Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to the second term of the year. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break with family and friends during Easter and the students enjoyed time with family and friends during their holiday. I certainly had the opportunity to visit extended family in South Australia who I haven’t seen for a long time as well as catching up with my son and his family out in Western Queensland.

My sincere thanks to the students, parents and staff who contributed so generously to Project Compassion this year in any way. At yesterday’s assembly, Maddison Wilder-Coombs (our Social Justice Captain) and Alison Whitten announced that the College had raised $2102.85. This is a remarkable effort by a College of this size and I congratulate the College community on their wonderful effort to this very worthy cause. There was serious competition between Ms Argent’s Morgan 2 class who raised $371.10 and also Mr Taukovic’s Nolan 4 class who raised a total of $635.55. All Pastoral Care classes contributed very well to the overall total. Of course none of these funds could have been raised without the support of students, parents who baked cakes, biscuits, slices and sweets, teachers and School Officers who also spent hours making goodies to sell. Staff and students certainly supported by purchasing all of the lovely fare that was on offer.

This term will be a very busy term. Next Tuesday 29th April 2014 we have our Year 9 Reflection Day which is being facilitated by Michael Fitzpatrick and supported by Religious Education staff from our College. I have known Michael for many years and he will provide excellent opportunities for the students to be engaged and entertained in many diverse activities including discussion, games, music and prayer. Students will be encouraged to consider ways to create an environment where attitudes and actions of Jesus provide a model and standard for our school community. As this is an important component of our Religious Education program I expect that ALL Year 9 students would be in attendance on this day. Students who do not attend will miss out on a wonderful experience and will be disappointed when they hear feedback from their friends about the great day that they had enjoyed. Letters providing details of the Reflection day went home this week.

In May our Year 9 students will sit the annual NAPLAN Test. These tests will be held on Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May with catch up test being completed on Friday 16 May.

The Year 12 Retreat is also not too far away and will be held from Monday 5 May to Wednesday 7 May at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast. This is a great experience for all Year 12 students and an excellent opportunity for them to reflect on their journey so far and look to their future. Attendance is expected by all students. Letters will be sent home later this week.

Next Friday is ANZAC Day. ANZAC Day is a time to remember those who have sacrificed so much so that we might enjoy the freedom we have and the life we lead. This year we will march in the Kallangur RSL march. Students are to meet in the Kallangur car park at 7.30 am, the march begins at 8.15 am and there will be a wreath laying ceremony immediately after where our College Captains will lay a wreath on behalf of our College. Details will be sent home in a letter today. I know that parents will have their own traditions and services that they attend each ANZAC Day but I would encourage students who are able to, to join us in the march this year.

During the holidays, reports were sent home to all parents. If you did not receive your student’s report in the mail please contact the office.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

St Maximilian Kolbe, Pray for us
St Marcellin Champagnat, Pray for us
Mary Our Good Mother, Pray for us
And let us remember to always pray for each other,

Mandy Sullivan
Acting Principal
Hello and welcome back to Term 2.

I am excited to inform you that Schoolzine and Mt Maria College Petrie have collaborated to produce a new format newsletter.

The first issue will hit the stands next Thursday and then fortnightly thereafter. I think you will be very impressed to see the new format. The newsletter will be jam packed with College news and photos as always. It will be easy to read and the photos can be viewed in a slide show. In addition it will now be compatible with all phones, iPads and computers – no more scrolling from side to side! The content will be interactive also. You will be able to click on links to events, the calendar and more.

We know that you will be as excited as we are, as we embrace the new technologies on offer. This is another tool to provide us with better communication ability to our families and the community. So look out for your email arriving in your inbox next Thursday – and if you like, complete the survey in the first edition to tell us what you think of our new look!

Over the holidays, Brisbane Catholic Education moved all 137 schools in the archdiocese to a newer version of the current finance system. This was a mammoth task and as a result we were unable to access financial details during the break. All went perfectly well and we are now back online. Maree and I are busy getting used to this new look system and are quite impressed with it. Term 2 fees will be posted home early next week. The content remains the same, but the look of the fee statement is slightly different. We also will have the ability to email your statements to you and intend doing this from Term Three. It is important that we have your current email address on file. If you are already receiving your newsletters by email, then we can safely assume that we do have your best details. If not, please contact us to let us know the correct email address.

Should you not wish to receive your Fee Statement by email, you have that right. Please let me know and we can continue to post these as in the past.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this or any fee matters.

Kind regards
Deb Rheumer
Business Manager

The ladies in the front office ran a ‘Lucky Guess Easter Raffle’ in the last week of Term 1 with all the funds raised going to Caritas. Our very lucky and happy winner was Violet (Yr 9).

The raffle raised $90! We are sure Violet and her family enjoyed sharing out and eating the mountain of Easter eggs.

Charmaine Tilley
Receptionist
Mt Maria College Petrie