From the Principal’s Desk

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 29th October  “110 Year Dinner Dance” Tickets available at the School Office
Sunday 30th October  MS SRC Mass
Wednesday 2nd November Camp Quality Puppet Show - K - Yr 7
Thursday 3rd November Primary Assembly - Year Three
Monday 7th November Swim Trial - Yr 3 to Yr 6
Monday 7th November to Nagle Orientation - Year 10
Wednesday 9th November Splash Carnival - Yr 1 and 2
Thursday 10th November Reconciliation Parent and Child Meeting - Yr 3
Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

During the annual Radio Talkback sessions that zoom in on “Schoolies’ Week” as it looms at the end of each year, one phone-in mother told of her anxiety with the expression her son had adopted as his mantra: “I can’t wait to be free!” When she asked her son, Tim, to explain further, all she got was, “I can’t wait to be free!” The Talkback host, picking up on the anxiety in the mother’s voice, tried to assure her that her son probably meant “free” from the rigours of study and the routine of school.

To some extent the Talkback host and Tim were moving to the same drumbeat, for they were both about “freedom from”. If taken to its full expression, “freedom from” is a negative form of freedom, when an individual can throw off all restraints and disciplines and have “the right” to do anything he pleases to satisfy his every whim. St Paul saw the danger in this when he wrote, “I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want, is what I do.” Rom. 7:19

Perhaps Tim’s mother would have been more comfortable if her son had said, “Can’t wait to be free to choose from all the opportunities that life has to offer.” This would be more in line with positive freedom, the freedom to do something constructive for yourself and which will benefit others. Positive freedom is the development and release of the creative skills that are gifted in each of us. So what “freedom threads” can we parents weave into our children’s lives as they grow towards adolescence and adulthood?

If freedom means being able to fulfil the best that’s within us, then this will more likely occur in an environment of safety when basic needs are being met by a loving family. Freedom is not so much about rights but about love and responsibility, which call upon us to determine what is the loving thing to do in different situations and then to act on it in a responsible manner. However, freedom is inconceivable without social ties and obligations and free individuals should contribute in simple, meaningful ways to their family before asking their family to support their personal requests.

Christians believe that God did not create us to be solitary beings and as such we should respect each other and treat each other with dignity, Free people are informed, face up to reality, take responsibility for their actions and act in a responsible manner on their own behalf and of their family. "When the Spirit of the Lord is there, there is freedom." 2 Cor. 3:17. This freedom will lead us to respect life, property, nature, our parents and senior members of our society. It will lead us to be concerned for justice and be respectful of rightful authority, rules and laws.

One of the surest ways to teach our children about positive freedom is to set an example. A close family gives children real people with whom to identify, real examples to learn from, real values and traditions to uphold, a real support system to turn to in time of need. When our children feel connected to our family, they have a rudder that helps them to hold a course of responsible conduct in the face of pressure from their peers and from the negative presentations of society.

110th YEAR DINNER DANCE

In a marquee under the stars, and entertained by Perth band “The Wildflowers”, this promises to be a terrific evening with an 8 course Degustation menu prepared by Valentina. Licensed bar will be available with reasonable prices. Come along and celebrate St Mary’s 110th Year anniversary.

SCHOOL LEADERS MASS

This Sunday, our school leaders will be coordinating the 10:00 am parish mass. This will be followed by a shared morning tea. All are welcome and join our student leaders on the day.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP

As from the beginning of next year, all students from Year 5 – Year 10 will be expected to bring their own laptop to school. A letter has been sent home outlining the minimum requirements of the computer needed by the students.

God Bless

Steve O’Halloran
Principal

To help us with our planning for 2017 please inform the front office if your child/children will not be returning to St Marys next year.
Head of Primary School News

Camp Quality
Next Wednesday the students from Kindy – Year 7 will be visited by Camp Quality. Camp Quality is a child friendly cancer charity. Their purpose is to make a better life for every child living with cancer in Australia.
For over 25 years their Education Program, the Camp Quality Puppets, have transformed thousands of schools by helping children and teachers learn how to create a supportive school community for children affected by cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves or have a family member living with cancer.
The program consists of a live, educational performance focusing on cancer education, optimism, friendship and tolerance. Their belief that laughter is the best medicine, will ensure that the experience is enjoyable, fun but also educational.

Snugglepot and Cuddlepie
On Monday 31st October, the Pre-Primary, Year One, Year Two and Year 3 classes will be attending the production, ‘Snugglepot & Cuddlepie’ at the Camel Lane Theatre. This is a critically acclaimed stage adaption of one of Australia’s classic children’s books.
The play explores the themes of family, relationships, community and caring for our environment and is set amongst May Gibb’s magical world of the Australian bush.

Primary Disco
The Parents and Friends Committee will be hosting a Primary School Disco on Friday 18th November in the school hall. The disco will cost $5 and all students will receive a juice box, hot dog and a Freddo frog. The Kindy to Year 1 students will have their disco from 4:30-5:30pm with food after. The Year 2 - 6 students will have food at 5:30pm in preparation for their disco 6:00 – 7:30pm. The Student Representative Council will be supporting the P&F; however, more help will be needed. If you are able to help with the set-up, cooking, serving or anything else, please let the office know. More information will be sent home soon.

Year 3 Reconciliation
Currently, many of the Year 3 students are participating in the home program in preparation for their First Reconciliation later this term. We wish them all the best as they prepare for this sacrament.

Swimming Events
Over the next few weeks, all students will participate in school swimming events. Please note the below dates
Year 1 - 2 Splash Carnival Thursday 10th November
Year 3 – 6 Swim Trials Tuesday 8th November
Year 3 - 10 Inter-house Carnival Wednesday 16th November
Year 3 - 6 Interschool Carnival 25th November
More information regarding these events will be sent home soon.

SRC Sunday Mass
The Student Representative Council will be organising this Sunday’s 10am Mass. It would be great to see many families there.

Kind regards

Mr Andrew Gammon
Head of Primary School
Aboriginal Teaching Assistant –
Full-Time
Temporary 1st January 2017 – 31st December 2017

The successful applicant for this temporary position will work with the Aboriginal students, their parents and their teachers. The Aboriginal Teaching Assistant will also assist in raising the profile of Aboriginal education and Aboriginal history and culture within the school and the wider community and work with all students and the community.

Temporary Teaching & Canteen Assistant
(one position)

1st January 2017 – 31st December 2017

Applicants must be fully supportive of the objectives and ethos of Catholic education. Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae, addressed to the Principal, including the names and contact numbers of three referees, one of whom must be the current employer. A current Dept of Education Clearance/100 Point Identification Check must also be included. The appropriate Criminal History Record Check form is available from the Department of Education and Training website (www.det.wa.edu.au) or the school office. Applicants should have, or be working towards, Certificate 111.

On appointment successful applicants will require a Working with Children Check. Application forms are available at Australia Post.

Applications to be addressed to: The Principal, Mr Steve O’Halloran, St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, PO Box 772, Carnarvon WA 6701.

Closing Date: Friday 4th November 2016.

Parish News
Parish Priest: Fr Mariusz
Phone: 99411768
Weekend Mass Times:
Saturday 7pm
Sunday 8am & 10am

2017 KINDY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN
3 YEAR OLD ENROLMENTS
Enrolments for children to begin the Kindy and 3 Year Old Pre-Kindergarten Programme are currently being taken. All welcome to contact the school office on 99411328 for further information.

Book Club
Book Club is due back to the office on Wednesday the 26th October.

Homework Classes
Homework classes every Tuesday and Thursday. Please contact the school office for further information.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop is opened every Tuesday and Thursday from 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Please see Charmaine for all your uniform needs.
Tips to help you and your child through exam stress

It is a real test of parenting when there is an exam student in the house - the date of the WACE exams can evoke feelings of rising anxiety – in students and in their parents! It can be very difficult to stay detached from all the talk about ATAR, what course your child is hoping to do and at which university.

Unfortunately, parents often unintentionally add to this stress by allowing themselves to become consumed with the whole process – or on the other end of the scale by being too laid back which may come across as not caring. What’s needed here is a balance and realistic expectations.

When the WACE exams are just around the corner all parents can do is to support their children, reinforce our confidence in them and make it very clear that we do not think they are defined by their exam results.

Calmness
- Easier said than done... however, parents have the ability to create a calm environment to study in which includes being comfortable, well-lit and quiet. If possible don’t arrange ‘playdates’ for younger (or older siblings) during this couple of weeks pre and during exams.

Perspective
- It is exceptionally important that we reiterate with our children that we will love them no matter what and that unexpected exam results will not change that. There are many many ways in which they can achieve their goals and WACE exams are only one of those ways.

Routine
- Keeping to a normal routine is important for both parents and children. Parents who take time off work to ‘be there’ can actually add to the anxiety by placing an added layer of angst. As for your child, he/she will still enjoy the bus-trip home from school, catching up with friends and taking their mind of studying for a short period.
- Having said all this, parents being available to provide some additional practical support at this time such as a lift somewhere or a comforting word will do no harm.
- It is also a good idea to encourage your child to continue to attend school until exam time. They may use excuses like ‘it’s easier to study at home’ but realistically they are probably better to be at school where they will have the support network of their peers and teachers.
"You and Me" PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS 9:30AM-12:00PM

Who: For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children 0-4 years old.
Where: 9 Butcher Street (In the playgroup building)
When: Starts, Friday 27th May 2016

FREE

For more Information please contact Rebecca on 0438949394 or faithfull.rebecca@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Reading, Painting, Singing, Craft, Dancing and Much More!

Come and join in the FUN!
Britannica Library

Access now at your library and at home 24/7
ANYTIME • ANYWHERE • ANY DEVICE

Cool Kids Use Britannica Library

Find out how to make the most of your homework and school projects using this free e-resource.

Sarah will show you how to register as a user and how to use the app both here in the library and at home. Bring along your library card, or ask Mom or Dad to join you up beforehand and come along for a training session (please book your spot).

Tuesday 8 November 3-4pm
Tuesday 22 November 3-4pm
Tuesday 29 November 3-4pm

Carnarvon Library and Gallery
18 Egan Street, Carnarvon
Tel: 9941 3727 / library.staff@carnarvon.wa.gov.au
library.carnarvon.wa.gov.au

Shire of Carnarvon Ranger Services Presents
K9 & Kitty’s Day Out
Sunday 6th Nov 8am - 12pm
Town Oval

We are hosting a Pink Stumps Day!

CLUB: St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School
WHERE: School Oval
DATE/TIME: Friday 17th February
CONTACT: St Mary’s School Office

Reminder:
- Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times
- Cats must be kept in a cage

DID YOU KNOW?
- All dogs must be registered and microchipped
- All cats must be registered, microchipped + sterilised

Dog Wash
Pet Registrations
Pet Photo Booth from 8am - 10am
RCK3 Dog Training Demonstrations
Pet Supplies & Accessories on Sale
Sausage Sizzle, Drinks & Coffee

Coral Coast Vet & Carnarvon Vet Onsite Micro Chipping & Vaccinations
Safe Carnarvon RSPCA SPAW Shire Rangers

For more information contact Ranger Services on 9941 0000