

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



SPECIAL EDITION

Number 1
January 13th 2010

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope your Christmas and new year break was a rejuvenating one for you and your family. I hope that the year ahead will be a rewarding and prosperous one for you all. Our Theme at Marcellin for 2010 is 'Journey with Compassion' and is shown in the banner below. This banner will be displayed around the school as a reminder to all of our key priorities for the new year. You can also see our Code of Conduct banner which outlines the fundamental values we encourage our students and staff to uphold. These will all be given to the boys in week one in a form which can easily be kept in their wallets. The purpose of our Theme and Code of Conduct is to have a tangible reminder to all of the values we espouse at Marcellin College. I encourage you to join with me in regularly referring to these with your son in the year ahead.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is one we are all most likely quite familiar with. (If not you can find it in Luke's Gospel Ch 10: 25-37). It is the Gospel story we will be using in conjunction with our College theme in the year ahead.

While it is a well known story we can fall into the trap of losing its significance due to its over use or familiarity. The parable links in with our Theme of Compassion extremely well and especially targets our underlying core value of respect which has been at the heart of all we do here these past seven years. I don't believe we can ever hear the message enough! If we are to authentically witness the Gospel values and our Marist principles, 'respect' needs to pervade all that we do here at Marcellin. Our relationships with one another, our respect for self, the environment and our school community all calls us to respond in a heartfelt manner.

The striking thing about the Parable is that the Samaritan is the most unlikely person to help. He was not obliged to help a stranger according to the law but chose to do so. The Priest and the Levite, who you would expect to offer care and support, chose to ignore the injured traveller, most likely to either protect themselves from danger or through selfishness or lack of empathy. Whatever the reason, they rode on and ignored the injured man.

Martin Luther King Jr sums up the message of this parable most succinctly. He says, "The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But, the good Samaritan reversed the question 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

We make a difference to our families and our school when we strive to be people of heart and sensitivity. When we work for a common purpose we will see the fruits of our labour.

Our 2010 Theme challenges each one of us to have respect and compassion at the heart of all we do.

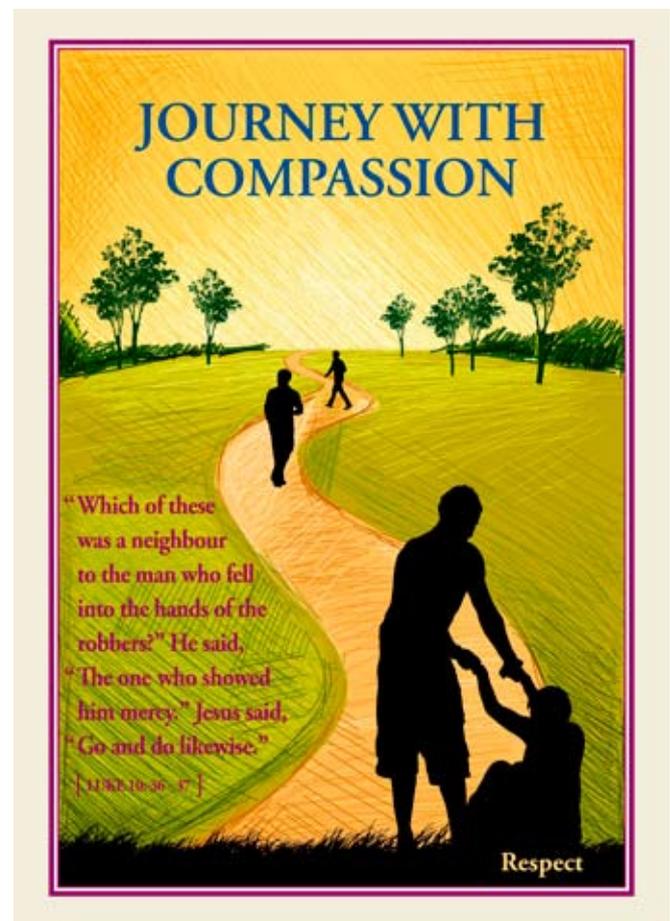
Kahlil Gibran tells us, *'You give but little when you give of your possessions.'*

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

May the year ahead be a rewarding and memorable one for the Marcellin Community.

With best wishes

Br Bill Sullivan, fms
Headmaster



FROM THE HEADMASTER

TERM DATES 2010

Term 1 Commences for Year 7 on Thursday 28th January. Year 7 boys are to meet at Heffron Park by 8.45 am. Lessons commence for all boys formally on Friday 29th 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 Wednesday 31st March at 3.20 pm.
Thursday 1st April is a pupil lesson free day. On this day we will be conducting internal sports championships including Tennis, Golf and Surfing. Boys will be free to nominate to participate in these events. Please note: We are finishing school a day earlier which hopefully will assist travel plans for parents. Please do not request further days away.

Term 2 Commences Monday 19th April at 8.40 am. Br David Hall commences as Principal on this day. Please note this IS NOT a pupil free day. Lessons commence on Monday 19th April.

Term 2 Concludes Friday 2nd July.

Term 3 Commences Monday 19th July at 8.40 am. This IS NOT a pupil free day. Lessons commence for all boys on this day.

Concludes Thursday 23rd September after the Year 12 Graduation assembly (approximately 1 pm).
Friday 24th September is a staff inservice day.

Term 4 Commences Monday 11th October at 8.40 am for all boys.

Tentative concluding dates for the year are as follows:

Br David will inform parents of the confirmed date early in Term 2.

Year 10 Conclude with their prizegiving on Monday 29th November.

Year 11 Conclude Friday 10th December.

Years 7/8/9 Conclude formal lessons on Tuesday 14th December.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Uniform shop hours will revert to normal opening times from Week 2.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 21st January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Friday 22nd January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Monday 25th January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Tuesday 26th January | Closed - Public Holiday |
| Wednesday 27th January | 9.00 am to 4.00 pm |
| Thursday 28th January | 9.00 am to 4.00 pm |

BOOK HIRE COLLECTION TIMES

Years 7 and 8 boys collect books from rooms 25 and 26. Years 9 and 10 boys collect books from the book hire room.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 21st January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Friday 22nd January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Monday 25th January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Tuesday 26th January | Closed - Public Holiday |
| Wednesday 27th January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Thursday 28th January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 21st January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Friday 22nd January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Monday 25th January | 9.00 am to 3.00 pm |
| Tuesday 26th January | Closed - Public Holiday |
| Wednesday 27th January | 8.00 am to 4.00 pm |

These hours then continue for the rest of the term.

Respect
AT THE HEART OF THE MARCELLIN COMMUNITY

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

JOURNEY WITH COMPASSION

FROM THE HEADMASTER

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE AND ATTENDANCE

As stated in previous newsletters we have made huge improvements in student attendance over the last few years. 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.

I once again seek parent support in minimizing 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.

This past few years has clearly identified Monday as the worst day for attendance. I do not support flexi days on Mondays so as to recover from busy weekends. I would encourage parents to monitor weekend activities a little more so as to ensure attendance of a Monday.

In 2010 once again I will not be permitting football trips organized by clubs. We have some 3 months of holidays each year which gives clubs ample time to arrange holiday activities. I would encourage all parents to pressure clubs to find an acceptable time which does not clash with school routine.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE

Apart from medical appointments all requests for leave are to be submitted in writing to the Headmaster **well before the date for leave**. Extended holidays are not encouraged so thanks in advance for your support with this.

SICK LEAVE

All absences from school, except for prior approved leave, are to be rung in to the office **by 9.30 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 calling to check on your son's absence. This takes up much time as you would appreciate so many thanks in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

PARENT TEACHER DAYS 2010

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 2010; 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 17th March | TERM 1 - WEEK 8 |
| YEAR 7 | • Full Parent - Teacher evening: Wednesday 21st July | TERM 3 - WEEK 1 |
| YEAR 8 | • Wednesday 28th July | TERM 3 - WEEK 2 |
| YEAR 9 | • Wednesday 28th July | TERM 3 - WEEK 2 |
| YEAR 10 | • Monday 23rd June | TERM 2 - WEEK 10 |
| YEAR 11 | • Monday 23rd June | TERM 2 - WEEK 10 |
| YEAR 12 | • Wednesday 28th April | 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. An extra Parents in Touch night will once again take place in Term 1. This will occur on Wednesday March 10th with Special Guest speaker Mr Paul Dillon 'Alcohol, Teenagers and Drugs'. Please keep this night free.

TERM 1 - Wednesday 24th February
TERM 1 - Wednesday 10th March
TERM 2 - Wednesday 5th May
TERM 3 - Wednesday 4th August
TERM 4 - Wednesday 20th October

FROM THE HEADMASTER

COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

This will be held on Wednesday 3rd March from 3 – 6 pm. Lessons will conclude at midday on this day to facilitate set up. All Year 7 and a group of Year 11's 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.

APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 2011

Interviews have already commenced for Year 7 2011. As I will be concluding at the end of Term 1 my intention is to have all enrolments finalized prior to the end of term. Please act now by calling Mrs Marlene Smith for an enrolment package if you wish your son to attend Marcellin in 2011.

Current parents missed out on a position for Year 7 this year because of late application. Please do not leave this important job. In 2010 we had 300 applications for 170 positions so as you would appreciate there is great demand for places at Marcellin.

SCHOOL FEES

I would appreciate it if parents can keep to the advertised date for submission of school fees.

The dates are listed below.

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.

Term 1 fees due Monday 2nd March

Term 2 fees due Monday 1st June

Term 3 fees due Monday 31st August



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 are available from the shop, but if purchasing bags from elsewhere they must be predominately navy or black.

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.

Our expectations are clear so many thanks again for your support.

PICKUP

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 Year 12 students only!

Year 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 12 student in a car. A lengthy suspension will result if boys ignore these guidelines.

BUSES

In 2010 we have an afternoon school special bus 317 commencing. Boys will be given details on day one.