Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

I am sure you are very familiar with Luke's account of the Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38). It is an inspirational account of a woman who had enormous faith and courage. Mary was led down a strange path she was ill prepared for. She had to overcome many obstacles and prejudices along the way. She met the challenge head on and in many ways this was no doubt the reason why she was chosen by God for this special task.

Yet, after receiving “reassurance (of a sort) from the angel in truth, more mystifying than clarifying she surrenders in trust to the divine plan. Mary could utter those words of surrender and trust because she let the words of the angel sink deeply into her heart: “Do not be afraid, Mary; God loves you dearly”. Trust in God gave her the courage to move into an unknown and uncertain future. As with Mary, confidence in God’s love for us can enable us to let go and let God.”

“Annunciation like moments happen in our lives too, when we experience an inner stirring, a sense that something is shifting. We intuit the need to make a change, perhaps regarding our job, our lifestyle or an intimate relationship. We know, as did Mary, that this change will rock the boat, not only for us, but also for those close to us who have become accustomed to the status quo. This inner stirring grows in intensity as we suspect that God is involved in our unsettledness and we realise we cannot continue with ‘business as usual.’ Then, in time, with the help of prayer, we recognise the call of God to make a change.”

“The initial inner nudge has become an inner necessity. In our depths, we know that to be faithful to God and to self, we must embrace the change, despite not knowing where it will lead. At times like this, Mary is our model of faithful trust in God. Like Mary, we pray for the ability to respond to the call of God, inviting us to trust in the mysterious unfolding of our lives under the influence of grace. To remain spiritually vital, we need to imitate Mary’s ‘let it happen to me as you say’.” Henri Nouwen.

We all encounter these Annunciation like moments. We respond to these in a myriad of ways but I am convinced that, like Mary, our faith and preparedness to take a risk to move away from the familiar will benefit us greatly in the end.

These Annunciation like moments can only strike us when we take the time to reflect and step back. Building some time for silence, as I have often shared in these editorials, is an essential ingredient which not only helps us identify these moments but gives us the strength to follow them through.

With best wishes

Br Bill Sullivan, fms
Headmaster
FROM THE HEADMASTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

The Young Scientist Awards are a major project of the Science Teachers’ Association of New South Wales offering students from K-12 worthwhile incentives to carry out scientific investigations. At Marcellin, three entries were submitted for state judging and these entries were assessed by trained educators and scientists. The following students are to be congratulated on their outstanding projects:

- Matthew researched the effectiveness of stabilisation techniques used during rescue operations from motor vehicle accidents, and whether the process is beneficial to the victim in an accident.
- Andrew’s project was to examine many anti-virus programs for computers and to assess the effectiveness of the program.
- Andy tested leading web browsers to determine the most productive and efficient program.

WALKATHON

Congratulations to all students, parents and teachers who were involved in the planning and preparation of the annual Walkathon. The boys’ outfits were colourful and imaginative. The total money raised ($53,500) for the school was outstanding. Thank you to the parents and staff who helped with the bbq, set up of tents, clean up, and for the spectators who encouraged the boys to the end. This all helped to make the event a fantastic success.

HSC MAJOR WORKS - CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students and their teachers on a remarkable effort.
NOTICIES AND NEWS
FROM THE HEADMASTER

TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th December</td>
<td>• Year 11 concludes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th December</td>
<td>• Years 7, 8 and 9 conclude.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th December</td>
<td>• Parent Teacher Feedback Day. Please refer to the notice below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>• College closes.</td>
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PARENT FEEDBACK DAY

Parent feedback day will be held on Tuesday 15th December. **There will be two sessions.** The first session will be from 1.00 pm - 3.15 pm with a break from 3.15 pm - 3.45 pm. The second session will be 3.45 pm - 6.00 pm. No appointment is necessary, however parents can make appointments if they wish.

STATE DEBATING CHAMPIONS

The Senior Debating team have once again proven that they are a force to be reckoned with. Congratulations Mitchell Judge (Captain), Matthew Edwards and Jack Slattery, who are now the state champions for 2009 after defeating Marist Redbend Forbes in the finals. This is the second time the team have been state champions, the first time they won was in 2007. The boys were also awarded the CSDA champion school after losing only two debates all season. Congratulations also to Ms Lydia Curis who did a fantastic job of coaching the boys this year.

MIND ON MATHS

On Friday 4th December Year 7 students Nicholas Roper and Nathan Ottaviano; and Year 8 students Benjamin Liew, John Daras, Joshua Stevens and Jack Jones participated in the Mind on Maths grand final competition at Marist College Pagewood. The boys performed very well and were placed 5th in the Sydney Archdiocese - a tremendous result!

MUSIC ANNUAL SHOWCASE

On 27th November our music students took to the stage. Our Year 7 boys performed on an array of percussion instruments and sang a welcome song while our Year 8 students dazzled the crowd with their coloured boomwhackers. Year 9 stole the show with their Aussie rock songs, Year 10 enlightened the crowd with the history of 20th Century Music and Year 11 donned tights and mullets to entertain with their 80s megamix. Our growing string program was on display with our Year 7 piano duo, Year 8 piano duo and our string ensemble, all of whom have given many hours this year in rehearsals for assemblies, masses and other events where accompaniment is required! The strength of our music tuition program was demonstrated by our Junior Guitar Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and our soloists Dylan Cartwright, Samuel Dawe, Oscar Sharah and Joshua Mitchell. The Concert Band was on fine form as always and the inclusion of a Hip Hop Collective topped the night off with some good visual entertainment. Congratulations to our Br Vales Shield recipient for 2009 Dominic Foffani. Thank you to all of our Music Tutors, Ensemble Directors and our Choreographer for their efforts with the boys this last semester and of course a huge thank you to our incredibly talented music students for their commitment to Marcellin Music.

Ms Fiona Gardner, Music teacher

Senior Debating Team State Champions 2009: Matthew Edwards, Mitchell Judge (Captain), Jack Slattery, Ms Lydia Curis (Coach)

Ms Mary Ivancic, Gifted & Talented Coordinator
SPORT
The final week of representative sport last week against Lewisham saw the Marcellin boys come away with 10 victories out of the 12 games. We have worked hard both on and off the field and with two rounds to play all teams are placed nicely. The first game after the Christmas break will be against Ashfield on the 4th February. At the assembly last week, we handed out our final batch of representative shirts for the year. We have handed out just over 150 shirts this year and boys need to represent in at least two sports in a year to qualify for a shirt. This is an outstanding effort for any boy who qualifies. I’d like to congratulate and thank everyone involved in the sports program at Marcellin College, from the boys and their coaches to the office staff and the bus drivers, for all their hard work, commitment and expertise. Marcellin has an excellent reputation in the sporting arena and without the help and support of all these people our results would not be possible. We are only just past half way in the summer season and with two rounds to go we need to make sure that we hit the ground running next year. I’d like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas break and look forward to continuing our success in 2010.

Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator

SPORT AND NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS
Marcellin Uniform Shop Opening Hours: We are open on Thursdays 8 am to 1 pm and on Saturday 12th December 8 am - 3 pm. The Uniform Shop is accepting donations of clean second hand blazers and trousers. Please bring them in on Tuesdays or Thursdays. The school will benefit from the sale of your clean second hand items and thank you for your generosity in advance. Check the College website for all opening hours during the holidays.

Message from NSW Police: For Randwick City Council’s Australia Day 2010 celebrations, there will be a total ban on ‘bringing in’ and ‘consumption’ of alcohol in parks and reserves at Coogee (Dunningham, Goldstein and Grant Reserves) from sunset on January 25th to sunrise on January 27th, 2010. Consumption of alcohol on Randwick City Council beaches (Clovelly, Coogee, Maroubra, Malabar, Yarra Bay) and adjoining parks and reserves is also prohibited. These restrictions will be strictly enforced by police and Randwick Council and penalties apply.

Randwick City Council’s Summer Activities Program: The program includes a range of free and affordable activities from snorkelling around Bare Island, sea-kayaking at La Perouse, rockpool rambles at South Maroubra, discovery walks at Coogee and Clovelly, and a boat trip to Cook’s Landing at Kurnell for a guided history walk. Further details can be found at www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.