



3 March 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations to all students as they embrace the learning opportunities offered to them. Students really do get out of their studies what they put into them and so at Marymede Catholic College we set high standards in terms of what we expect of students across all elements of school life including:

- Engagement in class
- Relationships with others
- Respect for the College's Catholic Identity
- Completion of homework
- Personal presentation
- Respect for College facilities
- Willingness to stretch mind, body and spirit to learn and grow

Congratulations to our primary swimmers who represented the College so well at last week's Bridge Inn Swimming Carnival! Many of these swimmers will continue on to swim at the next level of representative swimming.

Well done to our secondary students who participated so positively in Tuesday's swimming carnival!

Best wishes to the cast of Grease who are rehearsing multiple times a week in preparation for this year's musical.

Thank you to our Prep to Year 6 teachers who over the last fortnight have facilitated Start Up Interviews with parents and students to establish relationships and discuss learning goals for our primary students.

### Lent

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday which marked the beginning of Lent. During the 40 days of Lent we prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Yesterday all students participated in Ash Wednesday liturgies in their Core/Pastoral class.

During Lent we reflect upon how we are living our life.

When we pray, we give thanks, we share our hopes with God, and we deepen our relationship with God.

When we practice fasting, we may give up something we enjoy, and we are helped to remember the suffering Jesus underwent for us. Instead of giving something up we may also decide to do something to help someone else.

When we practice almsgiving, we give to others. This may include donating money to Project Compassion, or it may mean being generous in other ways, such as giving our time to others.

Our College theme for this year is *Known and Loved – Dignity for All*. I pray that this Lent our College community may be inspired by this part of John's Gospel (15:12) which informs our theme.

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12*

### We pray.....

*Loving God*

*Help us this Lent to be reminded to treat others as we would like to be treated.*

*We pray for strength to accept the love that You give us, and to give that love to others.*

*We give thanks for the opportunity to help others to understand that God loves all people no matter where they are from, their education level, body type or what others think of them.*

*Let us pray that we may be more loving to others.*

*Amen*

### Doreen Campus

The College will shortly be opening a new campus in Doreen on Eminence Boulevard (next to St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School).

This new Campus of Marymede Catholic College will include:

- Early Learning Centre (opening in 2023)

- Years 7 to 12 Secondary School Campus (opening for Year 7 in 2024)

Planning for the implementation of the College's Doreen Campus is well underway.

Details regarding enrolment criteria and key elements of the College's multicampus operations are currently being planned.

Further details will be shared shortly.

Enrolments for ELC 2023 at the Doreen Campus have now opened. Details are outlined further in the newsletter.

Enrolments for Year 7 2024 will be opening very soon (approximately April 2022).

We look forward to sharing lots of details about the new Marymede Catholic College Doreen Campus shortly including images of the first buildings and how the campuses of the College will operate together.

## Prep 2023 Enrolments

The College is currently accepting enrolment applications for Prep 2023.

Please be reminded that applications close on Friday 29 April 2022.

If you have a child who is due to start Prep in 2023, please complete an Application Form which can be located via the College website at:

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

If you know a friend or neighbour who has a child and they are hoping to send them to Marymede Catholic College for Prep in 2023, please also let them know the same.

## Vaping

As many of you are aware the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) by teenagers is on the increase. The College shares community concern about this issue.

I share with you the following informing from Quit Victoria

<https://www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping/>

***E-cigarettes pose serious health risks to teens. Australian surveys have shown e-cigarette use among teens and young adults has increased over the past few years. There is also evidence to suggest young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to smoke tobacco cigarettes in later years:***

- In an Australian survey of school students, around 14 per cent of students aged 12 - 17 years had used an e-cigarette (32% of these in the past month).
- Almost half (48%) of students who vaped had never smoked tobacco before trying an e-cigarette.
- Around a quarter of these students who had used e-cigarettes before ever smoking, reported later trying tobacco cigarettes.

## What are e-cigarettes?

E-cigarettes, also known as 'vapes', are battery operated devices that work by heating a liquid (or 'juice') until it becomes an aerosol that users inhale. Some people mistakenly believe

*the 'cloud' from vaping is a vapour, like steam. It is really an aerosol, a fine spray of chemicals that enter the body via the lungs, and small particles that can lodge in the lungs. Using an e-cigarette is commonly called 'vaping'.*

## What's inside an e-cigarette?

*There are no quality or safety standards for e-cigarettes nor nicotine-free liquids, meaning their manufacture, contents and labelling are unregulated. E-cigarettes can contain nicotine, propylene glycol or glycerine, and flavourings. Hazardous substances have been found in e-cigarette liquids and in the aerosol produced by e-cigarettes. These include: formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and acrolein, which are known to cause cancer. Some chemicals in e-cigarette aerosols can cause DNA damage.*

*It's also important to know most e-cigarettes and e-liquids that are labelled nicotine-free and available for sale in Australia do, in fact, contain nicotine. Nicotine is among the most addictive substances known. Nicotine can harm adolescent brain development and impair memory and concentration.*

## Are e-cigarettes legal?

*Buying and selling an e-cigarette or any liquid that contains nicotine without a doctor's prescription is illegal in Australia. In Victoria, it is illegal to sell an e-cigarette or a liquid intended to be used in an e-cigarette (even if it does not contain nicotine) to a person under 18 years.*

## College response

Health classes address the use of drugs and alcohol and other related topics in the curriculum. In addition to this the College is introducing bathroom sensors.

Multi-sensor devices capable of detecting nicotine chemical vape, THC chemical vape, cigarette smoke, marijuana smoke as well as noise disturbances that may suggest violence such as bullying, or vandalism are being installed in bathrooms.

These devices detect vaping signatures or decibel level anomalies caused by bullying. When this happens a location-specific alert notification is sent by SMS and or email to designated senior staff at the College to investigate. I thank Paul Romanin, Business Manager for initiating the introduction of these devices and to the Wellbeing Team for following up the alerts.

Please let the College know if you have any questions or concerns about the installation of these sensors.

## COVID Safety

The College maintains a conscientious approach to providing as safe a place as possible as we facilitate the student learning program within the current COVID context. Please let us know if you have any ideas, questions or feedback in relation to COVID safety.

Best wishes to all students with their learning for the next fortnight!

**Mr Timothy Newcomb**  
**Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

### Smart Watches

Most members of the Marymede Catholic College community will be aware that all schools run by the Victorian, NSW and Western Australian Education departments have state-wide policies on Mobile Phones that ban their use in schools. These state governments made this considered decision in order to both improve student engagement and as part of their Childsafe commitments to help reduce cyber-bullying and image-abuse. Under the Marymede Catholic College Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy, this ban includes all 'smart' devices, such as an Apple Watch, FitBit, Spacetalk and any device that has the potential for communication.

As noted in the policy, the College understands that parents may wish their children to be contactable on the way to and from school; however, any smart watch or mobile phone must then be placed in the student's bag or locker from 8.45am until 3.15pm. Students in possession of or using their mobile phone or other smart device (such as a smart watch, FitBit, Spacetalk, etc) will have the device confiscated and placed in secure storage at the Student Administration Office and may be collected after the last bell of the day. Should a student have their device confiscated a third time (or more) then the device must be collected by a parent / guardian during office hours (Mon-Fri 8.00am - 4.30pm).

We thank-you for your continuing support of College policies and practices to support your child's learning.

### Year Level photos & Photo Catch-up Day: Thursday 17 March

A school photo 'catch-up' day will be held on the morning of Thursday 17 March for students who were absent on 21 February or unable to have their photo taken due to uniform or grooming issues. Group photos for Year 6, Year 7 and Year 12 will also take place on this day. 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 letter of 28 January, with all students expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no P.E. uniform allowed). Students in Years 7 and 12 will be required to wear their College Blazer for their year-level photo. Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform and grooming requirements will not have their individual photo taken nor included in the year-level photo.

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 6 commemoration folio and Year 12 Graduation Folio.

### Vaccination for 5 – 11 year olds

We are pleased to see so many of our Primary students excited to be vaccinated against COVID-19. We encourage all Primary

parents to watch this Whittlesea Council video with your children, created to help demystify the COVID-19 vaccination for 5 - 11 year olds (and featuring a few familiar faces!):

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for children to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 and about booster vaccinations for 16-17 year old students, please visit the Vaccination information for children and teenagers page on the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website.

### Student-free day: Friday 11 March

All staff will be participating in a Staff Spirituality day based on our 2022 theme 'Known and Loved: Dignity for All' on Friday 11 March. This will be a student-free day and the Finance office will also be closed on this day.



Families who require care for their students on this day may book through Camp Australia

### COVID-Safe measures for Term 1

As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, the following measures are in place for the remainder of Term 1 to ensure our College remains a safe environment for our students and staff:

- **Reporting positive COVID results:** Should any student receive a positive RAT or PCR result, a parent or guardian must report this result to the college via the Marymede Positive COVID Result Notification Form.

The College will notify the school community through a daily email when a student or staff member has returned a positive COVID-19 result and had attended the college. This email will identify any classes affected and advise students to undertake a RAT and only return to school if they receive a negative result and are asymptomatic. Classes will generally not be sent home during the school day. Remote learning will only be considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option.

- **Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) 'surveillance' testing:** For each 2-week period, families will be supplied with a 5-pack of RAT home-tests (one pack per child) to be conducted on two school days each fortnight. These should be used on two school days in each week, regardless of whether or not your child shows any COVID symptoms or may have been in contact with a positive case.

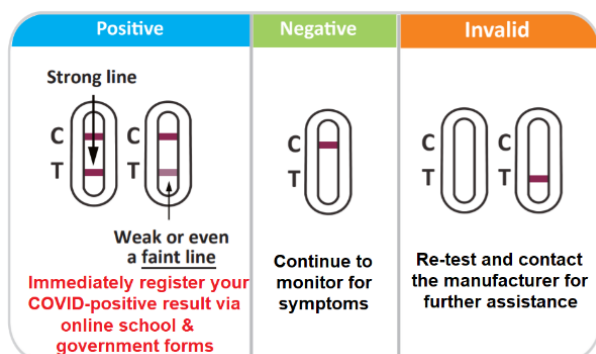
If your child receives a positive RAT test result at any time, a parent or guardian must register this result through the Department of Health system via COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or 1800 675 398 (please also see the previous point for informing the college).

There is no requirement to report a negative result.

*N.B. Students who have previously tested positive for*



COVID-19, have completed their 7-day isolation period and are subsequently asymptomatic do not need to undertake RAT surveillance testing for 30 days (from their positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier).



- **Students who are unwell must stay home:** The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms (and even with a negative RAT or PCR result).
- **Face Masks & Physical distancing:** As per the directions of the Victorian Government, the following actions are mandatory:
  - All staff, parents, carers and other visitors entering Finance and Main Reception must wear a face mask
  - All Primary staff, all students in Years 3 – 6 and all aged 8+ visiting Primary school areas are required to wear a face mask indoors at all times
  - Face masks to be worn by individuals over the age of 8 when on public transport and school buses – unless you have a lawful exemption.
  - Prep – Year 2 students and Year 7 – 12 students are also strongly encouraged to wear a face mask when indoors.
  - Parents and carers conducting drop-off and pick-up who are unable to maintain social distance should also wear a face covering
  - Individuals over the age of 8 must carry a face mask at all times.



- **Limited Parent entry to campus:** Parent / carer / guardian access to the campus is restricted and all parent involvement with activities on-campus is restricted until the end of Term 1. It is therefore very important for parents to clearly communicate with your child exactly where they should meet you for either vehicle or pedestrian pick-up. Pedestrian Gate 3 (near the bus stop) provides the clearest line of

sight for younger primary students needing to locate a parent for pedestrian pick-up. Parents of Prep and Year 1 students have been directly emailed the instructions for their pick-up and drop-off procedures. Certain evening events that do not involve Primary students will be able to proceed.

- **Proof of full vaccination for on-campus entry:** Where parents and visitors are granted permission to enter the school property (apart from very brief outdoor pickup / drop-off) this is conditional on acceptable proof of being fully vaccinated.
- **Limited car-parking on-campus:** The Gate A car park will be open to enable Prep parents (only) to park for Prep drop-off and pick-up. All other parents will need to park off-site.

We thank all parents and carers and students for your continuing patience, understanding and cooperation in assisting to keep our community safe, particularly our Primary students.

**Mr David Broadbent**

**Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Operations P-12**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

### Primary Inquiry

Inquiry is an approach to teaching and learning that in essence involves students in the investigations of questions, problems or issues of significance. Through inquiry we seek to develop students' essential competencies as learners and equip them with a set of transferable skills and dispositions. Inquiry-based learning is driven by the search for deep understanding as we take students on a learning journey that moves their thinking from shallow to deep understanding. Teachers utilise many strategies and methods for students to demonstrate the depth of their new learning in rich culminating tasks (summative assessments) and through significant work samples and events through a unit. There is a strong emphasis on learning about 'big ideas'. This year our teams have been working hard to develop new, authentic integrated units to enrich student learning. This term's big ideas are:

<b>Prep</b>	Our Diverse World – Who do we share our school with?
<b>Year 1</b>	Our Diverse World – What are our family stories?
<b>Year 2</b>	Our Innovative World – How can we grow/make our own food?
<b>Year 3</b>	Being Our Best – How does our body work?
<b>Year 4</b>	Our Natural World – Is our Wildlife in Danger?
<b>Year 5</b>	Being Our Best – How do we connect our mind, body, and spirit?

Year 6	Exploring Our World – What causes change?
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### Continuous Reporting 7-12

This year we will be implementing ongoing continuous reporting for students in year 7-12. Continuous reporting refers to the process of teachers providing timely and targeted feedback to students about their learning progress in a subject. Continuous online reporting is strongly supported by research. The availability of timely, quality feedback is acknowledged to be one of the most significant determinants of success for learners. A reporting system that provides continuous feedback online, accessible not only to students but also parents, will allow students to continually evaluate and improve performance with the support of their teachers.

The College foresees a number of tangible benefits derived from providing continuous online reporting to our students and their families. These include:

- Timely feedback – feedback and results provided online within a defined period after a key task is completed and assessed, enabling the students to act on feedback immediately to inform future learning.
- Feedback is specific to an individual student’s progress and learning needs.
- Parents will view results and comments for key assessments at the same time as their child, receiving information in ‘real time’ rather than at two points within a year. This will provide parents with the ability to identify and support action toward improvement prior to the next assessment. Parents and students will receive an alert when results and comments are available.
- Builds on authentic communication between a teacher, student and their family, providing a greater sense of shared responsibility.
- No ‘surprise results’ at the end of a semester. Parents and students are aware of results and academic progress prior to the end of each semester.
- Access online anywhere, anytime, via the Parent Access Module (PAM)

Parents are encouraged to login to PAM regularly to access results and feedback. Should you have any questions regarding the feedback provided please contact the relevant subject teacher.

### Save the date: 7-12 Parent-Teacher-Student interviews

At Marymede, we strongly value our partnership with parents and encourage clear, frequent and respectful communication. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are a key part of the on-going school-home relationship at the College and we are committed to facilitating these very important conversations. The interviews will take place for students in Year 7 to Year 12 via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday 29 March** (4pm – 8pm) and **Thursday 31 March** (2pm – 8pm)

**Mrs Jessica Hall**  
**Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12**

### RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

#### Pastoral Care for Students Experiencing Gender Dysphoria

Marymede Catholic College is committed to providing learning environments that are safe, inclusive and affirming of the uniqueness of every child.

Within Catholic school communities, all children and young people are welcomed and supported to grow and flourish into the fullness of life.

In valuing the innate dignity and sacredness of the human person, all interactions in Catholic schools are grounded in the principles of care, compassion and respect.

Marymede Catholic College is also committed to responding to the unique pastoral and learning needs of gender dysphoric children and young people. Gender dysphoria in individuals is characterised by a marked incongruence between the natal (birth) gender and the experienced/expressed gender of the person.

Diagnostic criteria for gender dysphoria in children includes the possible distress arising from a sense of mismatch, or incongruence, that a person may have about their experienced gender versus their birth gender.

Gender dysphoria is a complex and sensitive topic to navigate. Noting that every child’s circumstances will be different, a diagnosis of gender dysphoria must be managed on a case-by-case basis. Working with the child, parents/carers, gender dysphoria medical experts, other specialists and relevant governing authorities, responses must be informed by the mission and purpose of the Catholic school, relevant legislation and fundamental human rights and freedoms to ensure individual and family needs are balanced with those of the school community.

Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools has a policy that guides Marymede’s approach to supporting students experiencing gender dysphoria:

<http://www.macs.vic.edu.au/About-Us/Policies/Pastoral-care-f-or-students.aspx>

If you believe your child is experiencing gender dysphoria, we encourage you to contact your GP as a first step. We also invite you to contact the school if you require our support.

## How to Talk to Children and Young People about Gender Dysphoria

Gender dysphoria can raise questions for young people, whether they are experiencing it themselves, or if they meet another person experiencing gender dysphoria.

Our responses to questions about gender dysphoria are age appropriate and inclusive as we live out the Catholic Mission of inclusive education that offers dignity and hope to young people.

Some of the themes we would explore with students in response to any questions include:

- We are all individuals who are created in the image of God
- As Catholics we are called to celebrate the diversity of God's creation
- We respect other people's choices
- All students have a right to feel safe at school
- Whichever uniform a student is wearing, they must wear it in accordance with the published guidelines (including sport uniform).

### Advice for Parents/Guardians

If your child encounters someone experiencing gender dysphoria, whether they are a student at the school or someone out in the community, they may have questions. It is important to respond to your child in age-appropriate ways. As well as the themes described above, please find following some further suggestions and resources as to how you might respond to the questions being asked:

- We are all individuals
- We respect people's differences and their choices
- It's not hurting anyone and if it makes that person feel comfortable and happy, that's the main thing
- We treat others the way that we like to be treated
- It's important that we love everyone

If you are feeling uncomfortable responding to any questions your child has asked, please redirect them to speak to a trusted adult or their classroom teacher.

You may also wish to explore the Australian Parenting Website which contains information about gender issues together with advice for parents in speaking with children about tough topics.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

### Parent Information Night

The College is intending to offer a Parent Information night on this topic this semester. If you have further questions that you would like to have addressed at the Information night, please email your questions to your child's pastoral teacher who will pass this on to the Growth and Identity team.

#### **Directors of Students:**

**Prep to Year 3, Narelle Collins**

**Years 4 to 6, Lisa Murray**

**Years 7 to 9, Jack Mather**

**Years 10 to 12, David Brick**

## CO-CURRICULUM

### Co-Curricular Program Updates

I had the privilege of interviewing a number of students over the past few weeks as part of Mr Newcomb's video. I was so impressed with the students' confidence and maturity in the interviews and their enthusiasm to get involved. It can be a daunting experience to speak in front of the camera so I would like to congratulate them all for their courage and thank them for their positive contribution to the co-curricular program!

<https://clickv.ie/w/vFqs>

A reminder that we are taking expressions of interest for all Term 1 activities so we can accommodate student numbers. Some activities will be limited by numbers, so be sure to get in early. Click here to for activities:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gGShwz8fCu>

### College Production: Grease Cast announcement

We are very excited to announce our cast for this year's senior school musical "Grease". Congratulations to all the students who auditioned. The talent showcased has once again been outstanding and we are all very much looking forward to seeing these students shine on the stage in May!

**Ms Melanie Wason**

**Co-Curricular Assistant**

## PRIMARY SPORT

### Bridge Inn Swim Carnival

The Primary Swim Team consisted of 24 students who competed at the Bridge Inn Carnival on 23 February at Oak Park. We are proud to announce that 22 of these students have progressed to the Division Competition on 3 March at Broadmeadows Aquatics.

Special recognition to Eloise Butera who came home with 4 first ribbons winning both freestyle and medley relay and 1st place in her individual freestyle and backstroke events.

Matthew Bergamin also came first in 2 individual events in butterfly and backstroke, second in breaststroke and first in medley and freestyle relay. Congratulations to all the students on a great performance.



### Year 3 Soccer Clinic

The Year 3 students participated in a soccer clinic run by Football Star Academy on 22 February. Football Star



Academy are running a free trial for any student interested in starting soccer.

Please contact Michael Zagami on 0406 805 074 or email [vic34.football@sportstaracademy.com](mailto:vic34.football@sportstaracademy.com)



**Mrs Liz Miles**  
**Primary Sports Assistant**

## 2023 MARYMEDE ELC ENROLMENTS

### New Doreen Campus Opening 2023

We are excited to announce that Marymede Early Learning Centre will be opening in Doreen, next to St Paul the Apostle in 2023. Applications for 3-year-old and 4-year-old places at Marymede ELC for both South Morang and Doreen are now open, and close on Friday 24 June 24 for all first round offers. Application forms can be found at our website below and can be submitted by emailing them through to [kindergarten@marymede.vic.edu.au](mailto:kindergarten@marymede.vic.edu.au)

<https://melc.vic.edu.au/>

Please contact us if you have any questions on 03 9407 9050



**Ms Naomi Rigney**  
**Centre Director**

## ANTHONY AMERENA'S BOOK 'THIS IS ME'

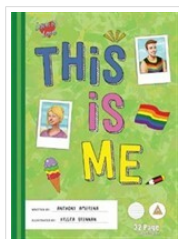
### This is me ...

*Andrew has always felt like he had to hide from the truth, hide from who he is and hide from others.*

*What will happen when Andrew speaks his truth and finally accepts the person he is?*

*Everyone loves Jasmine! She has great friends and a fun social life. However, Jasmine worries that when she tells people her truth things will change.*

*This is Me is a story of two teenagers embracing who they are and finding out that life is always better when you are TRUE TO YOURSELF.*



### Why Anthony wrote the book...

Anthony knows what it feels like not to be able to express who you are, out of fear of being discriminated against or judged. Coming out as gay was hard, he was worried about telling his friends, family and what their reaction might be.

His new picture book, 'This Is Me', loosely based on his own experience, aims to encourage tweens to celebrate their authentic selves. Anthony wanted to write a book that had a clear message that it is okay to be yourself, that it's okay to be gay. His book is a diverse and inspiring story about the negative and positive emotions that come with being different. Detailed and bright artwork supports this happy story about coming out.

As a College, we congratulate Mr Anthony Amerena on publishing his very first book, especially during such a challenging time over the last two years. This is a wonderful achievement for him to accomplish and it is inspiration for everyone in Marymede Community. We look forward with anticipation to Anthony's next step as a published author! We are very proud of you Anthony!

If you would like a signed copy of the book, please bring \$20 in an envelope and hand it to main reception with your child's name and year level on it. Otherwise, 'This Is Me' can be found at all good bookstores and ordered online via:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/This-is-Me-Anthony-Amerena/9781922678751>



## P&F AGM

### Annual General Meeting

The P&F AGM will be held Thursday 3 March at 7:00pm. Please join us via the link below

<https://zoom.us/j/94679339275?pwd=T2V1T210aHpTMnFsTzcwSVBqR1N5Zz09>

All are welcome

### P&F Committee