FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As you know I was, unfortunately, not able to attend our Ash Wednesday Mass last week because I was in Broome at the State Principal’s Conference. However, we celebrated Mass in the Broome Cathedral with Bishop Saunders as our celebrant. From all reports, there was also a lovely service at our Holy Family Church. I would like to thank Father Greg for celebrating Mass for the school. To have the children celebrate Mass in the church was another added value. We also aim to have an end of year Mass at the Parish.

THE BROOME EXPERIENCE

The whole experience of being in Broome and listening to a host of presenters talking about their life experiences was very overwhelming. Our main presenter was Mr Noel Pearson. Noel is an Aboriginal Australian lawyer, academic, land rights activist and founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, an organisation promoting the economic and social development of Cape York. Some of you will be well aware of some of Noel’s work. Over the last 5-8 years Noel has introduced a new educational program into the northern area of Queensland and has had some outstanding success. He is a very passionate person in all that he does.

The challenges of what is experienced or presented to people in these remote areas is unbelievable. We have no idea of the hardships and suffering by families, staff and students in these remote places. With all the challenges they are faced with, they still continue to carry out their mission with tremendous attitudes.

I am hoping to form an alliance with at least two of these schools so that we can form a partnership together and maybe along the way we can help them in some way through fundraising, as we did in 2011 with St Mary’s Broome.

BREAKFAST IN THE PARK—HELP NEEDED

A gentle reminder to please support the BIP this weekend. I know the ladies are still looking for some more help at some of the stalls so if you can help out see one of the P&F Committee members. Also if you are able to help out setting up or packing up, this would be greatly appreciated.

TUNING INTO KIDS—K-2 PARENT WORKSHOP

By now our junior students’ parents would have received a ‘Tuning into Kids’ pamphlet which states that we will be holding 6 workshop sessions for parents here at school. These will begin on May 8 next term and finish on 12 June. If you are interested in participating in these workshops please fill in the form and return it to school asap. Wendy Richards, our school Psychologist, will be running the sessions.
SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT MASS AND COMMITMENT MASS
Our Sacramental Enrolment Masses and Commitment Mass, which were held last weekend at Holy Family Church, were very well attended. I would like to thank all parents for supporting this very important program for the children. I was also very impressed and proud to see some students who are participating in the program but not receiving the Sacrament. It shows a great support of the school by these families, a great support of their peers by these students and it also shows the inclusivity that we have within the school.

SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY
As per last year we have our School Climate Survey being run again this year. This survey is carried out in all metropolitan Catholic schools. By now 60 families (randomly selected) have received a letter informing them of this survey. Please note that the staff, Board members and 60 students from years 5 and 6 will also be participating in this survey. To date our school’s response rate and participation has been tremendous, therefore I encourage all our families selected to please participate in this survey and maintain the high response rate. The survey will run from Monday 17 March to Friday 28 March.

PARENT VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP
Our Parent Volunteer Workshop planned for last Tuesday saw a very poor response. In fact we had ‘0’ parents turn up!!! I have had a few parents since hand in their apologies to say that they would like to participate but forgot that it was on. We have a core group of parents from last year’s group who are still interested in helping out, which is great, however, I see engagement of parents in their child’s education very important, and of great assistance to the school, students and community.
For those of you who would like to volunteer some time in the classes (it could be 20min—1 hour), please contact me via the office and we can run a quick workshop at a mutual time.

Please note our P&F Meeting scheduled for next Monday 17 March has been changed to the Monday 31 March.

Sandro Coniglio
Principal

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
STRONG PEOPLE DON’T PUT OTHERS DOWN… THEY LIFT THEM UP!
Michael P. Watson

Sell all your unwanted goods and BOOK YOUR CAR BAY NOW—ONLY $10
We are now accepting bookings for car bays for the car boot sale on Saturday 29 March from 9.00am to 12 noon on the school oval.
Contact Helen on 0412 446 725 or register at the school office
Canberra Sydney Fundraising Tour Committee

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
This issue of the Scholastic Book Club is due back at school no later than the morning of Friday 14 March. Please make cheques payable to Scholastic. If you are paying cash please enclose the correct amount.
PHYS ED NEWS

There have been some changes to the school calendar due to circumstances which we find unavoidable. Please note the following changes to some dates later in the year.

School Cross Country Carnival for Years K to 6 will be held on Tuesday May 27.
Interschool Cross Country Carnival for Years 3 to 6 on Friday June 6.

To try and avoid the rainy weather in term 3, the date for the Field Events Carnival for Years 3 to 6 will now be held on Tuesday June 24.

Please mark these dates on your school calendar. We do apologise for any inconvenience these changes may cause.

Denise Pollaers
Physical Education Teacher

CANTEEN NEWS

SHROVE TUESDAY—PANCAKE DAY
1,2,48,167,299,326,327,328 Pancakes!!
Our canteen staff and volunteers whipped up 328 freshly baked, homemade pancakes for our students to enjoy on SHROVE TUESDAY.
The children enjoyed these at recess with a selection of toppings and sauces. Thank you for supporting this event and a special thank you to our volunteers who helped make all of these yummy pancakes!
P&F NEWS

BREAKFAST IN THE PARK—Please check your email and text messages for all up to date information regarding Breakfast in the Park.

We are still in need of helpers so please consider sparing a bit of time to help make this event a success.

VEGIE GARDEN UPDATE
The vegie patch has been producing cucumbers and peppers for the last few months. Now that the weather is cooling we will be planting lettuces and winter greens for the canteen. As a trial we planted sunflower seeds and these plants are now half grown—we are looking forward to seeing them bloom.

We are looking for a tumble compost bin for the children’s food scraps. If anyone has one that they are not using—we would love to have it for our garden.

JOHN XXIII COLLEGE OPEN DAY
You are invited to the John XXIII College Open Day on Saturday 15th March 2014 from 9am–12.00pm, with tours every half hour. Last tour will commence at 11.30am. Refreshments will be served and the Principal will make an address to visitors during the morning.

221 Gooseberry Hill Rd Maida Vale 6057
9454 4540

MAIDA VALE HEATED POOL

ENROL NOW
SWIMMING LESSONS
BABY/PRE-SCHOOL/SCHOOL AGE

25% DISCOUNT OFFER on swimming lessons for the month of February (excludes private lessons)
Enrol before 1st February 2014
Discount vouchers available in Marys Mount Primary School office
Monday 17 March Assembly

Everyone at Mary’s Mount Primary School will be celebrating our diverse cultures and backgrounds during Harmony Week.

Dress in your cultural heritage of your family or
Dress in a culture you are interested in or
Wear something ORANGE or (colour to stand up against bullying)
Wear something GREEN (it’s St Patrick’s Day after all)

Everyone is welcome!!!!!
A gold coin donation would be appreciated to raise funds for Wheelchairs for kids.