The first two weeks have been very busy; students have settled down to new routines and have begun their learning journeys for 2015 in a most positive manner. We have many new students on both campuses and to all new students, parents and caregivers we extend a warm welcome to you. Also included with this week’s newsletter is a welcome letter to all parents and caregivers from Dr Tim McDonald, Executive Director of Catholic Education.

Despite the term only just beginning, there have already been many highlights. Taking a walk through the classrooms has emphasised the incredible amount of preparation that teachers and support staff undertake to have the students settled and engaged in their new year of learning. Our Year 12s began the year with their two day retreat. The retreat began with a pilgrimage led by Fr Matt from our Nulungu Chapel to the Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral. Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral and then students and staff spent the two days at the Broome Camp School. Thank you to Fr Matt, Brian Kane, Mary-Anne Bratovic and staff who contributed to the retreat experience for the wonderful group of young men and women who are our Class of 2015.

Staff Commissioning Mass – Last Saturday evening our Commissioning Mass for staff was held at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral. Commissioning Masses are held in the first weeks of each academic year throughout the state for all 163 Catholic schools in Western Australia educating some 73 000 children.

Ash Wednesday Mass - Next Wednesday morning, February 18, the St Mary’s College community, along with staff from the Catholic Education Office of WA, staff from remote Catholic schools, staff from The University of Notre Dame and members of our community will gather to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass, marking the beginning of Lent. All parents and caregivers are invited to attend our Ash Wednesday Mass, commencing at 8.30am in the secondary campus undercover area.

Staff Award - Our Learning Area Coordinator for Technology and The Arts, Ms Vicki Thompson travelled to Perth for the Australian Independent Dance Teachers Awards. The awards evening was held at the WA Academy of Performing Arts and we congratulate Vicki on her outstanding and very well deserved award for ‘Service to Dance Teaching’!

Student Representative Council - On Wednesday we held our first College Assembly and presented the 2015 College SRC with their badges to acknowledge their positions of responsibility. Our election speeches demonstrated what a great depth of leadership we have embedded in our school. All students who prepared and delivered their ideas and vision to their fellow students and staff are to be congratulated and sincerely thanked for the time and effort they spent in preparing their speeches. Congratulations to all students who were appointed and we encourage all students to continue to display their leadership qualities at St Mary’s College. The following students were elected to the SRC.

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<th>February/March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 11/12 Parent info night</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday Mass Whole School 8.30</td>
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<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<td>Secondary House Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Pupil free day SECONDARY ONLY</td>
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<td>Pupil free day ALL STUDENTS</td>
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**PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR**

**FATHER,**

Bless the students who are beginning another school year give them strength as they learn.

Bless the teachers as they instruct and as they serve as examples to their students.

Bless the parents as they let their children go, whether for the first year of kindergarten or the final year of college.

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**Secondary Campus Administration**

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This newsletter is also available on www.stmarysbroome.wa.edu.au

Primary SRC – Congratulations to Head Boy - Alexander Campbell, Head Girl - Tiaan Cox, Deputy Head Boy - Charlie Stewart, Deputy Head Girl - Caitlin Dep, Barbier House Captains - Noah Glasson and Mareeya Pigram, O’Brien House Captains - Vincent Bartlett and Jasmyne Baird, Rice House Captains Lydon McKenna and Stacey McLeod, Ward House Captains - Dominic Collins and Madeleine Christie.

Class of 2014 – On Wednesday it was great to host a number of our 2014 Year 12s at our assembly and to formally recognise the wonderful achievement of our 2014 Year 12 cohort. Next week I will have the pleasure of attending an award ceremony at Government House to witness the presentation of a General Exhibition for Abbey Ford. Abbey attained an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of 99.55 making her eligible for a General Exhibition, awarded to the top 40 Year 12 students in Western Australia. She also attained Certificates of Distinction (awarded to the top 0.5% of students in WA) for English, Dance and Human Biological Science. Abbey’s ATAR score was ranked No 2 out of all students in Western Australian country schools. Abbey also attained a Certificate of Commendation, awarded to each eligible student who obtains at least 20 ‘A’ grades in course units throughout Year 11 and Year 12.

Astuti Mawo – Adung was awarded a Westscheme Award for her outstanding achievement and excellence in Vocational Education and we are very proud of Astuti’s achievement. Four of our students were ranked in the top 10% of Western Australia. Abbey Ford 99.55, Rajiv Latchman 97.80, Simon Hill 97.15 and Ikesha King 93.60. As reported in the Schools of Isolated Distance Education (SIDE) publication, Simon Hill received recognition as being the top SIDE student in WA for Year 12 Modern History. Simon also received the third highest mark for Visual Art 3AB from all Catholic secondary schools in WA. The median (average) ATAR for the Year 12 cohort of all of St Mary’s College ATAR students was 95.40. Our 2014 cohort of Year 12s have set the bar high and we look forward to all of our 2015 Year 12s striving to achieve their personal best.

New Staff for 2015 - This year a number of new staff have been appointed to St Mary’s College and we welcome the following new members of staff;

- Patsy Ahern - Canteen Manager
- Ellen Anderson - Year 1 Teacher
- Karen Bakewell - Pre Primary Teacher
- Sarah Burnett - Primary Administration
- Emily Criddle - Secondary Drama, English/S&E
- Braden Famlonga - Secondary PE/Outdoor Ed - Year 9/10 Coordinator
- Rebecca Famlonga - Secondary Science / PE (Part – time)
- Barbra Friedewald - Secondary S&E – Learning Area Coordinator S&E
- Amy Halley-Wright - Secondary RE/English
- Amy Hyett - Business Manager
- Janenell Kennedy - Primary Teacher – Early intervention teacher and coach
- James McDowell - Secondary Science/Mathematics
- Noreen McKee - Year 3 Teacher
- Dayana Nottage - Year 2 Teacher
- Natalie Newton - Canteen P/Time

Welcome back also to Mary-Anne Bratovic from her extended leave. Mary-Anne is taking on the roles of the secondary English Learning Area Coordinator and the Year 11/12 Coordinator. Welcome back also to Kelrick McKenna who will resume his role on the primary campus as an Aboriginal Teacher Assistant and to Emily Connor will be with us until week five during the time that Tim Clear is on long service leave.

A number of staff have taken on new roles and responsibilities including Michelle Hamaguchi, our K-12 Student Well Being Teacher. Michelle will be working cross campus, establishing some very important and exciting programmes to assist students with their engagement in school. On the secondary campus, Michelle has already played a significant role in assisting students coming from remote communities with a successful transition to school in the past fortnight.
a successful transition to school in the past fortnight. Diane Latchman has been appointed to the role of Academic Extension and Gifted and Talented Coordinator. This year we will be running a gifted academic programme for Year 7 and Year 8 students identified as being suitable for the programme. Carmel Pratley has been appointed to the role of Learning Support Coordinator for secondary students working with students, teachers and parents of students identified as having learning difficulties.

**Year 11/12 Parent Evening** – On Tuesday February 17 the Year 11/12 information evening will be held in the H&T Building and HPE Room on the secondary campus commencing at 7.00pm. All parents and guardians with students currently in Years 11 and 12 are asked to please attend. Important information regarding Western Australian Certificate of Education Graduation (WACE), University/TAFE entrance and study requirements for each student will be presented.

**New Staff Induction** – From next Tuesday until Friday many of our new staff will be attending professional development organised by the Catholic Education Office in Broome, along with all newly employed staff to the 13 schools across the Kimberley.

**Improvements to Amenities** – Over the recent holiday period, improvements were made in a number of areas including; re-tiling in the pre primary toilets, a total refurbishment of the secondary library, pathways paved and re surfaced and the primary staffroom upgraded. Thank you to staff who assisted and thank you to parents Phil Belfrage, Bronte Howard and Darren Bulstrode who carried out works over the holidays. A special mention and thank you to Dion Parriman who helped his dad Phil with the great work on the library. Thank you also to our IT and Grounds and Maintenance staff and Michael Lake for assisting with the relocation of furniture and IT upgrades.

**Newsletter via Email** - As you may be aware, the College’s fortnightly newsletter is sent to parents via their email addresses. Parents can also access the newsletter and archives via the College website. If you aren’t currently receiving copies to your email address, please call our receptionist on 9194 9500 and check that your email details are current.

**Parent / Guardian Communication** - Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is essential for the wellbeing and education of every student. I encourage all parents to maintain open lines of communication with your child’s teachers. In this world of electronic communication, email is probably the most efficient means of communication. If there are issues that you feel you need to discuss with teachers please keep them informed so that they are able to best meet the needs of your child. Staff email addresses are simply the teacher’s surname.firstname@cathednet.wa.edu.au. Should you have any difficulty the College office will be able to assist you with the correct address.

**Publicity and the use of student images** – As part of the College’s publicity activities there may, on occasion, arise the situation whereby the College, the Catholic Education Office of WA or local media will need to take photographs and/or video footage of your child/children for publication in newspapers, College publications, CEOWA and Catholic agency documents (e.g, Caritas, Lifelink, Catholic Development Fund) training videos and/or the College/CEOWA website. Should you not want your children to feature in such publicity; parents/guardians are asked to please inform me in writing as soon as possible.
Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to the start of 2015 academic year.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to the many families who are joining our system for the very first time.

In 2015 we are witnessing exciting signs of continued growth and renewal within the Catholic Education system. Two new schools have opened in term 1, taking the total number of Catholic Schools in WA to 163. I wish the students, parents, principals and staff of St John Bosco College in Piara Waters, St Francis' School in Maddington and the new Bunbury Catholic College Mercy Campus at Australind all the very best as they open their doors for the very first time. These new facilities are a tangible reminder of the value that the community continues to place on a Catholic Education right across the state.

To all who are returning to Catholic schools, welcome back. In 2015 all Year 7 students will be located within secondary settings right across the state. This important shift has already been in place in metropolitan settings for a number of years and regional schools have been planning for this transition for an extended period. I am certain that the students will find this new chapter in their schooling lives an exciting time with many opportunities for personal growth.

To our Year 11 and 12 students who are embarking on this important phase of your secondary schooling, I wish you all the best and encourage you to work hard and make the most of every opportunity presented to you.

Last year our system achieved our best WACE results of the last five years. Whilst we are very pleased with that performance, there is no room for complacency as continuous improvement requires an ongoing effort at all levels of the system and remains my clear priority for 2015 and beyond.

We are all part of a dynamic Catholic education community that promotes the mission of the Church with Jesus Christ at its heart. All 163 of our schools rely on the contribution of the parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to build a successful Catholic community. Within the limits of your busy family and working lives, I encourage you to share your time and talents with your school community. You can contribute by nominating to become a member of the Board, joining the P&F, volunteering to be a class representative, helping out at the annual sports carnival, doing a shift at the canteen or helping with school reading rosters. Every contribution makes a difference to your child’s education.

I once again wish to acknowledge the critical role that you as parents and caregivers play in the education of your children. Your involvement combined with the efforts of more than 10,000 dedicated school staff and principals, means that children educated in Catholic schools have the very best chance of reaching their potential.

I wish you all the best for 2015.

Regards

Tim McDonald
Executive Director
IT’S PRIMARY BOOK FAIR TIME!

It’s Book Fair time again! The Primary Library will once again be overflowing with books and students, parents and friends are all invited to come in, browse and choose a book or two to buy. There is an amazing range of books, posters and activity kits to choose from and prices will suit every budget. There are some great bargains for presents for all ages and the school benefits from every item sold.

Students on Primary will have the opportunity to look during library classes in week 4 from Monday February 23rd to Friday 27th. They will bring home a ‘wish list’ of books they would really like to own. The following week, the Fair will be open to everyone before and after school from Wednesday 4/3 to Friday 6/3. Contact Ms Di if you would like some more information about the Fair.

Please come along and buy a book to encourage your child in their reading journey.

Sale Times: Wednesday 4/3 - Friday 6/3
7.30 – 7.50 am and 2.15 – 3.30 pm
In the Primary Library.

A BRIEF SMC ICT UPDATE

This year we have purchased additional iPads and chromebooks over both the Primary and Secondary Campus. From this week onwards we will be introducing them to the students and giving them access to their School Google accounts which will enable them to access their work from school or at home.

We look forward to exciting times this year with the extra ICT resources for our staff and our students to use. More Information to follow.

Any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.
Mark Leitch / Sam Baird—ICT
Welcome back to all students and families for 2015. The first two weeks have certainly passed very quickly. All new students and staff have settled in well and I thank the entire community for making each person feel welcome here on Secondary. Our focus for this year is EXPECT THE BEST! I expect the very best of myself, the staff and all students and we should be expecting nothing less. Our results from last year’s graduates were outstanding and prove that the level of education offered here at St Mary’s is no barrier to achieving great outcomes – whether it be a great university entrance score or a VET qualification.

One of our areas of focus in these early weeks of the year is our uniform. Many students have new uniforms and most students look fabulous. A gentle reminder to students, although Wednesday is a day when the sports uniform may be worn, it must be the full and correct sports uniform, otherwise the formal uniform should be worn. Students not in correct uniform on any day will be issued with a uniform slip by their Homeroom Teacher. Continued infringements will result in parents/caregivers being contacted and other penalties for students. Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances please contact your child’s Homeroom teacher.

This year, to align with our change to Year level Co-ordinators, the PCG’s have now become Homerooms and are arranged according to year level. This change has been implemented to allow for easier communication between year level groups and their co-ordinator and to allow for students to be in Homeroom with their peers but still mixing with some students from other year levels.

It was great to meet a number of new families on Tuesday night as we gathered for the Year 7 Parent information night. Thank you to all the families who attended, but if you were unable to attend please contact the Year 7/8 Co-ordinator, Adrian Bratovic if you would like to know more. Next Tuesday night at 7pm we invite all the families of our Year 11 and Year 12 students to a Parent information night. The two year groups will have an opportunity to meet with Homeroom Teachers and class teachers as well as find out more about the particular requirements for WACE and graduation, along with other important information.

Next week our teachers new to the Kimberley will attending the Catholic Education Office Induction and Orientation program. On Wednesday we will celebrate Mass as a whole college for Ash Wednesday and we will be blessed to have all new teachers to the Kimberley join us for this special occasion in the Church year.

Our Year 7 and 8 cohorts have visited BRAC this week to prepare for our annual House Swimming Carnival taking place on Thursday 26 February. Secondary teachers will be involved in professional learning on Friday 27 February and the Primary Teachers will join us for professional development in IT on Tuesday 3 March. Students on Secondary are not required to attend school on Friday 27 February and Tuesday 3 March. Primary students will be at school on Friday 27 and not required to attend on Tuesday 3 March.

As you can see the calendar is jam packed for Term One and there are many chances for all students to be involved in a range of activities. The most important aspect of school though is learning. Students need to be at school every day to make the most of these opportunities.
Next week sees the commencement of Lent in our Church. As a campus we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday, which is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the Roman Catholic Church. “Shrove” is the past tense of the word “shrive,” which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance. On Shrove Tuesday we will be cooking pancakes and we will be burning palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. We will burn the palms in the primary undercover on Tuesday at 9:50am, all families are encouraged and welcome to join us.

The following day sees us commence Lent with our Ash Wednesday Mass on Secondary Campus at 8:30am. We encourage families to attend. We will have blessed ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross.

The commencement of Lent also marks the start of our fundraising efforts for Caritas. We fundraise all of this term, all the way to Easter for those less fortunate than us. A letter will be coming home to families very soon seeking support for various events we will be holding on Primary.

Start of the Year
We had an incredibly smooth start to the year with happy students and parents on campus during the first couple of weeks. It was great to see everyone returning to school so ready to go! A huge shout out to the staff who spent days and days here during their holidays to ensure everything was set up and ready to go for 2015. Please make sure you have popped into class and meet your child’s teaching team. Positive communication between home and school is a key to children’s success in the school setting, so thank you for your support.

Parent Teacher Information Evening
Thank you to all families who attended our Parent Information Evening on Wednesday night. There was such a positive buzz around the Campus, it is so special for children to see their families taking an interest in their learning. We hope you enjoyed the Sausage Sizzle too! Thanks to amazing teachers for the time and effort you put in to make this such an informative evening for families, we are extremely lucky to have such committed and outstanding staff and families at SMC! Our Pre Primary Parent Information Night will be held this Thursday 19th February at 5pm.

SRC 2015
During the week our Year Six students demonstrated their leadership potential as they prepared and delivered speeches for the SRC Leadership Nominations for 2015. Students, Staff and Parents were extremely impressed with the calibre of the students speeches and the commitment they had made towards this. We were so proud of all candidates and a huge congratulations to our SRC Representatives for 2015.

Head Boy – Alexander Campbell
Deputy Head Boy – Charlie Stewart
Head Girl – Tiaan Cox
Deputy Head Girl – Caitlin Dep

Barbier House Captains – Noah Glasson & Mareeya Pilgram
O’Brien House Captains – Vincent Bartlett & Jasmyn Baird
Rice House Captains – Lydon McKenna & Stacey McLeod
Ward House Captains – Dominic Collins & Madeleine Christie

Year Six Ministries
The Year Six students will all be taking on leadership roles throughout 2015, in the form of ministry groups. Our students presented their plan to our campus on Friday at their first Assembly. The ministries will provide more information on what they will be doing for our College very soon. Students will be working in ministry groups that include Faith Life, Environmental, Sport/Health & Administration. We are pretty excited to be having Ministries up and running on primary in 2015. Thanks to Mr Dave and Miss Harriet for their efforts with Ministries.

Assessment Release
You may have noticed lots of our support staff coming in and out of classrooms, and teacher swapping going on. This is due to teachers spending time individually with your child to ascertain what their specific
Teachers will be ready to feed this back in the very near future, so that specific discussions can take place to ensure home and school are working towards the same targets for your child’s learning. Thanks for your support and patience whilst our amazing teachers busily complete these assessments.

Swimming Trials
Permission Notes have gone home for students in Years 3-6 this week for Swimming trials. Students will complete trials to assist with planning for our House Swimming Carnival. Please make sure that you return these notes asap to ensure that your child is able to attend.

Water Fun Day
Whilst the Swimming Carnival is on for the Yrs 3-6 students, our Early years students will be remaining at school participating in a Water Fun Day. We will be calling for helpers very soon, so please be ready!

Book Fair
Over the next fortnight we will be holding a Book Fair in the Primary Library. Please support this event as it is a wonderful way to celebrate the love of reading, as well as support our Library.

Teaching and Learning on Primary
Teachers are all working extremely hard to plan their teaching and learning for the term and beyond. We are having a real focus on integrated learning in line with the Australian Curriculum and information Communication Technology. We are really excited about our programs for 2015. We have also been invited to participate in a Collaborative Learning Project with Lynn Sharrat from Canada who focuses on increasing student achievement for all students and improving teachers’ assessment and instruction techniques in the classroom. We are excited about where this journey will take us as educators and what this will mean for our students. Further information regarding the great things happening for us with our Curriculum will be shared regularly.

Student Support
We are very lucky at St Mary’s to be able to provide support to students in many ways including small group intervention and individualised programs. In 2015 we will be continuing with our Reading Recovery Instruction for Year 1&2 students, Levelled Literacy Intervention, Numeracy Intervention, as well as a variety of Social and Emotional support including Rock and Water, Seasons for Growth and Girl Power. Our Special Education Needs Centre will continue to support students with specific needs too. With so much support on offer it is imperative that we look closely at whole school needs and allocate support from there. These discussions are taking place at the moment and parents and caregivers will be advised shortly if we believe their child would benefit from a specific program or intervention. Classroom Teachers have already started their programs and differentiated curriculum to ensure that all students are supported in the first wave of instruction.

Positive Teachers 2015
I wanted to alert you to an opportunity to nominate a teacher/s within the College as part of the Positive Schools. The Positive Teacher of The Year Awards are an annual recognition of Teachers who deserve recognition for their contribution to students, staff and school wellbeing. In 2015 all nominations will be celebrated. In addition to giving a special award to outstanding Positive Teachers at each event, recognition and congratulations will be given to all nominees by Positive Schools. Please find further information at [http://www.positiveschools.com.au/2015%20Positive%20Schools%20Positive%20Teacher%20of%20the%20Year%202015.html](http://www.positiveschools.com.au/2015%20Positive%20Schools%20Positive%20Teacher%20of%20the%20Year%202015.html) It would be wonderful to have some of our staff recognised for the positive commitment they make to our students and College community.

Please keep Ed Connor and his families in your prayers, on the passing of his Grandmother. Ed has returned home to Melbourne for the Funeral. We offer our condolences at this sad time.

Important Upcoming Dates:
- Year 5R Performance Assembly
- Book Fair Selling Wk 5
- Year 6H Gospel Assembly
- Public Holiday – March 2nd
- Staff PLE – ICT – March 3rd
- Year 1 Mass – March 6th

Thanks for your support to make the start to 2015 so fabulous, looking forward to the next two weeks.
Residential College and Follow the Dream student, Clarissa Churchill was selected from a large number of applicants to take part in the Raise the Bar Athletics Academy. This is a joint initiative between Athletics Australia and Melbourne University Sport to provide Indigenous students a chance to discover the pathways to studying and participation through high performance sport.

Over the holidays, Clarissa spent a week at the University of Melbourne with Elite Athlete role models such as Commonwealth Games team member Alex Rowe and Australian Boat Race star Hedda Cooper who shared their experiences of balancing academic study and sporting commitments.

Clarissa learnt new skills in athletics coaching, sports media training, and community sports events management. In addition to skill based activities, she also had opportunities to connect directly with sports industry professionals and some of Australia's best athletes.

Paul Woodbridge
Follow the Dream - Partnerships for Success Coordinator
FROM THE SPORT DESK…………
Hello to All and welcome back to 2015. Swimming has started in earnest with the Year 7 trials yesterday showcasing the new talent at the secondary campus. Well done to all involved and thanks to Staff and the senior students who helped the trials run successfully. Thursday of this week see the Year 8 students and then the Year 9 students next Tuesday trying out for the coveted positions in the House Swimming carnival. For those of you able to get to BRAC to witness this exciting event please put the following date in your calendar.

HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL – BRAC – 26th FEBRUARY 2015. Events start at approximately 8.30. Swimming training is also starting this week. Friday morning at 6.15am till 7 am again at the BRAC for those who wish to put some fitness under their belt prior to the carnival. This will continue on Friday morning up to the interschool carnival. Successful swimmers at the House carnival will go on to represent the school at the annual Derby Interschool Swimming Carnival. This is in week 7 and falls on Friday 20th March. Week 8 of this term has two events happening. Firstly the annual PUERTOLLANO cricket match against Broome Senior High School and the first of the Girls AFL football carnivals at Derby. These are scheduled to happen on Wednesday March 25th. The Cricket will be at St Mary’s oval and the AFL game at Derby District High School. Interested students for the Cricket and Football will be asked to nominate in the coming weeks. The Kimberley Cup held at the end of Term 2 always approaches very quickly and we are aiming to start training sessions for this in the middle of this term. Letters will come home prior to this training starting. We are looking forward to St Mary’s having another successful year in sport.
Any queries please contact Mr Mark Dellar on 91949541

THE COMMISSIONING MASS
On Saturday evening 7 February, Fr. Matt Digges celebrated the Commissioning Mass with the local Parish and the staff of St. Mary’s College at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral. Commissioning Masses are held in the first weeks of each academic year throughout the State for all 159 Catholic schools in Western Australia educating some 72,000 students. Later the staff enjoyed each other’s company at the Mangrove Hotel. The Photo below is of our lovely new staff members in 2015.
YEAR 12 RETREAT

The Year 12 students began the year with their annual two day overnight retreat in the first week of school. This was a wonderful way to begin the year for the Class of 2015. The retreat started with a meditative pilgrimage walk with Father Matt from the Nungalinya Chapel, to the Broome cemetery and then on down to the Cathedral. Along the way, the students stopped at various significant locations including BRAMS and the hospital to reflect and pray about people and issues in our town. All the students observed complete silence during this time. Following the pilgrimage, Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral and then the students experienced a range of activities at the Broome Camp School. We are blessed with the calibre of fine young men and women who will all be the leaders in our school.

“The Year 12 retreat was such a memorable experience. We had the opportunity to strengthen the bond between all the Year 12’s and learn what it means to become leaders of the College. It was a great way to start off the year.” Grace Cuzens.

“I have to say that I had a good time on the Year 12 retreat. We became closer with each other. I especially enjoyed the pilgrimage walk with Fr. Matt where we prayed in silence to God. I would like to thank the teachers who put so much effort into organising such a wonderful experience for us all.” Washule Bucknall.

Volunteers Needed!

The St Mary’s Secondary Library building looks simply fantastic after it was given a fresh coat of paint, brand new stylish carpets and some bright and cheery new furniture. Student reactions have been encouraging with many ‘jaw dropping’ moments when they first enter the building after the Christmas break. Unfortunately the fairy tale rejuvenation ends there because in order to make these wonderful changes, the entire library needed to be packed up and shipped out. Consequently, I now have nearly 200 boxes that need unpacking…

Thus far I have had two very generous college members give up their time to assist me; Ziggy Miedema (EA extraordinaire) and Chloe Speed (Yr 10). Chloe gave up her lunchtimes to assist me with the very fiddly job of weeding old resources, and Ziggy has been invaluable with the heavy work of shifting furniture and unpacking boxes. However there is still a mammoth task ahead.

If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, and would like to have a crash course in the Dewey system and help me unpack boxes, I would truly appreciate it. I can be contacted on my direct line 9194-9534 or email at pratley.carmel@cathednet.wa.edu.au

I am looking forward to an army of volunteers!

Carmel Pratley
Teacher Librarian & Learning Support Co-ordinator

YEAR 7/8 GIFTED ACADEMIC PROGRAM

St Mary’s College launched the Gifted Academic Program (GAP) at the recent Year 7 parent information night. The wider vision sees the program moving beyond the scope of the traditional Gifted and Talented or the Academic Enrichment Programs. The initiative fuses the gifted element of the traditional GATE projects and the Academic portion of an Enrichment program.

The initiative aims to develop, extend and enrich knowledge acquisition and higher order thinking in the core academic subjects of Mathematics, English, Science, History and Geography. Placement on the program is highly competitive as places are limited. Students enter the program following a referral or nomination, screening through achievement tests and an overall assessment of eligibility. The screening of the Year 7 and 8 classes have already begun at the college and students will be informed in due course. Selection is ongoing and in Semester 2 there will be a change for another intake of students.

The content of the program is designed to be highly engaging and will involve an introduction to develop academic and creative thinking skills. These skills will then be applied to develop two major projects throughout the year in the broad disciplines of Maths and Sciences, and English and Humanities. The projects will involve a careers based initiative in the fields of Technology and Engineering, and Politics and Society.

If you are interested in finding out further information please contact Ms Diane Latchman at the college at latchman.diane@cathednet.wa.edu.au
A big welcome to all our old and new parents and carers for 2015. I hope your children have settled in well. If you are new to St Mary’s, you might like to join the P and F as a way of meeting other parents and getting involved in the life of the College. Even if you can’t make it to the meetings, there are still lots of ways to be involved. A parent volunteer form was sent home recently. I encourage you to return this form and we can add your details to our database and we can keep you up to date with all the P and F happenings via email.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday the 10th of March in the Primary staff room. Come and join us for some light refreshments as we launch into the new year.

For more information or enquiries please contact me on 0400 123 802 or rosieo74@hotmail.com

Rose Mitchell
President
Parents and Friends Association

PARENTING WA

We would like to introduce Tamara Austin, the Parenting Coordinator from Parenting WA – Department of Local Government and Communities. Parenting WA (PWA) offers free information and support to parents and carers of children aged pre-birth to 18 years. The support offered can be Parent workshops, consultations, email & telephone correspondence, community events or other suggestions from parents. If you have any parent questions or matters please call or email Tamara on 9193 8474 or tamara.austin@dlgc.wa.gov.au.

Tuesday Night is BINGO Night
At the RSL Club
Come along and play!

Does someone you love have:
Difficulties Reading?
Problems with spelling?
Worries with writing?
Find out exactly where learning has stalled and what can be done to help.

Dyslexia and Irlen Clinic will be in your area in March 2015
Phone 1300 732 998
or email beatrice@worldwidelearningacademy.com for appointments.

Visit worldwidelearningacademy.com for self-assessment and download the free eBook – “Read, Spell, Write, Right?”

Canteen News!
On Ash Wednesday the canteen will be offering Fish Burgers – delicious oven baked fish, with crispy lettuce and tartare sauce on a fresh bun!! Make sure you place an order to guarantee a Fish Burger for lunch! $5 each

2015 Fees
The finance team will be billing Term 1 school fees in Week 3 of Term 1, and posting these to families during this week. Families are reminded of the importance of prompt payment of school fees, and are encouraged to contact Amy Hyett, Business Manager should they wish to establish a payment arrangement. Fees can be paid using either cash at the reception on Secondary Campus, Cheque, EFTPOS, direct bank transfer, BPAY or Centrepay.

Do you have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card?
If you hold a currently valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, please note this MUST be presented to the College in order for the relevant discounts to be applied. Note the card must be current and discounts will only be provided for the year the card is presented – discounts will not be backdated. A valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card will also entitle the holder to the Secondary Assistance Scheme, for any child in Years 7 – 12. In order to apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme please see the Business Manager, who will assist with the application form. Should families have any queries at all in relation to fees, please contact Amy Hyett, Business Manager.