Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

In recent years much has been written about boys and their educational needs. Notable writers on this issue are Ian Lillico, Dr. Tim Hawkes and Steve Biddulph. These writers go to great lengths to challenge our thinking and provide some useful and insightful learnings. Central to all writers is the inextricable connection between parents and school and in particular the role of fathers. In this editorial I will attempt to encapsulate some of these insights. Educating the men of the future requires us to evaluate our own notions of masculinity and to look for role models that may enable boys to better understand what it means to be male. Biddulph sums up what we can do to help boys to become ‘a new kind of man’:

Boys - A Special Challenge for Dads

Because boys often:
- Are prone to separation anxiety
- Have testosterone surges making them sometimes argumentative and restless - especially around age fourteen...
- Have growth spurts that make them vague and disorganised, especially at age thirteen. (This applies to girls too)...
- Have bursts of physical energy needing to be expressed...
- Have a slower rate of brain development, affecting fine motor skills in early primary...
- Have fewer connections from the language half to the sensory half of the brain...
- Have a need for a clear set of rules, and knowing who is in charge...
- Have a more muscular body.
- Have a predisposition to act first without thinking things through.

We need to:
- Show them as much affection as we do girls, and avoid separations, such as leaving them in childcare before the age of three.
- Calmly guide them through conflicts - settle them down with reasoning, not yelling at or attacking them. Be clear that they need to show good manners always, and never use or threaten violence. Fathers need to be role-models and insist that mothers are respected.
- Get involved in organising them, teaching them systems for tidying rooms, doing housework, tackling school projects in small bites, having a routine.
- Be sure to have lots of space and time for exercise, moving about.
- Delay starting Grade 1 until they have lots of pen-and-paper skills, can handle scissors and so on.
- Read to them, tell them stories, talk to them a lot and explain things, specially from ages one to eight.
- Have good, calm, orderly environments at home and school. Avoid schools where bullying is entrenched.
- Specifically teach them not to hit or hurt others. Also teach them to use words to communicate.
- Talk with them often in a friendly way about options, choices, ways to solve problems and what they can do in situations in their lives.

All three writers highlight the importance of shared parenting and the invaluable contributions both parents make to the nurturing of their sons. In single parent families, we must try to find male role models in schools, sport and community so as to provide a balanced world view for these boys. Yet all three writers dedicate a significant amount of time to the role of fathers. I would like to highlight some of the challenges for fathers that they place before us.

- Boys learn by watching you
- Boys learn to feel by watching you
- Boys must be given the keys to communicate
- Boys need to write about their feelings and emotions: model this for them!
- What ever happens in your marriage, don’t divorce your kids
- Rough and tumble behaviour is essential to a boy’s life. Knowing when to stop the rough and tumble is equally important.
- Teach your boys to respect women
- Model intimacy and express your feelings
- Remain relevant; be involved in their lives, (not only their sport)
- Be actively involved in their education; read to and with them often
- Teach and model the rules of life.

Dr. Tim Hawkes suggests that a well fathered boy is more likely to:
- Love and respect his mother
- Want to be like his father
- Find it easy to share and show feelings
- Be emotionally stable
- Be morally strong
- Be spiritually mature
- Be socially adept
- Be academically well supported

As a father and an educator of boys, I find the challenge placed by these writers extremely thought provoking. I am laden with the responsibility to review my own understandings of what it means to be male and to explore new frontiers of fatherhood. Fortunately I have been blessed with some outstanding role models in my life, hopefully you sons will encounter similar role models in you and your friends. Boys need us, boys count on us - be there for them!

With best wishes,

Daniel Delmage
Deputy Headmaster
From The Headmaster

Special Achievements

Congratulations to the students pictured below on their outstanding achievements in a variety of endeavours. Well done, boys!

Year 7
Mitchell Judge

Year 8
Matt Richardson

Year 9
Thomas Bracken

Year 10
Peter Zarzour

Year 11
Daniel Watterson

Marcellin Oratory

The Marcellin Oratory was held on Monday 21st February, with the quality and enthusiasm of the students’ work being outstanding. Congratulations to all boys who entered the Oratory and a special mention must be made of the winners in each Year Group Division, pictured above.

Inaugural Mass 2005

Thank you to all parents and friends who attended our Inaugural Mass for 2005. It was a most moving celebration and certainly set the tone for the year ahead. The themes of Service and Christ as our centre were the focus.

Special congratulations to all our boys on the excellent singing and the respectful way they entered into our Mass. The singing continues to improve and certainly adds to the spirit engendered on these occasions.

Congratulations also to our cantors, musicians, readers, servers and technicians. Your efforts ensured a most memorable liturgy.

Thanks to our creative genius, Mrs Carole Wark, for all the time, thought and energy given to our Opening Mass. Your contribution to the morning ensured it was both uplifting and meaningful. Thanks for the wonderful job you are doing.

Thanks also to our clergy present on the day—Fr John Rate, Fr Chris Murphy, Fr Paul Brown and Fr Des Holm. Your presence and support of the College is very much appreciated.

A very special thanks to all the Class Mothers who helped with the supply and the serving of Morning Tea after the Liturgy. It was a pleasurable way to conclude the liturgy and your continuing support shows the strength in our College community.

Parents in Touch and P&F Executive 2005

Thank you to the 80 parents who attended our the AGM. Your presence and support of this evening was very much appreciated.

I would like to thank the following parents for taking these special areas of responsibility for the year ahead.

President: Mr Michael O’Brien
Vice Presidents: Mrs Sophia Moussalam, Mr Peter Chaplin, Mrs Stephanie Seakins
Secretary: Mrs Anne Lee
Treasurer: Mr Paul Allen

P&F General Committee: Thanks to the 37 parents who offered their time to serve as general committee members for 2005 Marcellin Parents’ and Friends’ Association.
**Notices**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March 3.45pm</td>
<td>Years 7 and 12 Parent Teacher evening. All interviews commence at 3.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March 3.30-6.30pm</td>
<td>Open Evening</td>
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<td>Friday 25th March (Good Friday) Monday 28th March (Easter Monday)</td>
<td>No Lessons</td>
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<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 8.40am</td>
<td>Term 2 commences for all boys</td>
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Reminder to all parents school will conclude at 1.00pm on Wednesday 23rd March to allow staff to prepare for Open Day to be held from 3.30 to 6.30pm.

**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 DEPUTY HEADMASTER**

**Homework Club:** Homework club is open each day from 7.45 - 8.35 in the Resource Centre, and is supervised by a teacher. Only boys who are working on homework/Assignments will be permitted to use the facility. This is not a time to use the computers for internet searches that do not relate to school work.

**Contacting Teachers & Year Co-ordinators &** Please understand that most teachers and Year Co-ordinators have classes on most days and as such may not get messages until late in the day. In some cases teachers leave period 6 and go to training, meetings and inservices and as such may not attend to messages and phone calls until the following day. On some occasions, teachers may teach a full day the following day limiting their ability to return your calls.

**Leaving Sports uniforms, lunches etc.**

If at all possible, please do not leave lunches, uniforms etc at the front office to be passed on to students during the school day as it presents a significant interruption to office procedures and classes. Please encourage your sons to take responsibility for their actions and help them to prepare early for school events.

**Valuable Items at School** iPods, MP3 players, Mobile phones, Discmans, and other items of value: These items should not be brought to school. If a student needs to have a phone at school he should present a letter from his parents explaining the reasons and leave the phone with the Year Co-ordinator and collect it at the end of the school day. Boys found in possession of these items will have the item confiscated and a detention issued.

**Outstanding Students HSC 2004**

On Friday 25th February, fifteen students from the 2004 HSC Class attended a special assembly at the College. This event was to honour the students who obtained 90% or more in one or more subjects in last year’s HSC. Each boy was presented with a gift from Br Bill on behalf of Marcellin College in recognition of their efforts. Congratulations to these boys for their great success in the 2004 HSC.

**Ex-Students News**

**Reunion**

The Class of 1985 will be having a 20 year reunion dinner at Coogee Surf Club on 6th August 2005, commencing at 7pm. For details including price, please contact Matt Vesper on (w) 9373 7404 or by email at mvesper@sirowendixon.com.au

**Golf Day**

The date of the Annual Ex-Students Golf Day is now Sunday 17th April, with 11.30am sign-on and hit off at 12 noon. The cost will be $50 a head and will be held at Eastlakes Golf Club. Please contact: Barry MacNamara on 9344 4215 or 9399 5640, Peter Sinclair: 9665 6020 or Ted Barr: 9399 8506 for further details or to confirm your attendance.
The MCC Summer Season has hit Finals mode with the Semi Finals taking place on Thursday 24th February. Marcellin had teams in all 12 of the Semi Finals, which is a tremendous feat. From those 12 teams, an amazing 11 won their Semis so allowing them to compete in the Finals.

An incredible four teams who were positioned in fourth place at the end of the season managed to upset the top team to progress to the Semis. This too is a true example of the spirit that exists within the College. The Finals were to be played as this Newsletter goes to print so results of these games will be included in the next edition. We wish all our teams the best of luck in their games. The Semi Finals results are printed below.

**Touch Football**

- U14’s defeated Lewisham 9-6 Player of Match: Jack Hawke
- U15’s defeated Kogarah 4-3 Player of Match: Charlie Moubarak
- B Grade defeated Kogarah 4-3 Player of Match: Mathew Hamilton
- A Grade defeated Lewisham 5-4 Players of Match: Todd Clarke/James Nolan

**Basketball**

- U14’s defeated Ashfield 39-33 Player of Match: Michael Kelly
- U15’s defeated Ashfield 44-43 Player of Match: Whole team
- B Grade defeated North Shore 55-38 Player of Match: Mark Wilkins
- A Grade defeated Bankstown 70-35 Players of Match: Richard and Michael Benda

**Cricket**

- U14’s defeated North Shore 6/96 to 5/93 Player of Match: Adam Gulden
- U15’s defeated Lewisham 6/141 to 79 Player of Match: Alex Tomkins
- A Grade lost to Kogarah 8/123 to 76 Player of Match: Harrison Ginis

**Squash**

Squash team defeated Lewisham 853-755 Player of the Match: Edward Ware

**Spirit Cup Progress Tally**

Includes all Special Achievements received as at 21st February 2005

- **Champagnat** 485
- **Anselm** 445
- **Fallon** 425
- **Ignatius** 375