Welcome to the final edition of the MSB Messenger for 2012

Advent
As the 2011 school year ends, the next Church liturgical year commences. Advent is the season characterised by prayerful attentiveness leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Many families would be making preparations for annual holidays at this time. It is often said that the preparations, and the pleasurable anticipation these bring, are almost as good as the event being anticipated.

Advent can be a very fulfilling time when we take the hints given us to have some time out to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. For most of us Christmas is an opportunity to gather as family to enjoy each other’s company, celebrating our belonging together. ‘Thankfulness’ is the attitude which overcomes those lingering spoilers of relationships: resentment, bitterness and jealousy. We can take the opportunity to be rid of these spoilers during Advent by focussing on the gifts and blessings – thought at times hidden – that are part of the lives of all of us. Over the next few weeks through the scriptures chosen for the Sundays of Advent we will hear the advice of St Paul to the early church. On the third Sunday we will hear from St Paul’s Letter to the Christians of Thessalonica

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. ... May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Student Valedictory
What wonderful celebrations we held to celebrate the achievements of our Year 12 students. The Class of 2011 have been a fantastic group; their presence and contribution to our school community will be sorely missed. The Graduation Mass and Supper was a very moving evening. Special thanks to Ms Josie Lowerson and her Year 12 artists for crafting the theme of the seniors launching into the world from their ‘MSB’ home. Melissa Foster’s Valedictory address captured the sense of gratitude and commitment so obvious in the hearts of her classmates; thanks to Ms Leanne Morton for her coaching. The Liturgy was inspiring under the creative direction of Ms Janette King and as always well supported by MSB’s Chapel Choir directed by Sr Pam Murray and accompanied by Ms Maxine McFarlane. Mass was followed by a sumptuous buffet in the beautifully decorated Dining Room; special thanks to Vicki Taylor and her catering crew for their ever faithful and courteous service of our College Community.

‘Farewell Friday’ saw tears of joy, relief and celebration as our seniors took centre stage at their final school assembly. The Year 11 class did a superb job in capturing the fun contribution made by the seniors during their years at MSB. It was wonderful to see how the departing 21 were honoured by their fellow students! Casting off their school uniforms for the last time, the Senior class glammed-up for graduation formal – toted by some, and quite right I think, as the best ever! Again special thanks to the convenors and Year 12 parents, Shaaron Wood and Jenny Foster, who worked creatively and tirelessly in putting together a wonderfully worthy occasion for the Year 12 class; feasting, toasting and dancing was the order of the night. Well done everyone!

As well as saying thank you and goodbye to the students, for some families this also marks the end of their years with children at our College. We say to you too, thank you for your contribution over the years. But please know you are always part of the MSB community! With you we will follow the progress of your daughters and sons as they fashion their place in the world.

To all students and families leaving us at this time we wish you farewell and God’s blessings!
Like most school communities, end of year means saying good bye to staff members who have contributed to the life of our College over a number of years. We wish a temporary farewell to staff members taking leave. 

Mrs Louise Kidner has commenced maternity leave (still awaiting news of baby’s arrival) and will be enjoying family time in 2012. Welcome and thanks to incoming staff member Ms Keiren Morris who stepped in during November and will be teaching at MSB throughout 2012. Mr Peter Nightingale is taking long service leave during all of Term 1 and part of Term 2 2012; we too wish Mr Nightingale and his family well as they continue to welcome and care for their newborn daughter, Tanami.

Ms Jane McKenzie, MSB’s Laboratory Technician, is swapping her lab coat for a road map; we say thank you for her very much ‘behind the scenes’ support for science learning and teaching at MSB; may she have a memorable and safe time making the iconic great lap around Australia. We are grateful Mr Paul Bannister is staying on at MSB in 2012 taking over Lab duties as well as some teaching of Science.

Mr Raj Minocha is concluding his twelve months teaching stint at MSB. Mr Minocha has done a great job teaching in our transition learning unit as well as taking classes across faculties in 2011. We will particularly miss his sense of humour and south Asian gastronomic delights. Thank you Mr Minocha, and farewell! Mr Ben Herrald is also completing a year with us at MSB. We thank Mr Herrald for his contribution to teaching and learning in the Science, Maths and Graphics domains of our College. We wish him well as he explores new opportunities with his family in the months to come.

Our connections with young sister school, St Stephen’s Catholic College Mareeba, will be further strengthened when Ms Julie Oswell joins the staff there in 2012. Over the years MSB has helped shape St Stephen’s through the many staff who have volunteered to contribute to the establishment of that new school. Thank you to Ms Oswell for her friendly, professional and enthusiastic contribution during her two years with us at MSB. See you at the inter-school sports carnivals!!

The last farewell is saved for Ms Jacqui Stephens. A consolidation of teaching allocations in 2012 has meant that Ms Stephens’ part-time timetable allocation has been taken up by fulltime staff. Ms Stephens has contributed to MSB over a number of decades now in both full-time and part time roles. Drama and English have been her passion. Many dramatic productions at MSB over the years have borne her hallmarks. She has unstintingly supported Sr Pam and the MSB choir, often being seen singing to the side of the choir at liturgies and concerts. While this is not an altogether goodbye, as Ms Stephens will be joining our teaching supply staff, it is a sad parting nonetheless. A sincere thank you Ms Stephens for your contribution to and support of many generations of MSB students!

In saying thanks and farewell to these staff I express my profound appreciation to all of MSB’s dedicated professional and committed staff and volunteer members of our MSB Parents & Friends Association and MSB Board for their service to our students and families throughout 2011. Many essential functions are served by our staff, without any of which our school would not be the school it is: Administration; Catering Services; Coaching; Driving; Financial Services; Governance; Grounds and Facilities Maintenance; Health Care; Housekeeping Services; Laundry Services; Leadership; Learning Support; Residential Care; Spiritual Care; and Teaching. Special mention of gratitude to the Sisters of Mercy for their ongoing hospitality and encouragement and to our faithful Pastor, Fr Greg Moses, for his service to us throughout the year.

New Facilities in 2012

While we are away over Christmas building will continue at MSB. The Library is underway; the third level of Morrissey House (girls’ boarding) is taking shape; Bernard’s level one is under full renovation and the Kitchen is being refitted as a Trade Training Kitchen. Take care around the site!!

May you experience this Christmas the richest of the blessings the season promise!

God Bless!

Mr Luke Reed
MSB College Principal
Assistant Principal - Mission

1 Corinthians 12:12

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Our aim is for Mount St Bernard College to become the sum of its individual parts. We all, parents, students and staff, need to continue to work together to realise the vision of a faith filled community supporting all students to be the people God created them to be.

We celebrated many special days throughout the year with the central theme being our identity and culture as a Christian College Community. This is just a snapshot of the breadth and diversity of faith life here at the College.

We were blessed to have the NET (National Evangelisation Team) with us this year. This vibrant group of young people shared their talents and spirituality with our students. They were involved in all areas of school life, building relationships by conducting ministry through: RE classes, Liturgies, Youth Group, Encounter Days and a Leadership Retreat. We look forward to welcoming a new NET Team in 2012.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK – Joining students from St. Joseph’s, St. Teresa’s, St. Thomas’, St. Rita’s and St. Stephen’s in the Sister’s Chapel to celebrate our commitment to Catholic Education: Heart, Soul and Mind.

ASH WEDNESDAY – observing the beginning of Lent.

NAIDOC WEEK – celebrating our beliefs, culture and diversity.
ANZAC DAY – A moving and respectful remembrance of those who gave their lives during many wars and conflicts.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - Saluting their Service. Joining the local community at Padre White Chapel Reflection Park – Herberton cemetery.

GRADUATION MASS - Saying farewell to our Year 12 students as they Venture Forth on the next part of their journey.

EASTER LITURGY - Commemorating the Passion of Christ.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012
2012 will again be another exciting year with the arrival of our NET team early in Term 1. We anticipate offering our students opportunities to participate in Retreats and Encounter Days, on a regular basis as well as continue to expand our Youth Group.

Our thanks to Father Greg Moses for his ongoing commitment and availability to the College community; to Bishop James Foley and Father Neil Muir (Vicar for Education: Cairns Diocese) for leading our College in prayer and celebration; to the Sisters of Mercy Community, whose tradition inspires us; to the Leadership Team and College Staff, who continue to give the best to our students in their faith formation.

To all our families and friends we thank you for your continued support and look forward to 2012 with hope and vision.

I would like to wish all our families a Happy and Holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year,

Janette King
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate students who have worked diligently throughout the year and been rewarded through their achievements detailed on their end of semester report card. Maintaining high levels of achievement requires application to classroom work, self guided study and assignment work, and is to be highly commended. It is with great pleasure that I read through the semester reports again this year, evidence of the calibre and diligence of committed students at Mount St Bernard College. Each of our yr 12 seniors exit this year as both eligible for a QCE, and with at least one VET certificate. Congratulations and well done year 12s!

This is perhaps, an opportune time to review the college expectations in light of reporting, and in preparation for the coming year. I provide the following information regarding assessment and our responsibilities to the Queensland Studies Authority.

Assignments form an integral part of the learning and assessment of most subjects, and must be completed so that the student can be reported on as completing the course of study. **If a student is absent** on the due date of an assignment, arrangements must be made to deliver the assignment to the school (on the due date) either in person or electronically. Parents are to contact the appropriate teacher to discuss the student’s reasons for absence. **Senior students (yr 11 and 12) will need to provide a medical certificate**, if citing medical reasons for non-attendance. Teachers are able to use student’s rough drafts and other information to assess student achievement on the due date if assignments are late or not submitted. A judgement cannot be made if there is no evidence to demonstrate the student’s performance against the relevant criteria. A standard can only be awarded where evidence has been demonstrated and documented.

For frequent **non-submission of student work**, consideration needs to be given to whether a level of achievement can be awarded. Substantive requirements of the syllabus must be completed. In senior school subjects, this may mean that a student will not obtain a grade for four semesters of study. The following QSA documents will provide further information regarding both Student’s and the School’s responsibilities for assessment:

Policy on Special Provisions for School-based Assessments in Authority and Authority-registered Subjects (January 2009)  
Website: [www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)

Late submission and Non-submission of Student Responses to Assessment Instruments in Authority and Authority-registered subjects (January 2009)  
Website: [www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)

Please feel free to discuss any of this information with me by telephone for any clarification.

Congratulations to all who have worked hard during the year, and to year 12s moving on to different experiences, I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Janine Conolly  
Assistant Principal - Curriculum
REMEmBRANCE DAY
11TH NOVEMBER 2011

Mount St Bernard College attended the Remembrance Day service at Herberton.

The day also commemorated the opening of the newly completed Father White Memorial Chapel.

Father White is credited with holding the first Dawn service.

The following students proudly represented the College at the service;

Paddy Possum (right) Rhiannon Bookall, Samantha Brooks, Kiana Chaffey, Sean Fisher, James Jackson, Lani McMaugh, Camilla Sabatino, Matilda Warria, Stanley Williams, Katelyn Crago, Paige Mantio & Ludovicka Miamel.

Picture taken by Darryl Day—The Tablelander
(Left & below) Ludovicka Miamel & Rhiannon Bookall

Paige Mantio & Councillor Shaaron Linwood
Year 12 Farewell Assembly
2011 saw the students gain a few qualifications that they can use once they leave school. First Aid Certificate and Recreational Marine Drivers Licence which was well received by all that completed them. We learnt a few new sports that challenged their abilities in various ways. Ultimate Disk was very popular along with European Handball. Stuart Woods was voted best goal keeper in European handball stopping many a ball with different parts of his body including his head sometimes. All the students really enjoyed the Recreational Marine Drivers practical component as they got to drive a very well decked out boat on Tinaroo Dam and thought they were pretty good once completed the test. James Cockburn commented once he got ashore that he wanted to go and buy a boat now, look out Tinaroo!!!

Congratulations Cameron!

Congratulations to Year 11 student, Cameron Murphy, an award recipient in the BLA Year 11 Legal Studies Essay competition. The Business Liaison Association Annual Awards Presentation is this Thursday, 1st December. Cameron will attend this gala Awards ceremony at the Casino to receive his prize. A fantastic effort and well-deserved accolade for one of Mount St Bernard’s hard-working senior students.

Cameron’s essay discussed the pitfalls of purchasing land and breach of contract between parties in a hypothetical agreement.

About the BLA:

“The Business Liaison Association has been operating in North Queensland since 1993 and provides a unique role in linking education and industry in Queensland’s Far North. It is an organisation providing secondary school students with relevant, up to date knowledge, skills and resources to meet the current and future demands of the business community.

The Business Liaison Association facilitates a range of events, including the Annual Careers and Education Expo held in the Fred Moule Exhibition Centre, the Annual Health Industry Expo and competitions and awards designed to bring students, educators and the business community together.

Source: www.bla.org.au/home
Dungarvan live it up Army Style

Dungarvan was given the opportunity to visit 51FNQR A Company Depot in Atherton, Mareeba War Museum, then off to Ms Dillon’s property in Ravenshoe to camp under hutchies on army stretchers and to survive on 1 man combat ration packs for 24 hours as part of their studies of “Living in the Bush Army Style”

The students were not sure how they were going to survive without fresh food, shower and their mobile phones!!!

They learnt about the different types of weapons used in today’s Army and got to experience wearing the NVG’s (Night Vision Goggles), the highlight of the Atherton visit was to ride in the back of the RFSV (Regional Force Surveillance Vehicle).

Mareeba Museum showed the students how the equipment has changed over the years which they found very interesting.

Once at Ravenshoe they had to erect their hutchie and stretcher correctly for a good night’s sleep. 1 man CRP’s (Combat Ration Packs) were next up and boy did we see some interesting meals created. Night time was a big warm bonfire followed by learning how to patrol quietly at night time.

Hey, which way, with these hutchies and stretchers???
ExPeDItIoNS
2011

We would like to thank the PCAP organisation for the support of our Expedition Program throughout 2011. If it was not for this funding it would have been extremely difficult for us to run our Expedition Program.
Hero Stories

By Students from Transition Class Baggot Street

In Term Four, the English and SOSE program in Baggot Street focused on Heroes and Role Models. The students discussed who are heroes and qualities that make a hero. They learned about admirable personalities from different fields and backgrounds. We discussed that our choices of heroes reflect our values and beliefs. Regularly, discussions and learning activities were linked to our Religious Education unit ‘Preparing us for the coming of Jesus’.

We talked about Christian values and reflected on Jesus’ life as peace maker and role model.

This is the story about my brother

By Denson Mooka

My hero is my big brother because he taught me lots of things. My brother was born in 1992 in Cairns. His name is Gibson Joe. My brother is the eldest boy in the family. He has three sisters and two brothers. He went to Mabuiag Island State School and later to high school in Cairns. Now he is working for Ibis on Mabuiag Island. When he was a teenager he started to dive for crayfish to make money. When I was twelve years old he also taught me how to dive and I made lots of money by selling crayfish. When we have money we help mum to buy food for the house. My brother also helps mum to cook food.

Once, my brother Gibson Joe saved my small brother from a shark. My small brother dived into the water. Suddenly I saw a shark and I shouted to Gibson, ‘Watch out, there is a shark!!’ Straight away he dived into the water and pushed my little brother into a boat. Both boys were safe and the shark swam away.

I chose my brother as my role model because he taught me lots of things and I want to be like him.

My Mum is a Hero – by David Booth

My mum is my hero because she helps people in our community. Her name is Davina Baker. She was born in 1975 in Queensland. My mum first went to Doomadgee State School. Later on she moved down to Atherton to do schooling.

My mum has four kids. Besides me, David Booth junior, she has another son and two daughters. Her partner is David Booth senior.

My mum works at the Community Health Centre in Doomadgee, straight across the road from Doomadgee State School. She helps people around the community. She works with young teenage boys and girls to get them off drugs and grog so they can be healthy and fit.

My mum is my hero and I love her so much because she is a good woman and she loves me too.

My hero is my brother

By Benjamin Pootchemunka

My brother is a hero because he taught me everything.

His name is Breet Pootchemunka and he was born in 1991 in Cairns. He has two younger brothers and one younger sister.

Now he lives in Aurukun. That is where he also went to school. He liked to play touch football when he was younger.

He works as a builder and uses the money he makes to buy food for the house. He looks after me and my brothers and my little sister. He is my role model because he does not smoke or drink.

Throughout the term, the students researched and discussed heroes and role models from different fields such as sports, music, acting, activism and religion and created biographical texts, posters and PowerPoint presentations. Creating a story about a family hero was one of the students’ favourite writing activities. We realised that everyone can be a hero and that it makes us strong and proud to have a hero in the family.
Dear Parents,

The Federal government’s Gonski Review of Funding for Schools will finalise its report in the coming weeks. A period of government consultation and public debate on its recommendations is then expected to follow early in 2012.

As key stakeholders in the future of Catholic education it is vital that you are aware of the facts about school funding so that you are able to participate in this debate at any opportunity.

Please find attached a graph that illustrates the comparative average resourcing levels of the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors in Australia.

For more detailed information about school funding I encourage you to visit the website developed by the National Catholic Education Commission at: www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards

Mike Byrne
Executive Director
We have a BALL thanks to PCAP funding. This funding helps us transport our students to many sporting events...
Upcoming Events

MSB Office Closes   Fri 9th December
Christmas Day       Sun 25th December
Boxing Day          Mon 26th December
New Year’s Day      Sun 1st January
MSB Office Opens 2012 Mon 16th January
New Boarders Travel Tues 17th January
New Boarders Orientation Wed 18th January
Year 8 & New Student Mon 23rd January
Orientation & Boarders Travel Tuesday 24th January
All classes commence
Australia Day Holiday
New Year’s Day       Sun 1st January
MSB Office Opens 2012 Mon 16th January
New Boarders Travel Tues 17th January
New Boarders Orientation Wed 18th January
Year 8 & New Student Mon 23rd January
Orientation & Boarders Travel Tuesday 24th January
All classes commence
Australia Day Holiday

Preparing for dangerous weather - Do your kids feel safe?

You know how to keep our kids physically safe, but how do you prepare them emotionally for dangerous weather?

1. Talking to your kids about dangerous weather is helpful, but make sure it’s not the only thing you talk about with them.
2. If your kids ask you questions, stick to the facts without too much detail.
3. Kids look to adults for how to behave, so make sure you stay calm yourself.
4. Go over your family’s dangerous weather plan with your kids so they know how to stay safe. Please visit www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq for more information.
5. Limit your child’s contact with media stories about dangerous weather—adults need to stay informed, but kids don’t need to see hours of scary images.
6. When dangerous weather approaches, stay close to your kids and know where they are.
7. Talk to your local GP or call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) if you’re worried about your kids or need support.

Seasons Greetings from all the staff at Mount St Bernard College