Principal’s Christmas Message

I would like to wish all of our St Mary’s parents, students and friends a safe, happy and holy Christmas and holiday season.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, parents and students to St Mary’s in 2014.

Walt Disney once said ‘You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality’. This is certainly the case as a principal. The reality is that the learning experiences and projects that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from the staff, parents and students.

This year, as a school we welcomed the Australian Curriculum subject of RE and continued with English, mathematics, science, history and geography. 2015 will also see the introduction of Australian Curriculum Physical education and The Arts. The staff is to be applauded for the way in which they have embraced the rewards and challenges of this curriculum and implemented it with positivity and enthusiasm. I am privileged to be a part of a school with highly capable and committed teachers and support staff. One of the critical factors of any successful school is the staff. There has never been a time when being a teacher has been more demanding or challenging. To our teachers and support staff, thank-you for your energy, passion and enthusiasm. What a privilege to be able to witness the joy that comes with the understanding or satisfaction of a problem solved, or the wonder of living new adventures through the world of literature.

Our teachers are privileged each day to participate in their student’s academic journey. They recognise and applaud just how hard their students try. They celebrate their students’ achievements whether they be great or small and they share with pride the progress their students make with their learning.

Not a week goes by that we are not as a school celebrating the successes of our students, whether these successes be in the classroom, playing an instrument, on the sporting field or competitions such as opti minds.
As a school community we also treasure the opportunities where we worship together and celebrate our class prayer assemblies. It is through these opportunities that we experience the message that God loves us in creative and engaging ways.

This year we have celebrated many successful school events such as our St Mary’s Race Day and Art Show, another very successful school fete. Our Senior students enjoyed a week in Sydney and Canberra, our opti-minds science and engineering team came very close to winning overall at the State Finals. This year we also saw the introduction of the ‘Willit’ Garden Club and we registered as the first Qld Eco School. The success of such events would not be possible without staff, parents and students working together collaboratively.

To our departing families and students – make the most of the time God has given you. Whatever you strive for, whatever you do, whatever your lot in life give it your very best. Make the most of it, be positive, choose to be happy and thank God for each new day.

To our returning staff, students and families we look forward to strengthening our relationship with you and embarking on the journey of the 2015 school year together. There are many exciting things set to take place for 2015.

All schools in our diocese have been given significant funds to commence a Professional Learning Community – our particular focus for these funds here at St Mary’s will be improving reading outcomes across the school and Kirsty Lines and Michelle Sheehan will be part of a literacy coaching team within our school.

When I reflect on my time as principal of what I consider to be an awesome school, I have many fond memories. The road has had bumps and many challenges along the way. The rewards have far outweighed the challenges. All of the experiences of this year have contributed is some way to ensuring we offer our students the best education. I believe we have a unique place for students to learn through loving and living. Thank-you to all of the St Mary’s families who continue to promote St Mary’s in a positive manner.

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe, happy and holy holiday season.