

St Mary's College Gunnedah Newsletter

April 2018 Edition



REFLECTION

This is a prayer which Pope Francis says we must pray every day:

“Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”

Pope Francis

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

As we come to the end of Term 1 it is time to look back with gratitude at the blessings we have received. We give thanks for another successful term of Faith and Learning at St Mary's. We give thanks to our parents for their support of and confidence in our school. We give thanks for our staff for their commitment, dedication and diligence in providing the best possible learning environment for our students.

I congratulate the senior students (Years 11 and 12) for the positive attitude they have brought to the new school year. They have settled very quickly into developing productive learning habits and are showing great leadership and providing a good example to the rest of the school. The results of the Half Yearly Exams will provide valuable feedback to the Year 12 students to assist them to identify areas requiring further improvement. They have deserved a more relaxing week this week on their Year 12 Excursion and Retreat.

I congratulate the Year 7 students who have settled so quickly into high school. They had a very successful Year 7 Camp at Lake Keepit which has helped them to bond together as a class and there is a noticeable difference since their return.

Years 8 and 9 have achieved much this term and I particularly congratulate Year 9 on their cooperation and the positive approach they showed towards their camp earlier in the term.

Year 10 can always be challenging as students come to an age where they thinking about life after school. Some are anxious about the prospects of going on to senior school while others want to finish school and are anxious about the prospects of a job after Year 10. The term is finishing on a good note for them I am very pleased with a noticeable improvement in their level of maturity as the term has progressed.

Parents have been notified of my leave next term from the Week 2. This is for me to undergo hip surgery and recovery. I thank Cath Martin for agreeing to step up to Acting Principal and thanks to Jody Law as Acting Assistant Principal. I wish them well and I take leave in the confidence that the College will flourish under their leadership next term. Congratulations and thankyou also to Sarah Semmler, for taking over as Year 10 Supervisor.

As a community of faith we pray using the words from this Sunday's readings:

*“When I call answer me, O God of justice;
have mercy and hear me.” Ps 4:2*

Masc Quirk



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 - 12 April - Warraymalaya Retreat
 - 9 - 13 April - Year 12 Retreat
 - 11 April - Yr 7 Parent Teacher Interviews
 - 12 April - School Advisory Council Meeting
 - 13 April - Cross Country & Pink Stumps Day
 - 13 April - Last Day Term 1
 - 25 April - ANZAC Day March (Students are required to wear full winter uniform)
- Term 2**
- 30 April - Pupil Free Day
 - 1 May - First Day Term 2 (Students are to return in full winter uniform)
 - 10 May - School Advisory Council Meeting
 - 11 May - Dio Cross Country/Tennis/ Golf
 - 14 May - 25 May - NAPLAN Online
 - 23 May - Year 11 & 12 Parent Teacher Interviews
 - 15, 22 & 29 May - Engaging Adolesce Course
 - 6 June - Arts Alive in Sydney
 - 9 - 10 June - St Josephs Centenary
 - 13 June - School Photo Day
 - 25 - 29 June - Year 10 Work Experience
 - 3 July - Year 11 2019 Subject Information Night

#RAMPITUP

R = Respect

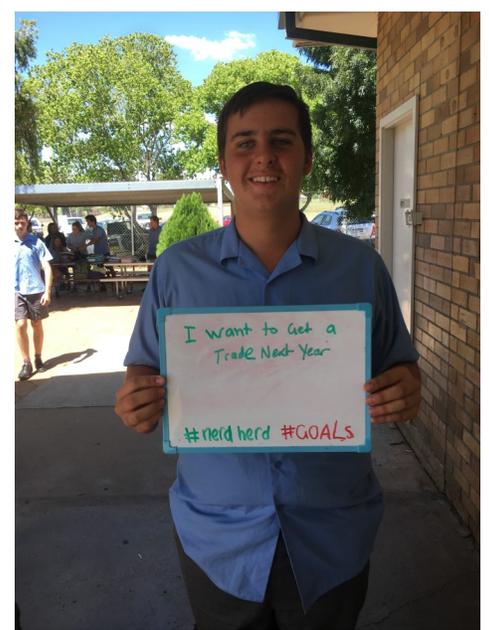
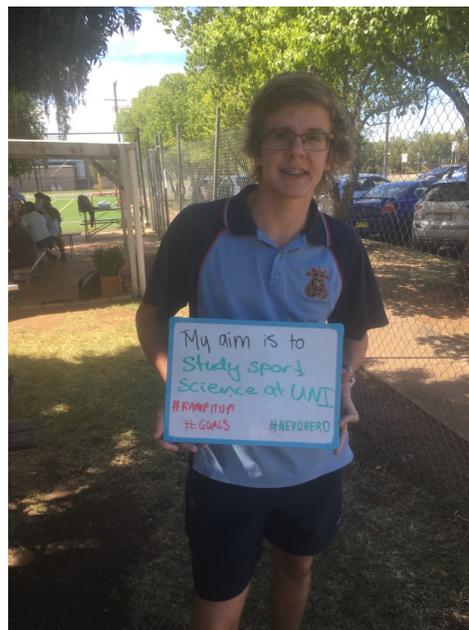
A= Accountability

M= Maturity

P= Participation

#RAMPITUP

St Mary's Year 12 Students kicking Goals in 2018



CHESS UPDATE

On Wednesday 28th March 7 St Mary's students from Years 8 and 9 travelled to Narrabri High School for a Chess Gala Day. The students played 24 others from Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, Manilla High School and Narrabri High School.

It was a great competition and Mrs Kennedy was particularly impressed with how our team supported each other throughout the day.

Congratulations to Tom Randall who came 2nd overall, to Cameron Byrnes who came 2nd in the Junior division and to Logan Eveleigh who was recognised for an extremely clever move.

Thank you to Mr Heap who ran the competition, coached our team and assisted in transporting students to Narrabri.



YEAR 9 CARITAS FUNDRAISER

My name is Chelsea Storey and I would like to tell you about our Yr 9 Project Compassion Fundraiser. We are walking kilometres to raise money for underprivileged communities.

The idea behind the project is for us to experience the amount of walking that women and children endure to access water, food, medical attention and education.

For example, women and girls in Asia and Africa walk an average of 6 km to collect water. They then have to carry up to 20 kg of water on their heads for the 6 km back.

So this week on Thursday lunch and Period 5 we will be walking around the oval to raise money for Caritas.

We ask you to help with donations and sponsorship and also to come and support us at lunchtime on Thursday.

All of Yr 9 will be participating on Thursday to enable us all to experience what people in these countries experience every day.

IMPORTANT SPORT DATES

Term 1 Sport Dates

- Friday 13th April St Mary's College Cross Country
- Friday 13th April St Mary's College Pink Stumps Cricket

Next Term

- Friday 11th May Dio Cross Country, Golf and Tennis Gunnedah
- Thursday 17th May AFL Sam Naismith Cup Regional Final Inverell
- Wednesday 23rd May Dio Football Inverell
- Wednesday 6th June Dio Rugby League and Netball Armidale
- Friday 15th June NSWCCC Cross Country Eastern Creek
- Wednesday 20th June NSWCCC Touch Penrith
- Friday 29th June NSW Netball Gala Day Tamworth

Don't forget to check the Catholic Schools Sports Services website for details of other representative sporting opportunities - www.csss.nsw.edu.au

SPORTS NEWS

AFL

Congratulations to the Boy's AFL team that travelled to Armidale recently to play in the Sam Naismith Cup AFL Gala Day. The team couldn't play in the local gala day at Tamworth due to a clash of dates but were prepared to travel to Armidale so they could defend the title they won last year. Walcha Central School and O'Connor College Armidale were the other schools present on the day with St Mary's comfortably winning their first two games. The final was played against O'Connor College and while O'Connor did improve on their earlier game St Mary's were still too strong and won the final convincingly. St Mary's will now go on to the regional final to be played at Inverell next term.

Thanks to Mr Neader for preparing the team for the day. The performance of the team reflected the time and effort they had put in at training leading up to the event. Special thanks as well to Mr Catford for driving the bus on the day.

Swimming

Six students from St Mary's College represented the Armidale Diocese at the NSWCCC Swimming Championships at Homebush last week. While no medals were won by our students there were several top ten finishes as well as some personal bests swum on the day. Well done to Liam Novley, Zoe Palmer, Sophie Williams, Chelsea Palmer, Andre Steele and Chloe Sumpter.

Cross Country

The Cross Country will be held this Friday, 13th April during Period 4 with all students expected to either run or walk the course. Students are to wear their Sport Uniform on the day but can wear pink accessories to show their support for Pink Stumps Day. The Cross Country starts and finishes near the St Xavier's School Hall in Osric St with students running down towards Mullibah Lagoon, behind the caravan park and alongside Maitland St to the Woolshed Reserve. Those completing the Short Course will then turn around and head back while those on the Long Course will continue under Cohen's Bridge towards the amenities block on Donnelly Fields before returning to the start/finish line. Students will return to school for lunch once they commence the Cross Country. The Cross Country is the first House competition of the year and hopefully students will do their best to earn more House points for their House.

SPORTS NEWS CONTINUED

St Mary's College Pink Stumps Day

On Friday 13th April St Mary's College will host a Pink Stumps cricket match between a Year 11 team and a Staff team with all proceeds going towards the McGrath Foundation. Reality is that Breast Cancer impacts on many of our families and any money we raise will go towards providing a Breast Care Nurse in our region. Players on both teams will be making a donation towards this worthy cause and everyone else from the school community are also encouraged to donate.

There will be drinks on sale at lunch time and during the match with a limited number of Pink items also up for sale. Donations will also be collected from the crowd during the match. Students can get together in their Year level to bid on the Corporate package which includes 10 seats under a marquee along with some free drinks to get a closer view of the game. There are six packages available with the highest bid in each Year level securing the Corporate package plus the next highest overall bid will also win.

There are prizes for crowd catches and it should be a good way to finish the term on a positive note. Students are encouraged to bring some gold coins to donate at various times during the Pink Stumps Cricket match.

Donations can also be made via our fundraising page -

<https://pinkstumpsday2018.gofundraise.com.au/page/TimKennedy2>

All money raised goes directly to the McGrath Foundation and donations over \$2 are tax deductible with a receipt provided if you donate through the link above.



VINNIES CAMP

On Thursday, 5th April and Friday, 6th April, a number of St Mary's students participated in the annual St Vincent de Paul High School Dio Camp.

St Mary's are lucky to boast a strong group of students who make up our High School Vinnie's Conference. These students travelled to Lake Keepit to participate in a range of team building and spiritual formation activities. Students were given the chance to go on the giant swing and the monkey climbing apparatus – both activities that enabled them to work as a team. The camp also enabled our conference to work with students from across the diocese, and forge connections and networks for swapping ideas.

Students were also given the opportunity to work in their conferences to develop strategies to use and goals to work towards to enable the conference to flourish.

Amongst the ideas developed over these two days were a Pen Pal writing programme to help improve the literacy skills of students in non-English speaking counties, the Vinnie's Winter Appeal, the Vinnie's Sleep-Out and Vinnie's donation boxes.

The students are really excited to put their ideas into practice next term, led by our President and Vice-President Ellie Small and Jen Mitchell.

Please keep an eye out on Facebook and in future newsletters for information about the work of our conference.



SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Congratulations to the St Mary's Ag students, who attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show and came home with a Champion ribbon!

'Champion Trade Taste Test Carcase'

They also received ribbons in other categories. Well done to Mr James and all the Ag students.



YEAR 7 CAMP TO LAKE KEEPIT

The Year 7 students had a wonderful time at Lake Keepit a few weeks ago. They were asked to provide feedback, these are some of their responses.



What was your favourite activity & why:

- The giant swing because it was fun and it made you go out of your comfort zone.
- The mud run because it is a challenge and you have to work as a team.
- Kayaking as it used some muscles that aren't usually used and we had a good view all the time.



YEAR 7 CAMP TO LAKE KEEPIT



What did you learn at camp:

- I learnt that I need to encourage everyone to have a go.
- I learnt to work as a team a little better.

Did you make new friends?

- I made new friends, it was good to be able to do stuff with people you normally don't.



WARRAYMALAYA CAMP



Students at the Warraymalaya camp enjoying their time at Corindi Beach.



QKR!

Our preferred method of payment is Qkr!(pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Order and pay for your child's lunches, reducing the need to bring cash to school
- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

Please contact the front office if you need assistance with the app. We have attached a step-by-step guide at the back of the Newsletter.

For quicker, hassel-free school payments, try Qkr! Today.

IMPORTANT CAREER DATES

- 16 May—Regional Careers Expo (Tamworth)
- 1 June—Registrations for UMAT close (Undergraduate Medical & Health Sciences admission test)

Website:umat.acer.edu.au/register

- 7 June—Tamworth Ag Careers Expo (Farrer)

www.tamworthagriculturalcareersexpo.com.au

- 25—29 June—Year 10 Work Experience
- 25 July—UMAT Examination

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days in Term 2:

Week 1 - Monday 30 April, Tuesday 1 May and Wednesday 2 May from 11am to 4pm

Week 2 - Wednesday 9 May and Thursday 10 May from 11am to 4pm

Week 3 and onwards - normal operating hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 4pm.

Students are required to return to school on 1 May in their full winter uniform.

SCIENCE NEWS

On Thursday the 5th April Year 7 and 8 Science students were greeted with a gruesome discovery - a school girl had vanished after school from a busy train platform, only to be found dead several days later in an old WWII bunker, and it was now up to them to help solve the crime! After their briefing, students were required to use all their deductive and observation skills to solve the baffling case. Using data from mobile phone GPS to plot locations, footprint analysis, rebuilding essential evidence, interpreting times of death, autopsy & drug analysis reports, DNA sampling, and fibre analysis, students actively participated in solving their crime and were able to rule out 2 of the 3 suspects to produce a clear report of what happened and how!

The experience was provided by Education Interactive Forensic Science Program "A Case of Identity". This is an Australian company that gives students across Australia an insight into how forensic science helps solve crimes. Students were lead through their investigation by forensic scientist Adam Burrough who gave the students a real insight into the work of a forensic scientist.





Catholic Schools Week 2018 27 May-2 June



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ST MARY'S COLLEGE

UNIFORM SHOP TERM 2 2018

Changes of Hours

For the first 2 weeks of Term 2 the St Mary's College Uniform shop will be open as following:

Week 1: Monday - Wednesday 11am to 4pm

Week 2: Wednesday – Thursday 11am to 4pm

Week 3 and onwards: Normal hours of Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 4pm.

Students are required to return to school in Term 2 in their full winter uniform.

Don't forget that the uniform shop now sell St Xavier's Primary School Uniforms.

Term 2 Dates:

Week 1

30 April 11am – 4pm

1 May 11am – 4pm

2 May 11am – 4pm

Week 2

9 May 11am – 4pm

10 May 11am – 4 pm

Week 3 and onwards:

Wednesday and

Thursdays 1pm - 4pm

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

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w: stmaryscollege.nsw.edu.au

e: reception@stmaryscollege.nsw.edu.au



Gunnedah Shire Council's ANZAC Working Group
Proudly Presents



ANZAC TRIBUTE CONCERT

From 4:00pm - 7:30pm
Sunday, 22 April 2018
Pensioners Hill, Gunnedah

Musical performances by
Gunnedah Shire Band &
Gunnedah Conservatorium
Spoken word performances of
poetry and wartime letters by
Gunnedah community members

Bring along your own chair & outdoor picnic or a BBQ will be available
hosted by Rotary Club of Gunnedah West





ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™ PARENT COURSE

Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems

A three-session program for parents and carers
at **St Mary's College**
on three consecutive Tuesday evenings

15th, 22st & 29th of May at 6pm – 7:30pm.

Learn:

- ✓ Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
- ✓ New understandings of adolescence
- ✓ A three-option model & flow chart for decision-making
- ✓ Self check-in, first - for parents.
- ✓ Building relationship with your teenager and making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them
- ✓ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can't ignore

Registration is FREE! However, spaces are limited. Please contact Rachel Bulkeley on 0448420825 for more information.

What parents have said...

A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome.

A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.

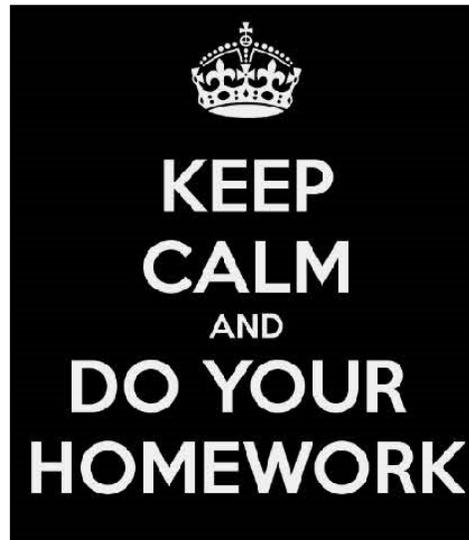
Who's running it?

The trainer for this course is Rachel Bulkeley. Rachel studied Social Science at University of New England and is currently completing her Post graduate diploma in Counselling. Rachel is currently a Case Worker with Tamworth Family Support Services worker with teenagers between 12 and 18 years of age..

To register for this course, or for more information contact:

Judi Peters at Reconnect (Tamworth Family Support Services) on 0448 420 825

• An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective •



Homework Centre in now OPEN

When: Monday - Thursday, from 3.30 to 4:30pm.

Where: St Mary's College Library

Who: Yr 7 - Yr 12

What: Internet access, teacher supervision and assistance, afternoon tea

How: Sign and return Homework Centre permission note which can be collected from the front office or school library.

We had over 50 students regularly utilise Homework Centre in 2017.

Here are what the students are saying:

Homework Centre is a great opportunity for students to study without distractions and noise. I feel I get much more work done here than I would at home and find it is a very effective and productive tool for students, particularly seniors. Not only can students do their schoolwork here but they can use the schools resources i.e. computers as well as being able to meet with teachers, or get help from the teachers that run Homework Centre. Eliza Perkins Yr 12

Homework Centre is a great place to go after school to really get homework done without distractions. The teachers there do their best to help you finish whatever you need to do. There is plenty of technology to use including chrome books and computers. There is also afternoon tea which is delicious and the air conditioning is always on to keep the temperature perfect. Hugh Hunter Yr 9

Homework Centre has really helped my learning. There is good assistance and that helps me get things done. Homework centre provides healthy food options. You can spend up to an hour after school to get your homework done. Luke Jensen Yr 8