Dear Members of the Emmaus College Community

In the news this week there has been a deal of publicity around the Gonski Report on funding for schooling. This report is the first step towards the Government’s plan to introduce a new funding system for Australian schools in 2014 and it could have significant consequences for Catholic schools. Emmaus College is an ecumenical school however, it is owned and run by Brisbane Catholic Education and is therefore dependent on funding from the Catholic sector.

It is vital that as a school community we are well informed of the facts about school funding and are able to constructively participate in the discussions that are occurring now the report has been released.

Some of the key facts about funding for Catholic schools are:

- Catholic schools educate 1 in 5 Australian children, yet on average operate with 10% less recurrent funding than government schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account [NB: ‘recurrent funding’ is the money received every year by a school for its day to day operations].
- On average, 53% of Catholic school income is provided by Federal government and 19% by State government, while 28% is contributed by parents and community.
- On average, Catholic schools receive just 73% of the annual recurrent government funding (per student) received by government schools. Catholic schools receive $7,708 per student while government schools receive $10,562 per student.
- Including government funding + parent contributions, Catholic schools have an average annual income of $10,008 per student, while government schools receive $11,132 per student and Independent schools $13,711. (MySchool website 2011)
- Through parent and community contributions to schooling costs, Catholic schools deliver savings to Australian tax-payers of around $2.2 billion per year.

The school funding debate should not be reduced to an ‘us’ or ‘them’ argument. The success of Australia’s education system relies on children in all schooling sectors - Government, Catholic and Independent - receiving fair and equitable government support.

Fair and equitable government support for Catholic schools guarantees real parental choice in education. Catholic education authorities are seeking a modest increase in funding that will assist Catholic schools to build on their capacity to provide high quality education while keeping school fees as low as possible and striving to address educational disadvantage.

Now the report has been released, the National Catholic Education Commission provided the following media release.

**FAMILIES MUST COME FIRST IN NEW SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL**

Commenting at the release today of the much anticipated Gonski Report on Funding for Schooling, the Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), Mrs Therese Temby, said that this was just the start of the process, and much work remains to be done.

“This is a major piece of work and a roadmap for a way forward,” Mrs Temby said.

“There are key questions that remain unanswered. Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the model and the report’s recommendations.”
“In its response to the report, the Government recognises that families face financial pressures and do not wish to see school fees rise beyond their reach.

“One in five Australian children attends a Catholic school, and Catholic schools already operate at 90% of the resources available in government schools.

“We will be working hard during the consultation phase to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees for parents in Catholic schools.

“We strongly back the Gonski panel’s call for an additional $5 billion in funding for all schools,” Mrs Temby said.

“School funding reform of the magnitude suggested by the Gonski panel is not achieved by simply adjusting the current arrangements.

“We call on the Australian Government to show strong leadership by committing increased funding for schools sooner rather than later.

“We look forward to working with everyone with a stake in this enterprise. We all share a common goal to deliver high-quality education, and to provide every young Australian with the educational experiences they need to reach their potential.”

It is important for us as a community to be aware of the funding situation for our school.
You are invited to visit www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au for more information.

Every blessing for the season of Lent.

KEVIN SCHWEDE
Principal

2013 PREP and Yr 7 & 8 Sibling Enrolments Due NOW!

PREP Sibling Interviews will commence the week beginning 12th March.

⇒ Eligibility for Prep 2013: Children born 1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008
⇒ ALL applications need to be completed in full, including birth certificates & baptism certificates (if applicable)
⇒ Yr 7 & 8 Applications must have copies of most recent School Reports.

***IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS:***

Monday 27th Feb -
Yr 11 & 12 Legal Studies Excursion

Tuesday 28th Feb -
Student Leaders/Mentors Breakfast, 7.15am

Wednesday 29th Feb -
Yr 6 Camp - 29th Feb to 2nd Mar
Yr 10 History Excursion

Friday 2nd Mar -
Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 4th Mar -
Yr 7-12 Musical Rehearsal, 10am - 3pm

Wednesday 7th Mar -
Yr 10-12 English/Drama Excursion

Thursday 8th Mar -
SECA Boys Cricket Day - Junior & Senior
SECA Girls OZTag Day - Junior & Senior
Secondary District Rugby League (U15, U19), Soccer (U19), Basketball (U18) trials

Friday 9th Mar
SECA Swimming Carnival
Primary District Rugby League, Soccer (Boys & Girls) trials

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT DATE
Year 8 Science Report was due Friday 25th Feb. It is now due on Friday 2nd March.
FROM THE HEAD: P-6

PREP ENROLMENTS 2013
Families with children beginning Prep in 2013 are encouraged to submit enrolment application forms as soon as possible. These will be processed this term, with interviews beginning the week of 12th March.

Getting Ready for NAPLAN – Parent Information Session
It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the NAPLAN Information Session last Friday. This session provided parents with background information about the test, an overview of the preparation students do at Emmanuel and examples of what parents can do at home to support their children. I am more than happy to meet with any parents who were unable to attend the session.

Head Lice
There have been a number of cases of head lice already this year. Families are encouraged to regularly check their children and treat if necessary. It is extremely important that effective treatment happens quickly to prevent further spread to other children. Please remind your children not to share hats.

Swimming Carnival
The Emmanuel swimming carnival was a wonderful success. Thanks to all students and families who gathered to compete and build House spirit. Congratulations to Bonhoeffer Blue – 1st place!

Lisa McCormick

FROM THE APRE

SHROVE TUESDAY:
Many students, staff and church representatives assisted in the cooking and distribution of twelve hundred pancakes. We do this each year to highlight the day before the first day of the season of Lent. Thank you to everyone who helped and all those who generously made a donation for the start of Project Compassion. This year Caritas Australia, the Catholic agency for international aid and development, has the theme, “If you want peace, work for justice”. During Lent classes will be encouraged to learn about the needs of others in our world and to try to do something about it.

ASH WEDNESDAY:
Ashes were distributed at our liturgies earlier this week. The idea of Lent is to provide a preparation period leading up to the most important time in the church calendar, Easter. Through prayer, fasting and giving, we focus on our own spiritual journey and we have opportunities to consider others. The words used in the Ash Wednesday liturgies, “May you have a change of heart and walk with Christ”, can link the message of Lent with the Emmaus motto. Thank you to all for the participation in such a significant liturgy.

PRAYER
Spirit of God, who led Jesus into the desert to fast and pray, Lead us as we enter this time of Lent. Give us courage to scrutinise our hearts with honesty; Give us strength to deal with what we find; Give us love to forgive ourselves and each other, So that, in peace and joy, we may celebrate at Easter The death and resurrection of Jesus And all that it means for each of us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Peace
Tony Bourke

FROM THE CAMPUS MINISTER

THE CYRENE PROJECT: SHOULDERING ANOTHER’S BURDEN
The Cyrene Project aims to provide a spiritual support to our year 12 students in their final year at Emmaus. Year 12 is a busy and stressful time, and knowing that there is a family praying for them will encourage and strengthen them throughout the year.

According to Scripture Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross. With this in mind we are looking for families to help shoulder the burden of our Year 12 students. Families participating in the project commit to praying as a family for the student at least once a week. This could happen as part of grace in the evening, spontaneous prayer, family prayer times, or even at the weekly church service. How the family chooses to integrate this intention into their prayer life is up to individual circumstance.

The commitment is that the family prays on a continuous basis throughout the course of the year. The expectation is that the family does not initiate contact with the student – i.e. no face to face meetings, no written communication, and no gifts.

We are asking for families to contact Luke Watts, the campus minister if they are interested in taking part. Please email or call via the office to leave your details.

Luke Watts

FROM THE APA CURRICULUM & TEACHING 7-12 AND THE JUNIOR YEARS COORDINATOR

NAPLAN
Years 7 and 9 parents would be quite familiar with the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Students in these year levels along with their Year 3 and Year 5 colleagues participate in tests of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. An “Information for Parents” brochure is available from www.nap.edu.au.

All students are encouraged to participate. Students with disabilities may qualify for adjustments which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom, while formal exemptions may be granted for a student with a significant intellectual disability.

Students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/caregivers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. Parents wishing to withdraw students are asked to collect a form to complete from the College office.

If you have any questions about your child’s participation in NAPLAN, we would be happy to discuss this with you. NAPLAN tests are just one aspect of our school’s assessment and reporting process. They do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each students’ performances. In 2012 test dates are as follows:

⇒ 15th May: Language conventions and writing test
⇒ 16th May: Reading test
⇒ 17th May: Numeracy test

More information regarding NAPLAN will be provided to years 3, 5, 7 and 9 parents closer to the day.

Following are some examples from the Year 7 2009 Numeracy Non-Calculator Test:
1. A copier prints 1200 leaflets. One-third of the leaflets are on yellow paper and the rest are on blue paper. There are smudges on 5% of the blue leaflets. How many blue leaflets have smudges?

2. The dimensions of a large room are double the dimensions of a small room. Both rooms are rectangular prisms. The volume of the small room is 10 cubic metres. What is the volume of the large room?

(See Mr Hart for answers.)

**ASSessment for Year 7 - 12**

At the conclusion of Week 5 students should have assignments and exam revision well underway. The Assessment Schedules for each year level are available on the College website [http://www.emmaus jimboomba.qld.edu.au/](http://www.emmaus jimboomba.qld.edu.au/), while students have also received hard copies. The Assessment Policy is also located on the College website and parents are encouraged to become familiar with the procedures outlined.

As assessment is an integral component of the teaching and learning cycle our expectation is that all assessment, including draft assessment, is submitted on the due date. In extenuating circumstances students can make application for special provision ahead of the due date and have this considered. For Senior students, a medical certificate is required for any absence on the day of an assessment. **Planning ahead** is the key to avoiding becoming overwhelmed towards the end of the term. If you are unsure of any concepts, tasks, or you are just confused make sure you see your class teacher and/or PC teacher immediately.

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**EMMAUS LEADERS IN ACTION**

FROM THE COMMUNITY ACTION CAPTAINS

‘If we want peace – we must work for Justice’ (Pope John Paul VI)

Last Monday we accompanied Ms Proberts and Mr Watts to St Augustines for Caritas Australia’s Justice Leadership Day. Also joining us were year 11 students, Felicity W, James P and Tyneele A and year 10 students, Sarah S, Laura S and Kaitlyn M.

On the day we heard from Patricia Ryan who is the Queensland Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia led the day which centred on and around the work that is being done for justice around the world. In particular the day focused on Caritas Australia’s Lenten focus which is the Project Compassion Campaign.

Ms Ryan spoke about the different organisations around the world with whom Caritas works and highlighted the stories which are the feature of this year’s campaign.

Ms Proberts also presented to the group as she spoke about her Caritas Immersion in 2010 to Bolivia. Ms Proberts spoke about the hope that Caritas gives to struggling communities and highlighted the fact that through our shared awareness of such injustices and our shared desire to do something – positive results flourish.

Pope John Paul VI said ‘if you want peace – work for justice’. This is the focus of this year’s campaign and the Justice Leadership Day certainly highlighted that this is possible. This was further highlighted on Friday when we once again joined Ms Proberts and Mr Watts to go into the city to officially launch the Project Compassion Campaign in Brisbane, 2012.

Along with Mrs Johnson, the year 6 student leaders and a number of year 10 and 11 students, went to the Francis Rush Centre to listen to Sr Joan Doyle, a Sister of Mercy from New South Wales, who spends 11 months of the year living in Lima, South America working in community. Sr Joan spoke about the difficulties that exist for the people of Lima and highlighted that the partnership with Caritas Australia had helped them achieve greater independence. Following this we moved into the Mall for the official launch where Jack Degroot the CEO of Caritas Australia and Mr Kevin Rudd, the former Foreign Affairs Minister spoke to over 100 students and staff from Brisbane Catholic Education Schools as well as invited guests and passers-by.

Last week was an eventful week for us and launched our work for justice here at Emmaus. We have some great ideas for what we can do to support the Project Compassion Campaign and some ideas for how we can bring to light a range of justice issues for 2012.

Next week, on Friday it is the school’s day for Clean-Up Australia Day and we are looking forward to again being able to work with all the students at Emmaus.

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**FROM THE COMMUNITY TRADITION CAPTAINS**

**Shrove Tuesday**

On Tuesday 21st, the Emmaus College community celebrated Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday, sometimes called Pancake Tuesday, is a day of celebration and feasting before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

It has become a tradition to cook pancakes for everyone in the school, and this year that meant we prepared over 1200 pancakes. Our celebration was a huge success, with many helpers arriving in the morning, some as early as 7am. The cooking was mostly done by year 12 students, while the year 6 leaders and student representative council members handed out the pancakes with caramel sauce.

Two students visited St Catherine’s Catholic Church just outside the school. The members of St Catherine’s were very appreciative of our offer of pancakes. We also gave some pancakes to the workers on the building sites at the college.

We would like to thank the community for the donations which kick started our Project Compassion fundraising. The Community Action Captains, Michaela and Spencer, attended Project Compassion’s official launch in Brisbane City recently.

We would also like to thank Mr Bourke, Mrs Johnson, Mr Bergman, Mr Watts and the other staff involved in the day, as well as Fr Dan (Anglican tradition) and John and Coral Stolznw (Lutheran tradition) for flipping some pancakes with us. We hope that this tradition continues to grow as it is a great way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.
FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

STORM SEASON
Although we are coming to the end of the storm season, parents may like to have a look at the Preparing for Bad Weather Triple P Survival Guide website. Hosted by the University of Queensland, the Triple P program has prepared resources for parents including a Tip Sheet, video, and an audio-recording of an interview with the developer of the Triple P program, Professor Matthew Saunders. The site can be explored at https://experiment.psy.uq.edu.au/prepqld/

KEEPING ON TOP OF ORGANIZATION:
School bags: It is challenging for many students to keep their school bags well organized. The ideal approach is to keep on top of the job. Try arranging with your child that once a week you will go through the school bag together with your child. Let them take the lead, and develop the ability to do the job alone one day. They may be shocked by what they find – but we can reassure our children that they are developing a mature habit and the security of knowing exactly what's in their bag. This does not only need to be a strategy for use with younger children – secondary students having trouble with organization will benefit from developing the skill, and may take the skill across to managing their lockers also. The benefits of being organized are numerous: remembering important information is easier, procrastination and confusion are minimized. The organization of their space and body can positively affect their ability to manage their time and thinking. However, we as the adults in children's lives need to recognize that organization is a higher-order skill, and many children will not be developmentally ready to organize themselves without adult encouragement and help. Use positive approaches to strengthen children's delayed organization skills, such as:

- Developing a routine;
- Using checklists;
- Modeling organizational skills by using a family calendar, regularly cleaning out the pantry (and thinking out loud about how you are doing this); and
- Praise for participating in strategies you suggest and encourage.

M-POWER It's ALL ABOUT ME:
A program which aims to develop self-esteem, resilience and wellbeing among young women aged 12-16 in Logan and surrounds will be run at Youth and Family Service as a 2-day school holiday program.

Sessions cover four topics; My-Self, My-Mind, My-Goals and My-

Health in an exploration of identity and self-worth, self-awareness, sense of purpose/future and self-care and support networks. Sessions are activity-based utilising a combination of guided discussion, group activities, workbook activities, personal reflection and arts and crafts.

Dates for 2012 (all sessions run 1pm – 4:30pm):
- 3-4 April (12-14 year olds)
- 10 – 11 April (15-16 year olds)
- 26 – 27 June (12 – 14 year olds)
- 3-4 July (15-16 year olds)
- 25-26 September (12-14 years)
- 4-5 October (15-16 year olds)

The group is free and transport to the group is available on request.

For further information or referral people may contact YFS Intake, Referral and Assessment Service (IRAS) on 07) 3826 1500.

Rachel Martin and Janelle Jones

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

HOME READERS
Thank you to all the wonderful mums and dads who have assisted with Home Readers so far this year. The support has been so good that parents have been finished by about 9am each day.

BOOK COVERING HELP PLEASE.
We have about 13 boxes of books processed and waiting to be covered. As soon as this has happened we can put them onto the shelves for the children to access.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING.
Our Reading tunnel has begun to take shape with teachers and students sending in photos reading in a variety of situations. If you would like to email a photo of your child reading in an interesting situation we are happy to print it and put it up on the wall. All photos will be going into a special National Year of Reading book at the end of the year.

Photos can be emailed to sschuster@bne.catholic.edu.au

The book clubs for 7-12 students are showing a promising start. We now have a Middle School Mystery Club who had their first official meeting on Monday which was a resounding success. We also have a Fantasy book club kicking off on Tuesdays at first break and a Senior Mystery Book Club on Friday at first break. All students are welcome to come along and join the fun.

AFTER SCHOOL LIBRARY ACCESS
Please remember that P-6 students can access the library after school only if they have a parent with them.

Year 7-12 students may take the opportunity to study, research or prepare their assignments. This is a brilliant opportunity to take advantage of the expertise of library staff. As the term rolls ahead, study and assessment demands will grow, and the earlier students begin on their wide reading and understanding, the better positioned they are to succeed.

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW WORKSHOPS
The workshop topics in the coming weeks are

- 01.03.12 - Writing an inquiry question
- 08.03.12 - Using videos in inquiry

Mrs Schuster & Mrs Muller
Our Year 7 excursion to the University of Queensland was so exciting! We got to handle real ancient artefacts and became archaeologists by deciding what they were and where they came from. We got a tour of the University’s fantastic sporting facilities which include a running track, tennis courts, and a rugby field. We also got to have a look in the University’s Museum which was extremely fascinating and we were asked to pick a favourite object. I said I couldn’t because I loved everything in there!

Billie C, Year 7
**Greas E THE MUSI CAL - ROLES FOR YR 7-12**

Congratulations to those yr 7-12 students who have elected to be part of the College Musical for 2012:

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<td>Rebekah O</td>
<td>EUGENE:</td>
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<td>MISS LYNCH:</td>
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**DANCE CAPTAINS:** Chloe R & Michaela J  
**DANCERS:** Chloe R, Rebekah O, Michaela C, Lauren Q, Kaytlin B, Louise B, Rhianna C, Michael J, Rebekah H, Danielle R  
**BACKSTAGE CREW:** Chas M, Ryan B, Tammie M, Bailey B, Louise B, Sara B, Cassandra R, Tameka J, Brie-Anne P, Kate M, Emily S

We have already been practising on Wednesday afternoons from 3pm - 4:30pm and Thursdays from 1:30pm - 3pm. Our first weekend rehearsal for all Year 7-12 students is coming up on Sunday 4th March from 10am-3pm. Students will need to bring their own food and drinks for the day. Don’t forget to like our Facebook page - Emmaus College Arts to keep up to date with musical information!

Grease is the word!
Tahnyea Donaldson - Musical Producer

**P&F News**

We would like to thank all the outgoing Executives and Sub-committee members for a fantastic 2011. It was great working with you all. We look forward to an even bigger and better 2012; stay tuned to see where you can get involved.

**POSITION**

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<td>President</td>
<td>Raelene Lawler</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Raj Aggarwal</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Richelle Reynolds</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Selma Schuller</td>
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**SUB-COMMITTEES -**

- Second Hand Uniform - Rhonda Harvey
- Student Banking - Danielle Powell
- Grants & Environment - 
- Community Support - Liana Bacon
- Social - Julie Walsh
- Senior Representative - Penny Wilson
- Fete

Looking to contact or place an agenda item for the P&F? Please visit our email pandfsecretaryemmaus@gmail.com or leave a message in the P&F box at the reception.

**Events to lookup for and where you might be able to lend a hand –**

- **Cross Country** - Handing out ice blocks and selling bottle water
- **Easter Raffle** - Selling tickets and wrapping the prizes
- **Mother's Day Stall** – Wrapping gifts and helping out on the 2 days we hold the stall for the children to attend.

**School Banking:**
Welcome back to a new school banking year. We have 3 children who have collected 10 tokens and claimed their prizes **Charlotte, Ebony and Hayden**, congratulations your prizes will arrive shortly. We would also like to welcome Mrs Danielle Powell to student **banking and farewell Mrs Jennifer Shaw**. Mrs Shaw will help Mrs Powell as the changeover is happening, just a reminder to keep tokens at home. We have four new prizes this year - a handball, a book light, a pen set and a 1gb usb pen. All prizes from last year are still available for this year. All tokens remaining from last year may carry on for this year, but certificates will start again for the new school year for 10, 20 and 30 banking days.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**
The Second Hand Uniform will be **closed** from Monday 27th February to Monday 12th March. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. However, for urgent queries, please contact the P&F at pandfsecretaryemmaus@gmail.com

**SECONDARY STUDENTS**
Blazers are in stock and now available for purchase. Felt Hats are to be worn with the formal uniform only. The Emmaus Cap is to be worn with the sport uniform.

**UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE**

**SENIOR JACKETS**
Orders can be made for the Senior Jackets. A $30 deposit is required to secure your order. See the Uniform Shop for more information.
FORE!!!!!!!
Dust off your clubs, start practicing your swing and get a team of 4 together for the EMMAUS GOLF DAY. This annual event is always a great social day and caters for all standards of golfers. If you are interested in taking part in this fantastic day please collect a nomination form from Student Reception.

Where: Hills Golf Course, Jimboomba
When: 1pm, 19th May
Cost: $40 per person (Includes lunch, 18 holes of golf and prize)
RSVP: Please return completed nomination forms by 23rd April to Student Reception

There are still many wonderful opportunities for companies or individuals to provide sponsorship for this event. Nearest the pin and longest drive are just a couple of examples of opportunities that exist. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a sponsor/donating a prize.

Tony Grimston - ITD Teacher and Golf Enthusiast

Queensland Blue Light Association
FREE - COMMUNITY FAMILY POOL PARTY
WHEN: Friday, 2nd March, 6pm - 9pm
WHERE: Jimboomba Public Pool, Johanna Street, Jimboomba.
All members of the community are invited to attend the Jimboomba Blue Light Pool Party. FREE Entry. A sausage sizzle & the pool canteen will be available on the night. Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult. For more information call: 5547 9888

St Agnes School, Mt Gravatt is celebrating its 50 year Anniversary in 2012.

Every past student, parent and staff member is invited to St Agnes to join in the celebrations! Our website www.stagnes.qld.edu.au will list of events. These include:

- Jubilee Gathering – Sunday 4 March following 9 a.m.
- Mass – food, displays, tours
- Milne Bay Soiree – Friday 20 April, St Agnes Hall 7 p.m. – displays, entertainment
- Golden Jubilee Fete – Sunday 20 May – great fun
- Mass for St Mary of the Cross Mackillop – Wednesday 8 August – great spirit!

Please share any photos, memorabilia, interesting or amusing memories of your time at St Agnes by emailing Nicole at ngh70@optusnet.com.au. We look forward to you meeting old and new friends at St Agnes throughout 2012!