Dear Parents

I hope that all of you had an enjoyable and spiritual Christmas and your child has been enthusiastically awaiting the beginning of the school year.

As you have already been advised, Mr Puglisi will be absent for the first three weeks of this term. If all goes well, and that largely depends on the latest medical results, he should be back with us from the 17th of February. Please keep Sam and his family in your prayers.

During Sam’s absence, Janelle and I will continue in our previous roles of late last term as Acting Deputy Principal and Acting Principal respectively.

Apart from that, the year has begun well, and to date, this is our largest enrolment ever. Currently, we have just over 100 seniors (Years 11 and 12) and most of our other year levels are full and have attracted waiting lists.

If you have family and friends that are intending to enrol their children, particularly in Year 7 and 8 over the next couple of years, I would strongly recommend that you encourage them to put in applications if they have not already done so. While we will endeavour to assist as many families as possible, we will continue to cap the junior student numbers at around 60 students per year level (and 50 for each of the senior year levels). With Year 7 coming on board next year, our numbers are expected to be around the 350 mark. Please be assured that as always, Mt Maria College Petrie will continue to provide a caring, Catholic family environment, focussing on small class sizes.

Last weekend, our student leaders for 2014 joined other leaders from Marist Schools within Queensland to take part in the Marist Leadership Camp, held at Marist College Ashgrove. As usual, the students: Hazel Eugenio (College Captain), Rachel Platt (Morgan House Captain), Makayla Hasenkam (Nolan House Captain), Matthew Tite (Talbot House Captain), Trent Bowman (Cultural Captain) and Maddison Wilder-Coombes (Social Justice), did themselves and the College proud. I also thank Mrs Sue O’Connor, our Year 11 and 12 Student Coordinator for accompanying them.

Last Friday (and Friday night), staff attended our biennial retreat at the old Christian Brothers’ seminary at Indooroopilly. It was an excellent time of Christian and Catholic reflection, as well as a time for staff to bond with the people that we tend to only see from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday. I must wholeheartedly thank Mrs Janelle Doohan and Mrs Alison Whitten for the organisation of the event. The calibre of guest speakers and the whole environment was first class.

I would like to finish off this week’s article with one of the Marist symbols of the Christian ethos and St Marcellin’s charism, the three violets: humility, simplicity and modesty. St Marcellin believed that these virtues were essential and to be supernatural graces – gifts of the Holy Spirit. And indeed, they are the concepts that Christ so lovingly taught: Jesus gave up his equality with God to become a human being in order to live amongst us. This humility is evidenced from his meek birth to his crucifixion. Indeed, what faith and simplicity is better offered than in Jesus’ proclamation of ‘do not worry’? And though we need not necessarily take His words literally, their message and intent are unmistakable.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 6:25-26

Humility, Simplicity and Modesty

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus,
Sancta Dei Genitrix.
Nostras deprecationes ne despicias
in necessitatibus nostris,
sed a periculis cunctis
libera nos semper,
Virgo gloriosa et benedicta

Sts Maximillian Kolbe and Marcellin Champagnat pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Markus Ebeling
Acting Principal
Welcome back to the new school year. I hope the holiday period provided opportunity for rest, reflection and moments of joy with family and friends.

The theme for this year is “Serve One Another” An extract from a reflection on this theme by Tony Clarke Director of Marist Mission and Life Formation is provided below:

Love is everything. When Jesus was asked which was the most important of the 613 commandments he didn’t have to think twice. Love God. The second, he said, was like it: love your neighbour as yourself. And they are inseparable; you cannot love one without loving the other. The theme this year #serveoneanother encourages this particular attitude of love.

In our love of God we are encouraged to live with a more compassionate awareness of the needs of other people. The way we love is what matters most.

How do we live with an attitude that is attentive to the deep human need of another person? What do we do for the smallest and most helpless? What do we do for the defenceless, sick, those forgotten by everyone or those who carry burdens only known in their own heart? Who are the hungry we feed? How do we live within our own Marist community with an attitude of love?

Throughout this year we will work together to continue to build on the wonderful community spirit that exists here. We will reflect on how best to actively serve one another and those outside our community.

Staff Retreat
Our staff Retreat was held during the week before school started and provided opportunity for exploring this year’s theme. During the retreat we heard from various presenters who shared their wisdom and experience around the theme of Serving Others. The retreat helped us to build stronger relationships as a staff and to ready ourselves for the school year. I thank all staff for embracing all areas of the Retreat and for the fun that was shared too!

Opening Mass
The Opening Mass will be held on 12 February at 9am in the Our Lady of the Way Church, Petrie. During the Mass the Year 8’s will be blessed and welcome into our community. We will also have an anointing and commissioning of School Leaders and Peer Support Leaders. Senior Leaders and Peer Support Leaders will receive a badge and commit to their position of responsibility. All families and friends of the College are most welcome to attend this special Mass.

Student Timetables
All students have been issued with a timetable. Please contact me as soon as possible if there are any questions or concerns.

Student Planner
The student planners are a great source of communication between school and home. Please have a read through the first section of the planner which outlines many of the College policies and processes. Students must take their planner to every lesson.

Uniform
It was wonderful to see the students wearing their uniform with pride as they began this new school year. It is expected that students wear the correct uniform every day including when travelling to and from school.

Mr Puglisi
Let us remember to especially keep Mr Puglisi in our thoughts and prayers. The Memorare is one of Sam’s favourite prayers that I encourage you to take a moment to say.

Memorare
Remember, most loving Virgin Mary,
never was it heard
that anyone who turned to you for help
was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
though burdened by my sins,
I turn to you for protection
for you are my mother.
Mother of the Word of God,
do not despise my words of pleading,
but be merciful and hear my prayer.
Amen.

Janelle Doohan
(Acting Deputy) APRE
Student Leaders 2014

Mt Maria College Petrie
Inspired by Maximilian Kolbe
and Marcellin Champagnat

Welcome
Phone: (07) 3285 5500
www.mmcp.qld.edu.au

WELCOME STUDENTS
2014
Welcome back to 2014

Just an update for our new families, and our old as well, on the fee process at Mt Maria College Petrie. Fee statements are sent home at the commencement of each term (normally the second week of term). They have a due date listed. If you elect to pay per term, please pay by this date.

With the Term 1 statement, you will find a direct debit form for both credit card and savings account. If you wish to avail yourself of the direct debit method of payment, we include a budget for the year – with a weekly, fortnightly and monthly recommended amount. This is an excellent way of paying your school fees, just set the amount and the frequency and then forget it. I will regularly send out statements so that you can see your charges and your payments – this is for your records only.

Please remember – if you are having financial difficulties, please contact us and let us know.

We can work together to put a plan in place, easing your stress about the situation and keeping us in the loop also.

Up to date contact details

Also in term one’s statement I will include a form which has your student’s current details on record – their address, phone number, emergency contacts, custody arrangements, etc. Please check this carefully. It is imperative that we have the correct information here at the College. If an emergency situation arises, or simply a very sick student, we must be able to contact either yourself or a nominated person quickly.

Office Reminders 2014

- Immunisation forms for Year 8 & 10 students have gone home today (Friday 31st January). These must be returned by Monday the 10th February 2014 if you wish for your student to receive immunisations at school. The first round is on Wednesday 26th February.

- Early Departure Notes Any students needing to leave school early MUST have a written signed note by a parent / carer. Contact will be made if written permission is not supplied and if no contact is possible, the student will not be allowed to leave the College. If your student needs to leave early every day because of transport, a note giving permission them for the term is acceptable.

- Absences - Please make contact with the office by 9am if your student will be absent. (by email, telephone or App message). It is College policy to send a text message if your child is not at school and no contact has been made.

- Senior Blazers All seniors must have a senior blazer, please see the office for an order form.

- Medication Students must NOT carry any medication in their school bags. All medication MUST be kept at the office. All medication (including paracetamol) must have new permission forms for administering completed and signed.

- Contact Details If your contact details have changed over the holidays please let us know as soon as possible
At Mt Maria College Petrie, we have observed the strong connection between good behaviour and positive learning outcomes and as such are committed to the achievement of excellent behaviour throughout the College. Underpinned by Mt Maria Petrie’s “Student Code of Behaviour” staff are working towards creating a new responsible behaviour plan, which ensures that whilst at school our students and staff are enveloped in a safe, supported and disciplined environment that respects the rights of students to learn and teachers to teach.

All too often in today’s world emphasis is placed on the “negative” behaviour rather than focussing on rewarding the “positive” – on noticing the small wonderful actions that our children display every day, that often go unnoticed.

**Rewarding the Positive**

This year David Price (Year 9 co-ordinator) and Leonie Airdrie (Year 10 coordinator) are implementing a new “Positive Behaviour Program”. **Positive** behaviour, backed up through **Positive** reinforcement to provide **Positive** feedback to our students.

“Gotcha cards” will be distributed to students exhibiting any of our Mt Maria Petrie values – observing the College rules, showing courteous and considerate behaviour to others, working well in class, wearing the College Uniform consistently, to name just a few. If a student accumulates 20 of these “Gotcha cards” they will be rewarded with an ice block from the tuckshop. We will also give you a call to share your child’s achievement.

The first ten students to accumulate 130 of these in a term, will receive a gift voucher on assembly and again, a letter of recognition will be sent to home.

We hope you will support this initiative and encourage your children at home to “do their best”.

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**YEAR 9 and 10 NEWS**

**Our mission statement**

As a catholic college Mt Maria College Petrie aims to educate our young people by fostering an atmosphere of acceptance and celebration of diversity. We encourage our students through a supportive Christian environment to do their best in whatever they undertake.

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**P & F NEWS**

A huge thanks to the parents and teachers who helped with the morning tea for the parents of the Year 8 students on Wednesday morning.

Your kind efforts of preparing and serving the morning tea along with welcoming our new parents is greatly appreciated. A huge thanks to Jean Power for co-ordinating and to Jane, Janene, Michelle, Brenda, Eileen, Aiden Cai and Liam. I know it went a long way to settling down first day nerves and it was appreciated by all who attended.

Donna Wyers
2014 P&F President
**“Sensory Movie Day”**

was created for Families with Special Needs.
Children are free to try every seat, flap or stim, lighting stays on dim.
Fireexit doors are monitored for those escape artists.
This movie experience is a positive, non-judgemental experience.
Free membership cards are required to purchase tickets, which can be handed out on the day of the screening.

**Tickets $8 each**

**Sensory Movie Day Morayfield (North Brisbane)**
https://www.facebook.com/#!/SensoryMovieDay
Chanelle Avison Sensorymovieday@hotmail.com or phone 0422 416 509

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**More**

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**“Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs 2”**
Inventor Flint thought he saved the world when he destroyed his most infamous invention. Flint soon learns that his invention survived and is now creating food-animals - “foodimals!” Flint and his friends embark on a dangerously delicious mission to battle hungry foodimals to save the world.

2pm Sunday 23rd February

**“Walking With Dinosaurs”**
During the Late Cretaceous period 70 million years ago, the Alexornis bird Alex narrates about three Pachyrhinosaurus named Patchi, Scowler, and Juniper who grow from infants into adulthood. Alex has a symbiotic relationship with Pachyrhinosaurus. Patchi leads the herd in migrating, and they also encounter the predator Gorgosaurus.

2pm Sunday 27th April (6th April (NSW)

**“Frozen”**
A prophecy traps a kingdom in eternal winter, so Anna must team up with Kristoff, a daring mountain man, on the grandest of journeys to find the Snow Queen and put an end to the icy spell.

2pm Sunday 16th March

**Mr. Peabody & Sherman**
Mr. Peabody is the world’s smartest person who happens to be a dog. When his “pet” boy Sherman uses his time traveling WABAC machine without permission, events in history spiral out of control to disastrous and comical results. I... More's up to this most unexpected of father-son teams to somehow put things back on track before the space-time continuum is irreparably destroyed.

2pm Sunday 25th May

**“Sensory EXPO”**
Starts at noon in the foyer of the cinema. We invite lots of Service providers who come and let you know what help and support is available, heaps of resources.

2pm Sunday 22nd June

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**“Miss M.”**
Emmet, an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant, ... Morea Journey for which.

2pm Sunday 27th July

**“The Muppets Most Wanted”**
Muppets gang on a global tour, selling out grand theaters in some of Europe’s most exciting destinations. But mayhem follows the Muppets overseas, as they find themselves unwillingly entangled in an international crime caper headed by C...Moreconstantine—the World's Number One Criminal and a dead ringer for Kermit—and his dastardly sidekick, Dominic.

2pm Sunday 17th August

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**“How To Train Your Dragon 2”**
Set in the mythical world of burly Vikings and wild dragons, the action comedy tells the story of Hiccup, a Viking teenager who doesn’t exactly fit in with his tribe’s longstanding tradition of heroic dragon slayers. Hiccup’s world is turned upside down when... More he encounters a dragon that challenges he and his fellow Vikings to see the world from an entirely different point of view.

2pm Sunday 14th September

**“Tinkerbell The Pirate fairy”**
Zarina, a smart and ambitious dust-keeper fairy who’s captivated by Blue Pixie Dust and its endless possibilities. When Zarina’s wild ideas get her into trouble, she flees Pixie Hollow and joins forces with the scheming pirates of Skull Rock, who make her captain of their ship. Tinker Bell and her friends must embark on an epic adventure to find Zarina, and together they go sword-to-sword with the band of pirates led by a cabin boy named James, who’ll soon be known as Captain Hook himself.

2pm Sunday 26th October

**“Planes Fire & Rescue”**
Is a new comedy-adventure about second chances. When world famous air racer Dusty learns that his engine is damaged and he may never race again, he must shift gears and is launched into the world of aerial firefighting. Dusty joins forces with veteran fire and rescue helicopter Blade Ranger and his courageous team.

2pm Sunday 16th November

**“Sensory EXPO” noon**
Starts at noon in the foyer of the cinema. We invite lots of Service providers who come and let you know what help and support is available, heaps of resources.

**“Sensory Movie” 2pm**
We wanted to finish our year with a new movie so we will let you know closer to the time... so stay tuned

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**Santa & Mrs Claus**
After the Sensory Screening Santa & Mrs Claus will be handing out presents to every child.

Sunday 7th December