From the Deputy Headmaster

The Little Things Matter

When I have spoken at Year Meetings this year, I have mentioned the need to attend to the ‘little things’, in order to step up to reach a goal or experience success.

Some years ago, I was listening to South Sydney NRL legend, Mario Fenech, address an audience. I remember one thing about his speech that will stick with me forever. Mario said that when he was selected to play hooker for the NSW State of Origin Team in 1989, he was not the best hooker in the state! No doubt he was the most determined though. He said that what he attended to well were the ‘little things’. He worked a little bit harder at training, turned up a little earlier and finished a little later than the other players in the team. Simply being the best at something doesn’t necessarily mean the rewards come your way. However, in attending to the ‘little things’ in life you give yourself the best chance.

This year has started with a number of significant events already: Year 7 Orientation Day, the Marcellin Swimming Carnival, the launch of the new House system, a Headmaster’s Assembly to highlight academic success, Parents in Touch AGM, our Commencement Mass and the Meet & Greet Cocktail Evening all by the end of Week 4. On top of all of this has been the hard work by staff and students as they attend to the important business of quality teaching and learning. These things just don’t happen by themselves, but what is evident to me is that they all have happened very well. I am convinced that the success of anything is improved on by attending to the little things. I’d like to say congratulations to all those attending to the little things which has made for a terrific start to the year.

Marcellin College is a school of high standards. The challenge in not only meeting these high standards, achieving personal goals and being good Christians and good citizens, but also in attending to the littlest of detail in all that we do. If homework takes an hour and a half, step up a little more by adding another 30 or 40 minutes to revise the day’s work. Put your hand up to give an hour of your time to help someone else at Matt Talbot, Little Sisters of the Poor or Vinnies Van. If you see someone all on his own in the playground, be the one to invite him into your game. Be respectful to others and have good manners. Look in the mirror of a morning to make sure your top button is done up and you look sharp in order to tackle the day ahead. If in everything we do, we think about also attending to the little things (which can be hard or even painful to do), more often than not, the bigger things start to fall into place.

I have found that in life relationships are a key factor to happiness and doing well. At school, if relationships are in order then learning takes place and personal bests are more likely. In any relationship there are two people involved.

My challenge is to ask, what are you bringing to the relationships that you are involved in? What are you doing at home so that mum or dad are not always on your back? How are you getting on with your teachers so that you give them and they give you the best opportunities in your learning? Relationship building is not always easy but it is worth the effort in the long run for happiness and reward. My recommendation to parents is to have this conversation with your sons. It is in the interest of every boy at Marcellin to get on well with their teachers as this impacts so much on their learning.

A big year lies ahead and I wish everyone in the Marcellin Community well as we launch into 2014. If parents need any advice throughout the year, please send an email to your son’s Homeroom teacher who will be more than happy to give advice or pass your question on to someone else more appropriate or qualified to help.

Enjoy your week.
Mr Peter Buxton
From the Director of Teaching & M-Learning

Headmaster’s Assembly

On Friday, 7 February the College had the opportunity at the Headmaster’s Academic Assembly to celebrate the outstanding Academic achievements from Semester 2 of the Years 7-9 2013 cohort.

A total of 87 boys received an Academic Award which reflected first place in their subject for Semester 2, 2013.

The College also acknowledged 37 students from the HSC Year of 2013 who either scored a Band 6 result in at least one subject, or achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of greater than 90. The College was thrilled to have the opportunity to honour these outstanding achievements formally.

The special guest at the Assembly was the Sydney Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia, Mr Frank Malloy. Marist Schools Australia encompasses 54 Marist schools throughout Australia, responsible for the education and faith formation of approximately 50,000 students across our country. The Sydney region covers all schools in NSW and the ACT, and Mr Malloy is the Director of that region.

Mr Malloy spoke of both the responsibility and opportunity that comes with academic achievement. He mentioned that we should view this success not so much as being promoted to a pedestal, but being ‘promoted to service’. A very timely message in this year of Good Christians and Good Citizens.

Mr Chris Shields
Director of Teaching and M-Learning

Right: Mr Frank Malloy
addressing Headmaster’s Assembly.
Below: Recipients of Semester 2 academic awards 2013.

TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 26 February</td>
<td>College Open Day: 3.00 - 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 27 February</td>
<td>MCC Grand Final Day</td>
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<td>Friday, 28 February</td>
<td>Staff Development Half Day - students are dismissed at 12.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-12 March</td>
<td>Year 12 examinations</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 5 March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>16-21 March</td>
<td>Year 12 Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 28 March</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - student free day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 9 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent/ Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 11 April</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes</td>
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Marcellin Open Day

Wednesday, 26 February 2014
3.00pm – 6.00pm

Dear Parents,

I am seeking your support for our Open Day on Wednesday, 26 February.

Our Open Day is an opportunity for prospective enrolments to visit the College, along with members of the public interested in seeing what lies beyond the Alison and Avoca Street gates. One of the most effective ways of providing prospective families with information about the College is having current parents available to offer information and answer questions.

Part of the afternoon involves an area called ‘Café Marcellin’ which provides a casual forum for this type of interaction to occur. I would like to have parents support this by being present at ‘Café Marcellin’ to welcome and talk to prospective parents and students. There will be some serving of tea, coffee and cakes involved, however it is your presence and interaction with our visitors that will be most valuable. I will also have Year 11 students available to assist with the serving. If you are unable to be present you may be in a position to make a donation of food for ‘Café Marcellin’. Food can be left at the College Office from Tuesday, 25 February.

To facilitate the running of Open Day the following arrangements will be in place:

- **Year 7**: normal school periods 1 - 3. Boys can go home at the end of period 3; however, they are required to be back at school at 2:30pm. Supervision will be provided for boys who stay at school from period 3 until 6pm. Year 7 boys will be dismissed from the College at 6pm.

- **Years 8, 9, 10, 12**: normal school periods 1 - 3 followed by dismissal.

- **Year 11**: normal school periods 1 - 3. Selected boys to remain and help as advised by Mr Chase.

My thanks in advance for your assistance and I look forward to seeing you here on the afternoon.

Yours sincerely

Br David Hall FMS
HEADMASTER

Please return to your son’s Homeroom Teacher by Monday, 24 February.

Name: ____________________________
(please print)

Son’s Name: ____________________________ Homeroom: _________

Please place a tick in the appropriate box:

- I am able to assist on the afternoon as a volunteer at Café Marcellin
  - My preferred hours: 
    - □ 2.30 - 4.00  **Help with set up**
    - □ 4.00 – 5.00
    - □ 5.00 – 6.00
    - □ 6.00 – 6.30  **Help with clean up**

- I am able to provide a donation of food for afternoon tea
  - Some suggestions: muffins, slices, cakes, lamingtons, biscuits. Sandwiches are especially welcome.
  - Please send food on disposable plates where possible.
Solidarity

As a part of the Australian Marist Community we share many common beliefs. One that is common among Marists of many generations is the recognition of the dignity inherent in all people, especially the young.

Many young people are faced with minimal opportunities and live in conditions that prevent them recognising their own true value. It is exciting to know however, that many young people in the Marist Schools Australia (MSA) community are becoming aware of this inequality and that they are creatively working to address it.

Young people of our Marist community in Australia stand in a unique position. Their actions of solidarity with the marginalised young people in Asia and the Pacific is causing a shift in not only the lives of individuals but in communities of hundreds of people. All because of programs providing training and education in schools, study centres, health centres and universities and all because we recognise that young people matter.

In light of this we invite you to join the Australian Marist Community in support of over one hundred projects across Asia and the Pacific Islands... because for Marists, young people matter!

May our actions this year remind each of us, in Asia and the Pacific and here in Australia, that we all matter.

Mr Damian Chase
Solidarity Coordinator

Careers

The beginning of the year is a very busy and somewhat stressful time for students. The Year 10 students will begin to think about subject selection for their senior studies and must continue to organise their work experience placements for later in the year, while the Year 12’s are straight back into their HSC studies and will be considering their options for life after school.

This section of the newsletter will outline key school dates for students, regarding Careers, and also offer information relating to Universities, and Trades in NSW. The details will be posted on the College website. Click this link for more information.

Mr John Cuthbertson
Careers Coordinator
Meet & Greet Cocktail Evening 2014

The Marcellin community loves an enlivening party and we certainly had one last Friday evening. The annual Meet & Greet was a night of great food, wine, music and networking with the staff and other parents of the College. This sensational evening, held in the College Courtyard with our magnificent 90 Year sculpture towering over the crowd, certainly rivalled any previous Meet & Greet. With over 300 guests in attendance we were enthusiastically entertained by the talented students of our College Musicians and waited on impeccably by our current senior leaders as well as some fine, commendable Old Boys.

If you missed this great night be sure to mark Friday, 30 May in your diary. This will be our P&F Trivia Night which also promises to be a night of fun, laughter and excitement. Watch for more details over the coming weeks.
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 2013 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 thorough 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. 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.
Textbooks 2014

Textbooks were distributed by the representatives from Campion to students on Tuesday, 4 February. These were the books purchased before the published 2013 deadline. Many parents chose to have the books delivered to their homes. If there are any problems with these deliveries or any other aspect of the order, you are advised to contact Campion on 8905 8691.

All boys must have textbooks, and they can still be ordered through the Campion website: www.campion.com.au using the Marcellin code: ‘aa93’. Thank you for your support with the purchase of Textbooks.

Mr Chris Shields
Director of Teaching and M-Learning

Vaccinations

As many parents would be aware, the first round of vaccinations for boys in Years 7 & 9 took place a couple of weeks ago. The second round will take place in May, and the third in September.

Following this initial vaccination there have been some questions about the new vaccination for boys (previously, only girls received this vaccination) called Gardasil – a vaccination against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Vaccinations have always been a controversial issue and in most recent times it is Gardasil that has found the medical community most divided on its value and necessity.

If you are interested in learning more about this vaccination the following links may be of use:

http://marriageresourcecentre.org/gardasil-alert/

Gardasil Advice for Catholic Parents (10 May 2013)
From the Sports Coordinator

MCC Summer Season

Our summer MCC teams have performed extremely well since returning to competition in 2014. In Round 7 against Kogarah, eleven out of twelve teams came away with a victory, including ‘clean sweeps’ in Touch and Cricket. This was a fantastic effort against our traditionally strong rivals. Across the summer sports of Touch, Basketball, Cricket and Squash, the College qualified for semi-finals in eleven of the twelve competitions. This achievement in itself is a great credit to the boys and coaches involved who have worked hard throughout the summer season.

Another very successful day last Thursday saw seven teams qualify for grand finals in Basketball, Touch and Cricket. These grand finals have been postponed due to wet weather, and now will be played on Thursday, 27 February. Our A & B Grade Basketball teams will play at Alexandria, all four Touch teams at the Tempe Velodrome and the A Grade Cricket at Kensington Oval. With so many teams involved in grand finals, many boys will be involved in supporting at these matches.

My thanks and congratulations to all coaches involved in the summer MCC season, and to all boys who represented the College in a competitive and sportsmanlike fashion. Best of luck to all involved in grand finals next week.

Upcoming Events

The College Golf & Tennis Championships will be held on Thursday, 6 March. Teams will be selected from this event to compete at the MCC Championships on Thursday, 13 March. Further information regarding these events will be distributed next week.

The Swimming squad has been training hard over the last two weeks in preparation for their defence of all four trophies at the MCC Carnival on Thursday, 20 March. Prior to that, the squad will compete at the North Shore Invitational Carnival on Tuesday, 4 March at North Sydney Pool.

Our Cross Country squad is taking shape after a final trial was held during the week. These boys will also be preparing to defend the Aggregate trophy at the MCC Carnival in early April.

Mr Luke MacNamara
Sports Coordinator

Free Licensing Scheme Workshop for Learner Driver Parents

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the RTA is offering a free 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

The workshop will be hosted by Randwick City Council on Thursday, 27 February at Council’s Administrative Offices in Frances Street, Randwick from 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm.

Bookings are essential by phoning Catherine on 9399 0786 now to reserve your place, or email catherine.hoe@randwick.nsw.gov.au.

Above: Marcellin played well in cricket and touch last week against Marist College Kogarah.