

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



NEWSLETTER

Number 20
December 1st 2010

Dear Parents, Students, Staff, and Friends of Marcellin,

I spent a couple of weeks of last month in Ireland. I was there at the invitation of the Brothers of the West-Central Europe province of our Institute to work with Marist school Principals, their staff, and the Boards of the three Marist Colleges in that country. It was an enjoyable, if not challenging experience; one that stretched me professionally and deeply enriched me personally. Ireland is in a mess! The people remain as delightful as ever, even with a sense of hope at a time of palpable despair, but the country is doing it hard at the moment. The world recession that has more or less passed in our own country is biting deep and hard in Ireland. Unemployment sits at 15% and this doesn't even consider the thousands of young people who are fleeing the country in search of jobs and a brighter future. And then there is the devastation of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church that has decimated the Church hierarchy, finding it grossly lacking in transparency and seriously wanting in the integrity they preached but did not practice. For many, in their lament, they yearn for a return to the prosperity of an Ireland that only a few years ago, and for the decade before that, saw it languishing in the land of milk and honey. Ireland was rich and prosperous – a country of four, rather than three leaf clovers!

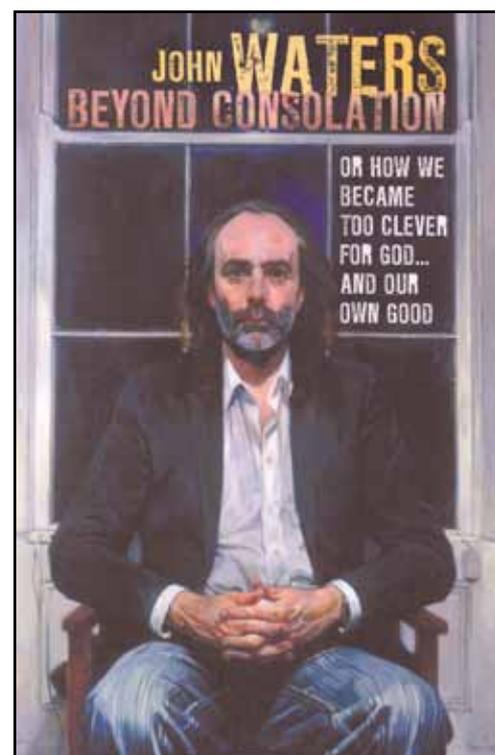
I took some time, after I finished my work with our schools, to visit a friend at the renowned Glenstal Abbey – home to some forty Benedictine monks and an Abbey school. In conversation with some of the monks I was enlivened and challenged by their reflections on the state of Ireland and the hopes for the future. "I'm not sure," one remarked, "that I want Ireland to return to what it was like before the recession. The Church troubles, which require much more soul-searching, and thinking, have been overtaken by the political ones. It has been a huge failure in national ethics, a drive for wealth and pleasure with no thought of paying. We don't want to return to an Ireland like that!" Our conversations led me to a recently released book by a controversial journalist of the Irish Times, John Waters. Titled, *Beyond Consolation: or how we became too clever for God . . . and our own good*, it is an incisive, even forensic reflection on Irish culture and how prosperity has ruined a nation. I read the entire book on my return flight and came to the conclusion that, if not for our own more rapid recovery from recession, Waters could be writing about Australia.

We are so prosperous, so clever, so savvy, so self-assured that we now glory in the self-destructive belief that dismissing the infinite and the eternal (God, as we might call it) is evidence of a growing intelligence. When we have material things in abundance we don't need God. When we have power and security and a belief that all is right and sure in the world there is no need for believing in a transcendent creator from whom all things come and to whom all things go. Waters reminds us that "beating within us, our hearts bear witness, second by second, to the idea that there is hope beyond the hope we can rummage through, the flimsy hopes of the marketplace that draw us to themselves and then dissolve in our hands, before our eyes. If this is all there is then why do we continue? The wonder in our hearts knows that there is more than what we see and hear and touch and taste." (p.212)

That's why Marcellin College puts so much emphasis on faith development and on the development of our boys' characters so as to form, in the words of our Founder St Marcellin, "good Christians and good citizens." We must not be fooled into believing that all that matters are material things, and that wealth, and power, and might, will be our security, and even our surety. We came from God, and we will return to God. The same God who dwells with and among us NOW. That's why we so frequently remind our boys of the importance of respecting one another. Not because respect will earn me respect back – as good as this may be – but because respect is all we can do for one another because we are made in the image and likeness of God. Yes, you and me, living images of the God who so loved the world that he sent his only son to redeem us. As we commence this new Church season of Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas, we do well to remember that on Christmas day we celebrate the birth of Jesus - Emmanuel - the God who is with us, NOW!

With best wishes

Br David Hall, FMS
Headmaster



FROM THE HEADMASTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!



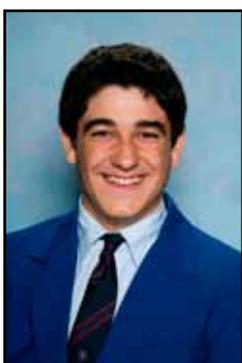
Matthew Sharah
Year 12

Major HSC Art work has been nominated for possible inclusion in Art Express



Anthony Chovan, Year 9
Highest Points and MVP
U16 in the JAM Basketball

Congratulations to the following students who have made an outstanding contribution to Marcellin Music during 2010:
Liam Petersen,
Matthew Waller, Brendan O'Sullivan, Joshua Romeo, Matthew Kelly, Andre Brimo and Will Joannides.



Jack De Lacy Year 10, John Murdaca Year 11, and Mitchell Judge Year 12 received the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork award



Year 8 students who received awards for Marcellin Music 2010: Dean Moutopoulos - Junior Performance Excellence; Alexander Kennedy - Junior Consistent Effort, and Linus Gibson - Junior Outstanding Musicianship



Alexander Hall, Year 9
Highest Rebounder U16
in the JAM Basketball

Corey Jones, Year 9
Highest Assists U16
in the JAM Basketball

Ryan Graul
Year 11
Brother Vales Shield for
Marcellin Music 2010

Jason Cutugno
Year 11
Senior Consistent Effort
award for Marcellin
Music 2010

Oscar Sharah
Year 10
Senior Performance
Excellence award for
Marcellin Music 2010

Matthew Tan
Year 10
Senior Outstanding
Musicianship award for
Marcellin Music 2010

TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 1st December | • Farewell for Mrs Jan Maroon and Thank you Parent Helpers Function 5 pm to 7 pm. |
| Thursday 9th December | • Year 11 Speech Day. |
| Monday 13th December | • Walkathon Reward Day. |
| Tuesday 14th December | • Parent Teacher Feedback Day 1 pm to 6 pm. |
| Friday 17th December | • College closes. |

STUDENT VALIDATION FORMS

We have now posted the student validation forms to all parents in Years 7-11. We apologise to those parents who may have received multiple copies but this matter was beyond our control. It is very important that you make the necessary changes with regard to the administration page but more importantly you need to indicate how many children you have in Catholic schools so that the correct fee billing will occur in 2011. Please ensure that you either post back or send both of the data validation forms in with your son to the front office whether there are changes or not.

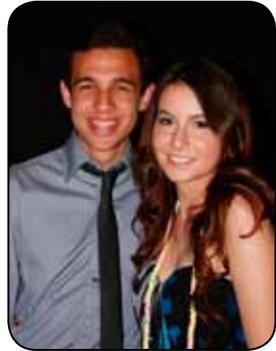
NOTICES AND NEWS

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS - MY SCHOOL WEBSITE AND CATHOLIC SYSTEMIC SCHOOLS

In 2009 each Australian school's NAPLAN data was loaded onto the My School website. This year, each school's financial data will also be placed on the site. The figures which will be on the website will represent the funding that each school receives. Funding will vary from school to school. For full details please refer to the letter on the College website News page entitled 'Communication to Parents'.

YEAR 10 FORMAL

On 17th November Year 10 held their annual semi-formal at the Round House at NSW University. It was a memorable night with 230 guests attending. The boys displayed gentlemanly behaviour by introducing their dates to many of the staff who attended. Their behaviour was impeccable and they had a fantastic time. *Mr Jacob Gibbons, Year 10 Coordinator*



CSIRO CREST AWARD

This year, Liam Petersen and I participated in the CSIRO Creativity in Science and Technology (CREST) award. Having completed our Bronze award last year, we began our Silver award which requires a minimum of thirty hours work. Over three months we attended workshops at St Mary's Cathedral where we were mentored by teachers and networked with other like-minded students. My project focussed on the effect of liquids on sporting performance in which I analysed trends in fitness after ingestion of popular sport drinks. Liam's project was analysing the effectiveness of various lubricants inside a bicycle hub. A number of greases and household lubricants were applied to the bicycle and compared in relation to the most effective at reducing friction. The workshops were a fun and challenging experience which both Liam and I encourage other students to participate in. *Matthew Waller, Year 9 Student*

APPEALS

The Social Justice Captain Daniel Naidu and his Committee are organising two very worthwhile appeals at the moment. *The Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal* - Each year the boys maintain a great Marcellin tradition by filling around thirty hampers for St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Care. They are sent to families who find it difficult to afford the things many of us take for granted during the festive period. Your support in the past has been nothing short of amazing and I'm sure we can match that again this year. All items are collected during morning home room.

Sustainable Seafood - Taronga Park Zoo is seeking the College's assistance in raising awareness of the depletion of the ocean's fish stocks and the loss of biodiversity. As part of an initiative called Sustainable Seafood they plan to build a giant fish out of old DVDs and CDs to display at the zoo next year. If you have any lying around at home or work which are of no further use it would be great if your son could bring them in to school and drop them off at the office or the Marist Centre (with the hamper items) during administration period. If the College collects 1000 the Zoo will come and give a free live presentation. *Mr Paul Leary, Social Justice Coordinator*

MUSIC CONCERT

On Friday 19th November Marcellin held its much anticipated End of Year Concert showcasing the wonderful talents of the students in the Music Department. Year 7 and 8 classes performed two of Rod Zietsch's renowned compositions using only percussion instruments and the infamous Boomwhackers. There were many marvellous performances from the ensembles including the Guitar, Strings, Vocal, Clarinet and Saxophone groups. Year 9, 10 and 11 elective classes rocked the house down with hits from artists like Wolfmother, Men at Work and Coconut Records. The high class talent and skill of these students was highlighted throughout the evening. Stage Band, Concert Band and Piano Duos performed exceptionally well on the night. A huge thank you to all students, tutors and teachers for their consistent efforts in rehearsals during the semester that made the night such a success. *Curtis Judge and William Joannides, Year 9 Music Students*



NEWS AND SPORT

Week 7 of Term 4 was the week a highly successful representative sports year came to an end at Marcellin College Randwick. After reigning supreme in both a great Summer season and Winter season, the boys have again put themselves in a good position to take out many trophies in the 2010-2011 summer competitions. Results have continued to go our way over the last few weeks with most teams performing very well. Those teams that have had set backs have learnt valuable lessons for the coming rounds. I congratulate all of the boys on their efforts so far, but remind them that there is a lot of hard work to go before we can become too confident about taking out the premierships.

I encourage all of the boys to enjoy the break from sport, but not to lose focus of the bigger picture that awaits them early next year in the closing rounds of the competition. I am proud to say that Marcellin has again excelled.

Two of the boys, Harry Bartlett (Yr 9) and Jake Scott (Yr 10), attended the Southside Surfing competition at Maroubra Beach on 17th November. As always, the boys competed with vigour, and through some excellent surfing were able to come out on top, winning the Opens team title. This is an excellent outcome, considering that this is an All Schools competition where the boys competed against much older boys. Individually, Jake took out 2nd place in the Opens, and Harry finished in an excellent 5th in the Juniors. A big thank you to these two boys for their efforts.



Jake Scott

Harry Bartlett

MCC SUMMER SEASON - ROUND 5

Basketball	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown
	Result	W: 30-28	L: 33-35	W: 59-12	W: 39-9
	Player of Match	Michael Hallam	Anthony Chovan	Joshua Wilson	Luke Dever

Squash	Opposition	Results
	Bankstown	W: 1130 to 519
	Player of Match	Michael Simeone

Cricket	Team	A Grade	Under 16s	Under 14s
	Opposition	BYE	BYE	Bankstown
	Result			W: 1/128 to 10/27
	Player of Match			Ryan Danne



Touch Football	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown
	Result	W: 12-3	W: 11-1	W: 8-4	W: 7-0
	Player of Match	Brayden Sorge	Fergus Whitney	Patrick Dunn	Nat Butcher



Mr Ben Gardiner, Acting Sports Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

Parents of Senior Students Symposium - An information night for parents of Year 11 and 12 students will be held on Tuesday 8th February 2011 at 7pm. This is an opportunity to obtain information concerning the HSC and Preliminary Courses, Assessment, HSC Exams, ATAR and a healthy study/life balance. The evening is designed for parents only and will complement sessions run on the same day for students in Year 11 and 12, as well as the Senior Pastoral Care Program. A letter will be sent to all parents of students in Year 11 and 12 at the start of the 2011 school year which will invite parents to have questions which they would like addressed covered on the night.

Uniform shop: Please come to the uniform shop to buy your blazers before Christmas. For special sizes orders must be placed before mid December. Open Tuesday 8am-11.15am, Thursday 8am-1pm and Saturday December 11th 8am-1pm.