



12 May 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 4 students at Marymede Catholic College are currently preparing to receive the sacrament of First Eucharist. Students are learning about the Eucharist in Religious Education classes, participating in a preparation day and are presenting at Mass in advance of their First Eucharist. On Tuesday 17 May I will be joining Laetitia Malusu, Religious Education Coordinator P-6, as we welcome parents for the First Eucharist Information Evening.

Please join me in praying for our Year 4 students as they prepare for their First Eucharist.

We pray.....

*Loving God*

*We pray for our students who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist*

*that they are nourished by the living bread.*

*May they come to know You more closely and understand Your loving message more deeply.*

*We pray that our students can see all that they can be thankful for*

*and share their love, gifts and talents with those around them.*

*We make this prayer in Your name.*

*Amen*

## Mother's Day

I hope that all the mothers in the College community enjoyed last Sunday! Thank you to the staff and the Parents and Friends Committee who led a range of activities at school last week in the lead up to Mother's Day. I really enjoyed the Prep student presentation to their mums.

## Student reconnection

The College Leadership Team continue to look at the way in which we can support students as they are readjusting to on-site learning at school. A number of initiatives were implemented in Term One and we are focussing on the following areas for Term 2:

- Student social skills and positive relationships including skills relating to:
  - developing and growing friendships
  - how to address moments of tension or conflict
- Student learning dispositions
  - staying on task
  - developing effective study routines

## Catholic Identity Survey

Thank you to parents who complete the Catholic Identity Survey, ECSI. We had an excellent response from parents, and I am very grateful to the many parents who took the time to offer their responses. The survey data will be very helpful for our school review next year.

## First sod turning for the ELC at the Doreen Campus

On 28 April we had a sod turning event at the Doreen Campus to mark the beginning of the construction of the ELC there.



Thank you to the following people who were in attendance.

- John Mills, Regional General Manager for MACS
- Danielle Green, State MP for Yan Yean
- Paul Romanin, College Business Manager
- Vicki Kouts, College Enrolments Officer
- Matt Robertson and Caitlin McDonnell, Fontic – Project Managers

- Matt Dwyer, Director Y2 Architecture
- Jerad Smith and team from McColl-Smith Projects

## Positive Behaviour for Learning

All staff participated in a session on Monday afternoon to further advance the College's Positive Behaviour for Learning project (PB4L).

This project involves using an evidence-based whole-school framework to promote positive behaviour across the College and foster safe and effective learning environments.

## Child Safety

The College is preparing to implement the new Child Safe Standards which will come into effect on 1 July 2022. These Standards aim to better protect children and young people from abuse.

The College already has an excellent culture regarding child safety; however, we are working to implement the new standards and further advance our current practices.

To read more about the new Child Safe Standards please access the website of the Commission for Children and Young People via the following link:

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/new-child-safe-standards-start-in-victoria-on-1-july-2022-to-better-protect-children/>

## Vaping

Last term I detailed in a newsletter the aspiration of the College to address the issue of vaping among young people.

While we are continuing to work on this issue, I am very happy to report that our vape detectors and educational programs with students have led to a significant decrease in incidents of vaping at school.

## Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal was held last Friday evening and I am proud to say that the students had a fantastic time and conducted themselves in a really positive manner. Thank you to the students and staff for their support. I especially thank David Brick, Director of Students Years 10 - 12, for his leadership of the event. Personally, I greatly appreciated the friendly nature of the students and enjoyed seeing them being so happy together.

## Musical

The 2022 College musical Grease is being performed across 26 to 28 May. If you have not purchased tickets yet, I encourage you to do so:

<https://www.pracc.com.au/tickets/marymede-catholic-college-grease/>

## Year 10 Camp

Congratulations to Year 10 students who so positively engaged with the Year 10 Camp focussed on leadership, teamwork, and resilience. Students participated in a range of outdoor activities at The Grampians last Wednesday to Friday. Thank you to Alex Timms who was the on-site leader of the camp and to David Brick for his coordination of the camp planning.

## Community Engagement and Enrolments

The College Open Day on Sunday 1 May was a success. Over 500 guests visited the College and were able to witness the new performing arts facilities, hear a brief presentation from me and participate in a tour led by students. Thank you very much to the many students who offered their time to lead tours and assist in other ways.

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

**Timothy Newcomb**  
**Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

### COVID-Safe measures for Term 2: notification of Household contacts

As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, the following measures are in place for Term 2 to ensure our College remains a safe environment for our students and staff:

**Students identified as household contacts:** Students who are identified as Household contacts may continue to attend school under the following conditions:

- A parent or guardian must register the student as a Household contact via the Marymede COVID Household Contacts notification form; and
- Year 3 – 12 students must wear a mask indoors at all times (also strongly advised for P-2); and
- the student must undertake at least five negative rapid tests over the seven days (from first exposure to the positive case); and
- they must remain asymptomatic.
- *N.B. Students who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 will not be classified as a Household contact for 12 weeks after the end of their isolation period.*

**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 COVID Notification Form.

The College will notify relevant families 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.

### Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) 'surveillance' testing:

For each 2-week period (up to at least 20 May), 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 do not need to undertake RAT surveillance testing for 12 weeks after the end of their isolation period.*

**Parents & carers welcome on-campus for pick-up:** parents & carers are welcome to enter the campus to meet your child for pickup. While parents / carers are also welcome to walk their child onto campus for morning drop-off, we ask that you please exit the campus once your child has deposited their bag at their safety line / locker. Please do not enter any buildings during either of these times.

**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).

**No food-sharing:** No food-sharing is permitted. This extends to a ban on home-made birthday treats: while we appreciate the need to mark milestones (particularly in the Primary years), this may only be done using pre-packaged foods.

**Face Masks & Physical distancing:** While face masks are recommended whenever physical distancing is not possible, as per the latest directions of the Victorian Government, they are no longer mandatory in most situations:

- All students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask when indoors.
- **Face masks must be worn by individuals over the age of 8 when on public transport and school buses** – unless you have a lawful exemption.
- 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.



**Proof of full vaccination to work with students:** Where parents and visitors are granted permission to work with students in any capacity (either paid or voluntary), this is conditional on acceptable proof of being fully vaccinated (i.e., 3 doses of an approved vaccine).

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

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

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

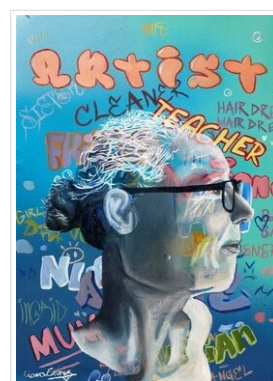
### SIMON Everywhere

The College has implemented a new easy to navigate app to allow easier communication between yourself and the College. The SIMON Everywhere app delivers PAM accessibility with easy login using existing PAM credentials, plus the ability for parents to communicate directly with teachers and notify student absences. This app will deliver instant notification to your mobile phone and make signing into PAM and monitoring your child's progress even easier. The video [HERE](#) guides you further through navigating SIMON everywhere. You can download the app from Google Play or the App Store.



### Student Achievement – Archibald finalist

We extend our congratulations to Year 10 student Ciara Ennis on her extraordinary achievement as an Archibald Portraiture Finalist. A description of the image from Ciara is as follows: "I chose my mother as the subject of my portrait, as I wanted to show how many words and characteristics come together to embody my mum. The background is spray paint. I painted the words in oil paint in graffiti fonts and my mother in oil paint with medium. This is to show the changes in art styles throughout her lifetime and her journey up to today. My mum plays so many roles in my life – artist, teacher, and many others. This artwork is a celebration of her life."



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

## LEARNING AND TEACHING - YEAR 7 – 12

### Year 9 – Be Wise! Pat Cronin Foundation Presentation

This was advertised as a presentation ‘Empowering young Australians to handle conflict, look after their mates and make wise decisions—so we can End the Coward Punch, together’; however, it was so much more! Our presenter Alan shared not only Pat’s story but also his own to provoke our students thinking about the choices they make, why they make them and the potential benefits... or not, of those choices. His words, ‘check yourself’ and ‘be wise’, repeated throughout his story-sharing, are powerful tools for our students to consider in their everyday interactions with others. I encourage parents of students in any year level to have a discussion with their children about the everyday choices they are making and the outcomes of those choices. For more information, go to the website below or download the Be Wise app.

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



### Year 9 – 12 Examinations

In June, all Year 9 – 12 students will undertake end of semester examinations. The purpose of the examinations is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their learning, practice the skills required in testing situations, and to reflect on their academic growth over the past months. The results and feedback from their examinations are useful in planning their way forward, such as identifying study & revision techniques that work best for them, and also guiding subject selections, pathway and career planning into areas of strength and interest.

- Unit 3 Trial examinations: 7 – 10 June
- Unit 1/2 examinations: 14 – 17 June
- Year 10 examinations: 14 – 17 June
- Year 9 examinations: 15 – 17 June

Students should already be preparing for their examinations with their class teachers. They will be provided with Revision Guides in the coming weeks to assist their preparation in addition to the support provided by their teachers.

Year 10 – 12 students are required on campus for their examinations only. If they have sessions in the morning and the afternoon, they may stay at / return home or can undertake private study in the Resource Centre. Year 9 students who have parental permission via Operoo, will be permitted to travel directly home to undertake study in the afternoon. Students who are absent from examinations will be contacted to attend catch-up sessions.

## NAPLAN – Year 3, 5, 7 & 9

Congratulations to students on the completion of the 2022 NAPLAN. Although the new online format was a very different experience, we are confident that our students coped well with the changes presented to them. Once results are available later in the year, they will be distributed to parents.

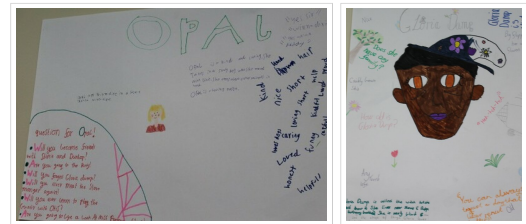
**Nikole Cymbalak**  
**Learning & Teaching Coordinator 7-12**

## LEARNING AND TEACHING - PREP – Year 6

### Year 5 Literacy

Last term the Year 5 students immersed themselves in the novel “Because of Winn-Dixie”. As well as reading the novel, they also used the novel to develop and extend their literacy skills. They used their visualisation

skills to imagine what the characters might look like based on their actions, created character profiles and wrote book reviews, to name a few. The Year 5 students were very engaged in the book and produced some fabulous work.



One of the teachers received this e-mail from her student Anahid Kavand;

*Hello Miss Gacovski,  
I really enjoyed Because of Winn-Dixie and reading with friends, classmates, and independently, but I didn't really like the ending, so I decided to write one myself.*

*Attached above is the last two chapters of Winn-Dixie, reimagined by me! I hope you enjoy!*

So, with Anahid’s permission, please find attached an alternative ending to ‘Because of Winn-Dixie.’ An incredible piece of written work. You will find it hard to believe that it wasn’t written by the author herself!

### Year 6 Inquiry

This term in Year 6 the students are investigating ‘How does the changing world affect us?’ We know our students have a lot of understanding on so many different topics, so we always make sure to find out what the students already know and what they are interested in. This allows us, as teachers, to make sure we are engaging the students in new learning as well as ensuring we account for student voice – what do the students have wonderings about? What are the students interested in?

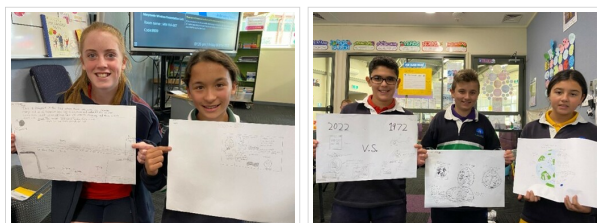
So, with this in mind the Year 6 teachers asked their students, “How has our world changed?” The responses were wide and varied. A few responses were as follows,

- **PAST:** “There was no internet”,

- **PAST:** “Less pollution”,
- **PAST:** “No war ...yet”
- **PAST:** “No I-phone”
- **PRESENT:** “Most countries now are free and have fair equality”
- **PRESENT:** “Almost everyone has freedom and rights”
- **PAST:** “The ice wasn’t melting and there wasn’t much sun”.
- **PRESENT:** “The animals can’t survive because there is not much ice for them to hide and rest.”

The students will be looking in more depth about how human impact and natural events change our environments and in turn, how these events impact all areas of our lives: social, financial and environmental.

Below are some images of some of the prior knowledge that students had about our changing world.



**Ainsley Dean**  
**Learning and Teaching Leader P-6**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

### Presentation of Candidates

Our Year 4 students have started their journey towards preparation to receive their First Holy Communion in June. On Sunday 1 May, we presented the following students at Mass for recognition within the parish of Christ the Light at the Nazareth Centre in Mernda:

Zoe Bax-Vitacca	Holly O’Loughlin
Emily Brullo	Aaron Rathansari
Matteo Novakovic	Zane Rickhuss

We commend these students and their families for their successful presentation and look forward to the next presentation day on 15 May at St Francis of Assisi in Mill Park.



Though this event is not compulsory, we encourage families to attend and make the connection with the local Parish.

### Mass Attendance

In addition to the Presentation Mass, we are also encouraging families to support their child in attending Mass as often as possible, so that they can be familiar with what takes place at Mass. This is not compulsory and will not affect your child’s chances of receiving the Sacrament.

This goal can be achieved through the following options:

- Attending Mass at your local Parish
- Attending Wednesday Community Mass at Marymede Catholic College (8.00am start)

All the candidates will be provided with the lanyards below and each time they attend a Mass, they will receive a token from their teachers. There are a total of 9 tokens to collect.



If seeking tokens for Mass attended within your local parish, photos of you and your child after the Mass can be given to the teachers who will then give out the token.

Communication about the number of guests per family for the Eucharist days in June will be made available soon, and you will be able to reserve your guests through the Trybooking system.

We continue to look forward to this wonderful event in our children’s lives.

**Laetitia Malusu**  
**Religious Education Leader – Prep to Year 6**

## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

You may have seen in the media recently (see Channel 9 News Report – 28 March 2022) or have had discussions with family and friends around a spike in vaping amongst young people. The College has concerns that young people may not fully understand or appreciate the negative impact of vaping on their health and the addictive nature of vaping. Additionally, we are concerned that young people under the age of 18 years are gaining access to vapes when it is illegal for them to undertake the activity or purchase the products associated with vaping.

Naturally, vaping is not allowed at school. The College has installed vape detectors to support the health and safety of students, and consequences apply should a student be found vaping or possessing the products of vaping.

The College is also exploring means of providing authentic education for students around the dangers of vaping. We welcome working with and supporting parents in discussing this issue with their child. To assist you with educating your child about the short and long-term health impacts of vaping, we highly recommend the material found in the link below from the Royal Children's Hospital.

[https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact\\_sheets/E-cigarettes\\_and\\_teens/](https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/E-cigarettes_and_teens/)

Alternatively, if you are concerned about your child engaging in this risky and harmful behaviour, the information sheet attached may support you in having that conversation.

We thank you for working with us to educate your child about this matter. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Teacher or House Leader.

**Directors of Students:**  
**Years P-3, Narelle Collins**  
**Years 4-6, Lisa Murray**  
**Years 7-9, Jack Mather**  
**Years 10-12, David Brick**

## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Senior Musical – Tickets Now on Sale!

After what feels like an eternity away from the big stage, we are very excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our senior school production of GREASE! Visit the link below to secure your seat today.

<https://www.pracc.com.au/tickets/marymede-catholic-college-grease/>

Programs will be available for purchase through the ticketing portal and will not be available for purchase at the theatre, so be sure to get in early to avoid disappointment.

The cast are looking & sounding fantastic so we can't wait to share this production with the college community.

If you have any questions, please contact  
Ellen.Lane@Marymede.vic.edu.au or  
Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au



**Melanie Wason**  
**Co-Curricular Assistant.**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AT MARYMEDE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### Rerum Novarum Awards

Students across Years 9-12 were given an opportunity to join the Social Justice group with a focus on entering the Novarum Awards. This project essentially asks students to use the 'See, Judge, Act' method to apply the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to a social justice issue in your community. Entries must include a research paper, project impact report and a video presentation.

Marei and Larissa have made the following reflection:

*We are a part of the Social Justice Group in 2022. We are all Year 9's and we meet every Wednesday at lunchtime. Our goal is to solve Social Justice issues in our community. Our focus this year is mental health, and we are trying to tackle this situation within our community. Being influenced by the Catholic Social Teachings we are taking on this challenge by creating a platform and a safe space for people who need support.*

**Kathy Di Francesco**  
**Secondary Teacher**  
**and the Year 9 Social Justice group**

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

### Open Day

On Sunday 1 May, the PFC were at the Marymede Open Day, apron in hand (or around the waist) with our sausage sizzle stall fundraiser. It turned out to be a great day, the sun was out, the gates were open, and families were walking in. Thank you to all the families that come through and supported the PFC in purchasing a sausage or drink. A big thank you to committee members Mina D'Este, Kaylene Muller, Danielle Lazzara, Daphne Bakos and Sarah Young for giving up their Sunday to help with the stall.

### Mother's Day Stall

The PFC hope that everyone had a great Mother's Day on Sunday 8th May. On behalf of all the PFC committee members we'd like to thank all the students and parents for their support with this stall, it was great to see the excitement on the children's faces to pick their own gifts. There are a few people I'd like to thank for assisting in a very big way in getting the stall up and running and assisting with getting all the Preps to Year 6 students through over the two days:

- the VCAL group that donated the succulents (they were a big hit) gave up their Thursday morning to help the PFC with the stall
- all the teachers that assisted with their classes and helped the PFC give out bags to the children and assisted them with their selection.
- the Admin Staff for organising rosters and students who could not attend on the day
- Committee members, Adam Tricarico, Kaylene Muller, Sarah Young and Daphne Bakos and the volunteers Mia Reidy, Natasha Manoukian and Kara Itsines.

Without all of you, we would not have been able to get through the two days. I'd also like to give a very big shout out to David Walton and the Marymede Maintenance team for all the help and support they give the PFC.

We look forward to the next fundraiser

**Michelle Williams**  
**PFC President**