Dear Parents, Friends and Carers,

Cyclone Marcia has certainly caused some havoc this week on the Sunshine Coast, not to mention around Yeppoon and “Rocky”. I would like to thank all parents for their due diligence in making any decisions as to sending their children to school or not. These are always difficult times when authorities provide as much information as they can about roads, flooding and weather conditions. Bus companies make their decisions which takes it out of our hands and unfortunately Education Authorities and the State Government are always loathe to close schools. There are only around 110 students at school today.

The other big wet event this week was the Swimming Carnival. What a blessing it was to have had to put in on earlier in the week and avoid the disappointment of a cancellation. Numbers at the carnival were brilliant, participation was first rate and the atmosphere of competition and fun was outstanding. I would like to publically thank Mr John Calvo for his great work in organisation for his first carnival and to the rest of the staff and parent helpers who pitched in and made the day as smooth as possible. Also I must congratulate the extraordinary role played by our senior students and House captains. Congratulations to Casuarina on a fine victory. (Perhaps this is an omen for other Blues teams later this year)

Our Lenten time has begun and the Liturgy on Wednesday morning was a well prepared and meaningful occasion. Once again the attitude and reverence of the students was just what we would expect and our new staffs at the College have commented to me that they are not used to such excellent behaviour, reverence and participation and they are in admiration of our young people. Further to this, I would also like to wish all the best to 14 students who embark on their Sacramental program leading into Easter. I encourage more students and parents to become involved in this program in the future as you may have missed out on some of your Sacraments over the years and we are only too happy to help you achieve this and more than happy to welcome more young people into the fullness of the Sacraments and to develop their Faith and spirituality.

During this Lent take time to reflect and make changes in your life. Change makes us uncomfortable, change is a challenge and we must want to change more than we want to stay the same. Regardless, change in our lives is dynamic and required if we are to come closer to God and be witness to the Kingdom that is alive in all of us. One of the things that I believe we all need to do better is to reflect on our misgivings rather than of those around us.

The Catholic story is embedded in recognising our faults, acknowledging them, asking for forgiveness, reconciling with others and then setting about to “fix” ourselves. This process used to be called Confession and now we know it as Reconciliation. It is a Sacrament, and a powerful sacrament, that unfortunately, because it was quite ruthless and guilt-based in the “old days” that we have tended to abandon it altogether. The results of this are that we seldom admit our own errors, blame everyone else for what we did and make unreasonable judgements about others. Perhaps we need a return to the strong belief that self - reflection, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation is at the heart of a deep understanding of self and of knowing the unconditional love of God.
"Do not judge so that you will not be judged: (Matthew 7:1)
"Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

(Matthew 7:1-6) A Commentary by Matthew Henry:
We must judge ourselves, and judge of our own acts, but not make our word a law to everybody. We must not judge rashly, nor pass judgment upon our brother without any ground. We must not make the worst of people. Here is a just reproof to those who quarrel with their brethren for small faults, while they allow themselves in greater ones. Some sins are as motes, while others are as beams; some as a gnat, others as a camel. Not that there is any sin little; if it be a mote, or splinter, it is in the eye; if a gnat, it is in the throat; both are painful and dangerous, and we cannot be easy or well till they are got out. That which charity teaches us to call but a splinter in our brother’s eye, true repentance and godly sorrow will teach us to call a beam in our own. It is as strange that a man can be in a sinful, miserable condition, and not be aware of it, as that a man should have a beam in his eye, and not consider it; but the god of this world blinds their minds. Here is a good rule for reprovers; first reform thyself.

The netball girls have started their season with a grading night last Monday. The season hopefully kicks off in earnest next Monday Night. The rugby boys have their first trial against St. Teresa’s at Noosaville next Wednesday night with the 13’s and 14’s starting around 4pm and the 15’s and Opens starting around 5pm. This will make for an earlier night. You always know when it is netball and rugby season as it starts to rain.

Good luck to all this weekend and try and stay dry and safe.

Chris Gold
Principal
From the Assistant Principal

How to get the most from the Assessment Schedules

Assessment Schedules for Semester 1 are now available on the College website for all year levels - Under the School Life Heading or through the following link: [http://www.stjohns.qld.edu.au/school-life/Pages/Semester-Assessment-Schedules.aspx](http://www.stjohns.qld.edu.au/school-life/Pages/Semester-Assessment-Schedules.aspx)

These documents can be very helpful for both parents and students as they plan ahead to ensure that they are ready for any upcoming assessment.

Whilst every student and family is different, the following are some ideas of how these can be used effectively by parents in the past:

- Print out the student’s Assessment Schedule for their relevant year level and put it in a prominent place where everyone can see it
- Remember that these documents include all of our “elective” subjects as well as “core” classes - so not every student will have to do every assessment piece listed here. Go through and highlight / circle the assessment pieces which are relevant for each particular student to ensure you know exactly which ones apply to each child
- If an assessment piece is listed to be held in the “Week Beginning” column, ask your child closer to the time exactly what day and lesson this is being completed. Their teacher should be giving them at least one weeks’ warning of this – if your child cannot tell you the exact due date within a week of it occurring, contact the class teacher for clarification.
- Every subject should have provided your children with an outline of what will be occurring this year, semester, term or rotation. We are in the process offsetting up a Parent Portal to allow access to these more easily, and many have already been e-mailed to parents as well. Check these documents for more information about specific subjects if you are unsure of something.
- For Parents and Carers of Senior Students … they should receive a timetable of activities which are taking place during the “Alternative Program Weeks” which will run for some or all of the last two weeks of each term – ask for a copy of this (or download it yourself … you will be told when they are on the website / portal for everyone)
- If you know your child is going to have a particularly “heavy” week, or couple of weeks, coming up, help them plan ahead for these. Encourage them to start assignments early; help them have regular and on-going study patterns in place for exams; assist them to take care of their health and well-being and reduce stress where possible
- If you need additional assistance, contact someone as soon as possible! The Class teacher, YourTutor, PC Teacher, Year Level Pastoral Middle Leaders, Curriculum Middle Leaders and Counsellor can all help out in most areas relating to assessment and issues which can arise. Please contact them early – there is only a very small amount of assistance that can be offered if we get a call at 8:15am on the morning assessment is due.

Term Dates for 2016 and beyond:

The term dates for the academic years from 2015 right through until 2020 are now available on the Brisbane Catholic Education website at: [http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/students-parents/Pages/TermDates.aspx](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.

Whilst we understand that it may not always be possible for parents and carers to get their annual leave to match up with these school holidays, the College does not condone nor encourage absences for holidays outside of those allocated times.

Early departures or late returns for holidays have the potential to have a detrimental effect on a student’s academic results, and can mean that reports being generated which need to include assessment missed during these times may not accurately reflect the true ability of the student. For many of our subjects, assessment will be taking place right up until the very last day – including many Junior subjects (particularly Core areas which are running for the entire year).
Date – claimers

Please be aware of the upcoming events and mark on your home calendars to attend where possible:

- Tuesday, February 24 – Year 11 Information Evening
- Tuesday, March 10 – Year 7 2016 Information Evening
- Parent teacher nights – Thursday, 23 and Tuesday, April 28
- Wednesday, June 24 - SET Plan Information night for Year 10

We look forward to seeing many of you come along with your students to these sessions.

Mark O’Connor – Assistant Principal

Head Lice

The College advises that a case of head lice has been reported within the school.

Please check your child’s hair and scalp thoroughly for signs of lice or eggs and notify the school if your child is affected.

Students with head lice must remain at home until the day after treatment has commenced. For treatment advice, please see your pharmacist.

Shrove Tuesday

Thank you to anyone who donated, helped sell pancakes, or bought pancakes on Tuesday at the swimming carnival. You helped to kick-start our 2015 Project Compassion efforts by raising over $300 for projects in Australia, Fiji, Niger, Nepal, Indonesia and Peru. Thank you for your support!

-Social Action Committee
ETHIOPIA TRIP

Over the Christmas holidays, the HURLEY and JOHNSON families travelled to Ethiopia. St John's College generously donated $1000 (from the Shultz Toomy O'Brien Young Achiever’s Award won by Tigi Johnson) to distribute to charities close to our hearts.

It was wonderful to be able to visit the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. Catherine and her husband Reg were touched by the plight of many rural women in Ethiopia who developed fistulas after obstructed childbirth. Not only do thousands of women lose their babies during prolonged childbirth, some end up being shunned by their husbands and communities due to their subsequent inability to control the leakage from their bladder and bowel.

We also visited an organization called Hope for Children run by Woinshet Masresha. She has set up a number of group homes so that orphaned children can grow up in families with siblings and a house parent. Woinshet spoke very highly of the support that she has received from people in Australia for the group homes. She also talked about the possibilities of volunteering for her organisation.

We asked about some of the things that people could do to help out. Playing with the children, teaching them a craft, dancing or some music, how to use a computer were all things on her list of possibilities. We couldn't help thinking it would be a great place to spend some time for 'schoolies' or a gap year.

From the Guidance Counsellor...

Surviving Year 12 (for parents too)

As all our students settle in to their classes and routines, some students and parents may start to think about the year ahead and what this might mean for them. This is particularly true for those with children in year 11 and 12.

Beyondblue has compiled 2 helpful tip sheets (see attachment), one developed for parents and one for students in year 12. These tip sheets outline strategies and ideas to help students in year 12 cope with their final year and how parents can support them. These ideas can help prevent the development of mental health issues during the most difficult year of schooling. I recommend these ideas for students in both years 11 and 12. For more information visit www.beyondblue.org.au.

Roz Jenner
Guidance Counsellor
e: rjenner@bne.catholic.edu.au
p: 5441 5666
On Monday afternoon 26 year 10 students rallied together to cook for the homeless in their Religious education class. The students were given an opportunity to prepare and cook 120 meals plus soup for the Suncoast Care soup kitchen. The students were very enthusiastic and felt they were making a real difference as they were able to put their faith into action. The Suncoast Soup kitchen operates from the Buffulo Hall in Price t Nambour on Monday and Wednesday between 5-6 pm. St John’s staff and students are rostered on the first Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in volunteering you must be in year 10, parents are welcome. Contact Mr Calvo for more information. jcalvo@bne.catholic.edu.au
Year 7 2016 Enrolment Interviews for St John’s College, Nambour

Parent/Carer information:

- Members of the college leadership team will be visiting St Joseph’s primary school and Stella Maris primary school in early March 2015. Year 6 students for Year 7 2016 will be given enrolment packs for St John’s College.

- Year 6s will be interviewed from Monday 23 March to Thursday 2 April for Year 7 2016 enrolment at St John’s College.

- A Parent Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm at St John’s College in the Multi-Purpose Centre.

- Only 120 places will be available for Year 7 2016.

- Parents with students already at St John's who have a Year 7 student for 2016 will need to ring the office for an enrolment pack as siblings are not automatically enrolled.

At St John’s College we provide quality education in an environment that nurtures children in their Catholic faith.

NEW CYCLING ROAD RULES

From 1 January, 2015, a few cycling road rules will change to make your ride on the road a safer and easier journey.

Please see attachment for new rules.
This past Tuesday we held our first sports carnival of the year, our swimming carnival. The day saw lots of different house specific outfits and team spirit. The four houses all participated beautifully over the day, with almost every race being full. We would like to congratulate Casuarina and their house captains Tahli Grant, Frazer Johnson and Chelsea Hill on their win over the other four houses.

1st – Casuarina with 1139 points
2nd – Banksia with 1029 points
3rd – Melaleuca with 969 points
4th – Acacia with 905 points

Other congratulations goes to the age champions which are listed below for their efforts throughout the entire day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>12’s – Liam Hamilton (Casuarina)</td>
<td>12’s – Ella Shuttleworth (Banksia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13’s – Connor Brunswick (Melaleuca)</td>
<td>13’s – Madison Douglas (Melaleuca)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14’s – Max Finselbach (Banksia)  Brock Mellington (Casuarina)</td>
<td>14’s – Mary-Ellen Bonser (Banksia)</td>
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<td>15’s – Jezze Gorman (Casuarina)</td>
<td>15’s – Georgia Mills (Casuarina)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16’s – Chakra Efendi (Banksia)</td>
<td>16’s – Laura Mitton (Casuarina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opens – Tyson McBride (Melaleuca)</td>
<td>Opens – Elie McMenamin (Acacia)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A reminder to all swimmers that made North Zone to check the noticeboard for your name. A great effort on all of the student’s behalf for their attendance and wearing of hats, it was terrific day. A special mention goes to John Calvo and the House and Sport Captains for their efforts in organizing the day as well as the teachers who work tirelessly to help the day run smoothly.

The annual Gold Coast fitness weekend for rugby and netball A squads has been postponed due to the weather forecast, all players have been notified of this arrangement. Alternative dates have been book for the 13, 14 and 15th of March please note that these dates are not confirmed yet.

The first round of boys’ soccer for this term has been cancelled due to the weather. The second round will commence next week with possible rescheduling of games and times, more information will be given to the students as it becomes available.

Another reminder for people that want to get fit and go for a nice run in the morning, Johnnie’s does running training on a Thursday morning at Mudjimba commencing at 6:00am. The bus leaves school at 5:40am sharp to get to Mudjimba (skate park end) to begin training, alternative transport can be arranged to get there. A bus will return to school with the runners for normal school time at 8:30. Surfing also takes place on Thursday mornings at Mudjimba anyone who is still interested make sure to see Rod Kriz for more information.
In 2015 at St John’s we have started a new Year 9 elective.

This year we have introduced a dance program as an addition to our growing arts department. It is a semester long course which will be focusing on two modern styles of dance; hip hop and contemporary. We have a mix of practical and theoretical classes, currently looking at the elements of dance and the key features of the Hip Hop style.

The students have been having a great time learning different styles of Hip Hop and will soon be learning to choreograph their own dance in small groups and encouraged to perform for the class.

We are also very happy to welcome Katie Robertson, a new teacher aide at the school with vast experience in dance. She has been very helpful in sharing her expertise with the class.

Alex Atkins
Year 9 Dance Teacher
UNIFORM SHOP
and
TEXT HIRE

PLEASE NOTE NEW OPENING HOURS

WEDNESDAY 8.00am - 3.45pm
and
THURSDAY 8.00am - 3.45pm

Contact Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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http://on.fb.me/12GGNI0

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