



Newsletter

Volume 34

Issue 2

17 February, 2012

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

We have had a tremendous start to the year and students across all year levels appear to have really settled-down to some solid work which is a credit to you all. Our Inter-house Swimming Carnival and College Opening Mass were both wonderful celebrations during the course of the past week and students are to be congratulated for the spirit in which they participated in both events.

One of the 'innovations' for 2012 is a **permanent 'Homework Centre' which is being run every Monday – Thursday afternoon from 3.15pm to 5.00pm in the College Library.** This replaces the traditional Monday afternoon 'Homework Centre' at the McKenna Centre and complements Maths Tutorials which will still be running separately on Monday and Thursday afternoons. We have been really fortunate to have Mrs Di Whitelaw and our Student Leaders staff this facility for us, along with other staff members who will also assist at various times depending on student need. Please encourage your sons and daughters to make full use of this facility.

Upcoming events include:

- Year 7 Parent Welcome Liturgy and Barbeque on Tuesday, 21 February commencing at 5pm in St Mary's Church.
- Ash Wednesday Liturgies for each year level on Wednesday, 22 February. The Year 11/12 & Parish celebration will commence at 11.50am.
- College Photos will be taken on Wednesday, 29 February. Senior students are expected to wear full formal uniform on the day.
- Student Free Day on Tuesday, 6 March. Staff will be travelling to Lismore to participate in an inservice on Professional Learning Communities.

We wish four of our Senior students all the very best of luck as they compete in the **'Lions Youth of the Year'** competition over the next week: **Tierny Silver, Joshua Moroney, Alice Warner and Ben Parker.** I look forward to reporting their progress in next fortnight's newsletter.

Congratulations to the final members of our Student Leadership Team who were inducted at our Opening Mass on Thursday:

House Vice-Captains

MacKillop: Megan Cuskelly & Mitchell Ensby
McAuley: Matthew Parritt and Briannah Summers
Farrelly: Tom Gunther & Darrienne Hastie
Champagnat: Nicholas Benn & Elizabeth Tonge

Student Representative Council:

Year 11: Eliza Bicego & Jarrod Jacobson
Year 10: Reece Brims & Keely Maguire
Year 9: Jaidan Simpkins & Samantha Transton
Year 8: Maddison Gardner & Marshall Partridge
Year 7: Elected in Term Two

Finally, I would like to conclude with an excerpt from the speech given by our College Captains, Tierny Silver and Joshua Kingsford at our Opening Mass on Thursday:

However, if we are really to achieve our best, there are several issues which need to be addressed for us to do better. It has become evident that bullying, especially cyber bullying, has become particularly prominent within our year groups at St Mary's. Not only is it becoming easier to do, but it is also becoming easier to get away with. As a member of your student body and as a friend amongst many of you, I would like to ask you all to stop, think about what you are doing, and reconsider your actions. I know that bullying may be inevitable everywhere, but it is something that can no longer be ignored

With all this said, it is now up to you to step up to the plate. The face of St Mary's is our students, not just our senior leaders. It is your job to work to the best of your collective ability, and try your hardest. It is better to try and fail, compared with failing because you didn't try at all. Finally, we would like to wish all students, parents and staff, all the very best for the year ahead.



Pictured above are Br Tony Leon, Mr Aaron Beach, Br Michael Flanagan, Br Paul Turner, Br Gerry Steele and Mr Peter McNamara, who recently presented a series of formation workshops for new staff and our student leadership team.

Enjoy the fortnight ahead.

Sincerely

Aaron Beach
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 1

Week 4

Tues, 21 Feb Shrove Tuesday - Champagnat Pancakes
Tues, 21 Feb Yr 7 Reflection Day - Parent Liturgy/BBQ 5pm
Wed, 22 Feb Ash Wednesday

Week 5

Wed, 29 Feb College Photos

PARISH MASS TIMES

St Mary's, Casino - Mass times: Monday 9am, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8am, Friday 12.05pm, Saturday 9am, Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We have been blessed with a relatively settled start to the year thanks in part to the teachers but in the main to the students who have chosen to do the correct thing and live up to the standards expected of them by the College. Following our first whole school uniform inspection, it was found that only a handful of students had infringed

the uniform policy. Thank you very much to the students, and the parent of these students, who have worn their uniforms in the correct manner.

The main issues concerned the length of the girl's skirt (which must see the hem touching the top of the knee) and the type of shoes being worn. A reminder that

skate-type shoes, albeit that they may be lace-up and polishable, are not to be worn. Shoes must be of a “school-style”, as clearly stated in the student planner. If your son or daughter has received a letter concerning the need for corrections to be made, could you please act accordingly?

I would also like to speak of the use of mobile phones in the school. The College has a clearly stated policy regarding the use of these, and associated consequences for misuse, in the student planner which highlights that phones are not to be seen or heard while at school. Invariably, when a student is caught using a phone, the most frequent response is “I was just texting Mum/Dad.” This, of course, is not always the case, but unfortunately on many occasions is true. Could I remind all parents that any contact made with your child (in the case of an emergency or otherwise) during school hours, must be done through the College office. The message will be passed onto your child and if need be, they can contact you through the office. Your support here is greatly appreciated.

This week will see a number of pieces of information coming home with students. First will be the order forms for the College Photos to be held on February 29. Please complete and return these to the photographer on the day of the photos. Family photos are also available and these order forms need to be collected from the office prior to February 29. Also, Year 7 and some Year 10 students will soon be receiving vaccination forms. The first round of vaccinations will occur on March 7. I know that Year 7 students will be happy to know that this event is only just around the corner!

Finally, I would like to say how refreshing it has been this week to see true school spirit alive and well in this College thanks to events such as the Swimming Carnival (and associated war-cry battles) and the College’s Opening Mass. I look forward to other such events throughout the course of the year.

Scott Thomson
Assistant Principal

FROM THE CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

I am often amazed at the varied and extensive teaching and learning resources available here at our small regional Catholic College. From our first class agriculture and science facility, to the 21st Century wireless network and laptop program, your sons and daughters have access to as good (if not better) resources as some of the larger schools in the area.

“*If you build it, they will come*” is a line spoken by Kevin Costner in the Hollywood blockbuster ‘Field of Dreams’. This resonates with me when discussing teaching and learning in schools. Over the past few years we have developed some truly amazing curriculum resources here at the College, and it is now

the time for students to take responsibility for their learning in order to realise any **dreams** they might have. This responsibility can be in the form of behaviour in class, the quality of questions asked of a teacher, the use of a laptop to find that one piece of important information for an assignment and most important of all the **effort** a student puts into class activities.

Later this term students in Years 7 and 11 will receive their first OPAL score (Ongoing Performance and Assessment Log). This OPAL score is simply a measure of a student’s effort across each of their classes. Each teacher will enter a score for every student in their class, based on that student’s effort over a three week period. Students will be able to see their OPAL scores displayed on the noticeboard in the Library and will be given the opportunity to ask teachers what they can do to improve. Students with high OPAL scores will be rewarded at formal College assemblies.

Duncan Pollock
Curriculum Coordinator

A NOTE FROM THE REC – MINISTRY

An important date to note for **Year 7** students is the Retreat Day on **Tuesday 21, February, 2012**. On this day all Year 7 students will be travelling to St Carthage’s Cathedral in Lismore to discover a little of the history of the Diocese of Lismore and to engage in a short prayer service. On their return to Casino, Year 7 students will be preparing a **Short Liturgy for Parents** that will commence in St. Mary’s Church **at 5pm**. A **free BBQ** will follow in the Church grounds, and I encourage all parents to use this opportunity to meet other Year 7 parents and College staff. Please be aware that students will be required to wear their Sports Uniform on the Retreat day and that **students will be required after school** until the Parent Liturgy has concluded (approx. 5:45pm). If there are any concerns please contact me here at the College.

The College will start the Lenten Period with a series of year level **Ash Wednesday Liturgies on Wednesday, 22 February**. As per previous years, we will be having collection boxes for Caritas throughout Lent and we encourage all students to give generously to this appeal.

I would also like to bring to everyone’s attention that the Parish is running a short **Taize Prayer service every Sunday during Lent at 5:30pm** in St Mary’s Church, Casino. Taize prayer is a type of prayer characterised by meditation and periods of silence and reflection. I find it a very fulfilling method of connecting with the spiritual aspect of my life and recommend it to anyone, of any denomination, who wishes to spend a little time in Sacred prayer and meditation.

God Bless
Shane Weekes
Religious Education Coordinator – Ministry

SPORT

SMCC Swimming Carnival

Last Tuesday, we held our annual College Swimming Carnival. The weather was fine and the temperature was great. The day before each House had the opportunity to “voice” their House “*War Cries*”. It was great to see all the students getting fully involved in this. But, as in life, there can be only one winner – and Champagnat it was.

The students’ arrived at the pool dressed in their House Colours and it was an impressive sight to see the four colours stand out so clearly. The day began with another “War Cry” and then the races began. As the day progressed it was evident that there were two carnivals in one: Farrelly and last year’s winners, McAuley fighting it out for third and fourth place, and Champagnat and MacKillop vying for first and second. At the start of the relays, Champagnat held a very slender lead. Most of the relays were either won by the two leading Houses. Finally, after all the points were tallied, Champagnat came out winners by 58 points from MacKillop– a very close result at the end. McAuley held on for third with Farrelly finishing fourth.

Age Champions were:

BOYS

- 12yrs: N/A
- 13yrs: Lachlan Pontefract - MacKillop
- 14yrs: Sam Handford - McAuley
- 15yrs: Jacob Fraser - Champagnat
- 16yrs: Michael Cram - MacKillop
- Seniors: Cody Creighton - Champagnat

GIRLS

- 12yrs: Tymika Bulmer - MacKillop
- 13yrs: Sophie Lynch - MacKillop
- 14yrs: Brittany Allen - Champagnat
- 15yrs: Shania Pontefract - MacKillop
- 16yrs: Michaela King – Champagnat
- Seniors: Jessica Savins – Champagnat

Congratulations to all students who involved themselves fully in the carnival. Special thanks to those parents who were able to come along and support their children.

A number of students will now have the opportunity to represent the College at the Lismore Diocesan Swimming Carnival to be held at Kempsey on March 13. If successful there, a trip to Homebush for the NSWCCC Carnival will be their reward.

Andrew Bartlett
Sports Coordinator

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

The College will be shortly offering students a place in the “Seasons for Growth” Program. This is a program for any student who needs a little help coping with grief of any kind. This grief may be from the loss of a friend

or family member, from family break-up, or indeed any significant loss that a student may have encountered in their life (it does not necessarily need to be recent). If you have any questions regarding the program please contact Shane Weekes at the College.

Thank You
Shane Weekes
College Counsellor

EFTPOS facilities are now available at the College office for the payment of fees



REMINDER

Student All Purpose Medical Forms for 2012 were posted out with the first newsletter. These forms should be returned to the College office by Friday, 24 February.

CASINO NETBALL SIGN-ON

Sign-on days are to be held on February 18, 25 and March 3, from 10am-2pm.

CANTEEN ROSTER

Mon 20/2	Help Req	Mon 27/2	Help Req
Tues 21/2	K Johnson	Tues 28/2	K Johnson
Wed 22/2	H Quirk	Wed 29/2	P Ramsey
Thurs 23/2	Di King/ J Turner	Thurs 1/3	C Magner
Fri 24/2	Help Req Urgently	Fri 2/3	S Wilson/ Help Req

Please note that we are in desperate need of some more volunteers and any amount of time you are able to give would be greatly appreciated. Contact Debbie Gahan on 6662 2255 or 0411 876 610.

ST MARY’S P&F AGM

Please mark the AGM in your diary for Wednesday, March 14. All positions will be vacant - would like to see new faces in the committee, have a think about it, very easy to do, help is always around.

Positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Media Person, Fundraising Chair, and Fundraising Committee members.

Please let all your friends know as we would love to see a lot of new faces this year.

Please remember that even if you are unable to assist, having the support in making decisions and knowing that you are there to find out about your children’s education is greatly appreciated.

The fundraising committee are looking for some great ideas to help raise much needed money this year, to support both Parish schools. If you could bring an idea to the table, that can also assist. Your help in fundraising is much needed, although if you are unable to help that's okay as well. Just come along and see what is happening.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Therese West
P&F President

WOLLONGBAR TAFE

Want to get back into work or study but not sure where to start?

Wollongbar TAFE's Preparation for Work and Study Course is a great stepping stone to your goals. It is flexible so that you can choose the subjects that suit you for getting back to work or preparing for a future study area. With Job Seeking and Study Skills, and 2 x 2 hour computer sessions each week, you'll get the edge. The course includes the option of work experience.

Supportive and friendly, within school hours, Tues, Wed and Thurs each week of term. There are no fees.

For more information for Semester 1, 2012, phone Wollongbar Campus on **6620 4700**.

HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFER DRIVERS

FREE Workshop for parents and supervising drivers. To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads & Maritime Services (previously RTA), Lismore and Ballina Councils have set up 2-hour workshops for parents, which offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

The workshop provides practical advice about:-

- Understanding the new laws for L and P licence holders
- Supervising Learner drivers
- Completing the Learner Driver Log Book
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience

The next workshop will be conducted at the **Goonellabah Sports Club, 202 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah** on **Thursday, 22 March 2012**.

The starting time for the workshop is **6.00pm**, finishing at approx **8.30pm** with a light supper provided.

Bookings are essential. Contact Lismore City Council on 1300 87 83 87 to ensure your registration.

CASINO RSM COBRAS FC - 2012 SOCCER SIGN-ON

For all SSF, Junior Competitive and Senior Players

WHEN - Saturday – Feb 18, Feb 25, Mar 3

WHERE - Casino RSM Club

TIME - 10am - 2pm

New Players welcome - please bring either a birth certificate or blue book as proof of ID.

Sign-up on these dates and receive a \$10 discount. Club Shirts, Shorts and Socks will be available for purchase.

Check out our website for fees information and other important dates www.casinocobrasfc.com

CASINO JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

Sign-On Day is Sunday, February 19, at Queen Elizabeth Park from 11am – 1pm.

For further information, please contact Dave on 0432 857934.

UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Tuesdays 3.30pm to 5.15pm

Thursdays 3.30pm to 5.15pm

Winter Uniforms

Due to the variety of garments on offer for the College Winter Uniform, parents will be required to place an order at the Uniform Shop for selected items. In the coming weeks the Uniform Shop will have sample sizes for knitted cardigans and College jackets. Students will be able to try these garments for size before placing their order. More details will be included in the next newsletter along with a winter uniform pricelist.

The Uniform Shop will stock trousers for boys; we will notify parents when the new stock arrives.

Payments of cash, cheque or EFTPOS are welcome.



State regulations regarding attendance at school have changed.

Acceptable excuses for absence are much stricter

Must I send my child every day? YES

New guidelines for record keeping have been legislated.

- Parents/Carers must provide a written explanation for absences, Dated, signed, and including the reason for the absence.
- This must be on a separate piece of paper and kept for seven years by the school. Very few reasons are acceptable (see below).
- *Family holidays are not among them.*

What if my child has to stay away from school?

- send a note, fax or email to the school, or
- telephone the school, this is to be followed by a written explanation; or
- visit the school.

What are school Principals responsible for?

- Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences
- Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child has to:

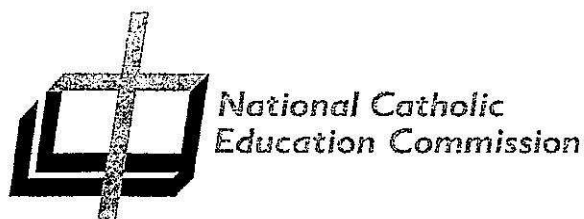
- go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences
- Applications to the Children's Court - A Compulsory Schooling Order
- Prosecution in the Local Court

2012 Excursion List - Semester 1

Term	Year	Dates	Time	Subject Area	Excursion	Venue	Approx. Cost
1	10	14-Mar		HSIE	Coastal Management	Byron Bay	
1	11	TBA	TBA	DT	Design Tech	TBA	\$15 approx
1	12	28-Feb	TBA	Careers	University Roadshow	Casino High School	Nil
2		27-28 Apr		BAG	Bonalbo Show	Bonalbo	\$5.00 plus entry
2		19-29 May	Various	BAG	Casino Beef Week	Casino	Nil
2		14-16 Jun	Various	BAG and PI	Primex	Casino	Exhibition entry fee
2	12	7-Jun	All day	All	HSC Day	SCU	\$35.00 plus bus
2	9	Week 8	Wed/Thurs	PASS	Outdoor	TBA	\$50.00
2	9-12	18-May	All day	Art	Musee Dorsay in Paris	Queensland Art Gallery	\$45.00



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Reduce the funding gap for Catholic schools

The school funding data in this week's ROGS Report (Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services 2012*, pages 4.33 and 4.34) provides a very interesting statistic.

- Government funding for government schools has increased each year in the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 by an average of 2.7%.
- Government funding for non-government schools has increased over the same period by an annual average of just 0.7%.

NCEC calls on the Commonwealth Government to reduce the operating resources gap in Catholic schools.

According to the ACARA *My School* data published last March, Catholic schools operate on average with around 10% lower net recurrent income per student than do government schools.

The data shows that, on average, government schools operate at around \$11,130 per student and Catholic schools operate with around \$10,000 per student.

NCEC strongly supports the calls from all school funding commentators to increase funding support for all schools in disadvantaged areas.

NCEC also supports calls for government schools to be appropriately funded to ensure that they achieve for their students high equity and high quality outcomes.

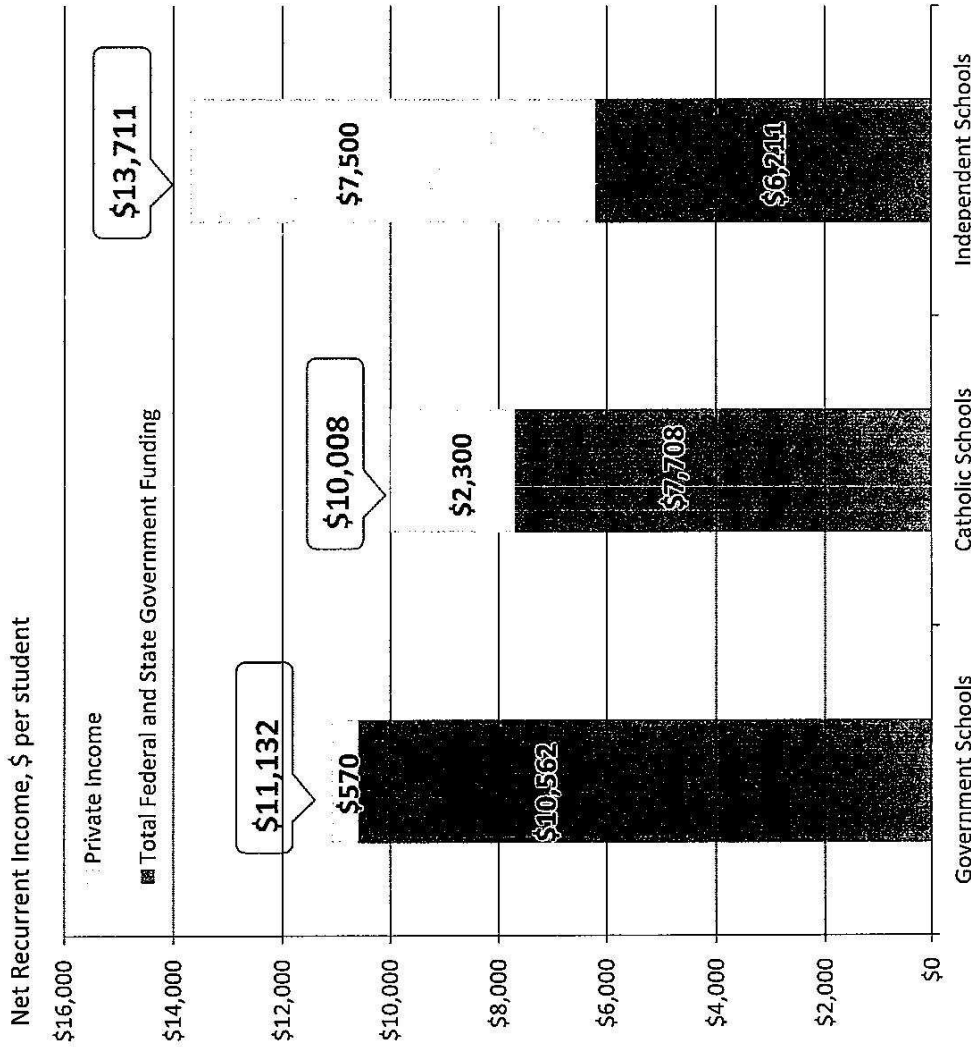
It is the sincere hope of the NCEC that the Gonski Report will also support these three basic policy positions.

ENDS

Contact Bill Griffiths 0488 057 660

2 February 2012

Catholic Schools Funding



❖ Catholic schools operate with less recurrent funding than schools in the government sector and the independent sector.

❖ Even after parent contributions are taken into account, Catholic schools are resourced at around 10% less than government schools.

❖ Our schools have a commitment to supporting families by keeping tuition fees at a modest level.

Source: Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) financial data from My School 2.0, March 2011.