



MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

Number 5 20 March 2013

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of Marcellin,

Reflecting on last year, in an effort to use it as a catalyst for growth into 2013, I needed to look no further back than our Year 12 Group of 2012. The College's HSC results at the high end were, as we have come to expect, strong. Our top ATAR was 99.25, 17 students achieved an ATAR of 90 or better, and 43 students achieved a 'Band 6' (a score of 90 or above) in one or more subject. These efforts, clearly, worthy of celebration. The cohort, however, were not without their challenges. I quote from their coordinator, Mr Paul Daley's Graduation newsletter article of October 2012, ". . . the Class of 2012 had a high proportion of students who struggled through their school life and carried burdens far too heavy for someone of their age. The [graduation] day for me was as much a celebration of resilience and resolve as it was achievement . . ."

Upon reflection one of the most significant achievements of the group centred on this search for resilience. Thirty students from the group were identified as being candidates for targeted study intervention. Most of these boys were those referred to in Mr Daley's words above, boys indeed in real danger of falling through the cracks, or going unnoticed in our efforts to challenge those at the top end. Following the efforts of teaching staff in supervising extra tuition sessions, tailoring study routines, and providing structure where structure may not have existed, the 30 boys completed 130 HSC courses and achieved a 'Band 4' or better in 65 of these courses. In fact 13 of the students achieved a 'Band 5' or 'Band 6' result. I feel that in just about every case, an improvement of at least one band was attained. This was an outstanding result, and true testimony to not only their 'resilience and resolve' but to the dedication of the College's teaching staff.

As we move into 2013, our staff and students are involved in many Teaching and Learning initiatives in the spirit of maintaining one of our key M-Learning tenets, 'Active Learning that is ICT rich'.

The Newman Stream project continues this year. This research project, funded by the Sydney Catholic Education Office (CEO) targets academically capable students in Years 7 and 8. The project is seen as not only benefitting our students in this category, but also their staff, who receive directed professional development in delivering their enriched content. As a consequence of this, and through Faculty guidance, this expertise is shared with other staff, helping to sharpen and improve the teaching practice within the entire College.

Our Year 9 Religious Education (RE) Program continues to thrive. The project, which we piloted last year, continues to create more opportunities for reflection and prayer, leading to a positive shift in the boys' appreciation and understanding of the place that Religious Education has in their lives. The plan is to explore ways of extending this model for RE teaching to other year groups. Enrichment programs continue in English and Mathematics in



Years 9 and 10. The English students are currently working on the third edition on the M-Power electronic magazine. The first two issues have proven to be outstanding successes, and this project is a wonderful example of harnessing the talents of our elite students to create collaborative opportunities for all of the student body.

Our Literacy & Special Needs initiatives maintain a high profile within the College. Our targeted program for supporting HSC courses on Thursday afternoons has been extremely well accepted by the students, and focus groups in Years 7 and 8 continue to be a priority into 2013. Teaching staff regularly meet, with Literacy as the main emphasis, in order to explore various classroom strategies so as to engage the boys in this area.

We have just begun the second year in which all students of the College carry with them a laptop computer. The devices not only creating opportunities for enriching their own construction of knowledge through the use of educational software and internet facilities, but also providing them with in-house resources, such as past paper exams, assessment tasks, solutions and electronic feedback made possible by the various Key Learning Areas (KLAs).

Our M-Learning platform is constantly evolving. As well as providing the features mentioned above, it supports the entire infrastructure of the College's curriculum. This year, with the support of the CEO, this system has been supplemented with the 'Google CloudShare' project. As well as providing the base for the College's email system, it provides staff and students with access to a multitude of educational applications designed to enhance the already enriched teaching and learning environment.

We currently have a number of staff exploring the benefits of video conferencing (VC), both as a classroom tool and as a facility to deliver professional development. This technology allows both staff and students to connect with groups in a manner not before possible. Indeed a member of staff will be showcasing a VC project to an Archdiocesan audience in the not too distant future, testament to the innovative practice that teachers are undertaking within the College.

This year we will also concentrate on developing more collaborative environments, enhancing feedback opportunities and seeking introspection and growth through more evaluation.

As these initiatives unfold, we, as a College community, staff, students and families alike, are extremely fortunate to have a teaching group of immense goodwill, dedication and indeed a resolve of their own. A group willing to celebrate the student who achieved a 'Band 4', as much as any of the 'Band 6' results. A group whose sole aim is to enable our students to achieve their optimum results. In order to accomplish this, we continue to celebrate the support and trust of our parent body, a partnership forged out of the pursuit of 'resolve and resilience'.

Mr Christopher Shields,
Director of Teaching and M-Learning



FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER

“The Little Things Matter”

I am absolutely convinced that in life, the little things really matter. When the little things are attended to well, the bigger things often fall into place. I have been insisting that all students have their top buttons done up and shirts tucked in before, during and after school. A little thing, yes, but what a huge difference it makes to the high standard and superior appearance of our students. Spending an extra 10 minutes revising after completing homework each night may seem insignificant on its own, but when completed 5 nights a week each term, the 10 minutes accounts for a little over 33 hours of revision. The small “Yes please” at the canteen or “thank you Miss” at the end of a lesson goes such a long way in the eyes of adults as too does a kiss goodnight at home before bed. I challenge the boys at Marcellin to attend to the little things well in order to reach for greater heights.

A thought from Boys Education expert Andrew Fuller

Handy Hints for Improving Learning

No. 5 How much sleep does my child need to succeed at school?

A good night’s sleep (at least 8 hours) is essential for optimal brain functioning at school. Memory consolidation occurs during sleep especially during dream (or REM) sleep. During the normal 8-9 hours of sleep, five dream (REM) cycles occur. Adolescents getting only 5-6 hours of sleep lose out on the last two REM cycles and thereby reduce the amount of time the brain has to consolidate information. Teenagers need as much sleep as children, partly because their brains are doing so much development.

Always remember there is no such thing as a sleep bank. So just because you slept 10 hours one night doesn’t mean you can get away with only sleeping six hours the next night. Students who don’t get enough sleep have to work much harder to do well at school. From “Help Your Child Succeed at School” by Andrew Fuller www.andrewfuller.com.au

Mr Peter Buxton
Deputy Headmaster

TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

- Thursday 21 March MCC Swimming Carnival
- Friday 29 March Good Friday (Public Holiday)
- Monday 1 April Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
- Friday 12 April ANZAC Day Ceremony
- Friday 12 April Last Day of Term

TERM 2 CALENDAR EVENTS

- Monday 29 April Term 2 commences 8.40am

WINTER UNIFORM

All boys in Years 7-12 are to be fully attired in Winter uniform from Day 1 Term 2. Blazers are a compulsory item from this date so please ensure all blazers are marked with your son’s name for easy identification. Please purchase Junior Blazers early to ensure correct size and avoid queues.

SCHOOL FEES

The first Term’s school fees were sent out in early February with a payment date of 4 March. It appears that due to a glitch in the emailing process some accounts may not have been received. If you have not received your account please advise the front office and we will mail one out to you.

OLD BOYS REUNION

- Saturday 24 August 2013
- Mass at the College at 11am, Lunch at Coogee Surf Club at 12.30pm
- Tickets available through the College Office
- Contact: (02) 9398 6355, email Mrs Sharon Elliot: sharon.elliott@syd.catholic.edu.au

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UNIFORM SHOP

- Reduced - Original Style Tracksuit
- Limited Stock - Years 8-12 only
- Jacket \$50
- Pants \$40

2012 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Copies of the 2012 school magazine are now available. All families should have received a copy. Boys from Year 12 2012 can come up to the school to receive their copy.



Celebrating 90 Years

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK
ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

DATE: **Friday 17 May 2013**
TIME: **6:30pm**
VENUE: **Marcellin College**
195 Alison Road, Marist Centre
COST: **\$100**
DRESS: **Lounge Suit**

Tickets on sale now - numbers are strictly limited!

TABLES OF 10 MAY BE PURCHASED

For further information call (02) 9398 6355.



Headmaster's Assembly

MAYOR TONY BOWEN - SERVICE TO CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Last Friday 15 March the College held a special Headmaster's Assembly – 'Service to Church & Society'. Mr Tony Bowen, Mayor of Randwick was the special guest and addressed the Assembly. He spoke of his experience of service in public life and encouraged the boys to consider how they can make a positive contribution to society when they graduate from the College. Br David challenged the boys to be good Christians and good citizens just as Marcellin Champagnat spoke of with the early Brothers. By being a good Christian, Br David emphasised that we are bringing about the betterment of society through service. He also highlighted an array of Old Boys who have served in Church life, state and federal parliaments, the judiciary and government bureaucracy.



Back row: Mr Ian Laing, Mr Paul Daley, Mr Brian Vane-Tempest, Mr Damian Chase and Mr Luke MacNamara
Front row: Ms Alanna McGee, Mayor Tony Bowen, Br David Hall, Miss Rachel Thompson, Mr Peter Buxton and Mr Chris Shields



Duke of Edinburgh award recipients Daniel Ivancic (Silver), Daniel Jewiss (Silver), and Rory McGuinness (Bronze)



Musicians from left to right: Michael Jenkins, Andrew Lambrou, Simon Cusack and Alex Walker

Headmaster's Assembly

MAYOR TONY BOWEN - SERVICE TO CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Assembly also included the presentation of Science Awards, a Lenten Appeal update, excellent musical performances and a procession of the MCC Summer season premiership trophies with the captain and their coach. It was another terrific celebration of all that is wonderful about the MCR community.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest
Director of Development & Communications



STANSW Young Scientist 2012 award recipients: Cameron Wells, Shaun Buckton, Byron Poidevin-Albert, Caleb O'Brien, Linus Gibson and Alex Rana



Br David with Thomas Pantle

The National Youth Science Forum offers Year 11 students a unique opportunity to test-drive careers in Science, Engineering and related disciplines. In January this year, Thomas Pantle was a participant in the National Youth Science Forum. Thomas demonstrated an outstanding interest in Science and Technology, and is possibly considering a career in the field of Science, this was a fantastic opportunity for him to experience.

Miss Rachel Thompson
Science Coordinator



MCC Sports Premiership Team captains and coaches with their awards

GOODJARGA WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday 6 March eleven Indigenous students from Years 7–10 attended the Goodjarga Regional Workshop organised by Catholic Schools Performing Arts Sydney (CASPA). The program provides a unique opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to explore, develop and celebrate the spirit of their story through Dance, Drama and Music. Facilitated by ATSI choreographers, actors and vocalists, this cultural immersion provided the boys with the opportunity to develop their artistic skills, participate in a variety of performance opportunities and develop a deeper understanding of their culture.

The Eastern Region Workshop was held at the Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern. In all, 140 students were involved in the program. The organisers were highly complementary of the attitude, behaviour and participation of all who attended. The Marcellin students were extremely positive in their feedback on all aspects of the day but particularly the opportunity to meet and interact with other Indigenous students from across the region. They were all looking forward to the next workshop in Term 2.

Mr Paul Leary,
Transitions Coordinator

YEAR 11 SCIENCE EXCURSION

On 12 March, both Year 11 Biology classes and the Senior Science class visited Bantry Bay in Frenchs Forest. We undertook a thorough analysis of the local ecosystems under the guidance of a pair of local ecological experts and Ms Clarke, Mr Cuthbertson and Ms Gerke. The instructors explained the various genetic modifications which each species had developed to survive amongst poor nutrients and water, giving examples of both plants and animals. We then went on to do some group analyses of a forested ridge. We used quadrants and various chemical and mechanical devices to measure the biotic and abiotic factors in the region, ranging from the soil moisture, depth and pH to wind speed to foliage cover. Our next location was a polluted creek, dammed and contaminated with rubbish and chemical waste. We were tasked with collecting what insects and other animals could survive there to establish the pollution level of the lake. We then met up with the group which had examined the valley ecosystem, collating our results and discussing the reasoning behind the disparity between the areas.

Cameron Wells, Year 11 Student



Congratulations to our Swimming Champions!

MCC SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In what is a busy term for MCC Sport, the representative teams have continued to achieve at a high level. The Swimming squad has been in training for the past 5 weeks and competed at the Marist North Shore Invitational carnival on Tuesday 5 March.

For the third straight year we came away with the trophy, defeating Marist Pagewood, St Greg's Campbelltown and Marist North Shore. My thanks to all parents who came along to support the swimmers on the night. I'd like to wish the Swimming squad the best of luck as they defend their title at the MCC Carnival this Thursday.

MARIST NORTH SHORE INVITATIONAL CARNIVAL RESULTS

- 1st – Marcellin College Randwick (189 points)**
- 2nd - Marist Pagewood (171 points)**
- 3rd – St Gregory's College Campbelltown (112 points)**
- 4th - Marist North Shore (98 points)**



Luke Irvine with Swimming coach Ms Jane Evans at the
North Shore Invitational Swimming carnival

RUGBY LEAGUE AND SOCCER

The Winter season preparations are well under way. Rugby League and Soccer training/trials began for all age groups last week. These will continue to the end of Term 1, with competition beginning in Week 1 of Term 2. If you have any questions relating to winter sport trials, please contact the relevant team coach or myself at the College.

TENNIS

Pearse Dolan (Year 10) was one of a number of students competing in the NSWCCC U18 Tennis Trials. In an outstanding result, Pearse won the event and will now compete as a NSWCCC representative.

Congratulations to our Volleyball Champions!

MCC VOLLEYBALL

The MCC Volleyball championships were held on Thursday 14 March with the College represented in both U15s and Opens. Both teams were defending their title from 2012. Undeclared in the group matches, the U15s swept past Pagewood in the semi final and met Lewisham in the grand final. In a tense contest they won the first two sets only to go down by three points in the third. Undeterred by the momentary slip, they won the fourth to clinch Marcellin's third U15 Volleyball Premiership in four years.

The Opens were undefeated during the rounds, and overcame Kogarah in the semi finals. This qualified them for the final but they were defeated by Bankstown under challenging circumstances. My thanks to Mr Proctor, Mr Laing and Ms Bourke for their efforts in preparing our boys for the competition.

Mr Luke MacNamara
Sports Coordinator



A Grade Volleyball



Pearse Dolan accepting the U15 Volleyball trophy



U15 Volleyball champions