



25 February 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

We were all so happy to see our students return from lockdown last Thursday 18 February. I sense that many of the students were equally delighted to be back at school.

Walking around the school at recess and lunch times, I have noticed how comfortable and happy our students are at Marymede. Let's hope and pray that we can now have an uninterrupted year. Thank you to our parents for the support you provided for your children during the lockdown period.

We are now into our second week of Lent and I hope all members of our College Community take the opportunity over the next few weeks to find a small space of silence each day to reflect and respond to the life of Jesus. As a school, we will focus on Project Compassion which is aimed at supporting those who are suffering in our society today.

Year 12 Retreat: 3-5 March

Our Year 12 Retreat will take place at three retreat sites – Amberley Lower Plenty, Holy Cross Templestowe and Don Bosco Lysterfield – from Wednesday 3 March to Friday 5 March. Students are encouraged to leave behind the everyday issues of study, work and sport to focus on the important relationships in their lives. It is an opportunity of great value to our young people as they begin preparing for life after school.

Over the years, a number of students have commented to me that the retreat was the highlight of their Year 12 year. I wish our students and staff a peaceful, enjoyable and rewarding time away.

House Picnics

An email was sent home last week inviting our Marymede families to our annual House get-together, one of the great community gatherings each year at Marymede. The ongoing COVID safe measures will mean the nature of this gathering will

change for 2021. Instead of a communal BBQ, the food-sharing restrictions mean that families are instead asked to bring your own picnic dinner. The College will supply cans of drink and a pre-packaged treat for each person.

The House Picnics will take place on the following dates from 5.30pm to 7.30pm:

Wednesday 10 March: McAuley & Romero Houses

Tuesday 16 March: Chanel & Marcellin Houses

Wednesday 17 March: Chisholm & McCormack Houses



The House picnics are a great chance to informally meet teachers and other parents in a casual outdoor atmosphere. Flyers will be emailed to families shortly and include a QR code for the necessary pre-registration (as you will be spending more than 15 minutes on-campus). Parents are reminded that anyone over 12 years old will need to be wearing a face mask if the 1.5m social distancing is not possible.

Year 7 Confirmation: 20 & 21 February

It was wonderful that our Year 7 students were able to be confirmed last weekend in the Chapel of the Annunciation. A big thank you to Ms Laetitia Malusu, Mrs Mary Selar and Ms Sheryl Varghese for their work in coordinating the six liturgies and to other staff members and senior students who were in attendance at such a special spiritual celebration for our children.

Open Day: 14 March

Our Open Day will be held on Sunday 14 March from 11.30am to 2.30pm. It is always a fantastic day as students and staff showcase the significant facilities we have at Marymede Catholic College to prospective families. We anticipate very strong demand for places at both Prep and Year 7. Whilst a number of our primary year levels are at maximum capacity,

we do have a few vacancies at Years 3 and 5. If you know of friends or family who are considering Marymede for their children, please encourage them to come along by registering at the link below. Registrations are essential.

<http://www.marymede.vic.edu.au/enrolment/schooltours>

SAC Season

Our senior students who are undertaking their VCE studies have recently commenced their School Assessed Coursework (SAC) which in Units 3 & 4 form part of their final Study Score. I encourage parents to talk with their sons and daughters about how they are managing their first SACs rather than leaving them to cope on their own. Please encourage and support them; the Year 12 journey should be travelled for the whole year rather than the last few weeks.

Staffing Update

Last week, we welcomed back from Maternity Leave Ms Laura Heffer. Laura returns on a part-time basis to teach Secondary English and Religious Education.

Year 7 House Swimming Carnival rescheduled

We are pleased to be able to reschedule the Year 7 House Swimming Carnival – originally planned during the recent lockdown – to Friday 12 March. We look forward to our Year 7 students cheering each other on in their House Colours.

Pick up and Drop off

I received an email from a local resident late last week concerned about the illegal parking of cars across his driveway particularly at pick up time. He has made contact with the local council and I anticipate that there will be council officials monitoring the traffic around our school in the coming days. I ask all parents to please not park illegally and use the many vacant car parks at the railway station.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Fare is Fair

We remind all students using public transport and charter buses to ensure their travel is fair: that you have paid the fare for your journey, obey the public transport rules and positively represent Marymede in the wider community.



While most of our students demonstrate responsible behaviours, the College has been contacted by PTV (Public Transport Victoria) as they have observed Marymede students displaying obvious fare evading behaviours such as obviously not touching on/off with their Myki cards. This PTV feedback disappoints us greatly as it breaches key tenets of social behaviour and citizenship: fairness and respecting the law. PTV noted that ticket inspectors had been 'fairly relaxed' during the 2020 lockdowns but have become more vigilant recently. The current fine for "Failing to produce a valid ticket" is \$83 for a child.

Camp Australia registration for pick-up after 3.35pm

Parents are reminded that students who cannot independently travel home must be picked up by 3.35pm at the latest. The College's duty of care, Child Safety legislation and the legal supervision requirements means that students cannot be left out in the carpark and nor can they be legally supervised by non-teaching staff. Any child still on-campus after 3.35pm (when teacher yard duties & supervision responsibilities conclude) must enter Out of Hours School Care with parents liable for the cost to Camp Australia. Parents who cannot guarantee collection of their children by 3.35pm are asked to ensure that you register your child(ren) with Camp Australia.

If there is a one-off occurrence that delays your timely pick-up, please phone the College office so that this can be communicated to relevant staff and to Camp Australia.

COVID Safe Parent Access



Safety requirements are now in place



PLEASE SIGN IN
ON ENTRY

Victorian Government requirements mean we need to record who is visiting our school at all times to help with quick contact tracing in the event of coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure.

All parents / guardians and visitors are required to sign in via your mobile phone using the QR codes on the table inside the door.

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN

Keep up to date at [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



As noted in previous newsletters, we continue to have COVID safe restrictions in place for the safety of all in our community. Current measures include:

- No walk-in parent access at drop-off.
- Limited on-site walk-in pickup access for Prep & Year 1 parents only.
- We ask that parents respect the need to social distance in any pedestrian pickup areas on and off campus to avoid congregation that breaches social distancing requirements.
- For any after-school activity, please note the correspondence from the organiser for specific pickup locations and procedures
- When entering a College Building (including Main reception) please use the hand sanitiser station provided
- When attending **Wednesday morning mass**, parents & visitors must register using the QR code check-in located in the Chapel foyer
- Electronic pre-registration for all on-campus events involving parents is mandatory: those who have not pre-registered may not be able to enter the campus due to density restrictions or will be required to use the QR code registration upon arrival

We thank parents for your understanding and cooperation with all our COVID safe measures.

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Term 1 Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Student Interviews

In Term 1, parents/carers will receive Progress Reports designed to provide an indication of how each student has commenced their learning in 2021. These reports will be published on the Parent Access Module (PAM) on Tuesday 23 March. Parent Teacher Student Interviews will then occur on Tuesday 30 March and Thursday 1 April via Zoom. More details will be provided for parents closer to the date.

VCE Parent Information Evening

Thank you to the parents that were able to join us online last week for our VCE information session. This evening gave us the opportunity to share information regarding the rules around the VCE, important upcoming dates and careers information, as well as advice and tips on how to succeed in the VCE presented by staff. If you were unable to attend, I would ask that you please familiarise yourself with the procedures outlined in our VCE Handbook and support the College in the implementation of these processes should the need arise. This handbook has been emailed to parents and can also be found on the Parent Access Module under Knowledge Banks and on the College website.

Extended Leave

We know that students learn best when they attend classes with minimal disruption. Within the course of the academic year, it is important that your child attends all their classes to ensure the successful development of concepts, knowledge and skills. We are also aware that at various times throughout the year, some families may plan holidays or extended trips.

Families are discouraged from taking extended leave during the school term as doing so disrupts the learning process and creates gaps in essential knowledge and skills. Given the disjointed year of 2020, class time is more crucial than ever. Families of students studying VCE subjects are especially discouraged from such leave, as extended absences can result in these students being at risk of not meeting outcomes, achieving an N for a unit or multiple units, and potentially not being awarded their VCE.

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

FAITH & MISSION

Can you help?

If any of our Marymede families have uniforms that are no longer being used, could you please donate them to the school? We are particularly in need of girl's Secondary summer dresses. Your support is very much appreciated. Any donated clothing should be washed and in a sealed plastic bag.

Lenten Retreats

If you are interested in attending Lenten Retreats run by the Don Bosco Retreat Centre in Lysterfield, please see attached flyers.

Lenten Retreats 2021

1. Saturday 13 March: Family Retreat Day
2. Saturday 20 March: Youth and Young Adult Reflection Day
3. Friday 26 March: Seniors Retreat Day

Further information:

<https://donboscoretreats.org.au/>

Online registrations essential as COVID number limits apply

Mary Selar

**School Chaplain/Pastoral Associate
Faith and Mission**

FIRE Carriers at Marymede 2021

In 2021 Marymede renewed its commitment to being a FIRE Carrier School at the Opening School Mass. FIRE stands for Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education and this is an initiative from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. Student leaders from Year 5 to Year 12 together with three Year 5 teachers were commissioned to raise Indigenous Cultural Awareness in our community and honour our ancient and present First Nation Peoples. Uncle Ian welcomed the FIRE Carriers, and they were blessed by Fr Martin.



Uncle Ian explained that fire is central to Australian Aboriginal culture. In a circle around the campfire people told, sang, danced stories of Law and customs, teaching them to live their lives in order and harmony with all creation.

Our story, with these young fire carriers will be carried forward. The journey will not be easy; you will be questioned by your mates. To be a FIRE Carrier requires strength and courage. Some of your mates won't wish to see and listen to the Ancestors and Elders at their campfire and enjoy the warmth and goodness that the First Nation's Dreaming offers.

Jesus' story tells us that the Spirit that came on Jesus, is the same Spirit that calls us. But some listened to the message of

Jesus and many didn't, they wanted to have their own way of doing things, not the way of Jesus.

The story of our Indigenous communities calls us to action to respect all people and all things. This is the same as the ancestors of this land used to do. As a FIRE Carrier we are called to carry on this story.

As FIRE Carriers we will lay strong foundations in our school community to build respect, understanding and knowledge of our shared story that started in this rich land 60,000 years ago and continues today.

Congratulations to the 2021 FIRE Carriers. We look forward to your actions throughout the school year.

Staff:

Celine Tamburrini
Katie Lydiate
Tanya Osborne

Year 5:

Amelie Delray-Simpson
Aiden Ajvazovski
Ace Whitnall
Rachael Williams
Sara Bousioutas
Tori Vann
Valentino Volpe
Alyssa Taufao'Ala
Hannah Matthews

Year 10:

Nerissa Diaz
Kai Phipps-Papadopoulos

Year 12:

Grace Wake

Lisa Murray

Primary Wellbeing Coordinator

Australian Government Collection Notice for parents/guardians 2021

An Australian government requirement is that all schools provide the student residential address and other information for all 2021 students. Please see the attachment brochure for information about this process.

Paul Romanin

Business Manager

DIRECTORS OF STUDENTS

Food Allergy Awareness

We are a food allergy aware school community.

We have students in our classrooms with severe food allergies.

Due to the severity of these allergies, we ask that you be mindful of this when sending food into the classroom.

If you decide to send in treats for birthday celebrations, please notify the teacher in advance. Due to COVID restrictions only pre-packaged and individually wrapped items may be given out (e.g. Chupa-Chups).

The College has a policy that students must not share food. This enables the College to provide a safe environment for students with allergies.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our students safe.

Please also note that our canteen operates on a nut-free policy.

Canteen – Out of Bounds for Prep to Year 3

A reminder to parents that the Canteen is out of bounds for all students from Prep to Year 3. Students in these year levels can only access the canteen by ordering a lunch order.

A reminder also that older siblings are not to purchase food items from the canteen for children in Prep to Year 3.

Our non-food sharing policy extends to the canteen so please remind your children that when buying food at the canteen, they should only be buying food for themselves, not other students.

Please check out the Department of Health's recommendations about healthy canteen choices.

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/nhsc-guidelines~food-categories>

We highly recommend that students aim to order from the green and amber categories listed.



Narelle Collins
Director of Students (P-4)

Laura Gazeas
Director of Students (5-8)

David Brick
Director of Students (9-12)

WELLBEING

Seasons for Growth® Program: Learning to live with change and loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Marymede we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce and related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively.



We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in 2021.

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Each student's family will receive an invitation for their child to participate via Operoo with more details about the Seasons for Growth program. If you think your child would benefit from Seasons for Growth, we encourage you to talk to them about participating in the program. Marymede is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved.

If you require further information, please contact Lisa Murray, Student Wellbeing Leader (P-6) (lisa.murray@marymede.vic.edu.au) or Mary Selar, School Chaplin / Pastoral Associate (7-12) (mary.selar@marymede.vic.edu.au).

CO-CURRICULUM

Co-Curricular Activities

Marymede Catholic College offers a holistic education. The Co-Curriculum program offers students the opportunity to complement their classroom learning through a variety of activities that occur out of class time.

We encourage all students to consider participating in a co-curricular activity to find and develop new gifts and talents, develop organisational skills and make new connections with other students and teachers – plus the bonus incentive of contributing points to their House Shield!

View the 2021 Co-Curricular Handbook at the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/91oe96ps>

For more information on any activities or to express interest please contact our Co-curricular Assistant, Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au

Debating Team

Our Debating team is open to students from Years 9-12. Expressions of interest are now open: Round one starts in March!



Ms Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant

FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Activities in the Resource Centre for 2021

In Term 1 the Resource Centre is introducing different spaces for a range of lunchtime activities.

Of course, students may visit to study or relax at recess or lunch at any break time except Monday lunchtime, when the Resource Centre is closed due to the weekly Resource Centre staff meeting.

Gamers in Years 6, 7 and 8 will have a day each week per year level to play on their own devices in the computer lab. Numbers will be limited to 20 students, so bookings are essential. Instructions for doing this and the activities schedule have been published in the SIMON Daily Bulletin and will be available until March 5.

Card and board games, colouring and puzzles will be offered on alternate days and a new STEM activity will run twice a week.

Engino kits will be available for students from Year 2 to Year 12 to assemble. These range in complexity to suit different abilities. All instructions have been uploaded to iPads.



Students can borrow print and digital books from our collections. Ms Giardina will visit all Year 3 – 6 classes in the coming weeks to show students how to use SORA, our digital platform.

Students in Years 7 to 12 may bring your laptop to the Circulation Desk during recess or lunch and ask the staff to show you how it's done.

Throughout the year we will offer pop-up activities too, so watch out for announcements in the Daily Bulletin.

Marie O'Brien
Head of the Resource Centre

CAREERS

Did you know that Marymede Catholic College has a careers website? At the link below you will find regularly published newsletters, as well as useful information for parents and students alike.

<http://www.marymedecareers.com/>

This week's newsletter provides you with information about making an appointment, work experience opportunities, scholarships and university entry tests. There is something for everyone!

Patricia Weinberg
Careers Co-ordinator