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29 January 2016

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2016 school year and a special welcome to all of the new families to the Our Lady's Family.

We have a number of new staff to our community:

- Mr Dennis Russell joins our Science, HPE and Religious Education Departments;
- Mrs Jill Allen joins Home Economics until Mrs Melinda Erzetic's return from Maternity Leave in Semester II;
- Mrs Rowena Dignen will be one of the first voices you hear when you contact the school. Rowena joins us in Student Services while Mrs Cook is on leave.
- We sadly farewelled Mrs Jan Mandrusiak last week. Jan has been the Finance Secretary for the past 6 years, a past parent, and costume maker extraordinaire for the College musicals. We thank Jan for her outstanding support and genuine care of all. We will welcome a new Finance Secretary in our next newsletter.

It is sometimes confusing in a secondary environment to know who to contact when you have a question or concern. If the matter is in relation to health or personal matters, your daughter's pastoral care teacher and Pastoral Middle Leader are the best port of call in the first instance. The Pastoral Middle Leaders for 2016 are:

Year 7 - Mrs Anita Macknish
Years 8 & 9 - Ms Lucy Toumbas
Years 10 & 11 - Mrs Celeste Amos
Year 12 - Mr Phil Parkinson

If you are concerned about your daughter's learning or how she is coping in class, in the first instance, please contact the relevant class teacher. The email addresses of all staff are on the College Portal. If you have forgotten your login details, please email Mrs Vicki Sharp in the office or Mrs Twomey in

the library. For ongoing concerns you may wish to speak to the Curriculum Middle Leader associated with the subject of concern. They are:

The Arts (Art, Music, Drama, Instrumental Music) - Mrs Bianca Johnston
Business and Vocational Education - Ms Paula Geraghty
Home Economics and Catering - Mrs Marion Holland
HPE and Sport - Mr John Boumford
Humanities (English and Social Science) - Ms Danielle Moore
Learning Enrichment (Gifted, Support & ESL) - Mrs Donna Martin
Mathematics - Mrs Kate Brims
Science - Mr Graham Tilbury

If you are planning a family holiday during the Term and your daughter will be missing time from school, please email me on sannerley@bne.catholic.edu.au

Remember that it is vital in Years 11 and 12 that if a student is away on the due date of an assignment or for an exam that a parent contact the relevant class teacher. In keeping with QCAA policy, a medical certificate is also required. In Years 7 to 10, please provide a letter of explanation. If the medical condition is ongoing, Mr Anthony Stevens (Deputy Principal) and Mrs Dona Archer (Assistant Principal) should also be made aware of your daughter's circumstances.

This year marks the sesquicentenary of Josephite education. It is 150 years since St Mary MacKillop Fr Julian Tenison Woods began the first school in the small rural community of Penola. Sr Monica Cavanagh, the Congregational Leader of the Josephite Sisters, wrote to all schools founded in the tradition of St Mary MacKillop. I share part of that letter with you:

"May 2016 be a year when we open our hearts and our minds to addressing the challenges of our time. May it be a year when greater respect and tolerance is a means whereby greater interconnection and oneness become a hallmark of our society. May it be a year when the abundance of God's mercy overflows to all."

Each year it has been a tradition at Our Lady's to focus on one of St Mary MacKillop's many infamous quotes. This year our focus is:

"Find happiness in making others happy."

In the simplicity of this statement are deep seeded truths:

- we are called to be people of hope – there for others and always respectful of the dignity of others through our words and actions;
- we are called not to act in self interest but in the interests of others and committed to creating a more just world;
- while we can never fully walk in the shoes of another, we are called to act with compassion and to extend kindness to all whom we meet.

Indeed there are challenges in this quote – and within it too, a pathway to our own happiness!

Shalom

Paula Goodwin
Principal

Teaching and Learning

Welcome back to the majority of students and staff of the Our Lady's College Community and a warm welcome to our many new students and staff in all year levels.

STUDENT PROTECTION CONTACTS

Please note that contacts for Student Protection for 2016 are the Principal, Assistant Principal - Administration and Guidance Counsellor. Any reporting of suspected sexual abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour by an employee towards a student is to be directed to these contacts who will follow the processes of Student Protection as per Brisbane Catholic Education Policy 2014. A hard copy of the document can be found in the College library and an electronic version can be accessed on the College Portal.

ABSENCES

In the situation where your daughter is absent from school for any reason we would ask you to let us know. An automated phone line is available and details are outlined on the front of each newsletter. This helps us to verify where your daughter is so we can be sure that she has not met with any accident on the way to school. If you do not phone us we will SMS you to inform you that your daughter is absent and ask you to SMS or call us back to verify her whereabouts. Please carefully check the details that you have given us and ensure that we always have your current phone number—it is essential that we have this number so that when we SMS we are making a contact with you. When your daughter has a planned absence you are required to write a letter to the Principal seeking her permission for the absence. This note should be given by your daughter to the office. It is a legal requirement for students to be at school and only the Principal can excuse her. Letters should be submitted two weeks before the planned absence.

MEDICATION FOR STUDENTS

A Student Medication Request Form, if required, is available for your daughter to collect from the College Office. For any medication that is to be administered at school (including Panadol and Asthma medication) this form must be filled in, authorized by a medical practitioner and returned to the College ASAP. Please note that we can not administer any medication without proper authorisation.

OFFICE ROLES

As the Deputy Principal, my role focuses on the successful completion of courses that our students undertake. Again this year, it will be my primary focus to ensure that our girls are studying the courses that best prepare them for their future. Hard work and diligence are indeed important to success but being on the correct path ensures our students a happy and successful future. Our Year 12 students are currently well under way with their preparation for the QCS tests later in the year, as well as being deeply immersed in their subject work. As well, my role will involve the day to day organisation in the College.

RESULTS

Huge congratulations go out to our past Year 12 students for their impressive performances in their final results. Students in the OP 1-10 range have been invited back to our first assembly. Statistically speaking, we had 35% of our students in the OP1-10 range (up from 32% last year) and 71% in the OP1-15 range (same percentage as last year).

Understanding the awarding of grades is often problematic for some students and parents as the processes that are used by the QSA are very complex. It is certainly not a simple case of 5VHAs = OP1 as every level (VHA for example) has 10 levels of grade within that is not reported to students by the QSA on the Exit Statement. Added to the information are the results from the group in the QCS Test so that, when all of the final calculations are completed, 5VHAs does not always beat (for example) 3VHAs and 2 HAs. The final calculations depend on the strength of the group in the subject and then, in turn, the strength of the result in the group. This complex mix cannot be explained simply or watered down to simply rules of thumb. Equally, the strongest factor in any result is the performance of the individual student.

TIMETABLES

Students in the senior Year levels will either have a blank space on the bottom of their timetables on Mondays and Fridays, or some allocated study lessons throughout the week. This is because of the different conditions for senior students. For those who do not have classes in Period Six on Mondays and Fridays, this signifies that the school day finishes for them at the conclusion of Period Five (2:02pm on those days). Any student who has study lessons allocated throughout the week due to University studies or TAFE commitments, will receive a customised letter explaining the options regarding these lessons.

SENIOR ASSESSMENTS

It is important to point out, particularly for seniors, that all senior assessments are graded according to strict criteria, which is

moderated through the QCAAA. In all subjects, there are NO POINTS FOR EFFORT. If you encounter a grade throughout the year which is less than satisfactory (this does happen from time to time), always refer back to the written criteria and how well this is addressed in the assignment – not by how long the assignment took or how much effort went in. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the assessment, initial contact with the class teacher can often explain exactly how the grading occurs. As usual, all email contact addresses are available through the college website.

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

Assessment schedules will be available soon in an electronic calendar format. This is so that students can easily integrate this into their electronic calendars on their computers and parents can have live access to the latest information. Most of the information regarding assessment times etc is already available through both the Student Portal and the Parent Portal – please contact the College Office if you are unsure how to access the Parent Portal.

Should parents have any questions regarding courses of work, assessment items or timetables, please do not hesitate to contact me via the College Office.

YEAR 7, 8 & 9 LAPTOPS

Laptops have been distributed in the first days of the year. Like mobile phones, there are times when laptops provide tremendous support to students and a time when they can be used as a distraction. Please embrace good sense when setting boundaries at home for these devices.

Simply:

- Internet access should be supervised all of the time – consider whether the location for the computer allows for easy monitoring by parents. “Researching” behind a closed bedroom door is never advisable. Ensure that YOU can see the screen as you walk past (not that your daughter can see you before you get to the screen).
- Communication Technology has “off time” – if your daughter cannot yet self-limit her use of email, chat or other communication technologies, make sure that the computer “recharges” overnight in your bedroom. This will reduce the temptation to stay up late into the evening.
- It never hurts to ask – ask your daughter how the computers are being used in the classrooms. Ask the teachers. Talk with other parents about good study habits etc.

The value of family support can never be understated in the role of achieving success for our students. It should be understood by all students that personal achievements rely on the depth of your commitment to the task at hand.

In all things: do your best, be your best - AD ALTIORA

Enjoy the fortnight ahead

Anthony Stevens
Deputy Principal (Acting)

Community Matters

The first week back at school is always busy for students, teachers and families as relaxing holidays are farewelled and school routines and organisation for the new academic year begins. Likewise, I have been busy preparing for the new role of Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing. My first task in this new roll was leading a training session with our very committed Big Sisters from Year 10 and 11. These students sacrificed a day out of their school holidays to set their Big Sister Vision for 2016 as well as taking time to prepare for their upcoming lessons in Semester 1. The mission set by the Big Sister team, with the assistance of Anita Macknish, was to ensure that each new student in Year 7 quickly forgets about their nerves and instead embraces and enjoys high school life. The Big Sisters also very sweetly vowed to treat each Little Sister as if they were their own “real” sister. I wish this group of students all the best for the semester long program and I’m sure they’ll experience both enjoyment and success. By the end of this week we had welcomed all new students to the College at our first assembly and reconnected with our returning students.

A reminder that if you have any questions or concerns regarding the pastoral care or wellbeing of your daughter this year that your first contact is their Pastoral Middle Leader. If your daughter is in Year 7 please call or email Anita Macknish, for Year 8 and 9 please contact Lucy Toumbas, for Year 10 and 11 please contact Celeste Amos and for Year 12 please contact Phil Parkinson.

The Parent Portal has also seen some new additions in 2016. Parents are now able to access information about their children using the *My Students* tab. This information includes:

- Name and photo
- Timetable and teacher names
- NAPLAN reports
- Attendance reports
- Awards

A second new feature will also be available soon entitled *My Details*. In this area parents can check their own details held on eMinerva. Parents are able to either confirm information or request changes. However, in the interim your daughter will have brought home a printed version of her eMinerva information. Please make any changes required and sign off that the information is now correct and ask your daughter to return the form to her Pastoral Care Teacher. The form should be signed and returned even if no changes need to be made.

Welcome to or welcome back to the Our Lady’s College family. I wish you and your daughters all the best for 2016.

Dona Archer
Assistant Principal
Student Wellbeing (Acting)

In the Tradition

Welcome back to all for 2016! This year we celebrate 150 years of Josephite education in Australia. Our Lady's College is proud of its heritage and we endeavour to keep alive the spirit of Mary MacKillop and the ethos of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Each year we use a quote by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as a guide for our year. In 2016 the quote is "Find happiness in making others happy." This quote reminds us of the value of service to others and the Student Leaders will explore the significance of this quote throughout the year. Students are asked to record the quote in the section on the front page of their College diary.

Upcoming Events:

Opening Mass

Our opening of the College year will be celebrated with Mass on Tuesday 9th February. This is an opportunity to place our prayers before God and pray for guidance and wisdom in the coming year. Following the Mass is the Commissioning ceremony for our Year 12 students.

Ash Wednesday

The College will celebrate Ash Wednesday in year level groups on Wednesday 10th February. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and the time of preparation awaiting Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is the most important date in the Christian calendar.

Project Compassion Launch

On Ash Wednesday we begin our collection for Project Compassion. Funds raised go to Caritas a Catholic organisation providing practical support and projects for people in need around the world.

Visit by staff from the Jewish Museum, Sydney

BCE is sponsoring a visit from this institution and Our Lady's College will have an opportunity on Friday 12 February to listen and learn about Judaism and the Holocaust. It should be informative and interesting.

Rosies Outreach

Year 12 student volunteers will attend a training day to learn about the Rosies Outreach program held on Sunday nights in the City. This is a rewarding opportunity and feedback from students is always positive.

JJAMM Conference

In February our College Captains, along with Mrs Holmes, will be attending a conference in Sydney with leaders from Josephite Colleges across Australia and New Zealand.

It promises to be a very busy term and I hope it is a joyful and successful time for all!

In God's Love,

Linda Brandenburg
Assistant Principal
Religious Education



Campus Minister

Welcome to the new school year, especially to our new Year 7 students beginning their high school journey. May your time at our Lady's College be one of growth and connection.

Our Lady's College offers a variety of opportunities to participate in social justice and outreach activities.

Next week Years 11 and 12 students will be invited to participate in some service opportunities reserved for our older girls. Year 12s may be a part of the Rosies Street Retreat Program that visits and offers companionship to the homeless. Years 11 and 12 girls are invited to visit our local Annerley Nursing Home on some Tuesday afternoons to spend time with the elderly residents and enable them to connect with their community.

I hope many girls will take these opportunities to reach out to others outside the school community and *'find happiness in making others happy.'*

Blessings for the year ahead

Kay Holmes
Campus Minister

Guidance Counsellor

Welcome back! I hope you are all feeling relaxed and energised for the year ahead. It has been wonderful to see familiar faces return this week and meet some new students.

Many of you will be familiar with my position at the school, but for those who are new to Our Lady's College, my role as Guidance Counsellor is to provide a relaxed and confidential space where students and/or parents can discuss with me any area of concern. This includes problems such as feeling worried, stressed or down, having difficulty focussing, problems managing anger, anxiety about tests or exams, or coping with conflicts. I am also here to answer questions about subject choices, post-school study or future pathways and careers.

My aim is to help students become more resilient and in control of their lives, in a positive way, and to help others understand what students are going through.

If students would like to make an appointment they can contact me by email (anna.wallace@bne.catholic.edu.au), come to my office in Student Services, or make an appointment with me at Student Services with Mrs Sharp or Mrs Dinnen. Parents are also welcome to contact me by email, phone or make an appointment with me at Student Services.

Wellbeing Resources and Information

Year 7 Getting Ready For High school

The Queensland government has put some resources together for Year 7s to help them transition to high school. There are some tips for parents too.

<http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/getting-ready-high-school/starting/Pages/home.aspx>

Career Resources and Information

UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test)

Year 12 students considering undergraduate admission to Medicine (provisional entry) or Dental Science at the University of Queensland will need a UMAT score to apply. UMAT registrations are open until 3 June . For more information and to register go to <http://umat.acer.edu.au> .

Taste of Navy Trades Year 10, 11, 12.

Interested in a **technical trade career**? The Specialist Recruiting Team – Women in the Navy are offering young women the chance to see some of the systems that are used to operate a Navy ship and try some of the trade skills that are used to keep a ship at sea.

It is essential to RSVP as spaces are limited! Follow this link for more information

<https://defencecareers.nga.net.au/cp/index.cfm?event=jobs.checkJobDetailsNewApplication&returnToEvent=jobs.listJobs&jobid=9c43454c-59e5-ef89-f6b1-8985a4f33189&CurATC=defenceworkexp&CurBID=ebdfcaa3%2Db025%2Df7b7%2D3bd4%2D6d3fa42b2291&JobListID=83aa67bb%2D5ab1%2D7a5e%2Da521%2D6d3e05dae980&jobsListKey=1a95ab2f%2D0fba%2D42d3%2Daf03%2Df2a7a8074540&JobCategoryID=ddd5f3bd%2D9d58%2D898a%2D66f%2D5b3a1ab2800d&persistVariables=CurATC,CurBID,JobListID,jobsListKey,JobCategoryID,JobID&lid=88481820046>

Anna Wallace
Guidance Counsellor

Sport

Welcome to Our Lady's College Sport 2016! An exciting year lies ahead, beginning with our inter-house swimming carnival. This will be held at Yeronga Pool on Monday, 8 February, starting at 8.30am. From this, students will be selected to train with the swimming squad in preparation for the inter-school carnival to be held on Thursday 10th March.

The CaSSSA Wednesday sports afternoons are also not too far away (beginning 24 February) and students will have the chance to sign up for senior/intermediate volleyball, senior/intermediate AFL, indoor cricket and junior touch at our school "market" day on Wednesday lunch time 3 February.

We are very excited to see what 2016 brings!!

John Boumford
HPE & Sports Middle Leader

Middle Leaders Report

PATHWAYS NEWS

Welcome back to the 2016 school year. The alternative pathways program is about to begin for the year. Students who have received offers from TAFE should have accepted them by now and completed the enrolment process. Once the enrolment confirmation is received the student should take this to Mr Stevens to change their current timetable. Students will also receive a calendar from TAFE outlining the term dates. These dates may differ from the College dates. There will be a meeting for all TAFE students early in the term.

Congratulations to the students who started traineeships in January. I am sure that you will find your training environment very rewarding.

The Year 11 students have the opportunity to start study in Certificate III in Sport and Recreation in partnership with Binnacle Training. This is an employment entry qualification and I am sure that the students will be very diligent with their participation in these classes.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to me at pgeraghty@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Paula Geraghty
Business and VET Middle Leader

Ad Altiora Place:

Ad Altiora Place

'more than just a library - a learning centre of information, instruction, immersion, inquiry and innovation'.

Welcome to 2016 to our students, staff, parents and community. We look forward to working with you to provide the best education services for your daughter.

Laptops - All students are reminded to ensure that their laptops are in good repair for 2016. Any issues with batteries, software or physical damage need to be dealt with as soon as the issue appears. Repair services are available before school and during break times.

Textbooks - all students have been emailed their digital code for textbooks. Any print textbooks can be collected before school or during break times if required.

Library Lover's Day 2016 - February 14 is the day to love your library. This year students will be able to choose a 'blind' date with a book to commence their reading fun for 2016. Visit <http://www.alia.org.au/libraryloversday> for more information.



BCE Connect – Now available BCE Connect is our new mobile app now available free from the app store for your mobile device. The app gives you mobile access to the parent portal including that latest news and announcements. Parents

can log into the portal via the app and notify the college of absences or detail changes while on the go. If you need any assistance in setting up or using the app please contact Maureen Twomey by email on mtwomey@bne.catholic.edu.au



Library Link - Students can now access our library services on their mobile devices by downloading the app Library Link. Library Link is a free app and once it is set-up on a mobile device it allows users to:

- Search for available resources
- Check alert messages for overdue or holds
- View library information such as location and opening hours
- Scan ISBNs or barcodes to automatically retrieve resources from the system
- View the library's latest resources
- View and place a renewal for your loaned items.

To set-up Library Link once it is downloaded on a mobile device, students will need to obtain their mobile password from staff in Ad Altiora



Follow Our Lady's College on Twitter @OLC4103 for the latest updates, news and information.



Follow Our Lady's College Instagram - olc4103

Maureen Twomey
Teacher-Librarian/eLearning Middle Leader

Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc

The Annerley-Stephen's History Group would like to take this opportunity to invite all staff, parents and student to our "Stories of Stephens" history conference which will be held on Saturday 27 February. Normal registration of \$40 will be reduced to \$15 per head to school students (only).

The Stephens Shire covered all part of: Yeerongpilly, Tennyson, Yeronga, Fairfield, Annerley, Moorooka, Wellers Hill, Ekibin, Tarragindi, Greenslopes, Holland Park and Mt Gravatt.

Mater Health Services

Do you love chatting to people? Do you want to help others? Do you have a passion for the care of the elderly? Then this may be the perfect position for you!

As a volunteer Client Companion, you will be visiting an elderly client once per week in their own home to assist them to continue living independently and enhance their quality of life by providing companionship, assisting with some transport and basic house duties. Your work is centred around the patient achieving goals & outcomes as agreed between the client and the social work team.

Whether it be helping with the preparation of meals, doing a spot of gardening or going for a walk together, your companionship can change a life of someone in need.

This service will at this stage be offered to clients around the Camp Hill and surrounding suburbs in a 15 kilometre radius area, so you must be willing to travel to these locations. You will be required to use your own vehicle but will be reimbursed for fuel and mobile phone usage that occurs to agreed limits.

Full training and orientation provided.

If you are a caring, kind and supportive person and can regularly donate 1 x 4 hour shift per week we would love to hear from you.

Volunteers are a valued and important part of Mater Health Services, enabling the organisation to maintain a wide range of services and support for patients, relatives and staff. Our volunteers embody the mission established by the Sisters of Mercy when they opened the first Mater hospital in Brisbane in 1906.

If you would like to find out more before expressing an interest, feel free to give us a call on 07 3163 8599 or email us at volunteers@mater.org.au

College Newsletter and 2016 Calendar

Access our College Newsletter and 2016 College Calendar via the College website

<http://www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au>

Important Dates and Deadlines

2 February - Tuesday	Year 7 Parent Evening Ad Altiora Place 7pm
8 February - Monday	Inter-house Swimming Carnival, Yeronga Swimming Pool
9 February - Tuesday	Opening Mass, 9am College Hall Shrove Tuesday
10 February - Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
12 February - Friday	Red for Rosies Day SRC Friendship Day
16 February - Tuesday	P and F Meeting 7.00pm College Board Room
17 - 19 February	Year 10 Camp
23 February - Tuesday	College Excellence Assembly, College Hall 8.50am
24 February - Wednesday	Rd 1 AFL/IC/SVB/JT
26 February - Friday	Welcome Barbeque New Families into College 5.00PM

Absentees

Please Phone: 07 3426 8095 prior to 9.00 am daily

Email Link: www.ourladycollege.qld.edu.au

Absentee Email: absenteeOLC@bne.catholic.edu.au

Or via the Parent Portal