



Christian Brothers Agricultural School

St. Mary's – Tardun

Newsletter no 1, 13th February 2007

Dear parents, friends, past pupils and students,

Welcome to all new and old families at Tardun. This is a particularly exciting time as we now have girls in year 8 and 9. Many new structures, teachers, boarding staff and students have started the new year with us. I hope all have a rewarding and fruitful time at Christian Brothers' Agricultural School.

Our new staff:

Ms Elenor Ambrose (year 8 – 10 Maths & year 8 – 10 Computing)

Mrs Audrey Aquareo (Youth Worker)

Ms Georgie Dansey (year 8 & 9 Boarding girls)

Mr Mark Reynolds (year 8 -12 Technology)

Mrs Jeanie Walker- Campbell (Information Technology)

Mr Jock Walker-Campbell (Dean of Boarding)

Mr Bert Whaley (year 11/12 Boarding)

Mr Richard Williams (year 8 Boarding)

We also welcome our new kitchen contractors Les and Fiona Panting of Beamer Nominees and his two chefs Catia and Jo. They will provide all meals to staff and students.

Last term (term 4 2006) Mr Neville McManus was the Acting Principal. On behalf of the Trustees of the Christian Brothers', the school community would like to thank Neville for his efforts and guidance.

Over the holiday period, many aspects of the school and boarding were changed. The girls boarding area has been redesigned, there are new carpets in the classrooms and the boys dormitories have new doors and locks. We also received a grant from the federal Government 'Investing in our Future.' This means we will have a new Resource Centre (library). In the near future a new Equine Program is being developed and new horse yards and sheds have been erected.

This is also a time of homesickness for our student and parents. The sense of loss will not be obvious for parents at times, due to your own daily routines, but there is a loss. Some parents will notice it more than others and it's important to recognise this and a phone call to the school and speaking to staff can help. Your son/daughter will develop an increasing level of independence but the homesickness will hit generally during the first 2-5 weeks (Camp syndrome) as it becomes the longest time they have been away from home by themselves – longer than any school camp they have been on. Some students cope better than others; they have photographs of their family members, call home once a day for reassurance, some keep themselves very busy and active. This helps keep their minds off things. This is particularly important at the end of the school day when they are normally going home. Most phone calls happen between 4 – 7pm. This is a natural occurrence and as the terms progress it becomes less of an issue. While these words of advice may or may not help, it is important to recognise your own loss. Having a son or daughter home each day and suddenly they are not there all the time.

Over the next couple of weeks some students will go on their camps. The year 10 camp is Outward Bound. This is a self development program, grounded in a philosophy of compassion and the notion that there is more in us than we know. This can have long term benefits for the individual and the class as a whole. The year 8 camp at Moore River

is one where the issues of the first few weeks of boarding/school can be discussed and goals and programs assessed. This helps for future planning and helps problem solving as a group and individually.

Communication is vital for all of us; there is a link between school and home. By all means ring if you are concerned or wish to discuss any issues. By working together it is the best we can do for your son/daughter.

I leave you with these words.

Your life unfolds in a continuous succession of experiences and expectations

No two days are the same, no year leaves you unaltered.

There are years of strength and years of weakness. Years of certainty, years of doubt.

It's all a part of life and it is worth the effort to live it to the end and not give up before it's accomplished.

Yours Sincerely

Nicholas Lynch
Principal

From the Finance Department

Term fees will be sent out with the next newsletter. IF you would like to organise a payment plan to pay off these fees please ring Janette in the office.

Your son/daughter's tuckshop account will be sent out every term. This is a detailed account of your child's spending (uniforms, tuckshop and phone money). Or alternatively you can ring Janette in the office throughout the term and she can advise you of your child's tuckshop balance.

The school strongly advises you do not send cash through the mail to the school. The school accepts money orders, cheques and bank deposits. Please ring either Laurie or Janette in the office for bank details.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY,

Hello again to all the parents of students here at CBAS. The school term has started and already the students are very busy. Welcome especially to the parents of new students. The girls and boys that are new here are settling in and finding their way around. There have been some bouts of homesickness, this is not unusual and the students who do feel a bit blue have very sensibly talked to their friends and staff members about this feeling. A phone call home often works wonders. Feel free to contact your child through the school if you are missing them too! Though as Deputy I'd prefer it if calls were out of school hours. Most students have access to their phones after 5.00pm. I have already made a few phone calls to parents just to make contact, and I will continue to endeavour to ring people to say "Hi." I'm also available to take calls when I'm not teaching or on duty if you have any concerns. If I'm not around, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Mr. Grant Howarth
Deputy Principal



Commissioning Mass held at CBAS

On Monday the 29th of January at 4pm buses and cars rolled off the dusty road to Christian Brothers Agricultural School, Tardun. On the buses and in the cars were staff from the Catholic Schools of the Midwest region, St John's, Rangeway, St Mary's, Northampton, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mullewa, Nagle College, Geraldton, St Francis Xavier, Geraldton, and St Lawrence's Bluff Point.

The beginning of the year mass to commission new staff was held in the St Mary's Chapel (Built by the local farmers past students) in 1961. A crowd of 240 packed the chapel for a mass with Bishop Justin Bianchini concelebrated by the Priests of Geraldton. The music was sung by the children of Tardun who live at the school campus with their parents.



Tardun certainly turned up the heat with temperatures soaring above 40 degrees. All enjoyed a summer meal and drinks whilst socialising and getting in tune for the new school year before departing back to Mullewa, Geraldton and Northampton.



Thanks must go to Ms Anne Cullender, Mr John Coleman, Mr Phil Turner and Ms Kaye Hicks for their efforts in preparing the mass.

Parents and Friends first meeting

A warm and friendly welcome to all our new families that have started at CBAS. A warm welcome to all our 'old' families also!! This year the P&F of CBAS are looking forward to purchasing a variety of new items for the students from the funds raised last year. To help make some decisions regarding this, but mostly to meet other mums and dads, **I would like to invite you to join us for coffee and cake at Skeetas restaurant in Geraldton at 10am on Tuesday February 27th.** This will be more of a chat and getting to know each other, plus deciding on future meetings for 2007. I look forward to meeting you there. Everyone is welcome.

Rebecca Lynch
P&F President

2007 Year Ten Outward Bound February 14th – 22nd.

This is the fifth year that students of CBAS have participated in an Outward Bound Course. It is a part of the curriculum and all students are required to attend. It is a journey of discovery about Outward Bound and of themselves. The students will step out of their comfort zones for a while and confront something new and challenging in an unknown and remote environment.

Outward Bound helps develop survival skills – not for the bush, but for the challenges they face in their every day lives. Dealing with uncertainty, coping with change, relating with other people and believing in yourself are all essential skills for life.

Outward Bound will help the students learn about themselves as they equip themselves for life.

The students will leave on Wednesday and stay the night at Clontarf Aboriginal College. This is to make the trip shorter and break up the travelling into two days. Mrs Anita Krippner and Mr Tyrone Papertalk will be out in the bush with them and the Outward Bound instructor.

Lookout for student Outward Bound reports and photos in upcoming newsletters!!!

Boarding News

Greetings from CBAS. It was my pleasure to meet a number of parents at the beginning of the term when they brought students to start the year at CBAS. It was predominantly Year 8 boarder parents I came into contact with and look forward to meeting a larger part of our parent body over coming months. I have begun making contact with some parents to discuss your son or daughters progress in the dormitory and am likely to make contact with more parents, especially the year eight parents over the next few months - of course school reports are a more formal source of information and will also be forthcoming. We have a number of new and experienced Boarding Staff at CBAS including myself. We have at times leant heavily on the experience of our CBAS stalwarts Jim Sandy and Reg Carnamah who have many years experience here at Tardun and have assisted greatly in smoothing over the transition. A further transition has been the welcome addition of the girls in year eight and nine. This has been a positive change and appears to have introduced a degree of pride among the boys who will take just a little more time over their appearances. I will over coming newsletters highlight one boarding staff members profile so that parents may get a better idea of who they are dealing with and the staff charged with the care of their children. For the time being I urge all parents to feel free to make contact with the school, boarding staff or myself if there are any issues which you may wish to discuss about your son or daughters stay here at CBAS. We have to date run a number of extra activities for boarders. Over the past two weekends we have been to Mullewa twice to attend the swimming pool - an activity which provided great fun but which is more likely to happen here in future as we have two well maintained pools on campus. Previously Mrs Anita Kripner was our only staff member in possession of the mandatory Bronze Lifesaving Certificate however more recently two more staff members, myself and Mr Tyrone Papertalk have attended a Bronze Medallion Lifesaving Course - this will spread the load and facilitate more frequent access to our swimming facilities. Students Ashley Gray, Matchum Schwarze, Todd Thompson and Kitch Davey also attended the demanding course and have benefited very much from the instructions - we look forward to passing the exam coming Wednesday. In terms of weekend activities we have also been to Geraldton on two occasions. Our Basketball players under Mr Jim Sandy are enjoying some success whilst the non basketball players have had the opportunity to relax and enjoy a barbecue around the beach or the swimming complex. I have taken this opportunity to include a short newsletter from Yr 8 Student Declan Parsons who writes

“On Sunday 4th February the St Marys Under 15 Basketball team travelled to play in a tournament in Geraldton. We had a very hard game but managed to come through with a 38 - 32 win over the Hawks. Our lively supporters made the game easier to win. The team consisted of Jarren Comeagain, Ervin Skinner, Peter Phillips, Josh Dawson Wade Woodley, Banjeeri Dwyer, Baden Zat and myself, Declan. Our goal scorers were Ervin, Peter and Wade. I would like to thank Mr Jim Sandy our coach for umpiring the game and making it possible for us to play.

Declan Parsons.

On a housekeeping note, I would like to urge parents to be aware that some students do not yet have the full range of uniforms, please assist by seeing that your son or daughter does have the correct uniforms to wear. Wearing the correct uniform is a school requirement and fosters discipline, control and unity among our students. Similarly we have an enormous amount of lost property which somehow seems to be unclaimed. The vast majority of this is unmarked. In all of our interests, please try to send clothes marked, either with tapes or with a permanent marker.

Kind Regards

Jock Walker-Campbell
Dean of Boarding