Dear families,

As you would be aware Pope Francis accepted Bishop David's resignation Wednesday 13th November. The College of Consultors of the diocese of Broken Bay appointed Father Vince Casey as Diocesan Administrator until a new Bishop is appointed. I know you will all join me in keeping Bishop David in your prayers and wishing him well for his retirement. There is an invitation attached to this newsletter inviting the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay to a Farewell Mass for Bishop David on Saturday 14th December. There is a very short turnaround and so the RSVP date is 4th December. I encourage you all to attend.

Most families will be heaving a sigh of relief now that the examinations for Years 7 to 10 have finished and the girls are back into their regular school routine. As parents and students it is timely to remember the saying of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop “if you do your best God will bless your efforts”. If each of us strives to do our best everyday then we will all achieve and this is important for the girls to remember as they begin to receive their marks.

This term has been one where the girls have been able to demonstrate their hard work, skills and learning for the year and this week I was very privileged to be part of the Year 7 Connected Learning Expo Evening. The evening provided a forum for the girls to present their projects for family, friends and staff. Year 7 began with the questions “How do you get people to do what you want them to do?” earlier this year. To find and answer they have explored the methods of famous and infamous people, advertisers, the media who have been able to convince others to change their minds and viewpoints.

The presentations included films, speeches, posters, pamphlets, business cards and even singing and dancing as each team explained their concepts and products all the while applying their learning to “get us to do what they wanted us to do”. The presentations were so impressive and I know that parents and staff were very proud of the girls that presented. It was wonderful to have conversations with so many parents who were so impressed not just by the work the girls had done but also by the courage, maturity and accomplishment of their daughter’s as they presented to classrooms filled with parents, staff and other students. I’d like to also thank the Connected Learning teachers for all their hard work and giving up their time so the girls could share their work with their families, it’s not very often parents get a firsthand experience of what happens at high school!

As the academic year draws to a close it is time to plan for next year. We have evaluated the class structures that we have had in place over the past twelve months for Years 7 – 10 where the girls stayed with the Pastoral Class for core subjects (RE, PDHPE, Science and HSIE). We have found that although this has led to greater connections between the girls in Pastoral Classes when it continued for two years, as with Year 8, it meant that they weren’t making connections outside those groups. Therefore we will utilise the following structures for 2014:

- Year 7 will have base classes in Pastoral Classes which will run through the Pastoral, CAPA and TAS classes so that we provide them with the best
opportunity to make important friendships and connections as they begin secondary school. The girls will stay together for these subjects but not the other core subjects.

- Years 8 – 10 will not continue with the base class structure for their core subjects (RE, PDHPE, Science and HSIE) instead they will be regrouped using the variety of data available to us. They will continue with their current Pastoral Groupings for morning Pastoral and the Pastoral lesson that takes place once per cycle.
- English and Mathematics will continue to be graded classes.

As an adjunct to our planning for next year last week we welcomed our new Principal for 2014, Mr Tony McCudden. It was wonderful to see the warm welcome that the girls gave and the conversations that occurred. We had intended to have an assembly however the inclement weather meant that that was not possible so Mr McCudden and I spent the morning visiting classrooms. We were extremely fortunate to be able to chat with each class. As a staff we welcomed Tony with scones, jam and cream!

God bless,
Cheryl Merryweather
Acting Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The end of Week 7 is fast approaching so don’t be alarmed that this edition of the Journal refers to end of year functions and final reports. Students have completed Semester 2 examinations and teachers are writing reports. We are getting ready to welcome our Year 7 2014 students on Orientation Day at the end of next week and we are preparing for our Advent assembly and Presentation evening, both on December 12. The HSC is over for another year and Year 12 graduation dinner was our chance to farewell the class of 2013. The girls looked beautiful, spoke warmly and with humour and were very appreciative of the chance to catch up and say thank you.

Year 7, 2014 Information Evening
The Information Evening for parents of Year 7 2014 begins at 7pm in the Dewey Centre this Thursday November 21. Parents will meet Mr Tony McCudden the new College Principal and have an opportunity to meet their daughter’s Year 7 Pastoral teacher. Important information about student wellbeing, curriculum and the tablet devices will be provided. We look forward to greeting as many parents as possible that evening.

2013 Safe Schools Survey
This is a short questionnaire completed by all students in the College in Term 4 each year. It is designed to gather information about bullying and harassment – student understanding of what constitutes bullying behaviour, the typical behaviours experienced by targets and perpetrated by ‘bullies’, where and when bullying takes place, impacts on the victim and student perception of the effectiveness of how the College manages reports. The survey is being administered this week. The results are analysed and compared with data from previous years to determine trends. We use the information to guide the preparation of the pastoral program for the following year.

Highlights from the Term 4 Pastoral Program
There are several. Students in Years 7 and 8 saw a special advance performance of the new Year 10 Drama production on bullying that tours Diocesan primary schools in Term 4 each year. Bullying scenarios were performed and students were given the chance to ask the performers questions about bullying. This is a very engaging learning and teaching strategy. Year 9 students are rotating through a program that includes learning about their rights at work from representatives of SDA, the union representing employees in retail and fast food industries. In another workshop, students are learning about how important persistence and managing impulsivity are to success. Students in Year 10 updated their resumes and practised writing covering letters to apply for a holiday job.

A Gold Coin for the Philippines
Mrs Toby launched this appeal last week by putting together a series of images highlighting how much help the people of Tacloban in particular, need in rebuilding their lives after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. Pastoral teachers have shown the images and Year 12 Leaders are visiting classes to collect a gold coin. We thank the girls for their generosity.

Christmas Hampers for Vinnies
We are also collecting goodies for our annual Christmas hampers. Students are asked to donate non-perishable Christmas fare (typical Christmas food items) to their Pastoral class hamper basket. We will present these to a representative from St Vincent de Paul at our College assembly in early December.

Buses
Given my recent conversations with local bus companies, it is a timely reminder that students are expected to uphold both the College values and the bus rules when travelling to and from school. This is extremely important for students who travel using a bus pass as infringement of the rules may result in their bus pass being withdrawn. Please be aware that bus passes must be used for the bus for which they were issued and to travel directly to and from school; the pass cannot be used for other journeys.
The bus companies contact us regularly if there are issues on the buses and have done so this week regarding the following:

- Students travelling on a bus that is not covered by their bus pass e.g. travelling to a friend's house after school and not paying the bus fare (note that the driver has the right to not allow the student on the bus if they do not pay the fare), or students attempting to catch an earlier bus when their pass is specifically for a later bus.
- Students claiming that they have missed their bus to school so attempt to catch another bus not covered by their pass. Please note that students must pay the fare or risk the driver refusing them entry on the bus.
- Students who get off the bus at Erina Fair before coming to school then trying to board another bus for the rest of their journey without paying the fare. In this case students are not using their bus pass as it was intended and run the risk that the bus company will withdraw it. The College expects students to travel directly to and from school so any deviation within the journey may also result in consequences at the College.

Please discuss this with your daughter to ensure that she is aware of the rules applying to school bus passes and that she understands the correct use of it.

Advent Assembly
We will celebrate Advent and the end of the school year with a liturgy and reflection in the ERC on Thursday December 12. Also, Year 11 students who travelled to Warmun at the end of Term 2 will share their experiences and reflections with us and Year 12 Leaders plan to launch the Charity they have chosen to support in 2014 with a video presentation that highlights the work of this charity - Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia) Ltd.

Presentation Evening
The College with celebrate the success and achievements of the girls for 2013 on Thursday December 12 from 7pm in the ERC. A letter inviting all families to join us at this very special evening will go home with the girls early next week and families of award winners will receive an invitation letter later in the week.

End of Term 4 – Years 7-11
The last day of classes for all students, including Year 10, is Thursday December 12. Please remember that under the new attendance legislation explanations for absences must be received by the College within 7 days and absences of more than 5 days require approval from the Principal.

There is much to accomplish over the next few weeks as we gear up for the end of the year at school and prepare ourselves at home for the Christmas season. I wish you well as you juggle all your commitments.

Please contact me if you have any concerns about how the year is finishing for your daughter.

Helen Love
Acting Assistant Principal

FROM THE RE LEADER
Year 9 Reflection Day
On Wednesday 16th October 2013, Year 9 had their reflection day, run by Youth Mission Team. The day was focused on self-image and how God created us all differently but still perfectly. The team of young adults used a combination of games, personal stories, movie clips, drama, small groups and readings to explain their sessions: uniqueness and individuality, loving and accepting others and, God - an intimate relationship.

Throughout the day there were times to run around and let loose and forget about stress. At other times we were calm and doing things that would help with the stress. The team stories were scattered throughout the day affirming the messages of the sessions. The program was fun and interesting, making the day enjoyable for the students who were encouraged to become closer friends with a loving God.

Hannah M
Year 9

Nicole Harrison
RE Leader

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
Year 12, 2014
The Year 12 2014 students have received their handbooks detailing information about their HSC assessment schedule. As well, all girls have received the Board of Studies HSC Rules and Procedures booklet. The next few weeks will be busy with assessment tasks and it is important the girls take a balanced approach to life and make sure that they are eating well, getting enough sleep and enjoy some relaxation time. If the girls are ill or have a misadventure on the day of a task they must notify myself, the Leader of Learning or Mr
Matthews and complete the appropriate documentation on their return. Please read the Assessment Policy and Procedures in the Year 12 Assessment Handbook so that you and your daughter understand all relevant processes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the College.

Please remember that if you would like further information regarding the HSC including internal assessment, the written examinations and calculation of your HSC mark then go to: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/yourhsc.

**Years 7 - 10**

Term 4 has certainly been very busy and the Year 7 – 10 students are to be congratulated on their mature approach to the recent yearly examinations. Classes and learning will continue until the end of term so it is important that all girls are in class. The Semester 2 reports for Years 7–10 will be posted to families toward the end of term. Parents may phone teachers to discuss their daughter’s report in the final weeks of term.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching

**FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER**

**Family Registration Forms**
Family Registration Forms were sent home to all families in the last week of October. These forms were due back to the College by Friday 8th November, 2013. If you still have not returned this form please do so immediately or we will assume that you elect to pay your 2014 fees in three instalments and that there are no sibling reductions to apply.

**School Fees**
Final instalments on all fees were due November 15th 2013. It is expected that all fees are finalised by the end of this month. As discussed previously, if you are experiencing difficulty in meeting your financial commitment please contact the Finance department to arrange a plan to extend your payments. In the case of genuine financial hardship assistance can be provided on request.

**Emails & Mobile Phone Numbers**
It is vitally important that the College maintains up-to-date records should we need to contact you. Where possible correspondence, latest news updates and fee statements are emailed directly to you. If you have not been receiving this information please contact the College to ensure your details are correct. Of late we have had a number of emails bounce back as undeliverable which means these families are not receiving regular communication from us. In the case of an emergency, the College will start SMS notifications direct to your mobile so it is important we hold your correct mobile phone number.

**Second Hand Uniforms and Text Books**
If you have uniforms or text books that you would like to sell “Uniforms For Sale” and “Text Books For Sale” notice boards have been set up in the College reception. Please outline details of what uniform items and text books (separately please) you are selling and your direct contact details and we will happily display these notices for you. Please note: the College takes no responsibility for items or money exchanging.

Additionally, if you have uniform items that you are able to donate to the College we would love to direct these to families in need. Please drop any uniforms to the College Reception and know they will go to students who will be very grateful for your generosity.

Nicole Murphy
Business Manager

**FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

YEAR 11 YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM 2014
Our college has formed a new Youth Ministry Team from Year 10 students. These students will be involved in leadership and support Youth Ministry projects and events within the St Joseph’s and Broken Bay Catholic Community.

Congratulations to the following students:

Caulfield, A Dodd, C
Fryar, G Goard, E
George, R Glassock, K
Hall, B Jones, S
Kennedy, M Keogh, S
McEnearney, K Amy Leavey
Powers, K Smith, T
Wright, C Zavolokin, J
Kennedy, O Smith, G
O'Dell, J Mercado, G
Ofahengaue, M Henderson, G

This year the newly formed team is running a drama and liturgy for the Year 7, 2014 Orientation Day on the 28th November and the Advent Liturgies for our final college assembly and Presentation Evening on the 12th December.

In 2014 the Youth Ministry Team will be running a Reflection Day for Year 7 students at our new Catholic College, St Brigid’s at Lake Munmorah. They will also be running a Twilight Retreat for our own Year 7 students later in the year.

We would appreciate your prayers for these girls as they step out to share their faith in God with their peers.
and as they continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

**NOVEMBER PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT**

Buses filled with young people from schools and parishes across the diocese arrived at Mary MacKillop Church at Warnervale on Friday 15th November for a fantastic night of music, prayer, community and inspiration. Our young people who are travelling to Melbourne for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival were also blessed on this evening. The Praise and Worship Nights are run by the Youth Ministry staff from the Broken Bay Diocese and they plan to have one per term in 2014. Students from Saint Joseph’s are always invited to travel to these nights on the bus we hire.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL**

Seventeen Year 11 students from Saint Joseph’s as well as two members of college staff, Fiona Green and Ashley Stevens, are attending The Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne which is being run by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Festival is from the 5th to the 7th of December. We are very excited that over 100 presenters, more than 260 sessions, and over 3000 people are all a part of the celebration!

For your information the Uniform Shop will be open over the January School Holiday (2014) period on the following days:

- **Monday** 20/1, 12-2pm
- **Tuesday** 21/1, 8:30 – 11:30am
- **Wednesday** 22/1, 12-2pm
- **Thursday** 23/1, 8:30-11:30am
- **Friday** 24/1, 12-2pm
- **Tuesday** 28/1, 8:30-10am
- **Thursday** 30/1, 8:10am
- **Friday** 31/1, 8-10am

**Christmas Mass Times @ Gosford Parish**

**Christmas Eve**
- The ERC, St Edward’s College, Russell Drysdale Street, East Gosford
  6pm – Children’s Mass (Carols from 5.30pm)
- St Patrick’s Church, 76 York Street, East Gosford
  9pm – Youth Mass & Midnight Mass
- St Francis of Assisi, 30 Lutana Road, Somersby
  6pm Mass

**Christmas Day**
- St Patrick’s Church
  7.30am, 9am & 6pm

**Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation**
- St Patrick’s Church
- Friday, 20 December 7.30pm