Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

The new year brings with it new promise, new directions and new energy. All this comes at a time when coastal Queensland struggles, once again, with a significant rain event. We have witnessed another flood event and have also witnessed incredible resilience amongst the hardship and loss. We humans are truly amazing creatures. We can achieve and overcome more often than not and we can only do these things with positive motivation and the essential help of others.

The heavy rains and floods signpost for us the strength of character required to battle through adversity and to see disasters and trouble, not just as bad happenings, but as opportunity. My wish is that we can all draw on the strength of others this year to quietly achieve great things, light the path for others and open doors to limitless opportunities.

These opportunities for the year, and the example of so many “Good Samaritans” in our communities experiencing hardship, provide an obvious Segway to introducing our theme for 2013: “Healing”. We all need and require healing of some sort in our lives and we aim to venture down this path and enable all of us to offer healing, and be healed, in a multiplicity of ways.

Welcome to St. John’s College community all our 124 Year 8 students and about thirty other new students in other year levels. We welcome to our community new teaching staff – Christina Budge (Maths ICT); Penny Horton-Stephens (Maths with Kym Dawkins); Rob Bell (Maths); Nick Waters (ITD, Graphics, Maths); Mark O’Connor (APA) and Natalie Clapoudis (Guidance Counsellor). We welcome all returning staff members and we welcome our new parents and carers as we prepare for another busy year ahead.

News on the baby front is that we have two new baby girls. Roz and Tegan both have a little girl to look after and we pass on our congratulations and best wishes. Both Roz and Tegan will take most or all of this year as Maternity Leave.

During the holidays the:

- Home Ec / Science and Admin all had an external repaint (first since 1996)
- Manual Arts had an internal repaint including floors
- The top of the old double story had the asbestos tiles removed and replaced with a new insulated roof with new lights and fans
- Air conditioning was installed to these rooms
- The back car park had the road widened and bitumen laid and proper drainage installed and 15 new car parks were added
- The bus will be housed beside the sports shed in its new shed (currently under construction)
- An awning is also under construction for back veranda leading to 16c
- New handrails in the old assembly area and outside the new double story block have been installed
- All carpets were steam cleaned
- Annual pest control undertaken
- A new Home Ec kitchen was created in Rm 12.
- Room 13 will be transformed for the sewing room with new power outlets
- Lockers have been removed from the northern side of Drama and located in various areas of the school
- The locker room near the Tech Ed area has been reconfigured
- Rachelle Pinese has relocated to room 15
- We have finalised a design and quote for a Gym under the manual arts block
- A major self-funded project to build a new tuckshop / walkway / seating area / car park / open plan for the top of the school has also been finalised and submitted tomorrow to BCE for approval
- Professional cleaners have been appointed and will be here onsite from 3pm to 6pm every week day of each term

I would like to thank Brenden Hood for his excellent work in managing these happenings and coordinating the many holiday jobs. The school grounds look great and there is still more to do over the next two years as we welcome Year 7 in 2015.
Our OP Results were excellent again for St. John’s students. Two students attained OP1 ranking and many others achieved great results. I have listed the top OP 1-5 results below as well as the once again extraordinary percentages achieved by year 12 OP students. These results are up there with the best in Queensland:

Our OP students have achieved great results again with **25% attaining an OP 1-5; 51.3% an Op 1-10 and 89.2% an OP 1-15**.

These are outstanding results again and indicate the positive and dedicated education at St. John’s. We compete on par with or better than local private schools and those across Qld that offer scholarships for the bright and gifted; our teachers are second to none and our students strive to be extraordinary.

I know that you all take great pride in the achievements of your children no matter what score that has been achieved and I congratulate you on your dedication to your child’s education and please pass on to them my sincere and proud congratulations.

**OP 1:** Lachlan Haycock, Ryan Fitzsimon

**OP 2:** Courtney Brown, Emma Dunn, Tessa Kurtz

**OP 3:** Suzie Imarisio, Hamish Armstrong, Summer Brady, Kate James, David Lynch

**OP 4:** Danni Heiniger, Benjamin Hodges, Michaela Jensen, Amelia Nolan

**OP 5:** Grace Ashby, Kane Kennedy, Elizabeth Lynch, Megan Vella

**OP 6:** Alana Fay

**OP 7:** Sarah-Jane Abt, Samantha Hayward, Paul Klapper, Erin Malcolmson, Brenton Sando, Eliza Wheeler

**OP 8:** Robert Carswell, Jarrah Grant, John Murphy

**OP 9:** Lucy Coen, Samantha Guy, Grace Mills, Jacob Shannon

**OP 10:** Jacob Coyle, Rani Foley, Matthew Harris, Georgina Loughnan, Madeleine Roberts, Georgia Vontas

These results as a group are outstanding and much is due to the hard work and efforts over two years by students and teachers and the concerted efforts by staff involved in delivering QCS practices and strategies - as tedious as this may have seemed.

**Uniforms** have been worn well for the first three days- thank you parents for this insistence on the correct uniform and neat attire. **Hats** are a compulsory part of the uniform and should be worn with the uniform **to and from college** and whilst outside, although they are best kept out of the rain. We will be insisting on this aspect of uniform and sun safety this year and request your support to make sure your children leave home with their hats on.

My big issue at the moment is the length or lack of length with some of the dresses and skirts. Dresses and skirts need to be at the middle of the knee or lower and **definitely not above the knee**. This issue needs to be resolved by Monday please for a minority of students.

The **Opening Mass** will be held at school at **8.45am on Thursday, February 7**. The welcoming of year 8 and commitment of college leaders will take place during the mass. The welcome and meet the teachers **BBQ** will be held on the same afternoon, **Thursday February 7** at 5.30pm. All are welcome to both events. At this occasion parents are welcome to tour the refurbishments of the kitchen, library and back courts.

The first **P&F Meeting** will be held next Tuesday February 5** at 6.30pm. This meeting will devote some of its time to the organisation for the Welcome BBQ. New members to the P&F are required and welcomed. Come along – there are only seven meetings in the year; come along and join this illustrious, supportive and industrious group. The AGM will occur at our second meeting on March 5**.

As you can see, 2013 has begun with a flurry and we would not have it any other way. Good luck to all and as G.K Chesterton writes:

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular person made New Year resolutions, they would make no resolutions. Unless a person starts afresh about things, they will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a person starts on the strange assumption that they never existed before, it is quite certain that they will never exist afterwards. Unless a person be born again, they shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.”

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Chris Gold
Principal

Unbind and Set Free
From The Deputy

Welcome to 2013! Many thanks to the parents that have ensured that their children are all ready for school. The vast majority of students are wearing their uniform correctly and with pride and are a real credit to their families and the school. As in previous years all students will be required to have their hats on their heads when outside a classroom from Monday. This year we will be extending the enforcement of this to before and after school.

The buses are running smoothly but please be aware that our bus area is used as a turn around for many buses- not just school ones. This means that cars should not be parked there and left unattended as some of the larger buses cannot manoeuvre without using the full space. As we have 600 students walking up and down the hill in the morning and again in the afternoon, parents are asked to drop off and collect their children from Perwillowen Road in the 2.45 – 3.05 timeslot or from the bus area at other times. This is safer for all concerned.

School Photos will be taken on Tuesday 12th February. On Monday each student will receive an information package. Please ask for this and return to the College on the photo day. As the photos are used to produce the whole class photo and the student ID cards it is important that every student attends school in their full academic uniform on that day. Girls are asked to wear skirt and blouses and all boys are asked to wear their school ties.

Dave Cuskelly
Deputy Principal

From the APA

Welcome back to St John’s in 2013!

It has been a source of great pleasure and pride that over the last two weeks I have been able to say that I work at St. John’s College, and I am thankful for the very welcoming community which I have joined here. There are so many positives which we will be aiming to build on throughout this year, and I am very much looking forward to working with the students, parents and staff in this wonderful College.

Subject changes.

Students in Years 9 to 12 have been spoken to this week about their subject options and what the process is if they have decided that they wish to change their classes. Any student thinking of changing does need to collect the relevant form from me as soon as possible.

The deadline for all applications for subject changes for this semester is Monday, February 11.

Please be aware that many classes are already full, and simply filling in a change request form does not guarantee that the change will be possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact me through the College as soon as possible to discuss these.

Mark O’Connor
Assistant Principal – Administration

Welcome back to the 2013 school year.

Our first item of housekeeping for the year is the “Family Details Update” information sheet that has been posted home to all families in the last two weeks. Detailed on these sheets is the information we currently hold on record for your son/daughter. It is most important for St John’s to have current emergency contact names and phone numbers incase of emergencies for students.

It is imperative to send this paperwork back to St John’s College with or without any changes to be made as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Maree Cuthbertson
Secretary to the Principal
From the Business Manager

School Speed Zones

Please remember that now school has returned for 2013 that the roadway on Perwillowen Rd and the Roundabout are 40km an hour zones between 7.00am and 9.00am and 2.00pm and 4.00pm. This is for the safety of your children.

Please do not park in dangerous or illegal spaces in these areas also as this may result in increased risks for other drivers and children during peak periods.

School Fees

Fees for Term 1 have now been sent to all families. If you have any issues please do not hesitate to contact the office to discuss.

Concession forms have also been sent to the many families who have requested an application for 2013. If you have not received a concession form and would like one please do not hesitate to contact the office for a form to be sent out.

Brenden Hood
Business Manager
ARTSPACE

HELLO FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT and welcome to the Year 8 students. In our cultural calendar for 2013, we will be putting on a medium sized drama production in August. The production team has almost decided on the play. We will keep you posted!

Auditions will take place next Wednesday afternoon from 3-5pm in the GSC. The students who expressed interest in auditioning received a letter after today's assembly.

The performances will be held in the Nambour Civic Centre in the smaller theatre. All rehearsals will be at the college outside of school hours. There will also be rehearsals at the Civic Centre prior to the performances. The majority of the afternoon rehearsals will be held every Thursday from 3-5pm. There will also be some Sunday rehearsals throughout the production period. It is very important that you are aware of this commitment before you have your son or daughter audition for the production.

What you need to bring: water bottle, comfortable clothes, a big smile

Audition program:
* small and large group movement exercises
  * individual auditions for lead roles
  * pair or small group auditions for support roles
  * group improvisations

Preparation: 
**Lead role** – 1 minute memorised character monologue

**Support role** – 1-3 people auditioning together speaking 1-2 minutes of memorised script - a conversational extract from an existing script

Although the memorised speaking component of the audition is very important to casting the production, the group improvisations are vital in determining roles. Therefore, it is essential that your son or daughter will be present for the entire audition time. I would also request that parents are not present at the auditions as this may inhibit the students in the audition process.

Students can use an excerpt from an English monologue or they can google ‘audition monologues for student actors’ to select a piece to memorise.

Thank you for your understanding and support. If you have any further queries, please ring during school hours and I will endeavour to get back to you or email: kkiernanmolloy@bne.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to an exciting year in the Arts.

From the Campus Minister

Welcome to all our students and their families for an event filled term.

As we enter into our second week of the school year I would like to introduce myself to new families. My name is Tracey Langford and I am the college Campus Minister. What does that mean… I provide faith, spiritual and pastoral support to the students, their families and staff at school. This can extend to the Parish and the community.

At St John’s we offer many opportunities for young people to utilise their gifts and talents to live their faith. This can be through service of others through social action and justice activities, contributing to school liturgies, participating in school celebrations and events. We also encourage parent participation and have various programs that require parent volunteers.

The sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist are offered to students at John’s College and are sponsored by Father Graham Gatehouse and St Joseph’s Catholic Church Nambour. We welcome new members into our community of faith and encourage families to support students in their faith development.

Date Claimers

Thursday 7 February Opening Mass at St John’s MPC commencing 8.45 am
Families and friends welcome.
12 February- Shrove Tuesday-Social Action committee will be selling pancakes before school, morning tea and lunch.
Money will be going to Project Compassion.

Ash Wednesday is the 13 February
A young person’s Lenten program will commence this week in the GSC from 8 am - 8.30. Please talk with Ms Baker or myself to find out more.

I invite you to contact me on 5441566 or email tlangford@bne.catholic.edu.au if you require further information or would like to be involved in our school community.

Peace and blessings
Tracey Langford
Campus Minister
**TERM TIMES FOR 2013**

Friday 29 March  
Good Friday holiday

Monday 1 April  
Easter Monday holiday

Term 1 Holidays  
Tuesday 2 April - Friday 12 April

Monday 15 April  
All students commence Term 2

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**New family group starting in Nambour**

A new family group is starting at St Joseph’s and interested people are welcome to join.

The group will be formed under the Passionist Family Group Movement. The movement was started in 1972 by Fr Peter McGrath cp and family groups are now common in many parishes in Australia and overseas.

The movement states: “Family groups create an extended family atmosphere within the community and are open to everyone. Our focus is on people caring for, loving and accepting each other.

A family group is made up of 10-12 families with a cross section of ages, including some children of the same age -like an extended family. Everyone is welcome to join, from grandparents to babies. There is room for non-church attending spouses and friends, one-parent families and single people, elderly or young. The groups gather once a month for a picnic, barbecue etc to enjoy being with one another which develops into supportive relationships. Some get-togethers are just for the adults (to give parents of young children a bit of breathing space) while others include the children.”

You can register your interest with either Mark Warnick 0438330939 or Cinzia Zabellan 54485754 or parish office on 54411034. The first planning meeting will be held on February 10.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**TUESDAY 8.00am - 3.45pm**