Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of Saints,

**Looking from the shoulders of giants.**

“Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Often as a Science teacher I get asked about the clash between Science and Religion. There is a common perception that the two can never and will never be able to exist comfortably together. It is a debate that dates back centuries and one which some of our greatest minds have seen fit to comment on.

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.”

Abraham Lincoln

So how is it that the two disciplines were separated into bible-thumping fundamentalists and skinny geeks with pocket protectors? Why is it so hard to believe faith and questioning cannot exist together?

There are a large number of perceived contradictions between the two and these are often based on the viewpoint of the students. Listening to their arguments, some common traits are revealed. Students compare the discovery of the knowledge, one from ancient texts or revelations, the other from evidence generated by observation or by experimentation. Both these have assumptions, one that the texts and revelations have meaning to modern or future societies, the other that nature has predictable and explainable patterns. The expectations associated with this knowledge within religion have changed little over time and no changes are expected. This differs greatly with the expectations of science. But is it so different to believe in humans for honest scientific reporting (whose income is often linked to data generation) as it is to believe in an unseen creator? Both rely on faith neither on a tangible object. Maybe Xenophanes (570 – 480 BC) in his ‘Ancient Paradox’ was right when he stated that the Gods did not reveal everything from the beginning to us, but through the course of time, through seeking, all was revealed.

There will always be some contradiction, in religion look no further than the differences between religions and their texts; in science time has changed facts and understanding by changing approaches and materials. But that does not mean they are incompatible. Pope John Paul II believed that the two could be very comfortable together believing science has an ability to purify religion from error and superstition whilst religion would be able to purify science from false absolutes.

One of the greatest scientists, Sir Isaac Newton was a deeply religious man and spent a large amount of time studying the bible. It is probably this influence that was the basis of his below quote, a quote which is mirrored in the stained glass windows of Chartres Cathedral, where the four major prophets (depicted as giants) of the Hebrew Bible (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel) are carrying the four new testament evangelists (depicted as dwarfs) (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) on their shoulders “We are as dwarfs mounted on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more and further than they;”

“If I have been able to see further, it was only because I stood on the shoulders of giants.”

(Isaac Newton, Principia: Vol. I: The Motion of Bodies)

As can be seen in society, there appears to be four trains of thought; those that believe in a God and have no place for science, those believers in science and no God, the believers in both science and God, and finally those that believe in neither. It is possibly the last group who suffer the smallest membership and weren’t worth too much discussion in this article. In fact the group seemed so few in number that one of the only quotes I could find was from the comedian Steve Martin who stated:

“It’s so hard to believe in anything anymore. I mean, it’s like, religion, you really can’t take it seriously, because it seems so mythological, it seems so arbitrary...but, on the other hand, science is just pure empiricism, and by virtue of its method, it excludes metaphysics. I guess I wouldn’t believe in anything anymore if it weren’t for my lucky astrology mood watch.”

It is in our mission that at St Augustine’s, through the teaching of science, we will integrate life and faith by living the gospel values of Jesus Christ, encouraging our students to shape and enrich the changing world in which they live. This is done through encouraging students to be effective and creative communicators, who seek truth through enquiry and reflection. They are encouraged to be active participants who are responsible and ethical and who are enriched by a spiritual appreciation of self, God, neighbour and life. After all, if man is made up only of certain chemical elements then he is only intended to be used as fertiliser (Muller J., 1890-1967)

Mr Richard Bassano

The Stained Glass Windows of Chartres Cathedral
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!

Jack West
Year 8
Selected in the Cricket Far North U14 Representative Team.

Jesse McCormack
Year 9
Gold Medal in U16 Javelin Ambulant at the recent Australia AWD Junior Championships.

Garrett Senia
Year 10
Far North Queensland Junior Golfer of the Year.

Brad Dalton
Year 12
Selected in the Queensland Baseball Team.

Brayden Staples
Year 12
Unbroken attendance for 5 years.

Steven Elston
Year 12
Unbroken attendance for 5 years.

2012 Principal’s Awards

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students
Blade Barbagallo: For Proficiency & Effort
Andrew Collins: For Academic Achievement
Cameron McCormack: For Contribution to the College
Colin Min: For Consistent Effort
Jesse Priddle: For Proficiency & High Achievement
Andrew Stott: For Outstanding Effort in Sport

Academic Blue & Cultural Blue Awards

Congratulations to the following boys who received Academic and Cultural Blue Awards.

Academic Blue
Year 8: Nathan Geno, Sam Ralston.
Year 9: James Lay.
Year 10: Michael Elston, Vito Fermo.
Year 11: Tim Charlesworth, Blake Huggett, Samuel Walker.
Year 12: Jesse Priddle, Timothy Sheehan, Zane Tinning.

Cultural Blue
Year 8: Joe Gaudion.

Joseph Polonsky - Year 10
The Brother Leonidas Memorial Awards for Christian Leadership in the Junior School.

Matthew Wright - Year 10
The Old Boys Prize for All Round Achievement in Year 10 presented by Br Paul Hough.

George Druery - Year 9
Junior Orator of the Year presented by Fr Neil Muir, Vicar for Education.

William McCarthy - Year 10
The Sam Pappalardo Memorial Bursary for Effort and Achievment in Year 10.

Please direct special achievements to Br Bill for both in and out of school activities for your son.
Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected by peers and staff to be our College Leaders in 2013.

**Captain**
Matt Hancock

**Vice Captain**
Seamus McManus

**Academic Captain**
John Hickey

**Sports Captain**
Connor Quinn

**Sports Vice Captain & Service Captain**
Ben Harris

**Arts Captain**
Liam Spannenburg

**Public Speaking Captain**
Christian Peters

**Liturgy & Saints Mates Captain & Boarding Vice Captain**
Patrick Dwyer

**Phelan Captain**
Jordan Way

**Heavey Captain**
Liam Duncan

**Reginald Captain**
David Munro

**Walter Captain**
Jack Ward

**SRC President**
Jacob Hurley

**Boarding Captain**
Blake Huggett

Last week we held our AGM for the Old Boys’ Association. We are hoping to build up this group in the year ahead with the goal in reconnecting Old Boys with the College. Thanks to the following men who have taken positions for the year ahead.

**President**
Mr Brad Hutchinson

**Vice President**
Mr Ken Harris

**Treasurer**
Mr John Brimstone

**Secretary**
Mr Czek Kersevani

In 2013 we will have an Old Boys’ newsletter once a semester to keep our Old Boys in touch with College news. We are also building up the database of contact information from Old Boys. Please forward contact details to Mrs Jean Lendon to have your information included in our database.

In 2013 we are looking to introduce our first Sports dinner. Details will follow early in the new year.

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**2013 Dates**

Parents are asked to take note of 2013 dates so as to ensure term dates are fully complied with. Please keep in mind that boys are required up to the final listed time and date.

Exams take place in the final weeks of term. It is absolutely essential that boys are present for these exams. Parents are asked to note the finishing and return dates to ensure we have full attendance at these times.

My thanks again for your support. It makes a huge difference when we all follow the guidelines we have in place.

**Term 1**
- Year 8 Boarders in Residence
- Year 8 Boys commence 8.35am
- All Boarders in residence
- Years 9 -12 commences 8.35am
- Last day for Term 1

**Term 2**
- Boarders in Residence
- Classes resume
- Last day of Term 2

**Term 3**
- Boarders in Residence
- School resumes
- Final day Term 3

**Term 4**
- Boarders in Residence
- School resumes
- Pupil Free Day
- Year 12 Graduation Day
- Year 11 Conclude
- Year 8 - 10 Last day Term 4

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**TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS**

- **Friday 16 November** Year 12 Graduation Day
- **Saturday 17 November** Year 8 2013 Testing at 8.30am
- **Tuesday 20 November** Year 8 2013 Orientation Day 9.00am
- **Year 8 2013 Parent Information Evening in Lennon Hall at 7.30pm**
- **Thursday 29 November** Classes finish - Year 11
- **Friday 30 November** Classes finish - Years 8 - 10

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**TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS**

- **Monday January 28th**
- **Tuesday January 29th**
- **Wednesday January 30th**
- **Wednesday March 27th**

**TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS**

- **Monday 8th**
- **Tuesday 9th**
- **Thursday September 19th**

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**TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS**

- **Monday October 7th**
- **Tuesday October 8th**
- **Monday October 21st**
- **Friday November 15th**
- **Thursday November 28th**
- **Friday November 29th**
Left: Harry Theodore - Good Conduct Medal presented Mr Frank Mines.

Right: Jarrad Eastwood - Lionel Williamson Award for Initiative and Service presented by Mr Lionel Williamson.

Below: Brendan Marino - Champagnat Award presented by Br Bill.

David Keogh: College Dux presented by Br Bill.

Above: Patrick Kenny - Lou Piccone Prize for General Proficiency presented by Mr Peter Piccone.


Right: Cameron McCormack - Senior Orator of the Year, Debater of the Year presented by Br Bill.

Peter Andreassen - The Matthew-John Mauro Award for Outstanding Effort by a Senior Student presented by Mrs Sarina Mauro.

Jarrad Eastwood - Bishop's Brize for Christian Leadership presented by Bishop James Foley.
Seize the opportunities laid before you.

The big ticket item of this week is the Graduation of our senior cohort for 2012. Events such as this, along with the Annual Awards Night and the Yr. 10 Presentation provide the occasion to highlight our individual and collective achievements of the year. These events can also be a time to personally reflect on how we as individuals have spent the year. There is no doubt that Saints offers the opportunity for students to reach their potential in many areas of their adolescent life. It is important to reflect on how well we have individually grasped those opportunities and conversely to consider how we may have squandered some opportunities.

A student’s schooling years should be wonderful years of self-discovery and self-mastery. So as we personally celebrate our achievements, or witness the celebrations of other’s achievements, it is important to consider how we may better seize the opportunities that life at Saints presents. The challenge for the boys of Saints is to choose to be a player and not a spectator in the life of the College. In that way, when their Graduation rolls by, they will leave with an enduring sense of accomplishment.

I have no doubt that the young men of Saints who graduate on Friday 16th November, 2012 will do so with that sense of accomplishment. They are a tremendous group of young men and as we farewell them we pray that their future will be one full of hope.

Mr David Harris
Deputy Principal (Pastoral)
**HPE DEPARTMENT**

The Year 11 PE students are currently hard at it following the black line at the bottom of the College swimming pool. For many of the students this is a particularly arduous task and completing more than one lap without stopping is quickly becoming a goal which many of them aim to achieve. Students will be assessed on their ability to complete the 100m freestyle as fast as they can utilising all the skills taught including starts, turns, streamline position, body position and kick. Some of the boys are finding this training extremely demanding and it is particularly pleasing to see many of the boys step up to the challenge and push themselves extremely hard in the training. This unit will continue into Year 12 where boys will get the opportunity to continue their development of the skills and fitness requirements of swimming as they move towards their first summative assessment for Year 12.

– Mr McMenamin

In Year 10 PE this term the boys have been developing their Basketball skills in the practical component of the unit while learning about ‘Sociology of Sport’ in theory, including the particularly relevant topic of the increasing use of Performance Enhancing Drugs in Sport. The students have been very enthusiastic while playing on the outdoor court even when the heat has been upwards of 30 degrees. Ethan Poi Poi has impressed us with his Kobe Bryant like ball handling from the backcourt while Maclean Simpson has been surprising us with his leaping ability.

– Mr Evans

In the final term of the year, the Year 9 PE students have been participating in a Cricket Unit, in which students have been active in two forms of Cricket, including the traditional form of the game, whilst also having exposure to some Indoor Cricket. Students have recently completed their Indoor Cricket Unit, and now look forward to scoring many runs, and taking plenty of wickets during their outdoor games. In the theory component of the course, the Year 9 students are undertaking a Biomechanics Unit, in which they are specifically investigating the theoretical concepts of inertia, momentum, acceleration, projectile motion and levers in sporting contexts. Students are now in the process of completing their Projectile Motion Lab assessment piece, which is due this coming Friday, November 16.

– Mr Toombs

**MATHS DEPARTMENT**

Late last term, the Mathematics Department subscribed to an online resource called MyMathsOnline. It is used successfully in a variety of ways in a few other Catholic schools of our Diocese.

Using the basic College login and password, students and parents can access a range of interactive lessons, learning tools, practice/homework sheets and mathematical games – all for the full range of topics offered across our Years 8-12 curriculum.

Using their own unique login and password, students can enter their tailored “Student Portal”. If their teacher is using MyMathsOnline as part of his/her homework package for that class, the “Student Portal” will display current activities or tasks that the teacher has set. Once completed by the student, it will be marked online and both the student and the teacher receive progressive feedback on student performance. An excellent quick diagnostic tool.

At this stage, I would encourage students and parents to explore the general entry portal for the College using the following credentials:

Login: sacqld  
Password: algebra

As teachers begin to incorporate it into their units, students will be issued with their unique Student Portal login.

Mr Michael Lindsay
Senior Cantors Acknowledged: Our Year 12 Cantors of Will Holmes, Daniel Majer, Tim Sheehan and James Uta were presented with Cantor badges at Assembly last week to acknowledge continued excellence in service to the College as Cantors at College Masses, Assemblies and Liturgies. Well done boys and keep singing!

Year 12 Arts Students: Congratulations to all Year 12 Arts students for their excellent work this year and also over the past 5 years. Our leading Arts students in Art, Drama, FTV, Music and Music Extension, Oliver Hanran, Kieren Nyko, Peter Andreasen, Paul Harms, Zane Tinning, Callan Byrnes, Sam Pates, Tim Sheehan, Daniel Majer, James Uta, Will Holmes and others have all produced some outstanding, well crafted and creative works over the course of their Senior Studies.

Congratulations: Jordan Bromley, Year 11, for his excellent 10 minute film of highlights of the First XV. The film was shown to a very appreciative audience at a lunch meeting last week.

Congratulations to Aidan Daley, Year 10 who has been accepted into the Queensland Dance School of Excellence in Brisbane. We are very sorry to see Aidan go but wish him all the very best for the next stage in his education.

Speech Night: Congratulations to all prize winners and performers at last week’s Awards Night. Your performances gave a special atmosphere to this wonderful annual event.

Ensembles Breakup: Our Senior musicians from both Saints and St. Monica’s College were acknowledged at our annual music ensembles breakup breakfast held on Tuesday, in particular Steven Elston and Max Selwyn. Well done to all participants on what has been a strong and productive year that has seen real growth and development in many areas.

Jesus Christ Superstar: Auditions are well underway for lead roles which should be able to be announced in the final newsletter of the year.

A Little Bit of Magic: Nine Year 9 students were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of magic thanks to the expert guidance of Br Barry Lamb who joined the Year 9s and offered specialist workshops. The boys really appreciated his passion and dedication to this craft and have returned to class enthusiastically stumping their peers with their magic prowess. We sincerely appreciate the time you took to educate the boys and keep the “Magic Alive”.

Farewell and Good Luck to the Thespians of 2012: A sad farewell to the Year 12 Drama cohort. You have been a vibrant and talented group of young men to work with.

The Arts department wish all Year 12 students the best for your future endeavours and we all know you will go far.

Mr Malcolm Cole
The time has come to say farewell to our current Year 12 cohort and to wish you all the best for your futures. The next few months will be a daunting time with a lot of waiting. Waiting for the OP results to come out, waiting for job offers or university placements to be announced. This can be a very stressful time for families but rest assured in knowing there are always options available. Several universities are offering information sessions just after the OP results are released to help guide students who need to make changes to their preferences based on lower than expected results. These are advertised on university websites and also in newspapers and radio. For the students looking for apprenticeships, traineeships, cadetships and work it is crucial to get your resumes out to employers. Good luck to all graduates.

Year 11’s now start the process of finalising what they want to do in the future and begin the QTAC process. QTAC is the organisation that lists all Queensland university courses, bridging courses, application processes and special circumstances requests. It is really important for the current Year 11’s to start researching this site now so they can make informed decisions. It is also a crucial time for self reflection – “Did I receive my marks because of the hard work I put in?” or “Did I get these results because I left things to the last minute and really didn’t apply myself”? Important information can be found on the QTAC website (www.qtac.edu.au) and students need to familiarise themselves with how this site works. If students are struggling to find direction they are welcome to make an appointment to see Mrs Hunt over the next few weeks or at the beginning of the 2013 school year.

Mrs Narelle Hunt

QUT scholarships

QUT offers a range of scholarships to reward and support commencing students. Numerous scholarships are still available but close on November 16th. All scholarship details are outlined at www.qut.edu.au.

At QIBT you can complete a Diploma in 8 months and then be guaranteed entry into the 2nd year of the relevant Griffith University degree program. Want to find out more information? Register online at www.qibt.qld.edu.au/griffith to attend one of our Information Evenings in December, January or February. Can’t make it to an Information Evening, visit www.qibt.qld.edu.au or ring 3735 6900 for further information.

Change of Preference Information Evenings

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Date: Monday, 17 December 2012
Time: 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Location: N.A. 06/07, ACU Brisbane Campus, 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo

For more information contact
Kate Mahedy - Marketing Coordinator
Ph: 03 9953 3548
M: 0467 732 867
Email: kate.mahedy@acu.edu.au

UQ Options Evening

Date: Wednesday 19 December, 2012
Time: 4.30pm-7:00pm
Venue: St Lucia Campus, UQ Centre, Building 27a

The University Of Queensland Australia

Gold Coast 3-6pm
Location: Activity Centre, The Link (G07 building)

South Bank 3-6pm
Location: Level 7, Webb Centre (S02 building)

Want to know more? Register online to attend or call us on 1800 677 728 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday and talk directly with experienced advisers about your options and course requirements.
‘What is Architectural Design?’ - Workshop for high school students Monday 21 - Tuesday 22 January 2013

Studio Mitt is a collaborative architectural practice actively involved in architectural design education within South-East Queensland universities. The two-day workshop ‘What is Architectural Design?’ provides an opportunity for secondary school students to learn more about studying architecture at a tertiary level. Secondary school students who are interested in studying architecture are invited to attend a 2-day workshop at our St Lucia campus on 21 - 22 January 2013. The cost of the workshop is $220 per student.

For information phone: 07 33652382
Email: info@studiomitt.com.au

InspireU - Engineering Summer Experience for Indigenous Australians: Monday 7 - Friday 11 January 2013

InspireU is a FREE engineering summer camp provided specifically for Indigenous Australian students entering Year 11 & 12 in 2013. Students will participate in site visits, laboratory experiences, college stay, Story Bridge climb, Dreamworld experience, meet young engineers plus heaps more!

When: Monday 7 - Friday 11 January 2013
Where: St Lucia Campus
For information contact: Lone Pearce
Phone 07 33467964. Email: l.pearce3@uq.edu.au

Applications close Monday 19 November 2012
For information please phone: 0733654959
Email: scholar@economics.uq.edu.au
Website: www.uq.edu.au/economics/scholarship-prizes-bursaries

APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS WITH SKILL@360

Skill360 are inviting students who are interested in apprenticeships and traineeships to register.

The benefits of full time apprenticeships/traineeships.

• Combine further education with paid employment
• Get paid whilst learning the latest knowledge and skills for your chosen career
• An alternative pathway to tertiary studies
• Get a Nationally recognised qualification upon completion
• Gain real practical skills, confidence and experience in the workforce
• No HECS debt
• You will be supported by experienced Employment Coordinators across all aspects of your work and training.

To Register
1. Email: schools@skill360.com.au for a registration form
2. You can register online at www.skill360.com.au - you must have an electronic copy of your resume to apply online.
3. See Mrs. Hunt at school. Note: You cannot register without providing a copy of your resume
For more details phone 1300 933 358.

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

With exams and assignment deadlines all around, here are some very simple basics to keep in mind....

Sometimes “starting” is the hardest part, but you have to start!

Break things down into smaller parts. Don’t try to tackle everything in one go. Each smaller part is easier to manage and you will feel like you are achieving something after each small step. Each small step moves you closer to the target!

Work on your motivation. Accept that you may not feel motivated, but push on regardless. Set yourself some rewards along the way. Make some deals with yourself, work on small steps.

Judge yourself against yourself! Don’t try to be someone else. You need to be realistic about what you can achieve and the sort of results that you are capable of.

Be honest with yourself! You can make excuses to others, but only you will know if you are really being honest with yourself.

Ms Jenny Jensen
NOTICES

Shop Hours for Term 4
Monday 8.30am – 11.30am & 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 8.30am - 11.30am & 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 8.30am - 11.30am & 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Closed Tuesdays and Fridays

NOVEMBER SALE
A reminder that our 10% Storewide November sale is well underway now and will finish on Thursday 29 November (last day of trading for 2012).

YEAR 8 ORIENTATION DAY
The Saints Shop will be open on Tuesday 20th November for the Year 8 Orientation Day.

SAINTS SHOP WEBSITE
The online shop is proving successful with many parents taking advantage of this service.
Go to http://shop.sac.qld.edu.au/

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT THE SAINTS SHOP
The Saints Shop relies on the assistance of volunteers during our busy time of the year. If you have some time to spare during the two weeks prior to Term 1 2013, please call Helen in the Saints Shop on 4052 9137 to put your name on the roster. Work involves assisting boys with sizes etc and restocking the shelves. Your help would be most appreciated and yummy morning and afternoon tea is provided.

STATIONERY PACKS – YEAR 8 2013
The Year 8 Stationery Packs have arrived in the Saints Shop. The pack contains all the stationery your son will need to start Year 8. The pack retails for $170.00. Packs are limited so place your order now.
Please note that the Stationery Lists for Years 8-12 are available on our website. Follow the link to the Saints Shop for more details.

GRADUATION GIFTS
The Saints Shop sells gifts that are ideal for Graduation Day – Old Boy’s polos, stainless steel drink coasters, glasses and our popular drink holders. This year we have introduced a beautiful writing pen which comes with its own box. Please feel free to come in to the Saints Shop to have a look at these items.

CASH’S NAME TAGS
Don’t forget to order your Cash’s Name Tags for 2013. At this busy time of the year the tags may take a few weeks to arrive so it is important to get your order in. These sewn-on name tags are necessary for the boarding students and handy for day students as well. Orders are placed through the Saints Shop. Payment is required at time of ordering.

NEW SAINTS WATER BOTTLE
The Saints Shop has added a new line to our range. We have introduced a new water bottle which is BPA friendly and has a waterproof cap. The bottle sells fo $6.50.

St Augustine’s College, Cairns
A Catholic Secondary School in the Marist Tradition

College Nurse Part-time
Fridays during Term Time

Applications are invited for the above term-time permanent position to commence in January 2013. The position involves working with the College Nurse and other staff members to assist in the care and well-being of both boarding and day students.
The position requires appropriate nursing qualifications.
Hours are from 7.45 to 3.45 pm each Friday during term.
Applications are to include a cover letter and resume including the names and contact details of three referees.
Applicant’s referees may be checked prior to interview.
Further information and applications:
Deputy Principal - Staff
appointments@sac.qld.edu.au

Closing date: Tuesday 21st November 2012

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014
EARLY CLOSING DATE

The College offers two Academic scholarships for students entering Year 8 and Year 11 in 2014. These scholarships are awarded on the basis of a competitive test which is independently set and marked by the Australia Council for Education Research (ACER). The cost for the exam is $85.
The Scholarship exam for 2014 will be held on Saturday 23rd February, 2013. The closing date for applications to sit the exam is Friday 14th December, 2012.
For further information on Scholarships please contact the Enrolment Secretary.
Registration for these scholarships can be made on the College Website at www.sac.qld.edu.au.
This Boarding Life

This week we farewell our Year 12 Boarders! The culmination of 5 years of high school with many friendships forged, experiences shared and the trials and tribulations of boarding life coming to an end.

The Year 12 Boarders, in my experience throughout 2012 have been a group with spirit, passion, enthusiasm and determination when it came to all facets of Boarding at Saints and in relation to their senior studies and their sporting and cultural pursuits during the year.

There is no doubt that the friendships developed in the boarding environment are lifelong friendships. The friends I made as a Boarder at a Marist school in Sydney’s south west in the 1980’s are amongst my closest friends today despite not having close geographical ties with many of them or even regular contact. Whenever we meet it is as though we pick up from where we left off at the end of our Boarding school years. Wherever the ensuing years and experiences take the young women and men who are the Year 12 Saints Boarders’ of 2012, they will always share the bond that was forged in their time here at Saints. I have been privileged to work with this group in many areas of Boarding life this year and thank them for their positive contributions to life at Saints.

On behalf of all of the Boarding Staff both past and present we wish all of our Year 12 Boarders the best of everything as they take their next step in life.

Thank you and Good Luck!!

Mr Bernard Burgess
Head of Boarding
The JSS competition has reached the pointy end of the season with semi finals beginning on Wednesday November 14th. All 4 Saints teams have made the semi finals which is a fantastic effort by the boys and coaches. Our last round of the season (November 7th) was played against St Andrew’s. Saints managed to come away with 3 wins from the 4 games which means the boys are in good form heading into the finals. Well done to both College’s on a fantastic round of games. Scores are listed below;

- AFL - Saints 107 def St Andrew’s 5
- Basketball – Saints 54 def St Andrew’s 31
- Touch Football – Saints 12 def St Andrew’s 1
- Soccer – St Andrew’s 2 def Saints 0

Best of luck to the teams for the finals. I will be sure to keep everyone informed on how the boys perform.

St Augustine’s is very fortunate to be blessed with so many talented athletes, so when the question was asked about who our major sports awards recipients would be for 2012, I was faced with a major headache. So many of our students are not only exceptional athletes, but they give so much back to the College and community through sport. After lengthy consultation with colleagues in the Sports Department we were able to make a short list of potential candidates for each award. From there, we then came to a collective decision on who the one winner for each award would be.

Congratulations must go to Dylan Anderson (Rising Star), Sandy Dalton (Junior Sportsman of the Year), Joey Barclay (Senior Sportsman of the Year) and Jesse Priddle (The Director of Sports Prize) for taking out the major awards. All boys are more than worthy winners to say the least. Although these four boys stole the spotlight for sport on Friday night, we should not take anything away from our other sports awards winners on the night. We had over fifty Peninsula Reps, twenty State Reps and seven National reps for 2012 which is an unbelievable achievement for the College.

The Presentation Night is a chance for us to recognise our boys’ accomplishments and as the Head of Sport of this brilliant cohort of students, I am extremely proud of all that has been achieved in 2012. I can only hope that 2013 and beyond will be just as fruitful as 2012.

Mr Matt Walsh.
13 November 2012

Dear Principals, Staff and Parents

Greetings, and I hope you are all travelling well as the end of the school year looms up quickly.

Since its election early this year, the new State Government has embarked on a programme of cost cutting across many areas of public spending. Some of us would have hoped that key areas such as health and education would have been exempted. Education hasn’t!

We have been advised that our funding for 2013 has been frozen at 2012 levels without allowance for growth in our system or indexation to meet higher delivery costs. This means that Catholic Education Authorities across Queensland have suffered the following reductions in funding:

- Archdiocese of Brisbane: $13,852,222.90
- Diocese of Toowoomba: $2,384,148.60
- Diocese of Townsville: $3,259,080.60
- Diocese of Rockhampton: $3,675,580.40
- Diocese of Cairns: $2,575,431.00

In percentage terms this equates to a 11% reduction in State funding. The severity and suddenness of this reduction have placed considerable pressure on our system and school budgets for 2013. We have an additional concern regarding a significant reduction in funding for support for students with disabilities through the Advisory Visiting Teacher programme. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission has been in discussion with Government Ministers and officials, but there has been no movement on the decisions already taken. State schools and independent schools in Queensland face similar circumstances.

I would like to assure all our school communities, particularly our families, that we are doing everything in our power to limit the effects of these funding cuts on our “front line services” – the high quality teaching taking place in all our schools across the Diocese of Cairns. We also wish to maintain our commitment to our staff including the likelihood of a 2.7% pay increase for teachers and school staff as part of the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
At present we are looking at a variety of ways of managing our reduced funding. These include:

- Increased school efforts on fee recovery;
- Reduced professional development for staff;
- Less staff travel and accommodation in favour of more use of teleconferencing;
- Deferred replacement of some equipment;
- Deferral of some new initiatives and programmes;
- Seeking savings in operational costs such as electricity, cleaning and maintenance;
- Deferral in the filling of some staff vacancies.

Despite all these efforts there can be no guarantee that education service delivery will not be negatively affected in 2013. But we will be doing our very best to continue to provide the best possible education with what resources we have. We would greatly appreciate your understanding and support as we negotiate the difficult year ahead.

I will provide you with further information as it comes to hand.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

BR PAUL HOUGH FMS
Executive Director