Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students

As Term 3, which is perhaps our most demanding term, draws to a conclusion we have much to celebrate. Last week our Year 12s completed the QCS test which is a milestone in itself. We were so pleased with their preparation and commitment over the two days. They approached each paper with a positive and calm outlook and I am confident that every Year 12 student has given her very best for this important assessment. We are now into the exam block period for Year 11 and Year 12 students and looking forward to some warmer weather and a Spring holiday.

Last Friday evening we held our inaugural Spirit of the Arts festival celebrating the work of our students and staff across the Visual and Performing Arts. What a wonderful night it was with a plethora of choices for the community to enjoy. I think we all agree that the standard of our students’ work in every area, Art, Music, Dance and Drama was outstanding with the level of skill or technique, creativity and confidence so evident. The number of parents, friends, staff and students attending contributed to the atmosphere of passion, energy and pride. It was truly amazing, especially the finale with a vast crowd gathered in a circle around the convent lawn to the driveway of Grantuly, watching the Year 8 dance and drama movement concluding with the procession of the lanterns. The Mt St Michael’s unique community spirit was evident in abundance.

There are many people I would like to thank: to all our staff, particularly in the Arts department, who were responsible for creating this wonderful event, to our students who produced the excellent work which we all enjoyed, to our parents, particularly the P&F for their provision of food and drinks and hospitality and of course to our Head of Arts, Mrs Linda Statham, for her leadership; her vision and passion and commitment in bringing this event together.
Next Friday our Term concludes with our traditional Liturgy of Peace. In praying for peace in our world we are inevitably drawn to think of conflict; conflict and horror that is so far from our lived experience at Mt St Michael’s that is hard to imagine and perhaps even be conscious of. The focus of our liturgy next week is the plight of migrants and refugees. It is a theme which is at the forefront in the leadership and vision of Pope Francis. We are delighted to welcome Sister Dorothy Bayliss rsc to speak to the community, hearing the firsthand experience of a Sister of Charity who is the face of Christ to refugees today who are held in detention camps off the Australian mainland. We know that this Peace Liturgy will be a poignant and moving ceremony.

On the weekend I received a text message forwarded on behalf of the Christian Brothers who are part of the crisis relief international team in the city of Qaraqosh in Northern Iraq. The plight of Christians and other faith communities in this region confronted by the terror of ISIS is appalling, again impossible to imagine. We have been asked to pray for the people in Northern Iraq and for all those who are working to bring peace through justice, which at times requires force. We stand in solidarity and we pray for all those who work for peace in our world.

In the words of our opening hymn next Friday:

“Who will speak for the poor and the broken
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed
Who will speak so their voice will be heard
Oh, who will speak if we don’t.”

I wish everyone a safe and rejuvenating Spring holiday.

Alison Terrey
Principal
Secondhand Uniform Shop

‘Many hands make light work’.... This is a call to arms. We need volunteers! As the current Volunteer Second Hand Uniform Convenor, sadly I leave at the end of this year, as my daughter is currently completing her Year 12 at MSM.

The Shop operates to serve the Community in offering quality second-hand uniforms. It is a win-win for families with cheaper purchasing costs (usually 50% of new pricing) and we also assist by selling your used and surplus uniforms.

We need assistance to continue to operate now and into the future. If you can assist in any small way, please call Julia Prince 0407632484 or email julia@juliaprince.com