

# MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



## SPECIAL EDITION

Number 1  
21st January 2013

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

### 2013 – OUR COLLEGE THEME

Welcome to a new school year. 2013 – the final year of our current Strategic Plan, *Onwards & Upwards*, a plan underpinned by the foundational scriptural concept that we are all made IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. For each of the past two years we have taken further inspiration from scripture to help us understand and live what IN THE IMAGE OF GOD really means. In 2011 we were inspired and challenged by the first book of the bible where the stories of creation are recounted: 'God saw all that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.' (Gen1:31) In 2012 we embraced one of Jesus' most challenging sayings: 'Whatever you did to the least . . . you did to me.' (Mt24:45) This year we will focus on perhaps the most intimate and tender understandings of God. When the Hebrew people were lost, and weary, and forsaken the prophet Isaiah reminded them that not only does God never abandon us, but God is intertwined in our lives. Isaiah reminds us that God has said:

**'I hold you in the palm of my hand.'** (Isaiah 19:16)

Throughout 2013 we will explore what this means. We will explore what privileges and responsibilities come from being so intimately and tenderly cared for by God. We will explore the sacred responsibility of being one of God's chosen people – God's own.

### STUDENT MOBILE PHONES – TEXTING & SOCIAL MEDIA

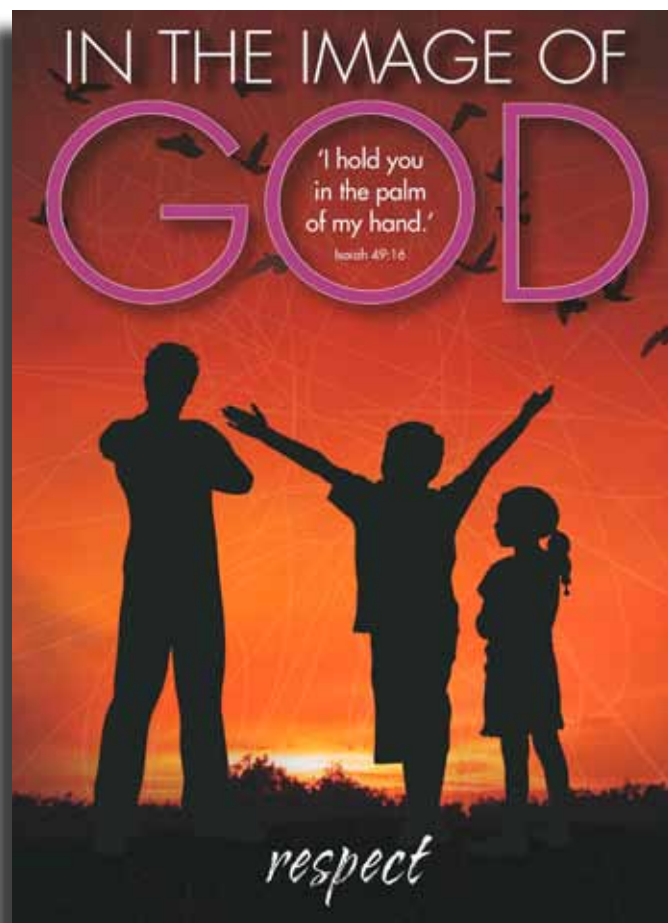
As you are aware, Marcellin College has a fairly strong policy around student use of mobile phones while at school. Simply put – USE THEM, AND LOSE THEM FOR TWO WEEKS. Some schools have decided to put up the white flag in relation to this issue and allow open use of phones at school. We have given this matter considerable thought and have decided to stay with our 'no use' policy at school. When boys are allowed to use their phone at school their learning is disrupted by texting and social media in particular. We are of the opinion that it does no harm to a boy to be free from these activities during the school day. In fact we believe that stopping texting and social media during school hours far outweighs any minor benefit that might come from unrestricted access to phones during school hours.

Part of our challenge in policing this rule is dealing with boys who argue that they weren't using their phone – it simply fell out of their pocket! – or that they were checking a text from their mother or father. So as to avoid the unnecessary angst that goes with all this it is now policy at Marcellin that all mobile phones must be switched to 'flight mode' while at school. 'Flight mode' disengages connection to the 3G and 4G networks as well as the College WiFi and therefore means that texting and social media networks are not possible. It also means that a boy cannot receive or make phone calls. If a boy's phone does not have 'flight mode' option then it must be switched off. Any breach of this rule will result in automatic confiscation of the phone. If a boy needs to make contact with his parents during the course of the school day he is able to see his Year Coordinator or any member of the College Executive and check his phone in their company.

Let's hope 2013 is as productive as last year.

My best wishes for 2013,

Br David Hall FMS  
Headmaster



## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Thursday 24th January	9.00 am to 3.00 pm
Friday 25th January	9.00 am to 3.00 pm
Monday 28th January	<b>Closed</b> -Public Holiday
Tuesday 29th January	8.00 am to 4.00 pm*

\*These are our regular hours during school term.

## UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Thursday 24th January	9.00 am to 3.00 pm
Friday 25th January	9.00 am to 3.00 pm
Monday 28th January	<b>Closed</b> - Public Holiday
Tuesday 29th January	8.00 am to 4.00 pm
Wednesday 30th January	8.00 am to 1.00 pm

From Thursday 31st January the normal hours of operation are Tuesdays 8.00 am - 11.00 am and Thursdays 8.00 am - 1.00 pm.

## LOCKERS

The list of locker numbers will be on display from Thursday 24th January on the Special Achievement Notice Board opposite the College office. Students may place locks on their allocated locker from this date and store books and equipment in lockers if they so desire. Only combination locks issued by the College are permitted.

## TEXT BOOKS/PADLOCKS

Each Year 7 student will receive a textbook pack, a bible, a calculator and a padlock for their lockers. Students are to go directly to the Resource Centre on one of the following days to collect their packs: Thursday 24th January and Friday 25th January 9.00 am - 3.00 pm.

## TERM DATES 2013

- Term 1** Commences for Year 7 on Wednesday 30th January. Year 7 boys are to meet at Marcellin Fields, Fitzgerald Ave Maroubra by 8.45 am. Lessons commence for all boys (Years 7-12) on Thursday 31st January at 8.40 am. Boys are to be in normal full uniform without blazer. School will conclude at 3.20 pm for all students.
- Term 1** Formal lessons conclude on Friday 12th April.
- Term 2** Commences Monday 29th April at 8.40 am.
- Term 2** Concludes Friday 28th June.
- Term 3** Commences Monday 15th July at 8.40 am.
- Term 3** Concludes Thursday 19th September after the Year 12 Graduation assembly (approximately 1 pm).
- Term 4** Commences Tuesday 8th October.  
Year 11 conclude Friday 6th December.  
Year 10 conclude Monday 9th December.  
Years 7, 8 and 9 conclude Monday 16th December.

## COMPULSORY EVENTS

Attendance at school for classes is critical but at MCR we also believe that attendance at major school events is just as critical to building our school community. Attendance on the following days is compulsory and requires a medical certificate if a boy was to be absent:

- MCR Swimming Carnival: Friday 1st February.
- Commencement Mass: Friday 15th February.
- Open Afternoon (Yrs 7 & 11 only compulsory): Wednesday 27th February, 3 pm to 6 pm.
- MCR Athletics Carnival: Friday 3rd May.
- College Photo Day: Monday 13th May.
- 90th Anniversary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral: Wednesday 5th June.
- Champagnat Day: Friday 7th June.
- Special Activities Week: Monday 5th to Friday 9th August.
- Year 12 Graduation Day: Thursday 19th September.
- Walkathon: Friday 25th October.

## COLLEGE OPEN DAY

This will be held on Wednesday 27th February from 3 pm – 6 pm. Lessons will conclude at midday on this day to facilitate set up. All Year 7 and Year 11 students will be required to attend this evening to act as our hosts. All parents and friends are invited to come along to view our College facilities.

## PARENT TEACHER DAYS 2013

Parents are reminded that these are not optional events. The College has only one full parent teacher evening for each year group so your presence on these nights is the expected norm. Reports will not be posted out in 2013; only distributed at Parent Teacher nights. Parents unable to come on the designated night would need to arrange an interview with the Year Coordinator on a subsequent day in order to collect reports.

YEAR 7	• Meeting with homeroom teacher: Wednesday 13th March	TERM 1 - WEEK 7
YEAR 7	• Full Parent - Teacher evening: Wednesday 17th July	TERM 3 - WEEK 1
YEAR 8	• Wednesday 24th July	TERM 3 - WEEK 2
YEAR 9	• Wednesday 24th July	TERM 3 - WEEK 2
YEAR 10	• Wednesday 26th June	TERM 2 - WEEK 9
YEAR 11	• Wednesday 26th June	TERM 2 - WEEK 9
YEAR 12	• Wednesday 8th May	TERM 2 - WEEK 2

## PARENTS IN TOUCH EVENINGS

These are always enjoyable and informative evenings so I encourage as many parents as possible to come along. Nights commence at 7.30 pm and are always concluded before 9 pm. The evenings will be announced in the College Newsletter and on the website during the year.

## CODE OF CONDUCT AND MISSION STATEMENT

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

*Respect for our faith*  
Acknowledge the faith journey of each person and share positively in the faith life of our school

*Respect for others*  
Value differences in other people and respect all who work in the Marcellin community

*Respect for self*  
Value the talents we have and achieve to the best of our ability

*Respect for learning*  
Contribute to a safe, orderly and productive learning environment. Interact respectfully with teachers and peers

*Respect for the College*  
Be proud of the College and show consideration for the property of others and of the College

**IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**  
*respect*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*At Marcellin College Randwick we support and respect the individual talents of all our students, encouraging them to become good Christians and good citizens. Enlivened by the Marist Charism we are a community that provides a just, tolerant and Spirit-filled environment that strives to educate the whole person.*



## ATTENDANCE

Academic progress and a settled environment can only occur when priority is given to continuity of attendance. It is essential for this to occur if your son is to achieve and prosper. We once again seek parent support in minimising absence from school. I would expect boys to be at school unless too sick to do so. It disturbs me that some parents cover for absences by failing to make their sons accountable for days off. This is giving your son mixed messages and ultimately will only harm his progress. Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

## REQUESTS FOR LEAVE - A NEW PROCESS OF APPLICATION

Apart from unanticipated sickness, all requests for leave should be made in advance, preferably with two weeks notice. Requests are to be submitted via a new form: a copy of this form is enclosed with this newsletter and it can also be downloaded from the College website. They can also be obtained from the College office. Forms are to be completed and then submitted to the Year Coordinator who, in turn, will forward it to the Headmaster for consideration. Parents will be notified of the outcome of the request via email. This new process has been developed in response to recent amendments to legislation aimed at ensuring that parents consult with schools when considering leave, rather than unilaterally deciding to take leave and then simply informing the school.

## SICK LEAVE

All absences from school, except for prior approved leave, are to be rung in to the office **by 8.30 am on each day of absence. Please ring the absentee line (02) 9398 8009** to inform us of your son's absence. Failure to ring will necessitate the office staff sending an SMS message to check on your son's absence. Parents must respond to this SMS by calling the College immediately on 9398 8009. Many thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

## APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 2014

The College Enrolment Policy, Procedure and Criteria is available on the College website [www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au) under the 'Our School' tab, in the 'Enrolments' section. First intake offers will be made by mid February. If we have places available we will open up applications for second intake enrolments.

## SCHOOL FEES

I would appreciate it if parents can keep to the advertised date for submission of school fees. The dates are listed below:

**Term 1 fees due Monday 4th March**

**Term 2 fees due Monday 27th May**

**Term 3 fees due Monday 12th August**

If you need assistance or are having difficulty with payment please contact Mrs Margaret Thurston, our Business Manager, to arrange an interview to discuss this matter.

## COLLEGE UNIFORM

Parents are requested to only purchase uniforms from the uniform shop so as to ensure correct style and colour. Please mark all clothing clearly in a number of places so if lost they can easily be returned to the owner.

## COLLEGE BAGS

The College bag is available from the uniform shop and is compulsory for all boys in Years 7, 8 and 9.

## HAIRCUTS

Parents are asked to ensure boys return with the correct style of hair. No unnatural colours or styles are permitted. Boys will be excluded from school until their grooming is rectified and required to make up for missed time after school hours. This facet of uniform has improved considerably but there are always some who try to push the boundaries.

## PICK UP

Please do not pick up your son in vehicles at the Alison Rd gates after school. Boys have been told to meet parents either in The Avenue which is adjacent to the Police Station or on the northern side of Alison Rd. We have some 12 buses stopping on Alison Rd after school. If cars are blocking the stop the buses just drive past with the result that boys are left at school.

## DRIVING

This is a privilege for senior students only - prior approval from the Headmaster is required. Application forms are available from the Year 11 and 12 Coordinators. Year 11 and 12 boys may drive to and from school only. They are not permitted to drive to sport or to excursions. At no time may any other student be with a Year 11 or 12 student in a car. A lengthy suspension will result if boys ignore these guidelines.