



17 August 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

Last Tuesday, we celebrated the feast day of Marymede Catholic College. This is a significant day for our College Community as we celebrated Mary's love and commitment to doing God's work. Mary the Mother of God is a role model showing us the way to Jesus and how to act towards others.

Our celebration began with a Whole School (P-12) Mass in the Fitness Centre. It always amazes me how a sporting centre can be transformed into a space where our College Community come together in spiritual celebration. A big thank you to our celebrant, Fr. Martin Ashe and Mr. Kevin Carville, Mrs Marie Bagh and Ms Laetitia Malusu for their organisation of this most significant event.

After recess, the students were involved in a range of activities to raise funds for the House Charities. I enjoyed watching the students interact with each other and their teachers. After lunch, the students were engaged in either the performing arts concerts or P-2 social activities.

Special thanks to all staff and students for the way they embraced the day and all that we are about at Marymede.

Year 11 Retreat

Our Year 11s were recently involved in a two day spiritual leadership retreat. I attended the three retreat sites and was very impressed with the willingness of our students to be in open conversation with each other. Thank you to Mrs Marie Bagh for her organisation and the staff who attended for their support.

Planning for 2018

Planning is underway for next year. I draw this to your attention as you might not be aware that planning for the new school year is done months ahead.

I am currently interviewing staff about their plans for next year and by the end of this term, I hope to have a clearer picture of staff availability. We also use this time to project our budget for the following year which is critical to the organisation of the college.

Enrolments for 2018

We have a limited number of vacancies in some year levels for 2018. If you know of any families considering Marymede Catholic College for their children, please encourage them to submit an enrolment application as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Year 7 Enrolment Timeline 2019

A reminder to parents that Catholic Education Melbourne have moved forward the closing date for Year 7 enrolments in 2019. The last day for enrolments is Friday 25 August. I strongly encourage parents to submit their application prior to this date as we anticipate strong demand for places.

Policy Update

The College's Senior Leadership Team has formally approved the updated Uniform Policy. The policy will be available to parents via our College Website. The guidelines within the policy can also be found on pages 11 and 12 of the Student Planner for students in Years 4-12. The guidelines specifically relate to uniform in general, as well as including information about hairstyles, jewellery and accessories. The policy aims to 'promote personal pride and good grooming as desirable educational objectives, both whilst students are at school and beyond school, and collective pride in belonging to the College community.' (Marymede Catholic College Uniform Policy, 2017).

Whilst most of our parents understand the guidelines and support our vision for students to wear the correct uniform with pride, some parents remain unclear as to some of the expectations. We urge you to please read this policy in order to familiarise yourself and your children with the guidelines related to uniform and grooming for all students.

The most common misconception is related to hairstyles. The policy states that:

- Hair which is shoulder length or longer must be tied back at all times so that the hair does not touch the collar.
- No hair should be allowed to fall across the face.
- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. This includes dreadlocks, shaved hair less than a number three blade, severe variations to hair length and/or colour etc.
- Hair must be natural in colour of the students' natural tones. Unnatural hair colours are never permitted. Tips and streaks that are different from the natural colour are not permitted.
- All fringes must be above the eyebrows and away from the face.

'Extreme hairstyles' include rat's tails, mohawks and styles where one section of the hair is shorter than another, (often tied up in a ponytail as well).

If you are unclear about this, please speak to the student's Pastoral/Tutor teacher, or Year Level Coordinator/House Coordinator who will be happy to assist you.

Consequences will continue to be issued for students not adhering to uniform and grooming guidelines

We thank you for your support in this matter.

Staff Professional Development Day – 9 October

We have been fortunate to engage a leading educational consultant, Jo Prestia who will be running a PD for the entire teaching staff on one of the most important areas in our schools, namely engaging our boys in education today.

The first day of Term 4 will now become a pupil free day. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to families.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS PREP – YEAR 12

School Improvement Surveys

Each year, our staff and a sample of our students and parents participate in a detailed survey designed to assist the College in our commitment to continuous improvement. The survey results are a fantastic tool that enable us to identify the areas that are working well and those areas in which there are opportunities to grow. Our staff will complete the survey after school on Tuesday August 29, while a selection of students from Years 3-12 will complete the survey throughout that week. We will also be sending home surveys to a random sample of our families. Around half of our families will receive a survey, and we are eager to have as many responses as possible in order to ensure that we have an accurate snapshot of the views of

our parents and guardians. If you have any questions about the School Improvement Survey, please feel free to contact me.

Year 9 2018 Subject Selection Information Evening

A reminder that parents of our current Year 8 students are invited to attend a subject selection information session on Monday August 21 from 7-8pm in the College Auditorium. We look forward to seeing as many families as possible on that evening to ensure you are aware of the opportunities available for your sons and daughters through the Year 9 elective program.

Why Boys Education?

As mentioned in *From the Principal*, on Monday October 9, Educational Consultant, Jo Prestia will be presenting a professional learning day for our teaching staff on Boys Education. It would be fair to ask why, in a co-educational school, we are spending a day focusing on boys' education?

In the 1980's, a focus on girls' education began that sought to redress the imbalance in education, to encourage girls' involvement in Mathematics, Science and Technology, and to improve girls' outcomes in secondary and tertiary education. These efforts were so successful that, in Australia at least, the difference between boys and girls in mathematics achievement is now negligible. Girls' engagement in school is higher and, research suggests, their experiences of school are more positive. These days, a higher percentage of girls stay on to Year 12, their average achievement scores in their final year are higher than boys and a greater proportion of girls go on to tertiary education.

Three-and-a-half decades later, it is now boys, rather than girls, who are in need of the focus and attention of the education system. According to research, boys experience:

- Higher levels of disengagement with schooling
- Higher levels of academic underachievement
- Higher levels of disciplinary action in school
- Higher levels of referral for poor progress in literacy in the early years of schooling
- Lower enjoyment of school
- Higher 'drop-out' rates
- Higher instances of alcohol and substance abuse
- Higher levels of gaming and online addiction
- More frequently referral for behavioural problems such as Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (at a rate of 9:1 compared to girls)
- Higher instances of Auditory Processing Problems

There are many, many boys who are engaged, positive, enthusiastic, capable and successful students who thrive within the current education system. However, there is also a group of boys who struggle with engagement, motivation, underachievement, escapism and focus; and, given that research suggests this group is significant and growing both in Australia and across many developed nations, the problem

clearly lies not with boys but with ensuring the approach to learning and teaching is responsive to their needs.

We look forward to the opportunity on October 9 to spend the day focusing on the needs of our boys – the boys who are positive, happy, and confident; the boys who work hard and apply themselves to the best of their ability; the boys with talents that shine inside and outside the classroom; and the boys who are struggling or need a different approach – and to spend time reflecting on how we can continue to ensure that every boy at Marymede feels successful and valued.

Ms Tracey Kift

Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching Prep – Year 12

CAMPUS CO-ORDINATOR PREP – YEAR 12

Celebrating Marymede Day 2017 – Tuesday August 15

Thank you to all our parent volunteers, staff and students for contributing to a fantastic College Feast Day! Please have a look at our Facebook Page for photos. We will announce the funds raised for our House Charities and the Philippines immersion in the next newsletter. Your generosity towards this proud achievement has been wonderful.

Mernda Rail National Tree Day Competition - Art & Photography Winners.

A number of students from across the College entered this competition. Bridget Salvo, from John Holland is pleased to announce the following students as winners:

Primary Competition: Allegra Kalona from 4.4, Allegra receives two passes to the Royal Melbourne Zoo where she will have the opportunity to have a close-up experience.

Secondary Competition: Courtney Spencer from Year 9, Courtney receives two tickets for a stand up lunch and lecture at the Melbourne Zoo.

Year 10, 11 and 12 Immunisation – Thursday August 31

The Whittlesea Council is immunising against the Meningococcal W strain for which there have been increased cases. Students can return their immunisation cards to the nurses as soon as possible. Students receiving the vaccination can wear their PE uniform on this day. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Meningococcal-vaccine-for-young-people>

Ms Julia Wake

Campus Co-Ordinator

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Performing Arts News

Marymede's Got Talent

Thank you to the countless student performers who auditioned to be a part of Marymede's Got Talent this year. The audition panel were so encouraged by the enthusiasm of students across Years 3-12. Thank you to Mr Djukic and Mr Jai Cameron for their assistance with the Year 5-12 auditions, and to Ms Natalie Oman for co-ordinating the Year 3/4 competition. We wish all performers the best of luck on Marymede Day.

Drama and Dance Captains Term 3

Ms Turco, Mr Guzman, Mr Nealon and I are very excited to appoint the following students as captains this term:

7A Drama Captains: Isabelle Spiteri and Joseph Viero

7C Drama Captains: Mark Stublin and Taya Hepburn

7E Drama Captains: Shante Pisani and Michael Veljanovski

8X Dance Captains: Jessica Corevski and Joshua Guest

8B Dance Captains: Jordan Hare and Flynn Chapman

8C Dance Captains: Nuwin Fernando and Candace Roach

Ms Angie Bedford

Head of Performing Arts Prep – Year 12

Legal Studies Local Convention

On Friday July 28, the Year 11 Legal Studies class, along with Ms Esposito and Ms Darrou, attended a Local Secondary School Convention along with seven other schools in the Northern Suburbs. It was hosted by Lalor Secondary College and the topic discussed and debated was, "Should the Marriage Act 1961 be amended by the Australian Parliament to recognise marriage equality?" The keynote speakers gave us an insight into the pros and cons of legalising same-sex marriage, which included a member for Batman, a member for Thomastown, an associate from Maurice Blackburn Lawyers and finally the director of 'Second Strike,' Mr David Mould. David was particularly interesting to listen to as he discussed both the positives and negatives of legalising same-sex marriage and how Australians would be affected by this change in the law.

It was great to hear different opinions from students our age that were from other schools and cultural backgrounds. We were surprised when we learnt that Australia and Antarctica are the only continents that haven't legalised same-sex marriage, meaning that "us and the penguins" are behind the rest of the world! It was also fun participating in a mock plebiscite.

We would like to thank Ms Esposito and Ms Darrou for organising and accepting the invitation to attend the Convention as we felt it was a valuable learning experience and will also help us with our studies in the near future.



Ms Carla Esposito
Romero House Coordinator

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Prep Father's Day Assembly

Dear Fathers (or, if Dads are unavailable, Grandfathers or Uncles)

You are invited to the Prep Father's Day Assembly.

When: Friday September 1

Time: 9:15am – 10:15 am (approximately)

Where: Auditorium (located near the College Chapel)

We hope you can celebrate this very special morning with us.

Prep Teachers

Primary Sport News

Hoop Time Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 4 students who progressed to the Hoop time Regional Finals. They will be held at Mill Park Basketball Stadium and dates of the finals are listed below:

All Star Boys: Tuesday October 10

All Star Girls: Tuesday October 10

Future stars: Thursday October 19



Football

The Year 5-6 Football team competed in the SSV Northern Regional football competition held at Anthony Beale Reserve in St Helena. The boys started the day off well making the semi – finals, though were defeated by Glen Katherine Primary School who went through and won overall on the day. We would like to thank the parent helpers who assisted throughout the finals and the home and away season. Mr Luke Fraumano who assisted the coach, Mrs Marianne Grillo for supplying the snacks and to the parents who volunteered to be goal umpires. It was great to see all the family support at each game.



Soccer

Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team who competed in the SSV Regional Soccer Competition on Monday August 14. They played a total of 4 games on the day and were undefeated. They were crowned the overall winner of the Northern region. They have now been ranked in the top 8 schools in the state and will play off for the State Championship Title on September 6.



Athletics

On Tuesday August 29, the Prep and Year 1 students will be taking part in an athletics clinic run by Northern Star Athletics Club. We have quite a few students who compete for this club. If you are interested in putting your child into little athletics please contact the recruitment officer – Mr Matt Sheens: 0490 133 012



Mr Gerard Large
Head of Primary Sport

BUSINESS MANAGER

Get involved In the School Banking program.

Marymede Catholic College is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

1. Online

Visit the link below and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.

<http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking>

2. In branch

Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is **Monday**. Each week Primary student will hand their books to their classroom teacher and Secondary Students can drop their books to the main reception.

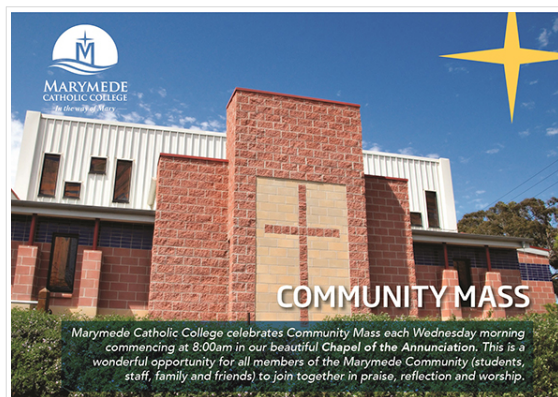
If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit

<http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking>

Mr Paul Romanin
Business Manager

Ms Julia Wake
Campus Coordinator Prep – Year 12

COMMUNITY MASS



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Parents and Friends Father's Day Celebrations



Our newly formed P&F Committee have planned for two events for Father's Day, the popular Father's Day stall on Tuesday August 29 and a Father's Day evening on Friday September 1. Please see the attached fliers for further information.