Christmas Carnival

and

Nativity Tableau

Saturday November 29th 2014
5.30pm
Mt St Patrick Primary and Lower College Basement
Bring the whole family for an entertaining evening!
Dear Parents and Friends of Mt St Patrick College,

This Sunday is the start of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year. Advent urges us to ‘stay awake’ and not sleep through the opportunities life gives us to discover God in our midst. Advent challenges us to ‘watch’ for the signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives.

Advent confronts us with the preciousness and limits of time – that our lives are an Advent, a prelude, to the life of God to come. While confronting us with the reality that our lives are finite and fragile, the Sundays in Advent also assure us of the mercy of God, who is with us in the midst of all the struggles and challenges of our everyday Advent journey to the dwelling place of God.

Debating State Champions
The Mt St Patrick College Year 9 Debating Team won the NSW Catholic Schools’ Debating Association State Championship held in Sydney at Holy Spirit College, Lakemba on Friday 14th November, 2014. Emily Keogh, Isobel Waugh and Sylvie Kettle qualified for the Finals after winning two debates and the title of NSW Catholic Country Schools’ Year 9 Debating Association Champions. The team then debated Holy Spirit College, Lakemba, the NSW Catholic Schools’ Debating Association Year 9 City Champions, to win the title of State Champions. Despite the oppressive heat and the final Championship Debate ending after 8.00pm, the team held their nerve and handled the extra pressure extremely well.

Three other teams from Mt St Patrick College competed in the State Finals. The Year 8, 10 and 11 teams qualified for the State Finals after winning their Regional Final. The Year 11 debaters reached the NSW Catholic Country Schools’ Debating Championship round but were defeated in a close debate. The Mt St Patrick College team are the second best Year 11 debating team in Catholic Country Schools in NSW.

Mt St Patrick College has an enviable reputation of having teams in Regional and State Finals for the last 19 years in succession. Congratulations and thanks to Mr Bailey and Mrs Egan for accompanying the students to Sydney and for their work in preparing the teams.

Lucan Day
Last Friday 21st November was Presentation Day and Lucan Day. Presentation Day celebrates the feast of the Presentation after which the Presentation Sisters named their congregation. The sisters are the patron of Lucan House.

As with the three other House Days celebrated this year, our Assembly for Lucan Day began with a procession of items that tell the story of Lucan House and show its connection with the Presentation Sisters. The Assembly lanterns; Lucan candle; rosary beads belonging to the Presentation Community; an image of Our Lady of the Presentation; a copy of the book ‘Stand Firm’ about the foundress of the Lismore Presentations; oak leaves from a tree planted by the early pioneer sisters in the Lismore Convent grounds and the Lucan flag formed an impressive Lucan display on the stage of the Gilbey Multipurpose Centre. As each item was carried forward by a member of Lucan House, a Year 12 Student Representative Councillor gave an explanation of the significance of the item for the House. Prayers for the Feast of the Presentation and Lucan Day were said followed by the College Prayer.

Students were allowed to wear casual clothes on Presentation Day and encouraged to wear their House colour. Mr McCormack, the Lucan Co-ordinator, said at the end of the Assembly that 1,000 Lucan students were dressed in green in the hope of winning points for his House on Lucan’s special day. The three other House Co-ordinators also had difficulty counting with each exaggerating numbers so their House would win the points. Next year, scrutineers will have to be appointed! The friendly and light-hearted rivalry was a fitting end to an impressive Assembly.

Awards Presentation Afternoon
Parents are cordially invited to attend the 2014 Awards Presentation Ceremony for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to be held in the Gilbey Multipurpose Centre on Tuesday 16th December commencing at 1.30pm. Yearly Reports will be issued to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students at 3.00pm on that day, the last day of the school year. Reports will not be released before this time. The final College Newsletter for 2014, including book requirements for 2015, will be emailed on that date.
Student are to wear their dress uniform to school on Tuesday 16th December, the last day of the school year.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parents wishing to speak with teachers about their child’s Yearly Report will be able to arrange an interview time on Thursday 18th December, 2014. Parents who wish to make use of this opportunity are asked to please ‘phone the College on Wednesday 17th December to arrange an interview time between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Thursday 18th December. Interviews must be arranged in advance as staff will be involved in Professional Development activities on Thursday and will need to schedule interviews around those activities.

**Students Leaving**

The parents of students who are not returning to Mt St Patrick College in 2015 are asked to please notify the Principal, in writing, as soon as possible. Enrolment enquiries continue to be received with few able to proceed due to limited vacancies. It would be convenient for those seeking enrolment to finalise the enrolment process before the end of 2014 so early notification of possible vacancies is helpful.

**2014 College Magazine**

The 2014 College Magazine will be printed in full colour again this year and is it expected to be available for purchase on Wednesday 10th December, 2014. It will include many photos and articles of 2014 events including two pages of photos of the 2014 Year 12 Formal.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the demand for a College magazine has been disappointingly low so only 50 copies will be printed in 2014. To ensure your copy of the 2014 College Magazine, please order as soon as possible at the College Office. The cost is great value at $20.

**Yearly Reports and Fee Payment**

Thank you to the many parents who have finalised fee payment. As you are aware, fees are payable over three terms with Friday 29th August 2014 the final date of payment for all fees. Please be aware that the College Board has stipulated that Yearly Reports will not be issued to families who have outstanding fees.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mrs Cassie Allen and her husband Joseph, on the birth of their first child, a boy, Harry Jon, born on Wednesday 19th November.

Congratulations to the twenty six students who competed in the Diocesan Surf Life Carnival held at Byron Bay on Friday 21st November. Mt St Patrick College won the carnival and are Diocesan Champions in this event for the third consecutive year.

_In Hoc Signo Spes Mea_

Tony Daly
Principal

**FACTORiTY NEWS**

**RE NEWS**

**PRAYER SPONSORS FOR YEAR 12 HSC STUDENTS**

With the HSC Examinations over, on behalf of the Staff and Year 12 students of Mt St Patrick College, may I thank all those people (parents, students, staff, parishioners, former Primary schools and their staff and students) who prayed for our Year 12 students during their exams. We appreciate your generosity in being a Prayer Sponsor for them and be assured that your prayers have made a difference.

**MEALS ON WHEELS 2014**

A big thank you to all those parents, students and parishioners who have generously given up their time to help with Meals on Wheels during 2014. Our drivers were Dorothy Macartney, Fran Silk, Jodie Champley, Cara Graham, Alison Lee, Greg Smith, Jo Higgins, Kirsty Porter, Anneliese Simke, Moira Cooper, Bill Battese and Maureen Reynolds. A special thank you to those who helped out during the holiday periods. This is even more of a commitment.

Your generosity and concern for people in our parish community is greatly appreciated and valued and gives visible witness to the
message of Jesus: "Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me" (Matt 25:40-41)

If any parents are able to help with Meals on Wheels in 2015, please ring the College on 66722340 and leave your name, phone number and preferred day(s). Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Mick O'Donohue
Leader of Evangelisation

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

DIOCESAN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

On 21st November six students (Ashlee Selwood, Cameron Larkin, Riley King, Lucas Higgins, Alex Hunt, Ethan Foster) travelled to Grafton to compete in the Diocesan Golf Championship. In very hot and trying conditions all students competed well and in the spirit intended. Congratulations to Alex Hunt who collected the medallion for Gross winner on the day with a round of 75. Lucas Higgins was runner up with a round of 76. The annual competition contained quality competition from Tweed right down to Port Maquarie, so to have two students at the top of the table was great for the College.

Stewart Grant

2014 Diocese of Lismore Golf Championship Results

Grafton Golf Course 21st November 2014

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<th>Handicap</th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>Nett</th>
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DIOCESAN SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONS

For the third year in a row MSPC has claimed the Diocesan SLS title. In breezy conditions on Thursday 20th November 26 excited surf life savers made their way to one of the most beautiful places to spend a “school day”, Main Beach Byron Bay. The pressure was on the 2014 team as they had lost many fine performers and were hoping the injection of new blood would take their place. They certainly did. The first event of the day set the bench mark, the open swim, MSPC had 4 of the first 5 placegetters. The rest, as they say, is history. All competitors enjoyed the friendly spirit and good-natured competition. There were certainly some excellent surf skills on display and some rough and tough competition on the sand. Check out the pictures of the Open Boy’s Flags Final between Isaac King and the eventual winner, Lachlan Holmes. Congratulations to Luke Chaffer who was named the Open Boys age Champion and also to the vast number of other MSPC athletes who scored big points for the College throughout the day. Well done. Now let’s aim for 4 in a row in 2015.

Mr Acret (Coach)

OPEN BOYS CRICKET

Last Monday 24th November, MSPC Open Boys Downie Trophy Cricket team played Woodlawn at Rabjones Oval, Murwillumbah.

We were disappointed to lose the toss and spent all morning chasing leather on a tryingly hot day. The very strong Woodlawn team amassed a score of 9/273 from their 50 overs. Wickets were shared among our bowlers - James Simpson 2/57, Bailey Engler 2/47, Sidney Ewing 2/22, Sam Byrnes 1/34 and Ashton Wilson 1/31.

We battled bravely with the bat but Woodlawn were far too good, dismissing us for 92 in the 24th over. Bailey Engler 19, Evan Litchfield 15 and Captain Sam Byrnes 14 were the pick of the batsmen.

Overall, a tough day’s cricket, played in good spirit, in very trying conditions.

Tim Whitney
Sports Coordinator
ENGLISH NEWS
DEBATING SUCCESS!
Mt St Patrick College STATE CHAMPIONS!
The College Year 9 representative Debating Team is the CSDA State Champions for 2014. The NSW CSDA Regional and State Finals held at Holy Spirit College in Lakemba on Friday 14th Nov.

Congratulations to Sylvie Kettle, Isobelle Waugh and Millie Keogh on this massive achievement. The whole College community is extremely proud of you.

Our Senior team of Ela Heiniger, Sarah Sigley and Mollie Wilson were NSW Regional Runners Up.

Our Year 8 (Jesse Wright, Elle Cunningham, Keeley-Louise Dickinson) and Year 10 teams (Billi Lansky, Jess Lees, Kate Wilson, Katie Jones) were NSW Regional Semi-Finalists.

Regional Semi Final Results
Senior: MSCP def St Clare’s College Taree
Yr 10: MacKillop College, Bathurst def MSCP
Yr 9: MSCP def Edmund Rice College, Wollongong
Yr 8: Red Bend College, Forbes def MSCP

Regional Finals Results
Senior: St Mary’s Star of the Sea, Wollongong def MSCP
Yr 9: MSCP def Edmund Rice College, Wollongong

State finals results
Year 7: St Pius X Adamstown were successful over St Ignatius Riverview.
Year 8: St Clare’s Taree were successful over St Mary’s Cathedral High School.
Year 9: Mt St Patrick’s College Murwillumbah were successful over Holy Spirit, Lakemba.
Year 10: CBHS, Lewisham were successful over Edmund Rice College, Wollongong.
Senior: Patrician Brothers, Fairfield were successful over St Mary Star of the Sea, Wollongong.

Thank you to Jane Egan for accompanying the teams and Mr Daly for his continued support. Also the whole College community has been fantastic with their encouragement.

Paddy Bailey
Leader of Learning: English

LEARNING SUPPORT
TIME FOR APPRECIATIONS
Thank you to Mrs Jacqui Annadale who assisted as a volunteer in the Learning Support Centre during Friday afternoons as part of her employer’s corporate community service programme. We have appreciated her contribution.

Thank you also to the Year 10 students who volunteered to be readers and writers for eligible students during the examinations for Years 7, 8 and 9. We were very pleased to have a good representation of male and female students and to see those who really committed to this service. It was particularly impressive to see the mutual respect between the students and how the older students acted to generate a supportive environment. I felt the same positive emotions as when I first saw a student here spontaneously shake the hand of a fellow student who read for him.

It is only in the Semester 2 examination period that the Year 10s are available to be readers and writers. We continue to depend on our wonderful volunteers from the community to assist us in this capacity when there are other examination periods in the College year, so I would encourage anyone interested and able to volunteer to let me know.

Kathy Cristini,
Additional Needs Teacher

COLLEGE NEWS
VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Vinnies will launch their Christmas Appeal this November amidst increasing calls for help from the community.
Calls for help to the St Vincent de Paul Society are on the increase with this Christmas looking like a tough time of year for many in our community and a celebration with all the trimmings and traditions that Christmas brings will be far from a reality for many in the community this Christmas.
As Vinnies launches its 2014 Christmas Appeal it asks the question “there are hundreds of reasons to donate…you only need one…what’s your reason?”

Here at Mt St Patrick College our Vinnies Conference will be asking students to donate wrapped gifts (indicating what age and gender the gift is appropriate for) which will be given to the local St Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to those in need this Christmas. Students can also donate non-perishable food items or a donation of money. Collection boxes will be placed in homerooms at the end of November.

1996 Newsletters
The College would like to obtain copies of the two December issues of the 1996 Newsletter.
If you can help, please contact the College on 02 66722340.

AWARDS
LORETO
CO-ORDINATOR’S AWARDS
Year 7

Year 8
Joseph Goddard-Zammit, Ira Graham, Isabelle Woodford, Drew Clark, Jesse Gatt, Tahlia Hall, Chloe Hull, Hannah James, Thomas Snellgrove, Ravi Sutherland, Lauren Viglione, Jackson Byrnes, Milyka Sharp, Fianna Wilkinson.

Year 9
Patrick Jones (2), Declan Mullen, Alexandria Pettendy, Chloe Ryan, Meckenzie Youngblut (2), Dain Anderson, Niamh Langan-Keyte, Darcy Livesey, Cherie Bahnsen, Maxine Goddard-

**Year 10**
Dylan Clarke, Trinity Cooper, Hayley Jones, Anthony Bird (2), Archer Platt.

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

**Year 7**
Tarvah-Lee Nottle, Lily Perry-Swift, Adrian Platt, Brooke Saddler, Charli Anderson, Fox Currey-Klepp, Allison Jones, Olivia Pettendy.

**Year 8**
Ira Graham, Isabelle Woodford, Jesse Gatt, Thomas Snellgrove, Milyka Sharp, Fianna Wilkinson.

**Year 9**
Patrick Jones, Meckenzie Youngblutt, Darcy Livesey, Dominic Morosini, Chloe Saddler.

**Year 10**
Dylan Clarke, Trinity Cooper, Hayley Jones, Anthony Bird.

**COLLEGE AWARDS**

**Year 7**
Tarvah-Lee Nottle

**Year 8**
Jesse Gatt, Fianna Wilkinson.

**Year 9**
Patrick Jones, Meckenzie Youngblutt, Dominic Morosini, Chloe Saddler.

**Year 10**
Dylan Clarke, Hayley Jones, Anthony Bird.

**LISIEUX**

**CO-ORDINATOR'S AWARDS**

**Year 7**
Sophie Stoneman (2), Montana Taylor, Jesse Vrbanic (3), Isaac Walford, Quinn Willis (3), Rose Malouf, Dylan Marshall, Zeta Zahra, Louis Hampson (2), Cooper Hardy.

**Year 8**
Ella Mathews, Baillie Murray, Lauren Corby, Zane Zuschke, Surya Kavendan, Georgia Bromwich, Abigail Stratton, Jesse Wright (3).

**Year 9**
Nicole Dorfer, Sam Felton (2), Tarlia Brims, Wanlin Chow.

**Year 10**
Jessica Lees, Lucas Higgins (2), Jake Marshall (2), Sathya Kavendan (3).

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

**Year 7**
Sophie Stoneman, Jesse Vrbanic, Quinn Willis, Rose Malouf, Dylan Marshall, Louis Hampson, Cooper Hardy.

**Year 8**
Zane Zuschke, Jesse Wright.

**Year 9**
Sam Felton, Wanlin Chow.

**Year 10**
Jessica Lees, Lucas Higgins, Jake Marshall, Sathya Kavendan.

**Colleges**

**Loreto**

**CO-ORDINATOR'S AWARDS**

Keziah Boag (2), McKenzie Currey-Klepp, Tiffany Ryan (2), Tenille Stewart, Germain Tobar, Hannah Wicks.

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

Tiffany Ryan, Hannah Wicks.

**Colleges**

**Lisieux**

**CO-ORDINATOR'S AWARDS**

Hannah Bromwich, Shannon Hayes, Bill MacDonald, Reece Palmer.

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

Shannon Hayes, Bill MacDonald.

**Lucan**

**CO-ORDINATOR'S AWARDS**

Dylan Brooks, Georgia Condon, Graden Dare, Kate Davison (2), Keiara McMaster (2), Amie Smith (2).

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

Kate Davison, Keiara McMaster.

**Nagle**

**CO-ORDINATOR'S AWARDS**

Ela Heiniger, Laura King, Dylan Prichard, Maya Smith, Genevieve Waters.

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

Dylan Prichard

**Calendars & Rosters**

**2014**

**TERM 4**

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Mt St Patrick College Newsletter Page 6 27/11/2014
2014 CALENDAR
Nov 28th  Beacon Cycle closes
         Year 10 PASS Excursion
29th  5.30pm Sacred Heart Christmas Carnival
         Nightfall (approx. 8pm) Tableau
Dec 4th  Year 11 RRISK Day, Tweed Heads
         Yr 10, 11 & 12 2015 SRC Camp, Hastings Point
9th  Rewards Morning
10th  9am – 3pm Yr 9 & 10 Marine & Aqua Excursion
       6pm Yr 10 Drama Performances, Gilbey Stage
12th  9.30am – 6pm Yr 9 PASS Excursion
15th  Yr 11 Religion Excursion, Brisbane
16th  Final day for students
       End of term liturgy
       1.30pm Award Presentation Assembly, GC
       3.10pm Yr 7, 8, 9, 10 Reports distributed
       pm Newsletter available

TERM 4 2014 CANTEEN ROSTER
Week 9
1/12 Lisa Richards, Lesley Bridges
2/12 Peter Hyde
3/12 Chris Reynolds
4/12 Ann Daly, Jenny Curnow
5/12 Angela Border-Baker

Week 10
8/12 Michelle Murray, Jane Clare
9/12 Jenny Gatt
10/12 Chris Reynolds
11/12 Krystann Alexander, Kim Smith
12/12 Charnel Larkin

Week 11
15/12 Melinda Carron, Julie-Van Den Driest
25/12 Peter Hyde
26/12 Pupil Free
27/12 Pupil Free
28/12 Pupil Free

MAKING WOMEN WINNERS
Can you, or do you want to, play soccer?

Tweed United Football Club is looking for female players of all ages and abilities to join their under 18’s, Premier Women, Division 1 Women and Division 2 Women leagues.

Tweed United Football Club is a friendly, welcoming and thriving club that has been announced as 1 of only 10 Gold Coast clubs able to host Women’s soccer on the Gold Coast for 2015. Over the past four years, Tweed United’s Women’s league has proven a strong force in the Gold Coast football arena having reached 3 grand finals and being offered the opportunity to continue hosting women’s soccer.

With their very own personal trainer playing in the team and four coaches across all leagues, we guarantee you’ll get fit, healthy and greatly improve your soccer skills all the while having fun.

We welcome you to join in on preseason beach training sessions which are held on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm (NSW time) at Greenmount Beach to get a feel for the game (meet outside Greenmount Surf Club). Alternatively, please contact Siobhan or Armando if you have any questions or would like further information.

Siobhan: 0434 834205
Armando: 0419 859 611

We hope to hear from you soon!
FUNDRAISER FOR MYA
Saturday 13th Dec 2:00-9:00pm
TWEED RIVER JOCKEY CLUB
Racecourse Rd, Murwillumbah 2484

Mya Hurst is a 15 year old girl who has been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a very rare connective tissue disorder which restricts her body’s ability to produce collagen, the material which provides physical strength to ligaments, joints, muscles, skin, blood vessels and visceral organs. The condition causes severe pain and THERE IS NO CURE.

FAMILY FUN DAY

★ Children’s entertainment supplied by Mad Sports
★ Henna Tattoo/Face Painting
★ Activity & Craft Tables
★ Jumping Castle
★ Silent Auctions/Raffles
★ Hot Food, Cakes & Coffee
★ Live Music by Local Bands
★ Licensed Bar

Admission: $5 per family
Single entry, gold coin donation

Further enquiries: Eryn Young 0422 264 086

A crowd funding website has been set up at www.mycause.com.au (search for Mya)
Mya's Story,

(In medical school, students are taught to diagnose patients based on the condition that’s most likely. This idea goes with saying: “When you hear hoof beats, think horses, not zebra’s.” The horses are the likely explanation, while the zebras are less likely. A medical zebra, then, is a person with a rare medical condition.)

I am 15 years old, and I have been diagnosed with a rare connective tissue disorder called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome type 3. The easiest way to explain my condition is that my body has faulty collagen.

Collagen is best described as the glue that keeps your body together. Without collagen, all my joints from head to toe dislocate, sublux and fracture endlessly and the pain is debilitating. The spectrum of Ehlers Danlos varies in degrees. Unfortunately mine is classified as an extremely complex and severe case. I now have developed chronic regional pain syndrome in majority of my joints on top of the chronic pain that comes with the syndrome itself. Most sufferers can take pain relief to assist in managing their pain, sadly I have severe allergic reactions to pain relief. Under the supervision of a paediatric pain specialist I have been trialled on multiple narcotics/opioids but have now been told it is classed as “to life threatening” to continue to trial anymore options. Leaving me with no other option than to face a life of chronic pain. I have not walked unaided for almost two years now, but I believe the cruellest thing about Ehlers Danlos Syndrome is there is no cure. These days I can’t even brush my teeth without my wrists dislocating, my dislocations are quick, my bones pop in and out in seconds, but it is the aftermath of ligaments and soft tissue damage that each dislocation causes that leaves me in so much pain. To date I’ve suffered 10 broken bones, and hundreds of dislocations and subluxations.

At the age of 4, I had my first major injury when I broke my elbow in 2 places. From there onwards I began to constantly break bones, all occurred from minimal injuries such as dancing, school yard games and generally just playing around as kids do.

While all my friends were having fun and hanging out, my primary school years quickly turned to endless doctor’s appointments, specialist visits and hospital stays with my parents who were desperately searching for answers.

At the age of 8 I developed a bone infection in my right ankle called Osteomyelitis. No one could understand how or why this developed; it just came out of the blue. For weeks I was complaining of ankle pain, but due to all my previous fractures and ligament damage the doctors thought that was where the pain was originating from. Mum took me for an MRI and that night I was rushed into hospital for emergency surgery. I then spent another eight weeks living in the children’s ward at Tweed Hospital... I have so many terrifying memories from that time as finding a vein in me is like finding a needle in a haystack. I absolutely dread needles and end up looking like a pin cushion by the time medical staff find a vein, if they even find one. I’ve even had to endure drips inserted through my feet but it’s a with a pic line inserted through my chest to administer heavy doses of antibiotics to kill the osteomyelitis infection that’s left me with a serious phobia of needles.

When I turned 12, things got even worse. I started tearing my ligaments daily. Just walking along flat ground and picking up a glass of water, the simplest, smallest things became so challenging. I was tested for multiple illness’s and for a while we thought I had Osteogenesis Imperfecta. (Brittle bone disease) but that wasn’t the case either as my bone density scans always came back above average.

I felt like no one could help me, one specialist said to my mum “Do you think she may be making this up, is there something at school that she’s trying to avoid”? Needless to say that was the last time we saw that doctor!

We were getting nowhere and I felt like I was going crazy, doctors said I was clumsy, I had loose ligaments and flat feet. But it was the people who didn’t believe me and thought I was hypochondriac that hurt the most. I just wanted to give up but mum said that was “not an option and that we will never ever give up until we find an answer”.

In Easter of 2013 my right ankle couldn’t take it anymore, it was so weak, damaged and continually sprained. I was suffering chronic pain and I could not bear any weight on it, leaving me to attempt to hobble around on crutches and/or wear a moon boot. I was missing so much school and all my years of health issues were really taking their toll.

In January this year, the decision was made by a paediatric lower limb specialist that a right ankle lateral ligament repair was the only available option to regain stability in my foot. I went into hospital for what was meant to be day surgery only, but turned into another ten days spent in hospital. Everything that could have gone wrong did.

I awoke from surgery in indescribable pain.

I honestly don’t feel like I can even find the words to do that horrendous post-operative pain justice. I can say though that it was ten million times more agonising than anything I had previously experienced and I have certainly had my fair (or should I say unfair) share of pain. I was in the recovery ward for 3 hours with a very distressed pain specialist. He told my parents that he had never administered that many drugs to an adult let alone a child.

No matter what they gave me no one could get my pain under control. Then the allergic reactions began again. I couldn’t breathe, I couldn’t see, my body felt like was on fire, covered in hives, I was hallucinating, scratching my body raw. My right arm went into an uncontrollable spasm shaking and jolting itself into the air, this went on for days. Still no doctors could give me an answer to all my medical problems.

Finally in April 2014 after years of riding the medical rollercoaster, and infinite sleepless nights for my mum roaming the internet, we believed we knew what we were facing and that all the pieces of this awful puzzle had come together.

We immediately booked in to see a Paediatric Rheumatologist on the Gold Coast who we had studied online, and within an hour I was diagnosed with EDS 3. I remember sitting in the car on the way home just sobbing and thinking I can’t believe there is no cure for this evil illness.

Since April, my condition has declined so rapidly. I now in a wheelchair full time and need 24 hour care. I dislocate 10-20 joints a day, both my shoulders, jaw, collarbones, elbows, wrists, fingers, ankles, hips, knees, toes but worst of all, every time I crack up laughing, I dislocate my ribs.

Both my mum and dad have decided to leave work to help care for me.

I am currently living in Brisbane Hospital with my mum Monday to Friday under the care of a multidisciplinary team of top specialists, undertaking long term rehabilitation while my Dad and my two younger sisters live here in Nundah.

I always look forward to the weekend when I get to come back home to spend time all together with my family.

I would really love to spread awareness on this rare, chronic, debilitating condition. I plan on taking on a role as an ambassador for EDS in the future.

Zebra Hugs!

Love Mya.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advent Calendar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up your advent wreath/ calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take someone to coffee today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank someone who has been good to you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask yourself if you really believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is looking after you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit down today with your loved ones and talk to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read the Bible today for 10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pray for peace in our world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take something to St Vincent de Paul shop or the Salvation Army store</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTMAS DAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rejoice !!!</td>
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