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29 January 2016

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

It is wonderful to have started the 2016 school year, and I again welcome all into the Marymede Catholic College Community. The buildings have come alive once more and new growth, new energies and new hopes have burst into life in all directions.

There is much to look forward to and a great deal of individual planning and goal setting required by students to ensure each takes on the responsibility to achieve his or her best in 2016.

Staff have high expectations and we are looking for all students to set high standards and take advantage of the opportunities presented to them.

### Contacting Us

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact the College. If your child says he or she is having trouble in class, then please contact the class teacher. The Primary Year Level Coordinators or Secondary Heads of House should be contacted about more serious issues, which sometimes may be confidential. There may be occasions when the issues warrant the involvement of senior members of the College.

### Positions of Leadership

For your information, below is the list of staff who hold a Position of Leadership in 2016:

#### Senior Leadership Team

Michael Kenny – Principal  
Robyn Roberts – Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing P-12  
Tracey Kift – Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12  
Paul Romanin – Business Manager  
Judeline Wadhvani – Head of Faith and Mission P-12  
Riccardo luele – Head of Religious Education

Nicole Pegler – Director of Primary  
Julia Wake – Campus Coordinator

#### Secondary Heads of Houses

Andrea Zappulla – Head of Chanel  
Judita Turco – Head of Chisholm  
Richard Komiazzyk – Head of McAuley  
Corinne Niall – Head of McCormack  
Vinny Doherty – Head of Marcellin  
Carla Esposito – Head of Romero

#### Secondary Heads of Domains

David Adamson – Careers Coordinator  
Angie Bedford – Head of Drama  
Marisa Bortolotto – Head of Science  
Vicki Bunce – Head of Resource Centre  
Kevin Carville – Head of Music  
Rochelle Coyle – Head of English  
Jane Darrou – Head of Humanities  
David De Silva – VCAL Coordinator  
Sava Djukic – Coordinator of Junior Music  
Gary Hickey – VET/SBAT Coordinator  
Derek McConn – Head of Health and Physical Education  
Simone McGill – REMAR Coordinator  
Jeremy Guzman – Head of Visual Arts  
Allison Lemar – Head of LOTE  
Vinodh Narasimhan – Head of Mathematics  
Robin Panousieris – Head of Technology  
Vincenzo Rovetto – VCE/VCAA/VASS Administrator/Timetabler  
Natalie Savage – Head of Sport  
Robyn Thomson – Learning Enhancement Coordinator P-12  
Stavroula Tsembas – Director of ICT

#### Primary Leaders

Scott Byrne – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 3)  
Rita Casonato – Year Level Coordinator (Prep)  
Narelle Collins – Numeracy Coordinator  
Anna Damigella – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 6)  
Laura Gazeas – Learning Enhancement Coordinator P-6  
Alison Lappin – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 5)  
Gerard Large – Primary House and Sport Coordinator

Laetitia Malusu – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 1)  
Elizabeth Milani – Literacy Coordinator  
Melinda Muir – Head of Faith & Mission P-6  
Jacqueline Tjorpatzis – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 4)  
Georgia Valcanas – Year Level Coordinator (Yr. 2)

## 2015 Semester 2 Reports

A reminder that parents can access their child's 2015 Semester 2 report via the College Website. All families were sent a pin number in Term 4 last year. Please contact the College if you are having difficulty in downloading your child's report.

## 2016 Student Leadership Team

Congratulations to the following students:

### Secondary

Betsey Rasia and Adrian Pieri – College Captains  
Julia Cavasinni – Faith & Mission Leader  
Brittany Bonello – Wellbeing Leader  
Emma Wardell – Environment Leader  
Larissa Skenderis, Matthew Distefano and Nanette Mangoba –  
Cultural Leaders  
Olivia Hughes – Learning Excellence Leader  
James Henderson and Laura Castles – Sports Leaders  
Christian Petralia and Maya Cunanan – McAuley House  
Captains  
Vincent Nativo and Chloe Coniglio – Chisholm House Captains  
Teagan Brady and Adrianna Panayioutou – Romero House  
Captains  
Emily Maney and Mikayla Di Mauro – Chanel House Captains  
Marc Daniele and Mary Pargas – McCormack House Captains  
Sheldon Chetty and Gemma Parsons – Marcellin House  
Captains

### Primary

Alannah Mazzeo and Ethan Jessel – Primary Captains  
Damian Trenevski and Jacinta Kouts – Chisholm House  
Captains  
Liam Newport and Talia D'Agostino – Chanel House Captains  
David Coles and Declan Nhemachena – McAulay House  
Captains  
Deacon Kalpakis and Ella Pinney – Marcellin House Captains  
Jack Miles and Chloe Gravina – McCormack House Captains  
Adrian Alessandrino and Chloe Quick – Romero House  
Captains

## Grooming and Personal Presentation

It is my expectation that our students will present themselves well at all times and wear the College uniform with pride and in an acceptable manner. I ask for parental support to ensure that the high grooming standard of our College is maintained.

I would like to mention specifically:

### Jewellery:

Apart from watches and a chain with a small crucifix, no other jewellery is to be worn at school. This includes bracelets, rings etc.

### Body Piercings:

Students may wear one plain earring per ear in the ear lobe (no spacers or dermals). No other objects are permitted in the eye brow, nose, lip etc.

### Hair:

Extreme hair styles are not permitted. These include dreadlocks, Mohican style cuts, extreme long or short styles (Level 3 is the minimum hair length). Hair is to be of one natural colouring.

### Facial Hair:

Boys are expected to be clean shaven at all times.

### Girls Dresses:

Some of our female students may have grown over the holidays. I ask that you check the length of your dress before returning to school to ensure that it touches the knee.

Once again, I ask for parental assistance in these matters. I thank you for supporting us in meeting our grooming expectations.

## House Swimming Carnival – 9 February

A sense of belonging and of being part of a House is encouraged among the students by each event such as the Secondary Inter-House Swimming Carnival. It will be held on Tuesday 9 February at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre at 9.00am. I ask for parental support to ensure that all students are at the Carnival. Parents are most welcome to join us and support your son or daughter's House.

## Opening of the 2016 School Year Mass – 18 February

On Thursday 18 February, all of our Years 1-12 students and staff will be attending our Opening School Mass which will be celebrated in the Fitness Centre at 9.30am. Our Celebrant will be Rev. Martin Ashe and we are delighted that he will be our College Chaplain in 2016.

### Kind Regards,

**Mr. Michael Kenny**  
**Principal**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND  
TEACHING PREP TO YEAR 12**

## VCE Results

For the Class of 2015, the VCE results offered plenty of good news stories and, once again, confirmed that academically motivated students can feel confident that Marymede is able to cater for and support them to achieve high scores in VCE.

With 5.7% of study scores over 40 and 6 students achieving ATARs of 90+, the performance of our high achievers was very comparable to similar schools, while the perfect score of 50 in Psychology by Taylah-Rose De Bono was a particular highlight of the 2015 results. We look forward to celebrating the outstanding achievements of the College Dux Nakita Costanzo

and high achievers Stephanie Camilleri, Cindy Do, Michael Manoussakis, Elise Chan and Taylah-Rose at our Leadership Induction Assembly next week.

As we look to 2016, however, we are committed to achieving even stronger VCE Results. To help us achieve this goal, we have already implemented a number of strategies.

- We have enlisted the services of a VCE Data Consultant who will provide a detailed analysis of our 2015 Unit 3 & 4 students VCE results against their GAT performance. This data will be used by VCE teachers to identify areas for further growth.
- We have restructured the timetable, aligning the Year 10 and VCE classes to dramatically extend opportunities for academically able Year 10 students to apply for accelerated studies and to complete their VCE over three years. This opportunity to include 6th and 7th VCE studies is invaluable for students striving for a high ATAR.
- We will continue compulsory Unit 3 & 4 Trial Examinations in June and September to provide students with opportunities to assess their learning and receive valuable feedback in preparation for the VCAA examinations;
- We will further strengthen the rigor of examinations for Years 9-11 to ensure students are well prepared for the final VCE examinations. From the beginning of Year 10, students subject selections will be linked to their examination results to ensure students have the necessary foundational knowledge, study skills and work habits for the VCE studies they select. Students will need to achieve 60% as the minimum result required to gain entry into a related study in VCE.

However, it is not just in their final year that Year 12 students develop the skills to succeed in VCE. The ability to think, learn, manage time effectively, communicate, set goals, interpret questions and the myriad other skills required in VCE are developed gradually over the preceding years of schooling.

It is for this reason that we encourage our students throughout their P-12 study to develop a consistent homework program. This is not only to complete tasks that reinforce what they are learning in classes, but to learn to self-manage, and to gradually develop a study-life balance that will stand them in good stead in Year 12 and beyond.

### **Homework Expectations by Year Levels**

P-6 Daily Reading + additional homework tasks  
Year 7 30-45 minutes in Term 1&2; 1 hour in Term 3&4  
Year 8 1 hour in Term 1&2; 1-1.5 hours in Term 3&4  
Year 9 1.5 hours  
Year 10 2 hours  
Year 11 2.5 hours  
Year 12 3 hours

## **Reading With Your Child**

Children benefit immeasurably from reading with their parents. Research says that reading with your child is a significant predictor of academic achievement and can have a range of other positive impacts on your child's well-being. And this is not just the case in Prep – Year 2 but throughout your child's schooling.

At each age and stage, a range of simple strategies can help you to help your son or daughter develop their literacy skills

### **Prep – Year 2**

Before reading, ask your child to look through the pictures on the cover and in the book and **predict** what the story will be about. Similarly, read the title and ask your child to make a **prediction**. Making predictions is an important skill to develop; accomplished readers unconsciously think ahead while reading and anticipating information and events in the text.

While reading, point to each word on the page as you read (later encourage your child to do this) to assist your child's **tracking** skills from one line of writing to the next.

After reading (pages or sections of the text), ask your child questions to encourage them to reflect on and develop their **understanding** of what they are reading. Some questions you could ask include:

- Who is the story mainly about?
- What do you like about this story?
- What is the main problem in the story? How is the problem solved?
- Does this story remind you of anything (in your life)?
- Does this story remind you any other stories you have read?
- What is one thing that happens to the main character?

### **Year 3 to Year 6**

Shared reading is a fantastic practice for parents and children to use throughout middle and upper primary. Taking turns to read aloud gives parents the opportunity to model effective reading – using expression, changes in pace and volume and emphasising key words – for their child. This opportunity to 'share' the reading also offers the opportunity to develop your child's ability to 'read between the lines'; some questions to ask your child to develop this skill include:

- How do you think the character felt when ...
- Why do you think the character did ...
- What do you think the author thinks about ...
- What lesson did the character learn ...
- What would happen if ...
- Why do you think ...

### **Year 7- Year 12**

In secondary school, there is often a marked change to the types of reading students are expected to complete, with a focus in secondary English on extended and in-depth study of

a range of texts – novels, films, poetry and media texts. Parents have a fantastic opportunity to support the development of their son or daughter's comprehension and analysis skills by reading the English texts they are studying and sharing in 'dinner table' discussion about the key characters, themes and messages of these texts. The chance for your child to discuss their reactions and ideas about the texts will assist them in articulating their ideas about the books they are reading in preparation for their in-depth study of these texts.

**Ms Tracey Kift**

**Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching Prep to Year 12**

## CAMPUS COORDINATOR PREP TO Year 12

### Houses at Marymede 2016

Many of you would be aware that we have changed our terminology from Guild to House across the College for 2016. This is in keeping with many other Catholic Schools. In the Primary Mr Gerard Large is the overall House Co-ordinator and in the Secondary we have a House Co-ordinator for each House. The names Chanel, Chisholm, McAuley, McCormack, Marcellin and Romero remain the same. From 2016 Year 7 core (class) groups will be House groups, for example, all students in Year 7 who are in Romero House will do all their classes together. Our secondary school population has grown and as such we have moved to six Tutor Groups for each House. All students have been randomly allocated to a new Tutor Group, balancing Year Levels and gender, and Tutor teachers have also been randomly allocated. Many Tutor groups will have two Tutor teachers supporting the students and their families. These new groups will remain stable for the foreseeable future. Please contact your child's House Co-ordinator if you have any questions:

Chanel – Ms Andrea Zappulla

Chisholm – Miss Judita Turco

McAuley – Mr Richard Komiazyk

McCormack – Miss Corinne Niall

Marcellin – Mr Vinny Doherty

Romero – Miss Carla Esposito

### Cybersafety Evening – Wednesday February 3

Marymede's partnership with cybersafety expert Susan McLean continues this year. Susan is currently working with the federal government in delivering key messages around the ever-changing social media space and has had a very successful uptake of her book 'Sexts, Texts and Selfies – how to keep your children safe in the digital space.' She will be working with our Year 7's and Year 10's during the day on Wednesday February 3 and following up with a parent information evening in the Fitness Centre from 6.30pm. All parents of the Marymede community are welcome to attend, no matter the Year level of your child.

We do request the attendance of Year 7 parents as this will coincide with the hand-out of your child's device.

**Ms Julia Wake**

**Campus Co-ordinator P – 12**

## HEAD OF FAITH AND MISSION PREP TO YEAR 12

### Faith and Mission News

**“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.”** With these words, Pope Francis announced a Holy Year of Mercy which began on December 8 2015 and will conclude on November 20 2016.

Mercy lies at the very heart of the Christian message. Pope Francis envisions a year in which we will become more merciful in our own lives and share God's mercy with others. In this Year of Mercy, we are called to bring consolation to the poor, liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in our society, spiritual sight to those who have lost touch with God, and human dignity to those most in need.

The 2016 College theme **“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God” Micah 6:8**, will remind us of Pope Francis' message of showing Mercy to others.

### Upcoming Faith and Mission Events

- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday February 10  
Primary: Year level liturgies  
Secondary: House liturgies
- Please note that there will be no meat based items for sale in the school canteen on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent (commencing from Friday February 12 and concluding on Friday 18 March) which are days of fasting and abstinence.
- Year 6-12 Leadership Induction Assembly: Thursday February 11
- Opening of the 2016 School Year Mass: Thursday February 18
- Year 12 Retreat, CYC The Island Cowes, Phillip Island: Monday February 22 – Wednesday February 24.
- Please find attached the Year 12 Retreat letter for your reference.

### 2016 Sacraments:

- Confirmation: Sunday April 17, St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne
- First Reconciliation: Wednesday August 24 and Thursday August 25, Marymede Chapel of Annunciation
- First Eucharist: Sunday October 16, St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne

**Mrs Melinda Muir**

**Head of Faith and Mission (P-12)**

## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

### 2016 College Production – *The Wedding Singer*

The Performing Arts team are excited to commence regular rehearsals for our May production of *The Wedding Singer* on Tuesday February 2.

All cast members should check SIMON Daily Messages for the first rehearsal schedule of the year. This will also be posted on the message board in the Performing Arts Centre hallway. All cast are required to attend a full cast meeting on **Thursday 4th February at 1.35pm** in the Theatre.



Year 7 students and students new to Marymede Catholic College will have the opportunity to audition for the ensemble in mid-February. Year 7-12 students interested in the backstage crew will also have a sign up session later this term. Stay tuned to the daily messages for all things *Wedding Singer*.

**Ms Angie Bedford**  
**Head of Performing Arts**

### Humanities Hero of The Month

This year, we are delighted to launch a new idea to recognise people who are making a big social, political or economic difference to the lives of others. Our February Humanities Heroes are Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, Young Australians of the Year, 2016, who are responsible for the Orange Sky Laundry project. Their initiative gives those who are homeless a means of washing and drying their clothes. Here are two young men who have contributed to a shift in social and humanitarian thinking. Nick and Lucas are contributing to the well-being of those at the margins and are providing employment and training opportunities for them too. We would welcome nominations for the March Humanities Hero.

I am very pleased to join the Marymede community and to be part of a team of teachers who support your children's literacy skills and grow their understanding of the many facets of our world which have been influenced by Geography, History and Commerce. Our subjects assist students to develop their critical thinking skills, applicable to their education and daily lives.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.



**Mrs Jane Darrou**  
**Head of Humanities**

## DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY

Welcome back to another school year. I hope all our students and families have had a safe and joyous start to 2016.

The beginning of the year is an exciting time for most but can also cause anxiety among children and families as they settle in to a new classroom environment and get to know their new teacher. We trust that you will support your children by remaining positive and encouraging them to be resilient of any changes and take risks. These new opportunities often lead to new friendships and experiences.

As always, we endeavour to develop strong partnerships between the school and families to ensure the best outcomes possible for each child. Email is usually the best way to communicate with teaching staff as they cannot answer calls if they are in the act of teaching or at meetings. If for any reason there are concerns, we urge you to discuss these with your child's homeroom teacher in the first instance so the best support measures can be put in place.

I look forward to a great year.

**Ms Nicole Pegler**  
**Director of Primary**

## REGISTRAR NEWS

### 2017 Enrolments

Applications for Year 7 2017 are now open and will close on February 26, 2016.

Applications for Prep 2017 are now open and will close on May 2, 2016.

### Prep 2016

It is a legal requirement for parents to provide an immunisation status certificate when enrolling their child at Primary School. Could parents of Prep 2016 students please ensure that your child's certificate has been submitted to the College. If you are uncertain whether or not the College has a copy of your child's certificate please phone 9407-9000 or email registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au

### Family Contact Details

Should you have a change in contact details such as home address, phone numbers or email address, please contact the Main Office on 9407-9000 to submit the new information, alternatively you may also wish to email the change to registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au.

### Email Addresses

Our College uses email as a major form of communication to families and will continue to do so in 2016. Please ensure that your family has supplied the College with a valid and current email address to avoid missing out on valuable information regarding news and events. It is a College requirement for all families to have a minimum of one valid, working email address. To submit an email address or check your existing

email address, please contact the College or email registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au.

## **School Bus Service**

Any family interested in using the College Bus service should visit [www.marymede.vic.edu.au](http://www.marymede.vic.edu.au) to gain information on the service, or alternatively contact the Main Office on 9407-9000.

**Mr Matthew Luczek**  
**Registrar**