Planning for 2014
In 2014 we will have 26 classes; four classes of prep and year one and three classes of years two to seven. 2014 will be the final year of year seven in primary school. At the end of 2014 we will farewell three classes of year sevens and three classes of year six. Our fourth stream will replace the year seven classes.
Class teachers will be announced in our next newsletter.
On Friday 25 October our Administration Team, APRE, APA & principal, met off site at our BCE North Lakes office to plan for 2014. During the year we gather data as part of our annual Internal School Renewal process & use this information to plan for the future.
We have some major curriculum projects planned for 2014 & beyond.

Staffing 2014
Mr Brian McGill has tendered his resignation after over forty years as a teacher and principal in primary schools. Brian plans to do supply teaching in his retirement. Mrs Liz Devine has also tendered her resignation after being on St Dympna’s teaching staff for the past ten years. Liz as accepted a continuing teaching position at St Pat’s Shorncliffe. Brian and Liz will be missed.
Our big new is that our APRE, Liz Pashen, is leaving us at the end of this year. Liz has been participating in the Shared Practice program run by BCE to move some primary teachers to secondary schools when the year seven move from primary school. Liz has accepted a teaching position at St John Fisher College Bracken Ridge and will begin her new career in January 2014. I wish Liz well in her futures endeavours, thank her for her significant contribution to our school over the past six years and say a very sad farewell. Liz will be missed by our school community.
The APRE position has been advertised & we will hold interviews before the term ends.
Our guidance counsellor, Elizabeth Millar, begins maternity leave at the end of this week. Elizabeth’s replacement for 2014 is yet to be appointed.
Cecelia Draper & Renee White will also be on maternity leave throughout 2014.
Tish Lee has accepted a job share position at a school close to her home on the south side. Maree Herzig will work in a part time capacity in 2014, not as a classroom teacher.
Kerry Lee is taking leave during 2014.
We are welcoming back from maternity leave Jodie Campbell & Natalie Doherty.
We will also welcome to our teaching staff Lauren Ingold who is currently at St Kevin’s Geebung and Teisha Dunn from BCE, previously Holy Cross Wooloowin.
As you can see there are a few staff changes.

Reporting to Parents
All students will receive their Semester 2 report on Wednesday 4 December 2013. Students will also be given their class placement for 2014 with their report. Students absent at that time will have their report & class placement posted. Because all reports are generated online it is not possible to issue single reports at an earlier time.
Performing Arts
Congratulations to our students & their teachers for a wonderful display of talent & expertise at yesterday's Performing Arts afternoon. Thank you to our dedicated teachers for providing this opportunity to our students & to the staff who helped with the preparation & those who worked on the day. Thank you also to our parents for your ongoing support of our program. Last Wednesday we held our information & recruitment evening for parents with children wishing to join the Speech & Drama program and Music program. More than half of our students participate in these programs.

Year 5 Camp
Last month our three year five classes and five teachers attended a school camp at Mapleton. This is the first time our year fives have gone to camp. This group of students will be the first year seven class to move to secondary school at the start of 2015. This extra year of secondary education will bring Queensland in line with the other states and assist with the roll out of Australia’s first ever national curriculum.

Prep Orientation Night for Parents
On Wednesday night, 23 October, we held our Orientation Night for families with prep children enrolled for next year. The children will attend their Orientation Day on Thursday 5 December 2013. We have over 100 children enrolled in our prep program.

Archbishop’s Visit
On Friday 1 November the archbishop began his Parish Pastoral Visit with visit to the school. Archbishop Mark celebrated mass with the whole school then joined our staff for morning tea. Fr Gabriel and I then gave him a short tour of the school. The archbishop is complimentary of our school’s musicians and choristers.
On the Saturday night members of the P&F Association executive joined the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee members to have dinner in with the archbishop in the parish hall. It was the first time that these significant parish groups met & it is hoped that this will happen more regularly.

Parent Workshops
We have scheduled two workshops for parents next week, a Cyber Safety Workshop on Monday 18 November at 7:00pm in the library & an Oral Language & Literacy Workshop on Wednesday 20 November at 7:00pm in the Resource Centre also. We’ve timed these workshops to ensure that parents have ICT knowledge for Christmas shopping as we have had the experience of parents not being aware of the functions of their children’s devices. The language & literacy workshop will provide parents with ideas to use during the coming Christmas holidays.

School Funding for Queensland
As part of a four-year funding agreement between the Queensland and Australian Governments, an additional $884 million will be provided by the Australian Government for Queensland schools. This additional funding has been announced as part of negotiations between the two governments in respect of participation of the Queensland Government in national school funding arrangements. It is anticipated that the announcement of the additional funding will not impact on school funding rates for 2014. Rather it is expected that
part of the additional funding will be included in the 2014/15 State Budget. The State Education Minister has stated that the overall figure to be allocated to education in Queensland over the next four years has yet to be finalised.

**P&F Association**

Congratulations & thank you to our P&F Social Committee for organising last month’s Night Market & last week’s Melbourne Cup luncheon. You have provided a variety of opportunities during 2013 to develop community spirit through successful community events.

Thank you to our Fete Committee for the successful fair which netted a very worthwhile profit. Your fundraising efforts have made a significant contribution to our budget thus allowing us to make continual improvements to the school & your children’s education.

Please see attached a report that lists the P&F contribution to the school & expenditure during 2013. This list does not include the $2000 donation for the year seven graduation celebration and the purchase of ‘hoodies’ for the years seven Canberra camp.

Thank you to our 2013 P&F executive members who have supported everyone’s efforts and guided decision making. Finally, thank you to the parents who have regularly attended our P&F Association meetings where you have added your wisdom & knowledge to our discussions.

Finally, thank you to all the members of our school community who have supported the school in so many & varied ways throughout 2013. Your contribution has enriched our school community as well as your children’s education. Best wishes for the coming Christmas season; may your family be blessed with health & happiness.

God bless