Ms. Haynes, staff, special guests and students of MBBC. I am honoured to be able to represent you as college captain of Moreton Bay Boys College in two thousand and twelve. Firstly, on behalf of all the boys of MBBC I would like to welcome Mr. Wood as our new head of college. I’m sure you are looking forward to the year ahead as part of the MBBC family. I would also like to welcome all new and existing members of staff, returning students, and the 100 new students who are coming to MBBC for the first time this week. It will be a pleasure to work with everyone at the College so that collectively we will be able to soar to new heights.

Every day of our lives we are faced with obstacles and challenges, however as Martin Luther King Jr. famously said “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” And as my fellow seniors of Two Thousand and Twelve could attest to, this statement is very true. Last year during our leadership camp we were all challenged to step up and be leaders. Now in Two Thousand and Twelve whether you are wearing a badge on your blazer or not, we are all leaders. This year won’t be like every other year of our schooling lives. There will be added pressure given the fact that we are the oldest grade in the school. Boys will look to us for guidance, for leadership, for inspiration and we should do nothing but oblige. Being the seniors the expectations have risen again but as a class I have faith that we will put in 100% throughout the year, and so we will come out on the other side having achieved great things, whether that be in our academic, spiritual, sporting or cultural endeavours. Abraham Lincoln once said “Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing.” During this year I ask my fellow seniors to remember this quote, and as we aim for our end of year goals, whether that be a certain OP or getting into a course at TAFE, you can look back on this quote and remember that if you want to succeed, you must have the determination and belief to do so.

Just because you aren’t graduating at the end of this year it doesn’t matter that you can just sit back, relax, and cruise through school. Every year of your school life is important, and I could not stress enough that everything that you do leading up to your final years will ensure a strong foundation for success. So to the boys starting in prep, enjoy yourself and I’m sure that MBBC will help you all grow into fine young gentlemen. To the boys in year 6, you are at the top of the primary school and will need to act like
the young leaders we all know you are. Year 7s you are starting on a new journey this year, middle school is very different to primary school and we are sure that you will all adapt well to your new surroundings. Year 9s you are only one year away from joining the senior school and it’s important to act as role models for all boys during your last year of middle school. Year 10s just like the year 7s you a starting a new journey this year, and being split away from your friends and being put with boys from year 11 and 12 in your form classes is a new experience, one that I hope that you will enjoy. It doesn’t matter if it is your first year of school, or your last year of school, or somewhere in between, you will always encounter challenges during your time at MBBC. However the opportunities and the success on offer here will be able to set you up for success not only during your time at school but later in life as well.

To my fellow Captains and the house vice captains, you have been put into a position of leadership. I look forward to working with all of you to raise house spirit, strengthen our community service and to grow together as leaders. You have been trusted by your peers and the staff members to be able to uphold the standards of an MBBC boy, to be merciful, independent, resourceful, respectful, open-minded and resilient at all times. The challenge is for all boys in this room to strive to do their best to demonstrate these attributes and uphold these values, and when they look in the mirror they are able to see these qualities in themselves.

This year will mark the third annual Battle of the Bays competition. Unfortunately last year after a strong start in Theatre sports, we lost out in the basketball, and then suffered a final minute defeat in the touch and for a second straight year we lost to MBC. This year things will be very different, we hope to finally be able to raise the cup at the end of the touch game for the first time in its very brief history. The three events are yet to be confirmed but we will look forward to taking the battle to the girls this year and finally being able to beat them.

However Battle of the Bays isn’t the only event happening this year at MBBC. During the Easter holidays for the second straight year MBBC will host the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to experience the highest level of school public speaking in the world, as well as a chance to make new friends from countries as far away as South Africa, Israel and Pakistan. I
would encourage you to consider hosting a billet for the week or offering your assistance as a timekeeper or judge.

I’m sure the returning students could agree that one of the biggest highlights of the school year is the last day of term 3, which has come to be known as carnival day. Last year we proudly raised over 9,000 dollars for Camp Quality, and with the school only growing in size, I’m sure carnival day will be bigger and better than ever this year. As a group of individuals we can’t achieve much, but as a group of MBBC students we can achieve great things. I truly believe that for everyone in this room Two Thousand and Twelve is going to be a great year. If you don’t shy away from challenges and tribulations and you all grow not as boys but as young gentlemen, we can look back at the end of the year and say that we truly did soar to new heights.

Thank you