



11 March 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During Lent, I encourage all members of our school community to take time to reflect on Jesus spending 40 days in the desert, where he was tempted by the trappings of the devil. It is this self-reflection and questioning that prepared Jesus for the challenges he faced in his ministry.

Let us use the remaining days in the Lenten season to reflect on how ready we are for our ministry. Unfortunately, we cannot retreat from all of life's distractions during Lent, but perhaps we can find a small space of silence each day to reflect and pray.

Open Day: 14 March

This Sunday the College will be holding our annual Open Day from 11.30am-2.30pm. It is always a fantastic day as students and staff showcase the magnificent facilities we have at Marymede to prospective families.

Year 12 Retreats

Last Thursday I attended the Year 12 Retreats which were held at three sites. I was very impressed with the way our students embraced their time away together. The opportunity to escape the rush and urgency of everyday experiences does not come often enough, yet the need to give time to our inner selves and nurture our spiritual dimension is very important.

I hope the memories of these days will prove valuable to our Year 12s as they face the challenge of their final year of schooling.

Prep Parent Sundowner: 1 March

On Monday 1 March, senior staff members met socially with a large number of Prep parents under the 'Big Top' on a rather chilly evening. It was a great opportunity to welcome our new parents into the College and to chat socially with parents about how their child has coped with the challenges of starting school. Thank you to those parents who attended; I hope they enjoyed meeting with other parents.

House Picnics

Thank you to those McAuley and Romero families who were able to join our staff at the House Welcome Picnics last Wednesday evening.

The ongoing COVID safe measures meant the nature of this gatherings have changed for 2021. Instead of a communal BBQ, the food-sharing restrictions meant that families instead brought their own picnic dinner: the College supplied cans of drink and a pre-packaged treat for each person.

The House picnics are a great chance to informally meet teachers and other parents in a casual outdoor atmosphere and we look forward to welcoming families from the other four houses next week:

- **Chanel & Marcellin Houses** Tuesday 16 March, 5.30 – 7.00pm
- **Chisholm & McCormack Houses** Wednesday 17 March, 5.30 – 7.00pm

Families are reminded to ensure that you use the QR code on the flyer emailed to all parents/carers for the necessary pre-registration (as you will be spending more than 15 minutes on-campus).



Concerns & Complaints

The College has a complaints guide for parents with concerns/complaints about school related matters which can be found on the College website.

I remind parents that respect for all is the basis on which we operate, and it is therefore expected of all who are part of this community. Our **Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct** can be found on the College website below. Parents are encouraged to re-read this document with particular attention to engaging positively with staff and supporting College policies, procedures and restorative practices.

<http://marymede.vic.edu.au/enrolment/process>

It should also be noted that our staff have many responsibilities and the expectation that there will be an instant response to a concern is unreasonable. Staff will handle concerns based on other competing priorities and it may therefore take up to 48 hours before matters are addressed.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews: 30 March & 1 April

Advance notice that the Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews, following the success of online meetings last year, will take the same format at the end of this term. Parents will receive an email shortly from our Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12, Mrs Jessica Hall, providing details about how the online P/T/S Interviews will take place.

I strongly encourage parents to make their online booking to meet with their child's teachers once the site opens.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Current face mask requirements

While we are all relieved to be breathing more freely without compulsory face masks, there are still certain requirements for all secondary students and adults regarding face masks:

- Secondary school students and all adults are required by government regulations to carry a face mask with them at all times.
- Face masks are still required on all school buses and public transport: this includes excursions and travel to sports matches and camps. Students may be prevented from boarding school buses – even for sports and excursions – if they do not have a face mask (or a known lawful exemption).

Parent access to the campus

The College has numerous pedestrian gates open for student entry each morning and exit each night, each clearly labelled that these are student entry points only. Parents who have a legitimate reason to enter the property must only do so via Main Reception. Due to both COVID-safe requirements to register those on the property and the Child Protection regulations, all

parents / guardians and visitors must be registered via this process.

Should parents wish to speak with your child's teacher or another staff member, it is always advisable to call the College or email the teacher to book an appointment to ensure the staff member will be available to speak with you.

Photo 'catch-up' day: Monday 22 March

A school photo 'catch-up' day will be held on the morning of Monday 22 March for students who were absent on 22 February or unable to have their photo taken due to uniform or grooming issues. Families who missed out on sibling photo bookings will also be provided an opportunity for these to take place on that same morning (during school hours). The College will again use the services of National Photography: instructions for ordering photos will be provided at the photo session.

Uniform expectations for all students are per the grooming standards in our Student Planner and as provided in the Principal's Newsletter of 21 January, with all students expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no P.E. uniform allowed). Students in Years 7-12 will be required to wear their College Blazer. Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform and grooming requirements will not have their individual photo taken.

Photos taken on the day will be used by the College for Student ID Cards and the College Yearbook, along with special Year level related folios such as our Year 12 Graduation Folio.



Early finish last day of Term 1

To accommodate the Parent Teacher interviews on the final day of term, students will be dismissed early:

- 1 April - 1.00pm dismissal

Parents will be able to book Camp Australia supervision for the additional hours on these dates.

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Fun in the garden

Last week the Year 11 VCAL and Year 4 students came together in our Veggie patch. The Year 4's had the opportunity ask lots of questions of the VCAL students, and the VCAL students were proudly teaching the Year 4's about the corn, carrots and beans that we have growing at the moment, as well as checking out all of the quirky little bugs that call our garden home.

My thanks to teacher Michelle Carlile for her passion and enthusiasm. This and the surrounding space will continue to evolve this year as we develop our "Bush Tucker, Butterflies and Bees" garden with the Landcare grant received.



Monitoring progress 7-12: Parent Access Module

All families should now be familiar with our online learning management system, SIMON. The SIMON Parent Access Module (PAM) provides the opportunity for both students and parents to engage with the classroom learning.

SIMON provides an important opportunity for students, parents and teachers to work together to achieve successful learning outcomes for our students. This is an opportune time to log into PAM and review any assessment results that your son/daughter has received this term. Future assessment dates will be accessible on PAM so you can assist your child to planning their study time and adequately preparing for their tasks.

Teachers may communicate via letters generated in PAM are the main method of communication by teachers to notify parents of assessment results that were not submitted to an acceptable standard. Please ensure you login regularly and have your most frequently checked email as your verified contact.

Partnerships

Marymede College recognises and values the role that parents, and carers play in the education of their sons and daughters and we aim to strengthen this partnership to enhance our students' overall wellbeing and learning. Whilst the upcoming parent teacher student conversations provide an opportunity to discuss progress please don't hesitate to make contact with the relevant teacher/s if you have any concerns. Email addresses can be found by logging in to PAM, selecting your child's profile and then email teachers.

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

WELLBEING

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



Each child in the Primary school received an invitation to participate in the Seasons for Growth Program.

There has been an enormous response to this invitation therefore the number of groups we can offer will need to be prioritised.

Some clarification regarding the program:

This is only for students who have experienced changes such as death, separation, divorce, and significant changes such as moving schools and the related circumstances. If there has been a death it is recommended that 6 months has passed since this experience. This free of cost and will occur during the school day. **A Parent information session will be held for those students who are participating.**

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need the 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.

If you think your child would benefit from Seasons for Growth and they meet the criteria above we would encourage you to talk to them about participating in the program. 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 this is not relevant to your family's situation, please decline the Operoo invitation.

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-CURRICULAR NEWS

It is so exciting to see the school culture coming to life with many of our co-curricular activities starting up over the past few weeks! We encourage all students to join a club or activity to supplement their classroom learning, find new talents and meet new friends.

Middle Years Production: Moana Jr

Audition Information



Marymede is proud to present our 2021 production of Disney's 'Moana Jr.' We are very excited to bring this beautiful story to the stage and are looking for an enthusiastic, committed and talented cast from Years 5-9 to bring these memorable characters to life.

Before booking an audition, students are asked to please read the Moana Jr Audition Information Pack very carefully with a Parent/Guardian. There is a lot of important information about rehearsals, show dates and what students need to prepare for their audition. The only way to book an audition is online via this link. Audition Bookings close **Tuesday 16 March @ 6pm.**

The show will premiere at Plenty Ranges Arts & Exhibition Centre on Thursday 9th, Friday 10th & Saturday 11th September.

Audition Dates

Lead Auditions

Years 5 – 6: Friday 19 March Periods 3 & 4 (potentially Period 5) – Auditorium

Years 7 – 9: Friday 19 March 3:30pm - 6pm – Auditorium

Dance Auditions

Year 5: Friday 19 March Period 1 - Auditorium

Year 6: Friday 19 March Period 2 - Auditorium

Years 7 – 9: Thursday 18 March 3:30-5:30pm - Fitness Centre

Call-backs

By invitation only – 29 March 3:30-5:30pm

For any questions or queries please email Ms Ellen Lane Ellen.Lane@marymede.vic.edu.au or visit her office in PA06.

Chess Club

Calling all players of all ages from beginners to grand masters! It is with great excitement that we announce the start of the 2021 Chess Club, to be held Wednesday lunchtimes in FB00.

We have both friendly games for those who are learning, and competitive chess ladder games for those who want to further hone their skills.

Please contact Mr Baldwin (secondary) or Mrs Minahan (primary), to express your interest.

"Every chess master was once a beginner" - Irving Chernev former chess master

Primary Choir

It was so exciting to welcome back our fabulous choir performers last Wednesday with the first rehearsal of primary choir for 2021. Mr Nealon & Ms Oman have lots of exciting ideas planned for these stars and we can't wait to hear their beautiful voices at performances soon.

Ms Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant

PRIMARY SPORT

Primary House Cross Country

This term the Year 3-6 students have competed in the annual House Cross Country Competition. This is the first selection stage for the Interschool Cross Country which will be held Tuesday 4 May.

Congratulations to the following students who were place getters in their year level:

Year 3

Mackenzie Nativio
Alanna De Santo
Monique Fragale
Rafael Gerard
Jaiveer Singh Gill
Samuel Sansonetti



Year 4

Ella Macheda
Madeleine Tawardros
Sage Mueller
Zac Large
Blake Ioannou
Levi Townsend-Booth



Year 5

Shereen Eldeek
Elliah Klein
Francesca Trinidad
Elijah Eather-Maaliki
Ricki Panzarino
Ace Whitnall



Year 6

Mila Ioannou
Rhylee McBain
Emily Fitzgerald
Lucas Macheda
Maneet Grewal
Mitch Camacho



MATHEMATICS FACULTY NEWS

Maths Help!

Come along to the Maths SOS and 40+ Club where dedicated Maths staff run weekly tutorials to assist Year 7 – 12 Students with maths.

These tutorials run from 3:30-4:30pm on Wednesdays in room 703.

As a bonus, regular attendees can receive 15 House Points per term! Come along to boost your maths skills or contact Mr Van Beek via email for further information – tony.vanbeek@marymede.vic.edu.au.

Mr Tony Van Beek
Secondary Mathematics Teacher

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!

Check it out!

Patricia Weinberg
Careers Co-ordinator

Hair With Heart

Heather Siriwardena from Year 1D joined Hair with Heart - Variety, the children's charity to donate her hair and raise awareness and funds. On 21 February, Heather donated 40 centimetres of her beautiful locks to help make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to a medical condition, giving back the gift of confidence and self-esteem. Within a week she has also collected donations over thousand dollars from her family and friends for the same children's charity, the money raised will help kids living with disability, chronic illness and disadvantage.



Helen Vermont
Year 1 Classroom Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP

It's already that time of the year when parents are beginning to think about purchasing winter uniform items.

Bob Stewart Uni Hill offers families the opportunity to get in early and avoid queues. Uniform appointments will begin on Monday 15th March and run until Thursday 1st April.

<https://bookings.bobstewart.com.au/uni-hill-store/>

Families can visit Bob Stewart Uni Hill without an appointment during the store's trading hours of operation:

Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Web orders are also available for postage and click and collect.

<https://www.bobstewart.com.au/>