



31 August 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of our Marymede Community,

Tomorrow is the start of my favourite time of year 'Spring' because of the signs of new life all around and the hope that comes with that.

For our Year 12s, it is a challenging time with the end of their schooling fast approaching. I urge them to ensure they focus firmly on completing their time at school in the most positive manner possible.

Father's Day

I wish all of our Dad's a happy Father's Day on Sunday. We look forward to the Prep's Father's Day Assembly tomorrow morning and our Father's Day celebration in the Fitness Centre from 6.00pm. Thank you to the Parents' and Friends Committee for organising this school community event.

Year 7 2019 Enrolment Interviews

I have very much enjoyed chatting to our current Year 5 students and their parents as part of the Year 7 2019 enrolment process. I have been taken by the positive response from both students and parents about the learning and teaching program currently on offer to our Senior Primary students this year.

If parents know of friends who are interested in enrolling their children for Year 7 2019 at Marymede, to please let them know that applications are now due. I am very pleased with the number of enrolment applications we have received to date.

Primary Sports Results

Congratulations to the Senior Primary Boys Soccer and T-Ball Teams and their coaches Ms Ali Lappin and Mr Gerard Large on reaching the State Finals which will be played over the next fortnight.

Congratulations also to the Primary students who competed in and won every age group in the Bridge-Inn District Athletics last Friday. Well done to all involved.

Prep-Year 10 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews: 21-22 September

Advance notice that the next scheduled Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will take place for Prep to Year 10 students on Thursday 21 September from 4.00pm to 7.00pm and Friday 22 September from 9.00am to 4.00pm for P-6 students and from 11.30am to 4.00pm for Years 7-10 students. Interviews will take place in either the Primary Houses or the Fitness Centre.

Parent-College Partnership

I am a strong advocate of the College and home working in partnership together. I have been pleased with the number of parents who this year have attended Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews, Sacramental Workshops and in recent weeks, Subject Information Evenings. Parental attendance at these functions is a strong indication of their willingness to become involved in their child's education.

I have asked the teaching staff to make contact with parents to keep them updated with the progress of their children. I know that parents have appreciated the contact via phone or email. I now ask that parents wishing to meet with a staff member or a Senior Leadership staff member, to firstly contact the College to book an appointment which is mutually convenient to both the staff member and parent. In some cases, straight after school is not the best time for our teaching staff as they are often required to attend staff and year level meetings.

I thank parents for their willingness to work closely with our teaching staff to support their child's education at Marymede.

Kind Regards

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS PREP – YEAR 12

NAPLAN Results

We were delighted by the results of this year's NAPLAN tests, released in the last fortnight, which have confirmed good improvement in many key areas. In particular, it was great to see the very impressive performance by our Grade 3 students! This year, the Grade 3s performed above the state median in all areas of literacy and achieved the median in Numeracy. This year's results continued the upward trend that began last year and made a substantial jump in reading particularly, placing the Grade 3 cohort significantly above the state mean!

These positive results have affirmed the shift in our approach to reading over the past two years, particularly in the junior primary, with a much greater emphasis being placed on comprehension alongside students' ability to decode the words. While, at times, this has meant that students have progressed through reading levels a little more slowly, the data supports that this is reaping major benefits to their reading skills and capacity to read for meaning.

Congratulations to our Primary Literacy Coordinator, Mrs Elizabeth Milani and all of our primary teachers for the time and care they have taken in regularly assessing students' reading, using this data to tailor the teaching program and utilising effective reading groups to assist students to progress. It is fantastic to see these efforts paying off so quickly for our students.

Can I encourage all families – from Prep to Year 12 – to support (and sometimes coerce) their sons and daughters to continue to read regularly and, to offer them the chance to discuss and debate what they read. The benefits to having strong literacy skills are significant, in Year 12 and beyond secondary school; it takes years to hone literacy skills and every little book helps!

Reviewing 2017 and Planning for 2018

I recently had the opportunity to discuss with the College Board the successes and challenges of some of the new innovations that were trialed this year, in particular the Grade 5 & 6 Rotations, the Year 7 & 8 Enhanced Learning Stream, the Grade 3 & 4 Year Level Specialists and the introduction of PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) from Prep to Grade 2. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the very positive feedback from students about these programs and the impact they have had on the student learning.

I also gave the Board a sneak peak of some of the exciting plans in store for 2018 and I look forward to sharing these with you in newsletters in Term 4. Here are just some of the wonderful images of our Grade 5 & 6 students enjoying the learning experiences of just some of the Rotations this year.



Congratulations

It is a great pleasure to share the exciting news that Daniel Preziuso (Year 10), Daniel Nicolo (Year 11) and Sophie Temelkovska (Year 11) whose entries to the Victoria-wide RMIT Urban Futures Competition have each been selected in the top 20 entries state-wide. These three talented Geographers have been invited to a supper on September 20th where the winner will be announced.

Congratulations to these students for this remarkable achievement and many thanks to their fantastic Geography teacher, Ms Kelly Hack, for her stewardship and support.

Ms Tracey Kift

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching Prep – Year 12

ACTING HEAD OF FAITH AND MISSION

Christian Leadership Retreat 2017 Theme: Called to Servant Leadership

About the Year 11 Retreat

The aim of the Year 11 Christian Leadership Retreat is to provide students with an understanding of Christian Leadership, with a particular focus on *Servant Leadership*, with Jesus Christ as the model of servant leadership.

The objective of the Retreat is to develop students' understanding of:

- the 'essentials' of a servant leader demonstrated in key moral behaviors of **love, listening, empathy, stewardship, building community**.
- leadership qualities revealed through Marian values of **presence, community spirit, love of work, justice**
- the responsibilities of a servant leader;
- the obstacles to servant leadership.

The theological underpinnings of servant leadership has been inspired by the life giving leadership that Jesus showed in his divine mission as saviour. His life of service originated from his relationship with God and served the will of God through his relationship with God's people. Paul's letter to the Philippians reminds us, although Jesus' state was divine, he 'did not cling to his equality with God, but assumed the condition of a slave, a servant king' (Gordan-Brown, A. (2011) *Jesus the Humble Leader*, A Talk on Good Friday at the Stonyhurst Easter Retreat 2011).

The philosophy of Servant Leadership has also been inspired by the work of Robert Greenleaf. He wrote:

"The servant-leader is servant first... Becoming a servant-leader begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is leader first... The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant first to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and the most difficult to administer, is this: Do those served grow as persons? Do

they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?" Reference: Greenleaf, R. K. (2002). *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness* (25th anniversary ed.). New York: Paulist Press.

Throughout the Retreat students were provided with opportunities to explore the theme of 'Called to Servant Leadership' through:

- reflection, prayer and liturgy
- team building activities
- personal story telling
- listening to the stories of others'
- dialogue
- collaborative problem solving tasks
- spiritual and ritual symbols
- opportunities to reflect on the call to leadership at Marymede
- opportunities to reflect on servant leadership in their families, relationships, and the wider community.

By the end of the Retreat it was hoped that students would feel confident to apply for the various leadership responsibilities offered at Marymede in 2018, and be inspired enough to seek opportunities to 'want to serve, and serve first' in their personal lives, the College, and the wider community.

Joshua Ibrahim has written a reflection about his experiences at the Year 11 Retreat

To be honest, I was a little apprehensive because as a Year 11 young man, I was thinking, "what could I possibly gain from this experience?" I soon found out how wrong I was. Being in a setting away from the classroom, allows you to see a side to students and teachers that you would not normally see. The small group discussions allowed us to discover each other on a more intimate and spiritual level. Listening to other student's experiences changed the way I perceived them. I have known some of the students that accompanied me for years, and I was very surprised out how little I actually did know about them. I learnt that there is a story behind every person and it made me understand why some people are the way that they are and we should never judge anyone.

As a group we never judged, only listened with open hearts and offered each other support. Throughout the retreat I felt accepted by everyone and was never made to feel out of place. My favourite experience was listening to our guest speaker Rod McCracken. He shared his experiences with our group and his words have stuck with me. These were to never feel pity for someone else's misfortune but to understand and empathise with them and their situation. His story was touching and taught me how to try and be more resilient in tough times.

I previously thought I knew what it took to be a good leader, but this retreat made me realise I am only just starting on my path in leadership. I can only gain knowledge from experiences like this and improve the way I communicate with people and react to situations, regardless of failures along the way.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and I feel it is essential to a Year 11's spiritual and emotional growth. I would like to thank Ms Bagh and all the teachers involved in making this a memorable experience.

Mr Joshua Ibrahim Year 11 Student

The Faith and Mission team would like to extend our gratitude to all Retreat Leaders and Staff who showed phenomenal servant leadership to ensure our young people had an unforgettable and meaningful retreat experience.



Ms Marie Bagh Acting Director Faith and Mission Secondary

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Marymede Snow Program

On August 18, Marymede took a group of 25 very excited students on the College's second Co-curricular Snow Program to Mt Hotham Alpine Resort. In its third year at the College, the snow program offers students from Year 7-12 the opportunity to enjoy a ski-in/ski-out snow experience and chance to progress their skills annually.

For students who have attended multiple snow programs, the rate of skill acquisition was apparent, with students being able to explore more of Mt Hotham's ski area.

The group experienced near perfect weather conditions on 140cm snow base, leaving little downtime at the Chalet. Night skiing continued to be a highlight at Big D, with students being able to ski and ride with all members of our group. Students are to be congratulated on the exemplary way they managed themselves across the weekend.

I would like to thank Ms Annmarie Kane and Mr Jeremy Baldwin for their support in facilitating this fantastic opportunity. Students wanting to participate in this program in 2018 are encouraged to continue working hard in their studies and watch for applications to open early 2018.



Ms Andrea Drake Head of HPE

Time To Shine

The Marymede Catholic College Music Department is excited to announce that the Drumline and Senior Choir have been accepted into the 2018 production of 'Time to Shine'. This is

an incredible achievement where our students are given the opportunity to showcase their talents with students from other Catholic schools to an audience in the thousands at the State Theatre.

Rehearsals begin on Sunday September 10 at the Catholic Leadership Centre from 11.00am – 1.00pm. Congratulations to all students involved as well as our Drums and Drumline teacher, Ms Monique Zucco and our Singing teacher and Senior Choir Conductor, Mr Robert Latham. It is excellent to see our students being recognised for their talents and is a huge step forward for our Music department.



Mr Sava Djukic
Music Co-ordinator Year 7-12

The Real and Imagined History of the Elephant Man Excursion

On Thursday August 17, the Year 11 and 12 drama class went to the Malthouse Theatre to watch the performance of *The Real and Imagined History of the Elephant Man*.

The performance was amazing, it took us through the life of Joseph Merrick from the time his symptoms started showing to his death at the age of 27. There were 5 performers involved, two with a physical disability. They also considered the haze to be a character as well as it created the atmosphere and made a massive impact on the whole performance, symbolising the time of the industrial revolution.

Personally I loved this performance as it focused on the Elephant Man rather than the other characters. The characters who came on were never seen after that (but the performers were the same) symbolising the isolation of Joseph Merrick because everyone he meets never comes back.

Also, a performance without prosthetics and makeup made it an effective performance because it shows how able-actors use prosthetics to make themselves appear disabled and the director didn't want to go down that road. It was a great and emotional experience to be a part of.



Mr Helsen Cross
Year 11 VCE Drama Student

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Book Week Parade

The enthusiasm and participation by all was quite evident on Friday August 25 at the Prep – Year 6 Book Week Parade. The buzz was amazing.

We had a rainbow of colour. It was wonderful to see that all the students embraced the celebration and arrived to school prepared to share in the fun of the day.

I would like to thank parents and students for all the terrific efforts that went into the design and preparation of your costumes.

We were very fortunate to have Peter Helliard speak to the children about his endeavours as a recently published author.

Book Week Writing Competition

I would like to congratulate the winners of the P-6 Book Week Writing Competition.

- Prep – Year 2:** Ava La Rosa
- Year 3 – Year 4:** Isabella Bryce
- Year 5 – Year 6:** Ashna Sajeev

The winning stories will be available shortly to be read. This year many more students entered the competition making Ms Patterson's job of judging very difficult. Everyone who participated is to be congratulated for their entries.

Once again, thank you for your wonderful support.

Mrs Elizabeth Milani
Literacy Co-ordinator

Primary Sport News

Bridge Inn Athletics Carnival

On Friday August 25, fifty-five Marymede students competed at the District Athletics Carnival against 12 other schools in the Whittlesea area. The students started training in term 2 and their efforts were rewarded winning the 10, 11 and 12 years age group and making them the Bridge Inn Champions.

Special mention Tobenna Obani of Year 6, who ran 12.85 seconds in the 100m sprint. Tobenna was the 4th fastest runner at the state championships last year though this was the first time he broke 13 seconds.

Marymede qualified to the next stage in the following events:

Hurdles, high jump, long and triple jump, discus, shot put, 200m, 100m, 800m and 1500m. We also qualified in all 6 relay events.

The next round is at Meadowglen Athletics Stadium on September 11.



Tee Ball

We are off to State Finals. Congratulations to the Marymede Primary Boys Tee Ball team who won the Northern Regional Tee Ball competition and have now qualified in the top 8 schools in the State. The event will take place on September 13 at Waverley Softball Centre.



Walk to School Day

Walk to School Day is on Friday September 15. Please meet at the corner of Williamsons Road and The Great Eastern Way. Teachers will be there from 8:00am. It would be great to see everyone attend to obtain points for their House.

Hockey Clinic

The Year 4 students were fortunate to participate in a Hockey Clinic run by Ken from Greensborough Hockey Club. The club has teams across all age groups and skill levels. If your child is interested please contact: james.dunell@greensboroughhockeyclub.com.au



Marymede Day

A fun day was held by all at the annual Marymede Day Celebrations. The Prep to Year 2 students attended a disco run by our own DJ, Mr Nealon.

Other activities included biscuit decorating, bead/bracelet making, face painting and kite making.

The school also hosted a 'Marymede's Got Talent'. It was great to see so many students support the event either in a comedy, dance, song or music performance.



Mr Gerard Large
Head of Primary Sport

WHOLE SCHOOL

Marymede's Got Talent

Congratulations and thank you to the large number of students who participated in the Year 3 - 4 and the Year 5-12 'Marymede's Got Talent' competitions. It was wonderful to see such an exciting mix of talented acts take to the stage.

A big thank you to Ms Natalie Oman for her work organising the Year 3 - 4 competition, and thank you to Mr Jai Cameron and Mr Sava Djukic for assisting with the organisation of the Years 5-12 competition.

Please find below the placings for the 2017 'Marymede's Got Talent' Competitions:

Years 5 - 12 Marymede's Got Talent:

- 1st Place:** Joshua Guest, Marcus Caruana, Laurence Portella, Bjorn Reta, and Ramzi Al-Moghrabi
- 2nd Place (tie):** Demi Cao and Samuel Vermeulen, John Roflo and Patrick Wiriyant

Years 3 - 4 Marymede's Got Talent:

- 1st Place:** Abby Mueller – Year 3.2
- 2nd Place:** Isaac Gvero – Year 4.3
- 3rd Place:** Luca Sabol – Year 3.2



Our wonderful primary student acts



Our wonderful secondary judges from left to right- Mr. Leon Travers, Ms. Carla Esposito and Mr. Isaac Ndanema

Ms Angie Bedford
Head of Performing Arts

Knit-A-Square Is Back For 2017

The Square Knit Circle is extremely excited to be regrouping for 2017 to carry on the tremendous work we have been conducting since 2011.

In November last year, our 500+ knitted squares were packed into water-tight shipping envelopes, sent to Kascare's branch in South Africa and stitched into lovely blankets. The Marymede community contributed enough squares to warm children in the South Africa who would otherwise have been freezing. We feel extremely proud that our small contribution will become wonderful blankets, used to keep orphaned, abandoned or children with AIDS, warm.



Where To From Here

Knitting club is every Wednesday lunch time, we hope to regroup bigger and better. Students are currently being sought to learn to knit or crochet 20cm squares that will be sent Zimbabwe, officially the poorest country in the World and Kascare's expanding branch.

With nearly 1,000,000 orphans alive in 2009, Zimbabwe has the highest number of orphans, in proportion to its population, than any other country in the world, according to UNICEF. As many as one in four children in Zimbabwe are orphaned as a result of parents dying from AIDS.

How Can You Help

You can become involved in two very important ways.

If you have the skills to knit or crochet a 20cm by 20cm square, please call Mrs Jenny Priest at the school or via email: Jenny.priest@marymede.vic.edu.au,

Alternatively, we are welcoming all wool or knitting needles donations of any colour, size or type, with the drop off of wool or squares to be made at the Primary Reception area.

For more information log on to the link below

<http://www.knit-a-square.com/>

Mrs Jenny Priest
Primary Office

COMMUNITY MASS

