From the Headmaster

It was fascinating to watch it play out over the past year. He was a very old man and his illness had resulted in increasingly long bouts of hospitalisation. A scenario like this for a 95 year old man usually means that death is inevitable, perhaps even desirable. No-one can go on forever. But Nelson Mandela was so loved and so revered by his people that they couldn’t let go. I wonder too, if there wasn’t something else at play.

Perhaps it’s a bit like the story of Jesus, that tricky moment between the resurrection and the ascension. He was still around, but in a different way, but they didn’t want him to go, as inevitable as it all was. They didn’t want him to go because they loved him, but there was another deeply human motivation at play – if he was gone they had responsibility for the mission, not him. They would have to assume a responsibility for things in a much more significant and challenging way.

Nelson Mandela had done his work. He had served as President and brought a more definitive end to the vestiges of apartheid and achieved this peacefully, never condoning violence. After he finished his time in formal leadership, he remained among his people in a new way, and now he is gone. Even though, for years now, many people have advanced the cause he championed, his passing means that they must assume a new responsibility. Greater. Higher. More demanding. The cause now rests on their shoulders.

This was my message to our Year 10 boys as they move from junior to senior schooling. They take on responsibility in a new way. It will similarly be the case for our new Year 7 boys next year. Growth is all about continually assuming new levels of responsibility and this is pivotal to the development of character. It is near impossible to develop character without developing a heightened sense of responsibility. The North American novelist, Joan Didion, whose writings in the 1960s and 70s grappled with a world less interested in communitarian values and more interested in the rights of individuals, summarised the interconnectedness of responsibility and character quite succinctly:

“Character — the willingness to accept responsibility for one’s own life — is the source from which self-respect springs.”

Another North American author, Anaïs Nin, who championed the cause of feminism, reminds us not to be fatalistic about character, and that if we are prepared to take responsibility for our life then we can indeed change, even reshape our character:

“What we call our destiny is truly our character and that character can be altered. The knowledge that we are responsible for our actions and attitudes does not need to be discouraging, because it also means that we are free to change this destiny. One is not in bondage to the past. All this can be altered if we have the courage to examine how it formed us. We can alter the chemistry provided we have the courage to dissect the elements.”

Anaïs Nin is calling us to growth; identifying that if we want to, we can change who we have become. She is suggesting that there can be, perhaps even should be, times in our life when we examine what we have become and make decisions about who we want to be into the future. This time leading into Christmas, Advent, is such a time. It is a time to ask ourselves how prepared our hearts are to welcome, yet again – for another year, Jesus into our world. And Jesus can only be present in our world if we are his hands, his voice, his acts of love, for others.

God was born into this world through the generous response of an ordinary Jewish woman, in a remote village, in a tiny country. Mary, the mother Jesus, took responsibility for her own life, made a courageous decision to change it dramatically and the rest is history. God comes into the world through the lives of
From the Deputy Headmaster

I would like to wish the families of Marcellin College a very Merry Christmas, a lovely New Year and a restful break. Remember to look after one another during this time and I look forward to an exciting 2014.

Recommendations for Boys  By Ian Lillico

From the very earliest of ages parents must not let boys opt out of family gatherings. Girls are given the chores of helping to serve food and interact with relatives and friends - and so improve their verbal communication and collaborative skills. Boys (who are often noisy) are often left to play in a non-verbal manner on the floor or outside and, consequently, don’t develop the same verbal literacy as girls. They are starting school up to 18 months behind girls academically and often don’t catch up until into their late teens. http://www.boysforward.com.au/

Have an enjoyable holiday.

Mr Peter Buxton - Deputy Headmaster

Parent Teacher Evening Format in 2014

In 2014 the College will introduce changes to the current parent teacher evening format. In discussions with parents and teachers during this year it has become apparent that there are some adjustments to our practice that could improve the dialogue between parents and teachers. The College values communication between the school and home as being a critical factor in the development of your son. As such, we are always reviewing our practices to ensure we maximise his learning opportunities.

In 2014, the College will continue to offer two opportunities for parents to meet with your son’s teachers. It has been decided that instead of separate evenings for one or two year groups, we will offer two half day/evenings for Years 7-11 combined, on two separate days. These days will be a week apart between the hours of 12:30pm- 8.00pm. This change is aimed at reducing the number of times parents need to meet with teachers, particularly those parents with more than one student at the school. Year 12 will continue to have their own parent teacher evening in line with the program timeline of their studies.

The current system of booking interviews will also change. Parents will be able to follow a link on our website and login to a parent portal where you will be able to book interview times online. When you have booked your interview online your son’s report will be posted to you. Posting the reports in advance will give parents the opportunity to digest the contents of the report prior to the parent teacher interview, and hopefully assure a more informed dialogue with the teacher in relation to your son’s progress. It is compulsory that boys attend the interview with their parent/s.

These changes to the parent teacher interviews seek not only an efficient process for all, but more importantly a more fulsome conversation about your son’s progress and development. Should you wish to clarify any matters related to the parent teacher interviews for 2014 please contact your son’s Year Coordinator. I thank you for your support of the College as we continue to look at ways to improve the teaching and learning opportunities we offer your son.

ordinary people, in ordinary places, who simply live lives of love, focused on the good of ‘the other’.

This Christmas, God’s chance to be born into this part of the world, depends on us. It is worth asking ourselves: “What is it I need to change to allow this to happen?”

With my best wishes.

Br David Hall FMS  
HEADMASTER

1 http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/238.Joan_Didion
Thank you for your overwhelming response of gifts to this appeal!

Christmas Appeal 2013

Thank you!

This year’s St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal has been an outstanding success, with Marcellin College families generously donating items for our hamper and present baskets.

Donations can be left at the College Front Office until Tuesday, 17 December.

Above: A small portion of the generous donations from Marcellin College students and families for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal were presented at the College Christmas Mass on Friday, 13 December.

College Christmas Mass

The College Christmas Mass was held today, Friday 13 December in the Marist Centre. Celebrated by Father Doug, the Mass was a joyful and spiritual way to conclude the school year. As part of the offertory procession, students carried baskets of donated items collected for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. The boys answered the call of the Appeal “to do something about it”. Their actions now mean many small children will wake up on Christmas Day with a present under the tree. Br David concluded the Mass with the challenge Christmas should be about “us” and not just about the individual.
Monday, 16 December: Years 7, 8 & 9 Picnic Day

Years 7, 8 & 9 have a Picnic Day organised for Monday, 16 December. Parents should have received separate correspondence about this. In the case of inclement weather, parents are to check the College website on Monday morning. If the weather is unsuitable for this planned activity then the day will be cancelled, and students are granted a school free day. If the weather is suitable the day will proceed – attendance is compulsory and usual procedures and penalties will apply for anyone absent. This is the last day of school for 2013 for boys in Yrs 7, 8 & 9.

Wednesday, 18 December: Years 7-10 Parent Feedback Meetings with Subject Teachers

I invite you to make appointments with your son’s subject teachers to discuss his progress throughout this year on Wednesday, 18 December between 1.00pm - 6.00pm. This day provides a valuable opportunity for dialogue between parents and teachers. Boys should also attend this interview with their parents (school uniform is not required). The meetings will occur in the Marist Centre and the format of the afternoon will be as follows:

1.00pm - 3.30pm: Interviews by appointment only
3.30pm - 5.00pm: ‘Drop in’ meeting time, no appointment necessary
5.00pm - 6.00pm: Interviews by appointment only

Appointments should be made by emailing teachers directly and will be of 10 minutes duration each. (To contact a staff member, please use the formula: first name.surname @syd.catholic.edu.au or refer to the Contacts page on the College website.) For this day to run successfully it is important that no interview runs beyond the 10 minutes allocated. Semester Two Student Reports will also be available for collection at this time prior to the meetings. Reports not collected on the day will be mailed home.

2014

Wednesday, 29 January: Year 7 commence – meeting at Marcellin Fields, Heffron Park

Thursday, 30 January: Years 8 - 12 commence. There will be NO SPORT on this day. Students are to wear full College summer uniform. Normal sport training and games will resume in Week 2.

Friday, 31 January: College Swimming Carnival. All students are to assemble at Heffron Park (grass area adjacent to car park) at 8:30 am for roll call in full College sports uniform. Boys are to wear sports uniform or House colours.
Textbooks 2014

The College in 2014 is moving to a Booklist for Years 7-10. All textbooks required by students in Years 7-10 will be purchased by parents. A Booklist will be issued before the end of this year outlining the texts required. Ordering can be done online through Campion Booksellers via their website www.campion.com.au. There is also a facility to order over the phone. Alternatively, booklists can be submitted to the College Front office until Wednesday, 18 December. Campion is offering the texts at 15% off recommended retail price, and the books will then be delivered to the College early in Week 2 next year.

Where possible each book will have an electronic component. This will enable boys to better manage the load of their school bag. For example, the hard copy text can be left in their locker and they can use the electronic copy on their laptop at home. As we move towards the implementation of the National Curriculum, it is vitally important that all boys have the correct editions of the textbooks nominated, and this is guaranteed through our arrangement with Campion. This also brings the College in line with common practice for textbook purchases in our neighbouring Eastern Region schools, as well as aligning with the College procedure for textbook purchases in Years 11 and 12.

In the light of this change, where parents and not the College will be purchasing texts, the College is considering a downward adjustment of School Fees to reflect the transferral of costs to parents. Ordering must take place by mid-December to ensure delivery early next year.

Mr Chris Shields
Director of Teaching and M-Learning

Uniform Shop Opening Hours in January 2014

The Uniform Shop will reopen on Saturday, 18 January 2014.

Saturday, 18 January 8.00am - 12.00pm
Tuesday, 21 January 8.30am - 1.00pm
Wednesday, 22 January 8.30am - 3.00pm
Thursday, 23 January 8.30am - 3.00pm
Friday, 24 January 8.30am - 3.00pm
Tuesday, 28 January 8.30am - 12.00pm

School Fees

A reminder that all outstanding school fees should have been paid in full by now. Families may continue to pay by BPAY or direct deposit during the holiday period. Please contact the Bursar or Business Manager on 9398 6355 to discuss any payment issues.
Year 11 and Yoko Ono - War is Over

The Year 11 Visual Art excursion to the Museum of Contemporary Art on Monday, 2 December was captivating and thought-provoking.

Peace activist and artist Yoko Ono’s exhibition War is Over included an array of artworks which conveyed political messages and encouraged audience participation. The exhibition displayed a diverse series of works, which included drawings, sculptures, installations and performance art. A notable example was Play it by Trust, which was a series of chess games with all-white pieces. In participating, we understood Ono’s message: that players are all on the same side. Other intriguing participatory works were My Mommy is Beautiful, inviting visitors to pin a message about their mothers on a wall, the hands-on activities of mending and arranging broken crockery, and stamping world maps with peace stamps.

After visiting Ono’s exhibition, we viewed the permanent works in the gallery, which were inspiring in their diversity and originality.

Nicholas Roper (11.4)

Music Camp 2013

The Music Department along with 45 students travelled down to the Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong, for their annual Marcellin Music Camp. Positions were offered to students who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the Marcellin Music community through their performance commitment at college events and in the ensemble program.

Students were involved in a number of rehearsals each day as well as tutorials, workshops and combined sessions. When the college musicians were not involved in a timetabled session they were be able to participate in a variety of supervised sports, as well as rehearse for the Marcellin Music Variety Night.

The Music Department would like to thank all boys who were involved in this event. A special thanks to Ms Jo Thompson, Mr James O’Shea, Mr Jay Miller, Mr Chris Cumine, Ms Merei Bellinger, Ms Elizabeth Cooney and Mr Lee Webb for their invaluable contribution during our 3 day event.

Mr Bill Kostovski
Music Coordinator
The Newman Stream Symposium

On the evening of Friday 22 November, The Marcellin College Newman Stream Symposium was held showcasing the enrichment programs of students in 7.1 and 8.1 over the course of 2013. Invited guests included Dr Dan White Executive Director of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Dr Katherine Hoekman Director of the Eileen O’Connor Centre, Mrs Cathy Young, Head of Gifted Education Catholic Education Office Sydney, advisers from Eastern Region Catholic Education Office, parents, staff and students of the Marcellin College Community.

2013 saw the expansion of the Newman Stream Research and Development Project to Year 8 and a new intake of students into the Newman Stream in Year 7. Due to the success of the Newman Steam Project in 2012; the logical step was to further support the students in a variety of enrichment experiences in Year 8 across all Key Learning Areas.

The Newman Stream Symposium provided students and staff the opportunity to showcase the many and varied projects they have undertaken to enrich the learning experiences of our boys. From the creative film making in 8.1 English to the PE enrichment lessons and Year 8 Down Force Racers project it is clear the boys are not only participating in an enriched curriculum but are enjoying what they are doing.

The feedback we received reflected the outstanding work of our staff and students in the Newman Stream Project. Below are excerpts from a letter we received from Dr Katherine Hoekman.

“I thought long and hard about a title for the blog post that would do justice not only to the remarkable content of the presentations from the boys, but would also capture the remarkably bold and innovative way that the boys were engaged in the co-ordination of the evening and evaluation of the learning opportunities provided. It does take confidence—a great deal of courage—to engage in this process, but I think you demonstrated that the professional learning that results and the tremendous benefits for the match between the learning experiences and the students’ needs far outweighs any risk involved in encouraging full and frank dialogues about learning.

While obviously giving it their very frank, earnest and honest appraisal, I felt it was important to emphasise that the Marcellin students voiced their support for the approach taken through the school wide commitment to the Newman Secondary Project when they spoke at the symposium.

As I noted in the blog, even the thunder, lightning bolts and soggy weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of your students from Year 7 and Year 8 as they gathered to celebrate the learning opportunities afforded by the Newman Program with their proud parents and dedicated teachers. Their enjoyment, enthusiasm and delight (as well as sheer gusto!) on the night mirrored your rigorous commitment as the Newman Coordinators and your assistant Amanda Conde.”

Many thanks to my assistant Ms Amanda Conde and the College Executive, staff and students for embracing the Newman Stream Research and Development Project throughout 2013.

Ms Jenny Dove
Diverse Learning Needs Coordinator

Christmas at Holy Family Church Maroubra

Christmas Carols with Cardinal George Pell:
Sunday, 15 December - 7.30pm

Additional Reconciliation Times:
2nd Rite: Friday, 20 December - 11.30am, 7.30pm

Mass Times:
Children’s Christmas Mass:
Tuesday, 24 December - 5.30pm

Midnight Mass:
11.30 Carols, followed by Midnight Mass @ Midnight

Christmas Day:
8.00am, 9.30am, No 6.00pm Mass
From the Sportsmaster

WATER POLO

This term saw two teams again enter the ESSB Water Polo Competition under the ‘Marcellin’ banner. The senior team qualified for the semi finals but unfortunately lost to Reddam House. This team included James Wrigley, Caleb O’Brien, Nathan Ottaviano, Dominic Trupke, Jackson White, Daniel Jewiss, Rory McGuiness, Matthew Kelly, Jake Melis and Daniel Ivancic. Unfortunately injuries to James Hayes and Miguel Vila saw them on the sideline this term. All the boys played extremely well and are keen to return to the pool next term.

We fielded a very strong junior side (coached by Year 12 James Wrigley) who have proven their worth by winning 6 out of 7 games this term to qualify for the grand final. The junior team consists of Phillip Trupke, Cormac Guthrie, Nick Pavlakis, Daniel Vila, Andrew Casey, Sean Hayes, Jack McDonald, Thomas Maljevac, John Licitra and Ben Wrigley (current Year 6 student). While being the least experienced team in the competition, they proved to be one of the strongest and naturally talented. The final was played against Reddam House, who were undefeated this season. Unfortunately for our boys, their unbeaten run continued. In a terrific match where scoring alternated regularly, Reddam House snuck home 8-7 victors. In a very tight match, the Marcellin boys played very well.

All boys in both teams should be proud of their results this season. Well done to James Wrigley for his efforts in coaching the junior team to the grand final.

If students are interested in playing Water Polo in Term 1 2014, please see James Wrigley or myself.

CRICKET

DOWNIE TROPHY (Round 3) - Our senior cricketers recently won their third round match of the Downie Trophy competition in convincing fashion. Marcellin scored 7/283 to Patrician Brothers Fairfield 10/39. Man of the match was Ryan Danne scoring 85 runs and taking a hat-trick finishing with figures of 3/6. Nicholas Tsoukalas also played very well scoring 78 runs which included him scoring 34 runs off one over.

DOWNIE TROPHY (Round 4) - This was a hard fought game against St Dominic’s Penrith. Marcellin won the toss and elected to bat, with Ankit Patel hitting the very first ball of the day for six. Nicholas Tsoukalas batted very well, top scoring with 33 and Tom McCusker scored a very valuable 32 not out, steering us to a total score of 9/167 off 50 overs.

Jaya Murdita and Declan White opened with a very tight spell of bowling. This was backed up with some very good bowling from Ryan Danne, Tom Chichester, Cooper Smith, Ashley Burton and Ankit Patel who all applied pressure with the ball. St Dominic’s, needing 69 runs off 14 overs with 6 wickets in hand, crumbled after the drinks break. Marcellin took the remaining six wickets for 32 runs with Declan White taking the bowling honours with 2/12 off 8 overs.

It was a great game of cricket with our boys showing some fantastic batting, bowling and fielding. The fielding was a real highlight, with two very good run outs from Tom Chichester and Tom McCusker, and a great catch from Declan White. It was a fantastic win that qualifies the team for the quarter finals next year. Well done boys!

Have a safe and enjoyable break with your families.

Mr Luke MacNamara
Sportsmaster