Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Welcome to Term 3, 2014. We trust that all staff and students enjoyed a well deserved holiday break. Ms Terrey is currently on leave, studying in Boston and Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Results for Semester 1 were posted during the holiday and parent teacher interviews are scheduled for early Term 3 and are listed on the calendar.

Academic

We hope that with students rested and refreshed, they will commence Term 3 with vigour and renewed momentum. This will be a time to reflect on goals set at the beginning of the year. It is now time to refocus and set goals for the second semester. Students should approach their school life with a growth mindset. At this time of the year, sometimes it is a case of redirecting or refocusing goals to match performance and achievements of Semester 1.

Co-Curricular

Over the holidays the MSM Aerobics team travelled up to the University of the Sunshine Coast to compete in the QLD Cup. Many students had numerous routines and competed over both days of competition. The students should be very proud of their efforts with many teams and individuals showing great improvement from their first competition, and numerous sections showing an MSM clean sweep on the medal podium. Students will now be training towards State Championships to be held from the 8th – 10th August at Ormiston College.

Catholic Education Week

Brisbane Catholic Education Week will be held from Sunday 27 July-Saturday 2 August and will focus on the theme: Come, live life in all its fullness. This inspirational call is based on the Gospel of John (10:10), challenging those who answer it to “live fully”.

Reflecting this Gospel call, Catholic schools strive to provide a learning experience through which every young person has the opportunity to reach their full human potential - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, culturally and physically - and know what it means to engage in all that life has to offer. Here at Mt St Michael’s, we encourage students on a daily basis to live out this call to
live life in all its fullness by taking advantage of the wonderful, rich opportunities available at the College.

**Communication**

At various times, if issues arise, parents may want to communicate with teachers/other staff. The College has a Positive Relationships Policy (available on request) that states our approach to resolving issues. Most issues can be resolved at an informal level and parents are reminded that the following protocols apply:

- A respectful and non-offensive manner is expected of parents communicating the issue to staff at the College
- Issues will be handled and investigated by staff in a supportive and diligent manner
- Every effort will be made by staff at the College to acknowledge the issue within 2 working days, to be then followed up by the staff member. Our staff usually respond to parents within 24 hours. But at times due to a heavy work load or absence this may not be possible and parents need to be aware and understanding of this situation which is why our policy states two working days.

For mutual understanding and the benefit of students, there is an expectation that parents will work in partnership with the College to resolve issues in a constructive manner. Staff always aim, where possible to deal with and resolve issues in a prompt manner.

**Spiritual**

A joyful heart

Too often we wait for joy to come to us when the real truth is that joy is something we must take responsibility for creating, not just for ourselves but for others as well. The beauty of joy is that, like a stained glass window through which light breaks into a myriad of colours, it enables us to see how good life is, even when it seems that it isn’t. Joy is not an event; it is an attitude a healthy person takes into every situation in life—work, family, social life, and even moments of personal stress. It speaks of hope and openness.

And it is with this message of joy and hope that we embrace the term ahead.

Donna Ahern
Deputy Principal, Students