new year!

Thank you to our students who have tried so hard to be their very best and have worked with us all on their personal goals and explored their own God given gifts and talents. Thank you to the parents and carers who have supported us so well. You come and meet with us when we call, and communicate as advocates for your children, so thank you for your partnership in ensuring the very best for your children. Thank you to all our amazing staff, It has been a pleasure to work with such a magnificent team, who are so committed to the children that they serve in their care. Our SMC kiddies are very lucky!

Primary Christmas Concert
WOW! What a night and a fun and magical way to celebrate Christmas as a community. The students had the best time and it was overwhelming to see how many families came along to join in the fun! Thanks to you all for supporting this event, it wouldn’t have been the night it was without each and every one of you!

Combined Churches Community Night
Last Sunday, the Churches of Broome combined to celebrate Christmas Carols. Yet again our St Mary’s Drama students represented the College and performed the Nativity for our community. Our students ably lead by Miss Coco, Miss Baina, Miss Josie and Miss Nikki shared the Christmas story with great reverence and in an extremely professional way. There is nothing as special as watching little people wearing a tea towel and sheet and telling the story of Christmas. A huge thanks to students and families for their support.

Year Six Graduation
Last Tuesday evening we farewelled our Year Six students with a Liturgy at the Cathedral to give thanks to God for his guidance over the students primary school years. We then returned to school for a shared meal and disco. There were some emotional words spoken and a few tears shed, however it was a beautiful farewell to our Year Six students and families and we hope that families enjoyed this milestone evening. Thanks to Mr Dave, Miss Harriet and Miss Annette for arranging such a memorable celebration for our student leavers.

Kindergarten Graduation
On Thursday and Friday morning we celebrated our Kindergarten Graduations. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the year of learning that our Kindy students have had under the magnificent guidance of Miss Sarah, Miss Collie, Miss Judith and Miss Julie. Our Kindy families are so supportive and we hope they enjoy the transition for their children to full time Pre Primary! The children look very ready for their next challenge! Thanks to the Kindy team as always for putting on such a fantastic graduation celebration.

Professional Learning
Next week whilst our students are off enjoying their holidays, the teachers will be coming to school. Staff are spending Monday completing Rock and Water Training, Tuesday completing Team Teach training and Wednesday we will be moving classrooms, tidying up, completing student handover and SEQTA training and Thursday finalising the year with a Thanksgiving Mass. It is fabulous that we have this time as a staff to be upskilled in professional learning that will support us with our students leading into 2015.

First Day of 2015
Students commence on the Monday February 2nd. Class Lists for 2015 will be displayed on the Office windows on Wednesday January 28th for students wanting to find out who their teacher and classmates are for 2015.

Remember that Christmas is a special time for our Church and make sure you attend a Christmas Service, wherever you may be to celebrate the Birth of Christ. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2015 refreshed and ready for another great year.
Last week, Upper School students took part in the Follow the Dream Careers Camp to Perth. Students visited a number of educational institutions including: The University of Western Australia, Notre Dame University and Curtin University. At each venue students met university staff, took a tour of each campus, and participated in a variety of activities including nursing, sports science and engineering. They were given information about relevant courses. The camp proved to be a success and gave students the opportunity to visit each of the universities and to see firsthand what university life is like.

The camp also included a visit to Woodside Plaza, where students met trainees and took part in workshops focusing on geology and engineering activities. In the evenings, students were treated to a visit to Bounce (free jumping) and a basketball game at the Perth Arena, where the Perth Wildcats defeated the Wollongong Eagles. The students were also lucky enough to meet a number of the players after the game.

We look forward to seeing all our students return as tutoring begins again in Term One, 2015.

Paul Woodbridge  
Follow the Dream / Partnerships for Success Coordinator  
(08) 9194 9566

Congratulations to the wonderful Year 8 Art students. They have done a beautiful job painting their own designs along the walls near the Bathrooms and at the top of the stairwell. And lucky Grace Strain did an excellent painting inside the girls toilets. These students braved the horrible heat week after week to complete their paintings. Well done students you should be proud.
Youth Digital Art Competition

Digital art uses digital technology as an essential part of the creative presentation process. The process has also been referred to as computer art, multimedia art, and digital art and now all these processes come under new media art.

St Mary’s College students participated in a Youth Digital Art Competition, a partnership project with the University of Notre Dame, Broome Campus and Goolarri Media Enterprises and was supported by Broome Library and St Mary’s College. The Awards have been sponsored by Shire of Broome.

The competition “Stories of Us”, invited youth from the Kimberley to showcase their artistic expression and thought provoking imagery through the exploration of their history, surroundings and identity.

The aim of the competition was to build on a range of educational outcomes as well as develop digital technology skills in creative and innovative ways. The digital Image students used their digital camera skills and their Photoshop skills to create some amazing digital artwork pieces. The winners of this competition are Joel Hill (Year 6) Max Healey (Year 8) and overall winner Kylie Bedford (Year 9)

Year Nine Aspire UWA trip December 2014

On Tuesday December 2nd, 9 Year 9 students travelled to Perth as part of the four day UWA Aspire program for Year 9’s in the Kimberley. The trip is designed to allow students to gain an insight into life at University. St Marys College along with five other schools from across the Kimberley took part this year. The students and their teachers stayed in on campus accommodation and took part in many activities within the many departments at UWA. The chance to learn about the properties of liquid nitrogen and magnetism in Physics was one of the favourites along with the media activity of filming a promotional video about the camp around the UWA campus. While in Perth, the students also had the opportunity to play lawn bowls and visit SciTech. The camp concluded with a disco where the students could celebrate with their new found friends.

Mrs Carrie-Ann Philips

Quotes from students:
“It was the best school camp I have been on. I would recommend it to other people” Chloe
“Best opportunity the school offers. I met so many people and made new friends. I also got to experience Uni life. I would defiantly go again, if only it lasted longer” Aiden
“It was heaps of fun doing the activities, playing lawn bowls and breaking it down at the disco” Taj
“Inspiring” Ta
“It was an amazing experience, and I would recommend it to anyone” Abier
“It was an amazing time to live as a Uni student and great to meet new people” William
On Tuesday December 9, our Year 6 students celebrated their Graduation. A Mass was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral, followed by a dinner and disco on the Primary Campus. A huge congratulations to all of our Grade 6 graduates – we will miss you on the primary campus!! We wish you all the best in your future endeavours as you undertake secondary schooling. Thanks to all staff who assisted with the evening.

The Year 7 science class have had an introduction to higher level Chemistry and Physics over the last two weeks. As a taster to what’s on offer in the higher level Science courses, the Year 7’s were given a chance to problem solve in two different situations. Last week the students investigated precipitation reactions by conducting experiments involving mixing a number of different solutions and noting the reactions. The students were then given a range of unknown solutions to conduct independent trials and identify the unknowns. The absolute dedication and brilliance of the Year 7 chemists saw many students who were, at first apprehensive about working with chemicals like potassium carbonate and silver nitrate, totally engage with finding out the possible identities of the unknown solutions.

Developed from the students obsession with water balloons, the Physics challenge soon followed this week. The Year 7’s were given a block of wood, pop sticks, nails and 10 elastic bands to create a catapult that would launch a water balloon. The winning build would fit the criteria of using only the materials given and launch the balloon the furthest distance.

The students began to design and build the prototype on Monday and by Tuesday the redesigning process began after the initial water balloon launches. By Wednesday was the competition, and the students used their improved engineered designs to launch the water balloons. Amazing distances were covered and we had balloons that did not break despite the intense launch. The Year 7’s thoroughly enjoyed the extension activities and the cooperative learning was fabulous.

Chinatown Christmas Window

Congratulations to Ms Sarah and the Kindy kids, Ms Nikki & Mr James and the Yr 3 kids and Ms Val and the Yr1’s who put an amazing Christmas Window together on behalf of St Mary’s on Short St next to LJ Hooker. Go and have a look. Well done team.
The Year 7 Dance students performed their Hip Hop Dance piece for the Whole School Assembly last week. Many thanks to the Year 8 & 9 dance students who supported them on the staged area. Fynn Stokes (Yr 7) led the entire dance group of 35 with great enthusiasm and showed one of his many talents in performance. Well done to all those involved on the day!

UNIFORM SHOP
Holiday Opening Hours
(LOCATED ON SECONDARY CAMPUS) WILL BE OPEN JANUARY 27—30 FROM 9am TILL 3.30
Science in 2014
It has been a fantastic year of fun and mayhem in Science at St Mary’s College in 2014. In previous newsletters you will have heard about the Brain Bee, Aspire trips to UWA, numerous guest speakers, Science week activities and the Big Science Competition but wait, there’s more.

Year 7 Vegetable Garden
Integrated into the Year 7 curriculum this year students have had the opportunity to design and grow their own vegetable gardens. Students ran their own investigations, went on an excursion to an established produce garden and were able to cook and eat the produce they had grown. Although not a fan of eggplant, the majority of the student were open and accepting to trying new foods and had some great ideas about what they could grow in their own gardens at home.

QUESTACON
This year St Mary’s College was lucky enough to host the QUESTACON two day science workshop. Science specialists from Canberra visited the school to run a two day workshop with twenty of our Year 8 and 9 students. Students sat through information sessions, conducted mini experiments and competed in science challenges. At the end of the workshop the participants ran presentations on what they had learnt and would take away from the QUESTACON experience to other classes. It was a very motivating and engaging two days for all involved.

EARTH SCIENCE FIELD TRIPS
Year 8 & 9 students have been out and about learning about the geology of the Broome region as a part of the practical component of Earth and Space Sciences this term. Students have visited Gantheume Point, The Port Authority Area, Town Beach, Town Library and Cable Beach to observe and study earth surface processes, rock types and evidence of dinosaurs. It has been wonderful seeing the students pick up what they learn in class and be able to apply it and make connections to the environment they live in.

EDIBLE SCIENCE
This year our young scientists have been getting a taste of what Science is really about. Whilst the year 7’s grew and cooked their own vegetables the year 8 and 9 students grew edible crystals as part of an insulation experiment, and blew up watermelons with elastic energy. Much fun has been had during the year in Science but these experiments were particularly popular with the students.

MATHS FUN AND GAMES
Ending 2014 on a high note, the Year 10 and 11 Mathematics students made several visits to the Primary St Mary’s College campus this term. The secondary students were challenged to create fun math based games to donate to the primary classes.

Each group of secondary students was paired with a year group (Year 1-6) and tasked cater to their education level. Stepping into teaching roles, the secondary students demonstrated how to play each game with their assigned class.

The primary students visibly enjoyed having their older peers teaching and spending time with them. The older students also felt there was great benefit from the exercise and admitted to having a healthier respect for teachers in their roles. It was good to see our students giving back and enjoying the company of their younger peers.