I find it helps to have a sense of humour. Otherwise I find myself just getting exasperated with the nonsense being paraded as absolute truth. In recent weeks the media has shone the spotlight on education, and schools in particular, all in the wake of the Labor government’s plans in response to the Gonski Report into school funding. In a speech last Monday Prime Minister Gillard confirmed that non-government schools would be no worse off in dollar terms under future funding models to schools. The analysts are still testing what this means, and whether it refers to the maintenance of the current number of dollars, or an actual maintenance of funding in real terms. Nevertheless, those of us in independent and Catholic schools have breathed a sigh of relief, particularly so because the announcement about funding was made in the context of continuing to value parental choice in education. “Our funding model will recognise the diversity and uniqueness of Australian schools and will support the choices parents make about the best school for their child,” the Prime Minister emphasised.

What has annoyed me is the overemphasis the media has given to those who have taken umbrage with the Prime Minister’s commitment to ensure the ongoing viability of schools such as our own – those who only support government schools and see no place for alternate choices. I am frustrated at the myth some of these people perpetuate – the untruth that government schools are underfunded because schools such as our own are indulged with unnecessary funds. The fact of the matter is that Catholic schools cost less to run than government schools. Catholic schools use funds more efficiently than the government sector. The trickery is in the misrepresentation of the facts about funding.

Schools like our own have three main sources of funds: Commonwealth government, State government, and local contributions (fees, fundraising and benefaction). Government schools have the same three sources of funds but fees are almost always lower. Why? Because they receive the lion’s share of government funds for recurrent expenditure. When State and Commonwealth funds are combined government schools receive 79% of government money allocated to schooling and yet only 66% of the school age population are in government schools – 34% of school age children in Australia attend Catholic or independent schools and yet these schools receive only 21% of government funds.

The truth has been manipulated by some anti-Catholic and anti-independent schools spokespeople who only report on Commonwealth funding to schools. On a per capita basis, Catholic and independent schools receive a greater proportion of Commonwealth government funds BUT 78% of government funds for schools come from State governments.

Yes, Catholic and independent schools get higher per capita Commonwealth funding than government schools but they are way behind when it comes to the allocation of State funds. The following facts more accurately represent the situation:

1. A Catholic secondary school receives $2000 per annum less in government funding than a government secondary school.
2. When government funding and school fees are combined Catholic schools are still 10% below government schools in recurrent funds.
3. Catholic schools save the Australian taxpayer $2.2 billion per annum.

Catholic schools, built on the shoulders of generous and frugal religious Brothers and Sisters in particular, developed a raison d’être for efficient use of limited resources. We need to remind ourselves that it wasn’t until the 1970s, under the Whitlam government, that Catholic schools received any significant funding from the government. Years of under-funding taught us how to manage with less – that’s why Catholic schools are so efficient and effective in their use of money and other resources. Accusations in the media that we are financially indulged are pure bunk and should be vigorously refuted at every opportunity.

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall FMS
Headmaster

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4 Queensland Catholic Education Commission Funding Information Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWyO-iaobF4&feature=youtube
TERM 3 CALENDAR EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd August</td>
<td>• MCC Athletics Carnival.</td>
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<td>Saturday 25th August</td>
<td>• Ex Students Mass and Lunch.</td>
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<td>Friday 31st August</td>
<td>• Headmaster’s Assembly including the Winter MCC Sports Presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31st August</td>
<td>• Marcellin College Trivia Night - 7pm at Souths Juniors. A reminder that all Trivia night raffle tickets, sold or unsold, MUST be returned this week please.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th September</td>
<td>• Year 11 Exams commence. Conclude on Friday 14th September.</td>
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VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

Marcellin College
Visual Arts Exhibition
Friday 24th August
3.30pm-5.30pm Room 94
Showcasing the Year 12 Body of Work
and Junior Art in the College
Family and friends welcome

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

As you are aware this year we are moving to an electronic attendance system to check and store data for absences. This will mean little change to parents - we still require parents to phone the office each morning when your son is absent - **absentee number is 9398 8009**. If a phone call is not forthcoming, an automatic text message will be sent to parents requiring them to ring (not text) the school office immediately. We consider any unexplained absence as a serious occurrence and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Mr Les Salisbury, Deputy Headmaster

SCIENCE COMPETITION

On Wednesday 6th June, 228 students from Years 7-10 participated in the ICAS International Science competition. The following students received Distinctions, which places them in the top 10% of students who completed the exam in the region: Year 7 - Kurt Murray, Braden Raffo, Thomas O’Sullivan, Thomas Webb and Nicholas Bollard; Year 8 - Eamon Moroney; Year 9 - Lucas Bollard and Declan White; Year 10 - Matthew Kelly, Rory McGuinness, James Hayes and Caleb O’Brien. Congratulations to all students that participated.

Ms Jeannie Scevity, Science Coordinator

SCHOOL SKI TRIP

On Friday 3rd August, 41 boys and 4 staff ventured to the Snowy Mountains for the annual Marcellin College ski weekend. The snow conditions were the best we have seen in a few years but the weather was not as kind. Blustery conditions, at times, made many of the runs a whiteout and only the most experienced skiers accessed the entire mountain. Friday Flats, the beginners run, saw heavy traffic from the Marcellin boys. Mr Cuthbertson mastered skiing at his first attempt and managed to progress onto some blue runs.

After two big days skiing, many boys returned late on Sunday night to repack before heading off to camp and Ministry Week. The quote of the weekend must be attributed to Jack Erickson when explaining why a fellow Year 11 student was in bed by 6pm - “He’s had a BIG day!”

Overall, the weekend was a complete success with many of the boys already planning trips to the snow next year.

Thank you Mrs Ryan who supplied a delicious chocolate cake for our supper.

Mr Ian Laing, Ski Trip Coordinator
YEARS 7 CAMP
Camp was a very enjoyable experience that has taught me various lessons and I have taken away many memories.

Over the three days at Camp Somerset I experienced many amazing events and enjoyable activities. My group and I walked on a 3km hike by a clean, secluded river on which we had been canoeing earlier that day. We worked our way through a difficult obstacle course which was full of challenges, crawled through a muddy, pitch black underground maze, faced our fears on a flying fox, participated in night activities and joined in on many other fun events.

James Bakis, Year 7 Student

YEARS 9 CAMP
On Monday 6th August the Year 9 boys departed a sunny Randwick for Camp Somerset near Windsor. The prospect of spending the next week sleeping in a tent and cooking on a camp fire was perhaps not the most appealing option for the boys. The program of events included archery, abseiling, climbing and team building skills. Two of the tougher aspects involved day long hikes and canoeing expeditions with the dreaded ration packs for sustenance. Whilst at night camp fires, marshmallows and stories of the day kept the boys going.

It was pleasing to see the various friendship groups blend into each other as the boys worked together to face each challenge. The instructors from Somerset were overwhelmed with the spirit, attitude and effort of the boys. A definite milestone in any Marcellin student’s life is the Year 9 Camp experience. Young boys head to camp and men return.

Mr Ian Laing, Year 9 Coordinator

CAREERS
Marcellin now subscribes to a careers service which allows students and parents to be kept up to date with Careers news and events via email. This provides for a much smoother flow of information of all things post schooling. I invite you to register for the email service which provides weekly updates on universities, private providers, TAFE, scholarships and apprenticeships. I feel this will be a very worthwhile tool when considering a pathway for all students.

To access this information go to the website www.mhscareers.com

• click on ‘NSW & ACT’ and then
• login with: student or parent
• password: outlook

Mr Ben Proctor, Careers Coordinator

SCHOOL RELATED PHOTOS
If you have any photos of your son or your son’s sports team that you think would be useful we’d love to see them. Parents are asked to send any photos of school related functions and sports events to mcrpics2012@gmail.com

They may end up in the newsletter or school magazine.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2012
On Thursday 16th August Thomas Pantle, Matthew Waller and Benjamin Liew attended the Secondary Schools Leadership program at New South Wales Parliament House. Alongside young leaders of Catholic schools from across New South Wales, they were addressed by members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and given insight as to how leadership is demonstrated within the field of State politics.

They discussed leadership with local member for Coogee Mr Bruce Notley-Smith, and viewed the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly whilst in session. The day concluded with a conference with Her Excellency, the Governor Marie Bashir, at Government House. The event provided vital insight as to the presence and importance of leadership not only within politics, but in all facets of society.

Mr Damian Chase, Year 11 Coordinator
SPORT AND NEWS

MCC ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
The 83rd annual MCC Athletics carnival will be held this Thursday at The Barden Ridge athletics track. This has been changed from the previously advertised venue at Homebush. The carnival is due to commence at 8.45am and our athletes will compete against the six other MCC schools in the track and field event. The boys have been training hard since the start of the term and the coaches are very happy with their attitudes and progress at the moment. We wish the team the best of luck this Thursday.

RUGBY LEAGUE
The Opens Rugby League team played their quarter final match last Tuesday afternoon against St Gregory’s Campbelltown. Proving to be a tough encounter, Marcellin were too strong running out victors 34-4. This is a significant victory beating one of the premier Catholic Rugby League schools in greater Sydney. The victory is a confirmation of the talent that we have at the College and highlights the excellent coaching staff Marcellin College boasts in Rugby League and right across the sporting spectrum. The semi final fixture is scheduled for Wednesday 29th August. More details will be provided as they come to hand.

VOLLEYBALL
The Volleyball teams have been training for several weeks now and will compete at the MCC Volleyball championships next Thursday 30th August at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush. The results in the past two years have been very good for Marcellin and the number of boys attending training sessions is testament to how the sport is growing at the College. Good luck to the teams and their coaches next week.

AFL
Last Friday night, the Year 7/8 AFL team had their first competition match against Asquith Boys High School. This is only the second season that Marcellin College has participated in the AFL Schools Challenge. We had 35 boys trialling for the squad and the talent amongst the boys was evident with a comfortable win of 8.6 (54) to nil. Congratulations to Mr Broe and the boys on their excellent start. Games continue this Friday night against Hunters Hill at the Lakeside ground at 6.30pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS
College Walkathon: The Walkathon is one of the big fund raising activities for the year and is much loved by the whole school community. We are currently looking for volunteers to help organise the event which will be held on Friday 26th October. If you are able to help please contact Mrs Mary Ivancic at ivancicm@marcellin.nsw.edu.au
Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club Juniors: Registration is now open at www.eastscricket.com.au. For more information call 0408884286 or email michael.furlong@eastscricket.com.au
Marist Brothers High School Darlinghurst: Mr Gregory Poole is trying to contact old boys from Marist Brothers High School Darlinghurst which closed its doors at the end of 1968. For more details please call 9697 3732.