Dear Parents, Students, Staff, Friends and Carers,

I have just finished reading a fascinating story by a Father Edward Dowling explaining the origins of the “Twelve days of Christmas”. I would like to share some of this with you below:

The carol dates back to the 16th century and its precise author is unknown. It has generally been assumed to consist of twelve nonsense verses built around a pretty melody. But in a fascinating article in Our Sunday Visitor (12/20/92), Fr. Gilhooley, a chaplain at St. Mary’s College, informs us that the carol was written by the English Jesuits of the 16th century as a catechetical device and it is far from filled with nonsensical verses.

The carol is akin to the apocalyptic literature of Scripture that used obscure symbols to hide its true meaning from the enemy in time of persecution.......in 16th century England.

““The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written to educate the faithful in the doctrines of the faith and yet not be obvious to the persecutors. The numbers are simply a mnemonic to help Catholics remember some basic facts.....

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” celebrates the official Christmas season which starts liturgically on Christmas Day and ends twelve days later on the Feast of the Epiphany. “My true love” refers to God, “me” is the individual Catholic. The “twelve lords a leaping” are the twelve basic beliefs of the Catholic Church as outlined in the Apostles Creed. The “eleven pipers piping” are the seven Apostles who remained faithful after the treachery of Judas. The “ten ladies dancing” are the Ten Commandments. The “nine drummers drumming” are the nine choirs of angels which in those days of class distinction were thought important. The “eight maids a milking” are the Eight Beatitudes. The “seven swans a swimming” are the Seven Sacraments. The “six geese a laying” are the Six Commandments of the Church or the six days of creation. The “five golden rings” are the first five books of the Old Testament called the Torah which are generally considered the most sacred and important of all the Old Testament. The “four calling birds” are the Four Gospels. The “three French hens” are the Three Persons in God or the three gifts of the Wise Men. The “two turtle doves” represent the two natures in Jesus: human and divine or the two Testaments, Old and New. The “partridge” is the piece de resistance, Jesus himself, and the “pear tree” is the Cross.

Father Edward Dowling is the author of Have You Heard the Good News: Cycle A available through St Pauls – www.AlbaHouse.org. Reprinted with permission by the publisher. All rights reserved.

Last week I placed some question marks over our hat issue and I would like to thank the parents who wrote to me over last weekend. We shall revisit the “hats” issue early next year.

This week we farewell the Year 10 and 11 students for their Christmas break and I would like to thank all these students for their excellent year and especially make mention of another successful boat trip for Year 11 and a the Year 10 Dance. Thank you to all the parents for your attendance at this latter occasion and to your support for your children throughout the year.

Next week is the last week for Year 8 and 9 students. There is an alternative program organised for these students as well as a fun weekend. We shall revisit the “hats” issue early next year.

Next year we will welcome 140 new Year 8 students to the college and numerous new students across the year levels. Our numbers have increased to 627 for the beginning of next year, a great indication of the demand for positions at St John’s and also a good insight into the great work of our teachers.

Teachers are busy finalising reports and these will be mailed to you at the beginning of the holidays. I certainly hope that the reports are a true reflection of your efforts this semester. If the reports are not indicative of your capabilities, you will need to make some changes to your study and work habits for 2014.

Next year we will welcome 140 new Year 8 students to the college and numerous new students across the year levels. Our numbers have increased to 627 for the beginning of next year, a great indication of the demand for positions at St John’s and also a good insight into the great work of our teachers.

Sadly we will lose a number of students who will attend schools locally or across the State or will be moving interstate. I wish all these young people the very best for 2014 and extend the invitation to return to St. John’s if your circumstances change.

Finally, I would like thank all the community for their efforts this year, your support and spirit and love of all things “Johnnies”. This is a fine school with strong traditions, strength of character and is truly an authentic Catholic Christian community. I wish you all the peace of the Christmas break and remember: “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

Chris Gold
Principal
From the Assistant Principal

Year 9 Preparation for the Workforce Day:

This will be taking place on Wednesday, December 4, and it is expected that all students from Year 9 are in attendance on this day unless previously advised to the College. Regular school uniform is expected to be worn on this day.

Students will be undertaking a series of tasks and these will culminate in students being given the information which will be needed to start organising their work placement sessions over the Christmas holidays.

In order for this day to be totally beneficial to students, they will need to make sure they have brought the following with them:

- Appropriate writing materials (preferably pens!)
- A fully charged Laptop
- A copy of their Birth Certificate (NOT THE ORIGINAL!) - or at least have with them the number of this document. [This will be used for the applying for a Tax File Number session]

All students will be e-mailed the required information early next week. Parent and Carer assistance in ensuring that these requirements are met would be greatly appreciated.

Reports:

Reports for Years 8 – 11 students will be posted home last next week where possible.

Parents and Carers are encouraged to make contact with relevant teachers early in 2014 if they have questions or concerns. Even though the student’s teacher may change next year, the feedback from the previous teacher could be very helpful in improving areas which are of concern.

We will also be encouraging teachers to be proactive in contacting parents if they have concerns before posting reports out. Our aim as teachers should always be to ensure there are no “nasty surprises” when you open these reports so early contact is an important aspect for all staff.

For current Years 8, 9 and 10 students, you will also find a letter enclosed about final subject allocations at this time. Please read this carefully to ensure students are aware of what is required if they wish to make changes next year. Years 9 and 10 students in 2014 will only have one week to undertake this at the start of the year so it is important that they be aware of this. Year 11 students will have three weeks to finalise their subjects for Semester One.

Term Dates for 2014 and beyond:

For some months now I have been providing the link for term dates for the Academic years of 2014 and 2015. These continue to be available on the Brisbane Catholic Education website at:

http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/TermDates.aspx

Parents are asked to check these dates carefully BEFORE booking any travel plans which take students out of school before the end of term. We do realise that tourism-related businesses offer cheaper options if you are able to holiday outside of the regular school holiday breaks, so this does make that option particularly attractive.

However, a minority of students are missing assessment pieces towards the end of each term and this does cause difficulties. This is not only the case for preparing suitable reports for those students, but also when looking at appropriate placements for future subjects and class groups. Students may also miss out on information such as elective allocations and miss deadlines for subject changes.

Senior students will always have a large amount of assessment due in the last two weeks of each term - including any allocated Assessment Blocks. The evidence this year has clearly shown that students who are absent during this time and are made to do “catch-up” upon their return to school are not receiving results which are totally reflective of their abilities. Particularly in Year 12, this can have significant impacts for placements within class groups, and in the end, their overall final results.

As a College we are constantly re-evaluating many of our programs, including the timing and methods of assessment used to try and maximise student participation and achievement.

Thanks

As we draw to a close of my first year at St John’s in this role, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their welcoming of me and efforts in accommodating the change.

In particular, I would like to convey my thanks to:

- The other members of our Leadership Team who have “taken me under their wing”;
- The Learning and Year Level Coordinators I have worked closely with in this role;
- All of the other College Staff who constantly go above and beyond expectations;
- Every parent and student who make this community so much more than just another educational institution (with special reference to my Year 9 Business class who constantly tell me they are the best students in the whole school!!)

I did think when I accepted this job I had a pretty good idea what being at St John’s was all about ….. How wrong I was!

It is all you expect – and so much more!!

As we move onwards and upwards in 2014 and beyond, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas break, and we look forward to all of the marvellous experiences together ahead in the years to come.

Mark O’Connor – Assistant Principal
CRISTINA CLARK

Cristina received a First placing for her age in Intermediate KATA at the Coolum Annual Karate Competition.

Well done Cristina.

REMINDER ABOUT TEXT BOOKS

All Text books are now due back to Text Hire.

If all students could please return these books as a matter of priority that would be greatly appreciated.

Danielle Twomey
Uniform Conveyor

LAST CALL

Enrolment Year 8 2015

• Do you have a sibling of a current St John’s College student who would be in Year 8 2015?
• If so, you need to contact the St John’s office as soon as possible as we have already started interviewing for Year 8s 2015 and places are filling up fast.
• Phone 5441 5666 for an enrolment pack.

Please note: Year 7 2015 will be interviewed in March/April 2014.

St John’s College is in the process of establishing the structures for the addition of Year 7 students to high school in 2015.

Parents of current Year 5 students are invited to provide St John’s with their email address if they would like to be sent any relevant information relating to their son or daughter starting Year 7 in 2015. This will allow us to keep you up to date and inform you directly of due dates of our enrolment process.

Please send your email address to Maree Cuthbertson at: mcuthbertson@bne.catholic.edu.au
St John’s College, Nambour

Welcome to high school year 7, 2015

We are delighted for you to be members of our community in 2015. As Year 7 students, you will engage in the extensive curriculum offered here at St John’s College.

You will study six core subjects for the year. You will also experience elective subjects from the arts, the humanities, and technologies.

**Core subjects**
- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Religious Education/and
- Physical Education

**Elective Subjects**
- Arts
- Technologies
- Geography
- Languages
- Business & Economics
- Civics & Citizenship

**Pastoral Care**
- Morning roll call and Pastoral Care will see you, as a Year 7 student paired with a Year 9 student and a Year 11 student who will be your “Buddies” throughout the year
- You will then remain with your Pastoral Care teacher and with your same PC group until you graduate Year 12 in 2020

**Teachers and Classrooms**
- You will be taught by a variety of teachers who are specialist in their subject area
- You will have the opportunity to move throughout the campus as you access specialist facilities

**Specific Events for Year 7 Students Only**
- Welcome BBQ in Term 1 - Camp and Retreat Days - Buddy Afternoons (Years 7, 9 and 11) - End of Year Activities

**Expression of Interest**
If you are interested in becoming part of our community for year 7, 2015 contact the school and leave your email address. Further information and important dates will be communicated via this contact.

**Important Dates**
- Year 7 2015 Information Night is Wednesday 12 March 2014
- Year 7 2015 interviews take place during the week beginning Monday 24 March 2014
- Enrolment packs will be distributed to St Joseph’s and Stella Maris in early March 2014
- Enrolment packs will be available early in 2014
On Tuesday, the P&F held the final meeting for 2013 followed by a break up dinner. On behalf of the executive, I would like to offer our sincere thanks. Your support this year has enabled many new ventures to assist students and the college community:

- Improvement to the playing fields
- Purchase of new musical instruments including keyboards
- Suits/costumes and sponsorship of the amazing school production “Love Gone Wilde”
- Sponsorship of students undertaking sports and representing our school nationally and internationally
- Assisting the building of a school in East Timor
- Ongoing School Bus Sponsorship
- Welcome sausage sizzle BBQ for new students and parents
- Fundraising through the Sunshine Coast Show Gate

I would like to thank the all new supporting team in a year when we took on an extra fundraising venture at the Sunshine Coast Show Show Gates which raised an extra $5000 funds above the P&F levy. Special thanks go to the secretary Meg McNaught (who attended early morning meetings), Tracy Langford and Margaret Norris and the Rotarians from Woombye and Nambour Clubs and of course over 160 parents, students and teachers who helped at the SHOW GATES and made this a great success.

My personal vote of thanks goes to Chris Gold and David Cuskelley (who acted as Principal in term 3) and all the dedicated staff and parents and volunteers who made the St John’s world one filled with sprit and generosity throughout the year.

On behalf of the P&F I wish you all a safe and holy festive season and look forward to the challenges of supporting our school in the planning for and welcoming of the year 7s in 2015.

Yours in Christ,

Damien Quinn
P&F PRESIDENT 2013

School Fees 2013

Thank you to all the wonderful families who have paid school fees or made financial plans & arrangement with the College.

Your continued support assists the College with providing a quality education for your son/daughter.

Please contact the College immediately if you have not been able to meet your financial obligation so that we can assist you with this matter.

May you and your family have a wonderful, safe and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2014.

Kim Harrison (Business Manager) & Marie Stokes (Acting Finance Secretary)
St John’s College Vinnies Christmas Gift Appeal

How you can help those in need this year

St John’s College is working in collaboration with the Nambour St Vinnies to assists people and families in need who, without our support, may not experience all that Christmas has to offer.

We have requested donations of gifts and food and we will put together especially designed hampers that will be distributed before the big day. Last year we assisted over 70 families, couple as and single people. The hampers include food, mostly Christmas fare but also gifts. Many families find that stretching the budget to include gifts even for children is impossible. Sadly, many single people who live far from family, or are estranged from them, face a Christmas season alone. A hamper helps bring joy into the lives of those we assist.

Each PC has been given gift Suggestions for children and teenagers and food items. We gratefully accept donation to buy items for the Hampers. Vinnies can provide a receipt for tax purpose if required.

Collection
Please bring the items to school. We will be packing the hampers at St Joseph’s Primary school Hall, Reilly Road Nambour on Monday December 16th commencing at 9 am. We need assistance to wrap presents and put the hampers together. Any donations can also be brought to the Hall on that day or alternatively you can contact Tracey Langford 0417071168 for collection.

Thank you for your support.
Tracey Langford and Penny Horton Stephens
Coordinators St John’s Vinnies Christmas Appeal

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

STELLA MARIS PARISH
MAROOCHYDORE, COOLUM, BUDERIM and SIPPY DOWNS

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ST JOSEPH’S PARISH
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CALOUNDRA PARISH
CALOUNDRA, BOKARINA, BEERWAH, MOOLOOLAH, KAWANA, LANDSBOROUGH, MALENY, KENILWORTH, LITTLE MOUNTAIN AND CURRIMUNDI

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CHRISTMAS DAY
WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER
END OF YEAR DANCE: Year 10
YEAR 12 GRADUATION PHOTOS
YEAR 12 GRADUATION PHOTOS
ARTSPACE

Year 9 Mask Construction

Some of the work is being displayed in the library.
Thank you to the following sponsors for supporting our Golf Day.

**THE SILVA KITCHEN**
Margaret McWilliams
10 Lake Kawana Boulevard
Birtinya
Phone (07) 5438 8848

**North Shore Body Corporate**
936 David Low Way
Maroochydore QLD 4564
(07) 5448 8725  northshorebodycorp.com.au
Parent of St John’s College - Mrs Cathy Blanchard

**Close Financial Planning**
PO Box 1748
Sunshine Plaza Qld 4558
Suite 3 1st Floor CUA Plaza
54 Baden Powell Street
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558
Phone: (07) 5475 4511

**Coastwide Automotive Repairs**
0419 679 249
Martin Pringle (Marty)
Email: m_pringle@bigpond.com

**Gregson & Weight**
Funeral Directors

**MALOUF PHARMACIES**

**I&H Lawrence & Hanson**

**Fujixerox Business Centre Sunshine Coast Pty Ltd**
30 Maud Street
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558
Ph: 07 5451 7333  Mobile: 0412 821 640
Fx: 07 5451 7399
Email: grantk@fxbcs.com.au
www.fxbcs.com.au
UNIFORM SHOP
and
TEXT HIRE
OPENING TIMES FOR TERM 4
MONDAY 8.15am - 4.00pm
and
WEDNESDAY 8.15am - 4.00pm

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Business             Kim Harrison
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Manager              
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Absentee Line:       5444 9299
Email:               snambour@bne.catholic.edu.au
Twitter:             @SJC_Nam
Fax:                 5441 7399
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aobrien@bne.catholic.edu.au
acorboy@bne.catholic.edu.au

http://on.fb.me/12GGNI0