Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

I read an interesting book over the break written by Tony Hendra. It is entitled 'Father Joe, the man who saved my soul.' It recounts the life journey of the writer and describes the inevitable highs and lows that confront him along the way. We meet a Benedictine Monk, Fr. Joe. During the writer's meetings with Fr. Joe we hear much wisdom and witness much compassion and common sense. It is easy reading and in parts quite inspiring. I was struck by the following section where they are speaking on the topic of listening.

The only way to know God, the only way to know the other, is to listen. Listening is reaching out into that unknown other self, surmounting your walls and theirs, listening is the beginning of understanding, the first exercise of love.

Fr. Joe: "None of us listen enough do we, dear? We only listen to a fraction of what people say. It's a wonderfully useful thing to do. You almost always hear something you didn't expect."

We must listen because we are so often wrong in our certainties. When we pass a motion in the chaotic debating chamber of our heads, it's never completely right, or even, most of the time, half right. The only way to edge closer to the truth is to listen with complete openness, bringing to the process no preconceptions, nothing prepared.

Much can be taken from the wisdom in this brief excerpt. The gift of listening is one gift we can bring to our families and our friends. It is so easy to fall into the trap of responding before truly listening. I guess we all have encountered such people and no doubt fall into such a response ourselves from time to time.

I wonder how God can be part of our lives or touch our hearts if we are unwilling to listen. In the letter to James we are told: "let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" (1 James: 19). In Sirach we are told "do not answer before you listen" (Sir 8:11) and in Luke we hear "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (Luke 16:31)

I found the book both enjoyable and enlightening but the simple message here is a reminder for us to value the gift of listening. In Psalm 46 we are told "Be still and know that I am God". In this season of Lent let us make it a priority to be more in tune to the needs of those around us and more prepared to listen to the word of God touching our hearts and influencing our lives.

With best wishes,

Br Bill Sullivan
Headmaster

An Ash Wednesday Liturgy was held in the Marist Centre, attended by students and staff of the College to mark the beginning of Lent.
From The Headmaster

Special Achievements

Congratulations to the students pictured below on their outstanding achievements in a variety of endeavours.

Well done, boys!

**Adam Seminara Year 10**
- Won both U15 and U17 Boardriders’ Competition

**Matt Evans Year 7**
- 2nd Place U17 Boardriders’ Competition

**Chad Scott Year 8**
- 3rd Place U17 Belt Race at the Branch Championships

**Pat Renford Year 8**
- Branch Nippers Carnival 1st U14 Swim, 3rd in Board, 1st in Swim Team and 3rd in Board Relay
- Will now compete in State Titles

**Jackson Barron Year 7**
- 2nd Place U13 Boardriders’ Competition

**Matt Clarke Year 12**
- 3rd Place U17 Boardriders’ Competition

**Jason Brien Year 10**
- Representative Cricket
- In the Rep team which won the Finals at Sutherland in competition with teams from all over Sydney

**Reece Holland Year 8**
- 2nd in Sprint Relay

**Pat Renford Year 8**
- Branch Nippers Carnival 2nd 13 Beach Flags (Silver Medal)
- Will now compete in State Titles

**Matt Evans Year 7**
- 2nd Place U17 Boardriders’ Competition

**Chad Scott Year 8**
- 3rd Place U17 Belt Race at the Branch Championships

**Pat Renford Year 8**
- Branch Nippers Carnival 2nd 13 Beach Flags (Silver Medal)
- Will now compete in State Titles

**Matt Clarke Year 12**
- 3rd Place U17 Boardriders’ Competition

**Jason Brien Year 10**
- Representative Cricket
- In the Rep team which won the Finals at Sutherland in competition with teams from all over Sydney

**Alex Tomkins Year 10**
- Representative Cricket
- In the Rep team which won the Finals at Sutherland in competition with teams from all over Sydney
From the Headmaster

Upcoming Events & Important Dates Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd February</td>
<td>Parents in Touch Evening and AGM of Parents' and Friends' Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>It would be great to see a large roll-up of parents for this night. These nights are always concluded by 9.00pm at the latest.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>Years 7 and 12 Parent Teacher evening. All interviews commence at 3.45pm</td>
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<td>3.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
<td>Open Evening</td>
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<td>3.30-6.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 25th March</td>
<td>No Lessons</td>
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<td>(Good Friday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Easter Monday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th April</td>
<td>Final day for Term 1 Boys conclude for the day after sport at 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
<td>Staff Inservice Day (no lessons on this day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences for all boys</td>
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<td>8.40am</td>
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Annual Plan 2005

There is a copy of the Marcellin College Annual plan 2005 on the College website (www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au) for parents to view. I would encourage parents to access the document so that they can familiarize themselves with our plans for the year ahead. If you wish to have a printed copy of this document, please contact my secretary Mrs Maryanne Davis.

Notification of Absence Owing to Illness

Parents are asked to please ring the following number prior to 9.30am on each day of your son’s absence owing to illness.

Absentee Number: 9398 8009

All students in Years 11 and 12 must provide a doctor’s certificate and parent note for all absences apart from approved leave.

Alison Road Parking

Parents are requested not to pick up outside the College on Alison Road. We have ten State Transit buses stopping there between 3.20 and 3.40pm. It is a busy area and can be dangerous if parents are also stopping. There was a car accident there last week which made the movement of students quite difficult. If cars are in the bus zone, buses refuse to stop and therefore many boys are inconvenienced. Thanks for your support with this matter. Parents are advised to pick up boys from The Avenue, which is adjacent to Alison Park.

From the Finance Department

Parents are reminded that when paying school fees, please ensure your son’s name is clearly printed either on the back of the cheque (if paying by cheque), or on the envelope or a slip of paper included with your payment.

Uniform Shop News

Senior Shirts: Could Year 11 and 12 boys with new school shirts that have the crest embroidered on the pocket please bring these shirts into the uniform shop. The shirt will have the pocket removed and a new pocket with the school initials will be sewn on ready for the following Tuesday or Thursday morning. Shirts with no embroidery can have the new pocket sewn on for the cost of $8.00 a shirt. This service will be available until the end of Term 1.

Immunisation Reminder

The 2005 National Adolescent Vaccination Program will begin for Year 7 students at Marcellin College on Tuesday 29th March and Tuesday 30th August. The following vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students only:

- Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough)

Each student will receive two information kits, one for each of these vaccines, a week or so prior to each date. These will include the consent forms to be signed by the parent or guardian. Only students with a completed form will be able to have the immunization carried out, so please ensure your son brings the signed form with him on the day of the vaccination program.

Condolences

To the family of Andrew Panousis, Year 7, whose mother passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy are with you at this sad and difficult time for you all.
As mentioned briefly in last week’s newsletter, the 82nd Annual Marcellin College Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 4th February at the Des Renford Aquatic Centre. It was a day of colour with the students getting into the spirit of the day with enthusiasm and displaying their talents. The boys in Ignatius House were out to defend their title and defend their title they did. Congratulations must go to James O’Shea and the Ignatius House in winning the Carnival in a tight finish with Fallon. The final standing were as follows:

IGNATIUS: 995  FALLON: 967  CHAMPAGNAT: 935  ANSELM: 853

The day also saw two outstanding personal achievements by Johnny Worley in the Open Age Group and Jack Emery in the U/15 Age Group. Johnny set a new record in the Open 50m Freestyle with a time of 25.18s. Jack was able to smash a 20 year old record in the U/15 Butterfly with a new time of 28.12s. Congratulations to both boys on such fine accomplishments.

The introduction of the Spirit Cup, an initiative from our Year 12 Student Council added colour, some animated cheering and support for the competitors in each House. Congratulations must go to the boys in Champagnat House for their energy and early lead they have taken in the Spirit Cup.

A thank you to a number of people for making the Carnival the success it was:
1) The four House Captains: James O’Shea, Ben Holland, Todd Clarke and James “Sensational Swimmers” Nolan for their efforts on the day.
2) The Class mothers for the food and drinks they supplied on the day.
3) All staff for their patience and efforts in the smooth running of the day.
4) Dave Ferguson for the transporting of all the materials to and from the venue.
5) The many parents who came on the day to support their sons.

Finally congratulations must go to the boys listed below who displayed their skills in the pools across the various disciplines and were crowned Age Champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>SECOND</th>
<th>THIRD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 12</td>
<td>Brendan Irvine</td>
<td>William Chiles</td>
<td>Ellias Moussallam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 13</td>
<td>Sam Duffy</td>
<td>Equal Second</td>
<td>Jackson Raymond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 14</td>
<td>Jamie Watts</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Jack Nicholls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 15</td>
<td>Jack Emery</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Gage Hodgson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDER 16</td>
<td>Matt Johnstone</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Shane Leatham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPENS</td>
<td>Johnny Worley</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Harrison Ginis</td>
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