Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

Do you follow us on Facebook? This is the place where we post our current news with short articles and photographs that capture our holistic learning and the joyful spirit of our community at work.

Our Facebook page is updated every day with Stephen Campion, our Deputy Principal Mission, taking on the role of College Administrator and doing this exceptionally well. Yesterday was “a first” as we included a video clip to capture the Pay It Forward Markets, led by our Year 11 Pastoral Leader, Madonna Potter and our Year 11 students. We had fun and enjoyed our lunch break, with probably the “wrong” foods, consumed in moderation, but we raised over $1,000.00 for our Caritas Lenten campaign. A particularly joyful moment was the spontaneous dancing in the Sophia Centre with the Year 12 and Year 11 students leading our Year 7 and Year 8’s; welcome to Mt St Michael’s! One of our youngest students was heard to ask, “When do we do this again?”

Since launching our new website at the commencement of Term 2 last year, we have watched the numbers of visitors grow and the increasing interactions with our wider community as people “like us” and post comments. I particularly appreciated the capacity to post our Year 12 results last year on the day that we received them, prior to Christmas, and watched the comments coming in from all over the world.

This capacity for instant communication has of course changed the concept of The Spirit, this fortnightly publication. The long traditional school newsletter, reporting information of past events is no longer relevant and we know that our readers are generally seeking short sharp news and current information.

Since our last Spirit, we have celebrated our Opening Eucharist and Commissioning of Leaders, Ash Wednesday, the Year 11 Semi Formal (we survived the big rain event because it was dry for 6 hours!); we have had Learning Conferences, Parent Information gatherings, even including an introductory segment for our Year 7’s of 2016, social gatherings welcoming new parents of Year 7 and 8 and our first Parents and Friends meeting
for the year. Our co-curricular program has been operating in full swing: strings, choirs and ensembles, dancing, drama, swimming, water polo, surfing, volleyball, cross country training, aerobics trials, public speaking, writers club and the list goes on.

Meanwhile students and staff in our Community Action Network groups are quietly going about their commitment to serve others, visiting those in need and raising funds for those who do not have the riches and the abundance that we so enjoy. Thank you to those who have spontaneously contributed to the Care Packages to be delivered to central Queensland families devastated by Cyclone Marcia last weekend.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the number of teachers and students participating in the multiple tutorials that are held every morning and afternoon across most subject areas for all Year levels. It is wonderful to observe; the generosity of our excellent and totally giving staff and the enthusiasm of our students to learn and to learn!

We are certainly **setting our scene in 2015.**

In the midst of these very busy and full days our Ash Wednesday liturgy last week provided a time to be still and reflective. It was poignantly simple. Receiving the ashes with the sign of the cross on our foreheads is recognition of our humility; we acknowledge that we yearn to grow, to be better people; more loving, compassionate, generous and forgiving. Our prayers and readings were held together by the beautiful hymn, Come Back to Me with the refrain that speaks to our deepest yearning; **Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.**

As we move through these precious weeks to Easter may we continue to relish in the abundance of opportunities and gifts that we receive in our rich learning community, yet find time to be reflective, to pray, to seek renewal and be generous to those who need our love and compassion.

Sincerely,
Alison Terrey