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5 May 2017

Principal's Message



The Excellent Learning and Teaching agenda has been our priority at Our Lady's for many years now. Student improvement data and academic performance show that our deep knowledge of our learners, professional practice and dedicated staff are ensuring very good outcomes for our students.

Next week, Year 7s and 9s will be sitting NAPLAN. The results of this are provided to the College and to parents, via the College, in due course. Our teachers look at results to assist in identifying individual weaknesses. This informs teaching practice so that we can target for improvement. There is no specific study that the girls can do to prepare for the test. We simply ask that you encourage your daughter to do her very best knowing that this is a snapshot in time and that she has many gifts and talents that make her important in our community.

To continue to support the teaching and learning priority, the College engages in a number of student learning focused strategies. A key one being learning walks and talks. This week we welcomed Mr Mick Kelleher, our Area Supervisor. He spent time meeting with our Literacy and Numeracy Leaders, Learning Enrichment Leader, Deputy Principal and me looking at student performance and then visiting classrooms. The focus of the learning walks and talks is to ascertain how students are travelling in relation to their learning. There are five key questions:

1. What are you learning?
2. How are you going?

3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. What do you do when you get stuck?

The final question is very much about the student's learning disposition. This was a key focus of my address at assembly this week. Using the movie, "The Martian" as a point of stimulus and the Resurrection message highlighted in our prayer, I explored the theme of hope – in the face of adversity. I presented the girls with a poem to focus them this Term – the author of this piece is unclear, but the message might be one for the fridge door as a reminder and refocus.

REACH FOR THE STARS

If you think you are beaten, you are;
 If you think you dare not, you don't.
 If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
 It is almost a certain - you won't.
 If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
 For out in this world we find
 Success begins with a person's will
 It's all in the state of mind.
 If you think you're outclassed, you are;
 You've got to think high to rise.
 You've got to be sure of yourself before
 You can ever win the prize.
 Life's battles don't always go
 To the stronger or faster person;
 But sooner or later the person who wins
 Is the one who thinks, "I can!"

There were a number of "I can" responses to the recent Working Bee. Thank you to our committed P & F members, parents and students who painted approximately 60 seats for the girls' use, moved older seating and planted about 80 plants to beautify our school grounds. With our Open Day coming up this month on 20 May from 10am to 1pm, this work really helps to showcase the five year transformation of the physical site of Our Lady's College. We are very grateful to all who supported the Working Bee and to those able to support our upcoming

Open Day. If you are able to help out on the P & F stall for an hour or so, please contact Donna Wilson at the College.

Finally, congratulations to our tennis team who are competing in the Grand Final this weekend at Tennyson. Good luck Maxine, Bella, Mishka, Yav, Hannah and Jessica. We are very proud of you. Thank you to Ms Moore who has coached and be present each Saturday. We appreciate your dedication.

Shalom

Paula Goodwin
Principal

Teaching and Learning

NAPLAN

Next week, students from Year 7 and Year 9 will participate in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). A note has gone home to all students in these year levels outlining the need for specific materials (2B pencils etc) and the timing of the tests.

These tests are conducted in normal class time with the Language Conventions and Writing tests on Tuesday, Reading test on Wednesday and the Numeracy tests on Thursday.

NAPLAN has been designed to test the skills of students in literacy and numeracy in order to report to parents/carers and schools and to accommodate the assessment of students against the national benchmark standards. The information in these tests provide rich feedback to the school which is used to develop areas of focus for future targeted teaching to benefit students. As well, these test are valuable in providing valid external test practice in a safe and nurturing setting where students can develop their skills for sitting tests. Students don't seem to complain about driving tests (which are, by far, much more stressful) possibly because they know that they are a fact of life and provide access to a much needed facility - their license. When talking about any test, it is important to have this same attitude – it is simply an opportunity to gain access to the next level. A **growth** mindset (google DWECK) sets this squarely into perspective where a **fixed** mindset (“but I can’t do this.”) can be a crippling legacy for a student.

Last year, our results for NAPLAN were very good for the (then) Year 7 cohort and the Year 9 cohort were placed at the top of all Brisbane Catholic Education secondary schools (from the Gold Coast to Harvey Bay) in every test area for NAPLAN. Whilst it is indeed lovely to be achieving these outstanding results, the real benefits of NAPLAN are the wealth of information about the learning of our students and the areas of need that we can then action for the benefit of our students.

State-wide performance data will again be provided to school authorities and through the report to the Minister for Education, Training and the Arts. The MYSCHOOL website offers some insight into schools’ performance in these areas but often media reports offer information and agenda which is not helpful to gaining accurate information. Sometimes, the “create hype” agenda of media outlets bring confusing messages about the benefits of testing etc. In amongst all of this, it should be noted that these types of tests do provide useful information

that the school can analyse to assist with the development of targeted programs to assist your daughters. As these tests are conducted as normal exams, they present no real difference to end of term tests that students normally undertake.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Middle Leaders who have worked continuously to prepare our students for these exams in their various subject areas and I thank our students and staff for the dedicated and respectful way in which they have worked towards success in this testing.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

This week, we had the opportunity to have rich conversations with many parents as they joined with us to discuss their daughter's progress so far. Of course, not all parents are available on these occasions and I would remind parents that a complete set of email addresses is always available on the College website should you wish to make contact with one of your daughter's teachers.

As well, the Year 12 Parent Information meeting was held in Ad Altiora Place. This was well attended by both parents and students and provided an opportunity to have thoughts and questions about the events of Year 12 addressed.

Last Thursday afternoon, I spoke to the Year 11 students about the value of researching before taking action. The topic was the belief by some that they could not enrol in a University with an OP. I highlighted that the QTAC book provides both the OP cutoff and the RANK cutoff for the university courses. Hopefully, they have finally heard that both OP and non-OP pathways are valid entries to a university.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Anthony Stevens
Deputy Principal

Community Matters

Year 10 Camp occurred in Week 2 of this term and was an opportunity for students in the cohort to spend time deepening their bond with each other in an informal setting. I was fortunate enough to visit the camp on the Thursday afternoon and was thrilled to witness students engaging in physical and mental activities that pushed them beyond their limits and showed them what they're capable of achieving. I think the students will most likely remember joining together in song as they hiked up and down the campsite hills to and from their daily activities. The event was organised and supervised by Year 10 Pastoral Leader Lucy Toumbas who was ably supported by Year 10 Pastoral Teacher Paula Black and our new College Counsellor Kelly Worrell. Thank you to these staff members for the time they spent supporting the Year 10 students while they were on camp. I'm sure that these three days will remain a highlight for these students during their time in the College.

The first Tech Free Tuesday happened in Week 1 of Term 2. The SRC organised a variety of children's games, such as tunnel ball, and it was pleasing to see so many students leave their laptops in their lockers and engage in these games with others. Week 4 will see the students participate in an Inter-House Volleyball Competition. As an incentive, McKnoulty

points are up for the taking to encourage as many students as possible to get to know others in the school community.

As we are in the early stages of Term 2 it is timely for a reminder about the importance of school attendance and its correlation with performance. Whenever your child is physically and mentally able to attend school it is important that she is here. As we enter the winter months and colds and flus begin to immobilise the majority of us, it is highly recommended that during the early contagious stages that students remain home to recover before coming back to school. We all know that these days of illness will occur and it is important to minimise any other days that your child may not be at school, as she will most definitely miss important content in the classroom. In connection to this where possible, please try to make appointments and take holidays outside of regular school hours.

Last week an email was sent to parents cautioning them about the Netflix series '13 Reasons Why' and advising parents to discuss this program with their children if they have viewed it. Headspace are now offering parents and teachers access to a free online group chat on May 11 to support them in having this discussion with young people. Please click on the attached link if this is of interest to you

All the best for the fortnight ahead.

Dona Archer
Assistant Principal
Student Wellbeing

In the Tradition

Rosies

Thank you to all who donated items for our Outreach Program. Our last Rosies group will go on Sunday 28th May. Girls are able to be involved in Rosies after they turn 18 and can contact Rosies at the link below.

<http://rosies.org.au>



JJAMM Day

The JJAMM committee have been busy fine tuning the celebrations for JJAMM Day. This is held on Monday 7th August, the day before Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. JJAMM Day (Joseph Julian and Mary MacKillop) allows us as a community to focus on our tradition and Josephite Heritage. The day involves a special prayer service and celebration of the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Social Justice is a key theme and each year level is involved in a particular experience

e.g. Yr 11 and 12 students will have a presentation by a Rosies Team Leader, Yr 9 will be involved in a Benenson activity on homelessness. As well Vinnies and Benenson groups provide stalls on the day for fundraising. Finally, there are some fun community activities including the House Relay based around the life of Mary MacKillop and the House Singing Competition. The day is about involvement, community and social justice.

School Photos

Photos were taken on Thursday of this week. Thank you to the students for their cooperative behaviour on this day and the neat way you have presented in your uniforms. Just a reminder that all clothing items, in particular blazers and jumpers, should be clearly named.

In God's love,

Linda Brandenburg
Assistant Principal
Religious Education



Campus Minister

Easter

Year 11 Lambert led us in assembly prayer this week reminding us of the joy of the Easter season we are now in. We were sprinkled with water representing healing and cleansing as we commit to living the new life in Christ. May Easter blessings continue to be yours.

Centenary of Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima



This year marks the centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to three children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta at Fatima in Portugal from May to October in 1917. In the context of a world at war, the messages of Our Lady to the children, particularly the call to pray the Rosary, interceding for world peace, was an antidote the world sought to the moral and social threats it was experiencing at the time.

Mary MacKillop Awards

At this week's assembly, six girls were honoured with Mary MacKillop awards for their commitment to service, integrity and honesty, selfless actions, initiative in assisting others or their

kindness. Congratulations to Patricia Fry, India Boon-Scown, Ruby Parker, Tara Atigi, Julia Tualima and Rebecca Matapula for showing Mary MacKillop's spirit in their actions.

Prayers Please...

As Mothers' Day approaches, we honour those who give birth and nurture us. May our loving God bless mothers that they be nourished and strengthened in their life-giving, nurturing roles. Happy Mothers' Day to all the mums in the Our Lady's community.

Blessings,

Kay Holmes
Campus Minister

Guidance Counsellor

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kelly Worrell and I have recently joined Our Lady's College as the Guidance Counsellor while Anna Wallace is on leave. I am very pleased to be joining a school with a demonstrated commitment towards supporting the wellbeing, growth and development of young people.

During my first two weeks at Our Lady's College I have had the pleasure of meeting many students as they contemplate their course selections and future pathways. Most recently, I have returned from the year 10 school camp, where I had the opportunity to participate with this cohort as they explored, and literally jumped from their comfort zones. It was a wonderful experience to see the girls grow in their peer groups, develop greater trust for one another, and increase their confidence and ability during these three days.

On the 2nd of May I had the pleasure of meeting some of you at the Year 12 parent information evening, where I discussed aspects of QTAC and the application process for the year 12's. During the evening, I referred to some websites that include a wealth of information about the QTAC process, including a specific parent information section, career information, information on the varying institutions and guides, and financial support options. Please find these links below, and feel free to contact me with any questions.

<http://www.qtac.edu.au/home>

<https://www.myfuture.edu.au/>

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/>

<http://studyassist.gov.au/>

I look forward to the remainder of this year and getting to know each student at Our Lady's College during this time. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns for your child throughout the year. As parents, you are integral part of your children's social, emotional, and learning development, and I encourage you to actively participate in your child's experiences.

Warm Regards,

Kelly Worrell
Guidance Counsellor

Middle Leaders Report

Carnivals

After the successes of our Inter House and Inter School Swimming program in term 1, we turned our focus to Cross Country. Cyclone Debbie originally turned our Inter House carnival day into a wash out, but our rearranged date for the beginning of term two, could not have brought a better day! Our vibrant House colours adorned Yeronga Park, the venue for our Cross Country Carnival, and participation was at an all time high!

Under blue skies and perfect temperatures WOODS HOUSE were victorious!

Congratulations to all our age group champions!

12 Years and Under: Penelope BUI, Amelia MISI, Emily INGRAM

13 Years and Under: Isobel HUNGERFORD, Brianna MATTHEWS, Bridget MORRIS-McGARRIGLE

14 Years and Under: Grace HILL, Rafaela RODRIGUEZ-HANNOUF, Ava MALLON

15 Years and Under: Katherine BYERS, Tahlee KEMP, Nylow AJING

16 Years and Under: Phoebe WELSH, Alyssa HAIGH, Alice HILL

17 Years and Over: Rhiannan MURPHY, Ellie HARVEY, Ashleigh HATCHMAN

Students are now training hard for our upcoming Inter School Cross Country event at Limestone Park, Ipswich on Friday 26th May.

Trimester 1 Sport

Throughout Trimester 1, our Volleyball, Touch, AFL, and Indoor Cricket Teams have been busily training and competing every Wednesday afternoon in the Catholic Secondary Schoolgirls' Sports competition (CaSSSA). It has been an exciting and competitive Trimester with two of our teams playing for Premierships in their particular division. The Intermediate Volleyball team had a terrific season narrowly losing in the final to Loreto and the Junior Touch team had a finals win against Brigidine. A fantastic achievement for their first season!

Trimester Two will soon be under way and trials are currently being held for Soccer and Netball. Our top netballers at Junior, Intermediate and Open level are also training hard for the forthcoming Queensland Catholic Schools Netball competition to be held on May 16th.

MET EAST Sport

Some of our students have been trialling for a number of sports at District level in order to represent Met East this year. I am pleased to announce that both Tahlee KEMP and Sarive ZENA were successful at their recent AFL trials and have been selected to represent Met East on the Sunshine Coast later this month. A wonderful achievement!

John Boumford
Health & Sport Middle Leader

Fees and Levies

Access our College Fees and Levies via the left side panel above on this e newsletter or the College website under enrolments.

College Newsletter and 2017 Calendar

Access our College Newsletter and 2017 College Calendar via the College website below.

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

Important Dates and Deadlines

14 May – Sunday	Mothers' Day
15 May – Monday	Powerhouse of Leaders
16 May – Tuesday	P&F Meeting – 7pm
16 May – Tuesday	QC Cup
16 May – Tuesday	Year 8/9 Parent Afternoon Tea
18 May – Thursday	Year 10/11 Community Service Project
20 May – Saturday	College Open Day – 11am-1pm
24 May – Wednesday	College Mass
25 May – Thursday	7-10 Cyber Safety Presentation
26 May – Friday	Inter-School Cross Country

Absentees

Please Phone: 07 3426 8095 prior to 9.00 am daily

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

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

Or via the Parent Portal