Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

During 2005 I frequently quoted material taken from Esther De Waal’s book ‘Lost in Wonder’. I found her writings easy to read but at the same time quite thought-provoking. We are reminded in her writings of the significant impact prayer and quiet time can play in our lives. It is a theme I regularly place before staff and students here at school. Our Friday prayer and opportunities for quiet time in our RE classes is just one small way we can place this gift before our students. It is a gift we are just touching the surface of here at Marcellin and so the theme of ‘prayer’ is one of our focus areas for the year ahead.

In her book Esther De Waal tells us:

The art of silence is an art form which, like the art of seeing, is virtually neglected in the West (except that recent years have seen a growing interest in the practice of meditation). Traditional societies, however, have always known the importance of silence. The Australian aboriginal word for it is *dadirri*, and an Australian priest says of it that it means ‘the open-eyedness of someone who explores where he or she has always belonged’. It is that sense of belonging in the silence that strikes me: is this a gift which primal people show me so that I may recover something which is primal to my own self?

The Christian Aboriginal artist, Miriam-Rose Ungummer, calls it tapping into a deep spring that is within us all. ‘When I experience *dadirri* I am made whole again,’ she says. She tells us:

> My people are not threatened by silence.  
> They are completely at home with it...  
> I can find peace in this silent awareness.  
> There is no need of words.  
> There is no need to reflect too much  
> And to do a lot of thinking.  
> It is just being aware.  
> Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still  
> And to wait.”

Silence is not absence but presence. Like Elijah in the cave I find that God is here in ‘the sound of sheer silence’ (to use words of a recent translation) - God present in this total stillness. ...Silence and stillness are gifts which are gentle, fragile, to be handled with care, above all in allowing time to wait and listen. For silence is to lead into listening. St Benedict says quite simply ‘the disciple should be silent and listen’. To listen means to be open, ready to receive, attentive to something or to someone outside myself.

Two of my favourite passages inviting us to prayer can be found in The Gospel of Matthew and in Paul’s letter to the Philippians. We are told:

> “Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you (Matthew 6:6)  
> “The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds.” (Philippians 4:6-7).

May we take up the invitation to find some quality time for prayer and a greater appreciation for the importance of some silence and reflection in our lives.

With best wishes

Br Bill Sullivan, fms  
Headmaster
Congratulations to the following boys who took part in the MS Readathon in 2005. Eleven students read 183 books and raised a total of $376 for the MS Society. Well done to the following boys:

- Lucien Alperstein
- Harrison Kelly
- Will Kemp
- Morgan Ryall
- Chris Saroukos
- Jack Slattery
- Christopher Manouvrier
- Joey Pang
- Julian Rifkin
- Alfred Tsang
- Jayden Vutukuni

Swimming Age Champions
At the recent Swimming Carnival the following students topped the points score for their respective age groups to become Age Champions 2006. Congratulations!

- Mitchell Weller (Under 12)
- Ethan Baker (Under 13)
- Vinny Fedele (Under 14)
- Jamie Watts (Under 15)
- Jack Emery (Under 16)
- Matthew Johnstone (Opens)

New MCR Swimming Records 2006
Two records were broken at last week’s College Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to Jack Emery who broke the U/16 50m Butterfly record in 27.79s and to the U/15 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay Team of Jack Nicholls, Jackson Raymond, Nick Kondilios and Pat Renford who swam this event in 1:58.50m.

Upcoming Events
- **Friday 24th February**
  Meet and Greet function for all parents. Please send acceptances to Mr. Vane-Tempest at the College. There will be a $10 cost for all parents Years 8 to 12. I look forward to a large roll-up of parents and another enjoyable night.

- **Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March**
  Year 12 Retreat at Mittagong. There will be no lessons for Year 12 this week.

- **Wednesday 8th March**
  MCC Swimming Carnival. All Year 7 and Year 12 attend this function. Boys are to wear normal school uniform. A letter will be sent home to Year 7 and Year 12 parents.

- **Tuesday 14th March**
  Marcellin Oratory 6pm at the College

- **Thursday 16th March**
  Special ‘Parents in Touch’ night 7.30pm “Boys Education” with special guest speaker Ian Lillico. A brochure advertising this will be sent home two weeks prior to the event.

- **Friday 17th March**
  Staff Inservice Day. There will be no lessons on this day.

- **Wednesday 22nd March**
  Marcellin College Open Day 3pm to 6pm.

- **Thursday 13th April**
  Term 1 concludes after sport.

Congratulations to Dan Morgan who has been accepted into the Sydney Youth Orchestra to play the Cello.
Centacare is an agency run by the Archdiocese of Sydney to assist people in practical ways with the demands of day to day living. A part of the work they do is to run courses to help families with changed circumstances in their relationships. Feedback from families who have made use of the programs is extremely positive. The following information outlines the courses for Term 1. Please contact Carole Wark at the College for booking information or call Centacare direct on 9390 5366.

**Milestone** is an 8 week group for fathers who have separated or divorced. The group focuses on the impact of separation and divorce on fathers and their children. The next Milestone group commences on Wednesday 22nd February from 6 to 9pm.

**Back on Track** is a 6 week group for parents who have separated or divorced and are struggling with the impact of the separation/divorce on their families. The next Back on Track group commences on Wednesday 8th March from 6.30pm to 9pm.

**Rollercoasters** is a series of 8 one hour workshops conducted over 8 weeks for children, 8-12 years whose parents have separated or divorced. The next Rollercoasters group commences on Thursday 23rd February from 4pm to 5pm. The venue is Centacare, 209A Edgeware Rd, Enmore.

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**College Uniform**

**Blazers**
Parents are reminded that blazers are to be worn from Monday 27th March for Years 11 and 12 and the first day of Term 2 for Years 7 to 10.

**College Shirts**
Parents are asked to purchase the correct style of shirt, with logo, from the College shop and not other retailers. This will ensure all boys have the correct style and colour.

**For Sale**

**Second Hand College blazers** - We have 8 junior and 4 senior blazers for sale, priced between $80 and $100. Please speak to Sharon in the front office between 8.00 to 8.45am if you are interested.

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**YEAR 7 ORIENTATION**

On Tuesday 31st January students from over 40 different primary schools came together for the first time as students of Marcellin College.

The gathering took place at Coogee Surf Club and as in previous years this Orientation Day focussed on building new friendships and learning more about life at Marcellin College.

The new Year 7 boys were assisted by a large number of Year 11 Peer Support leaders. These boys organised activities such as touch football and cricket games as well as cooking a BBQ lunch for the newest members of the College community.

Overall, the day was a great success with many of the boys feeling a little more confident about starting at Marcellin College as well as no doubt having met fellow classmates who will stay friends for life.

Paul Daley, Year 7 Coordinator

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**Brigidine College Open Day**

Brigidine College Randwick are holding their Open Afternoon on Tuesday 28th February from 4.00 to 6.30pm. Information Tour and Campus Inspection. All Welcome. Enquiries: 9398 6710
Under gloomy skies the 83rd Annual Swimming carnival began with the IGNATIUS house very confident of being able to hold onto their trophy and thus make it a hat trick for the swimming title. The confidence of the IGNATIUS house was evident as they got off to a flying start and led the carnival with the first 3 score updates. The FALLON house then took control and were solid leaders for the next three updates. The closeness of the carnival was clear with at the half way mark only 22 points separating all four houses. IGNATIUS then took control as the ANSELM and CHAMPAGNAT houses made charges in the breaststroke events, but when it counted the reigning champs held supreme. Congratulations to Greg Brincat and the patrons of the IGNATIUS house on their strong victory. The final point scores for the day were:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>IGNATIUS</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAMPAGNAT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALLON</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSELM</td>
<td>486</td>
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The strength of Marcellin swimming was on show again with some outstanding individual and team achievements. Congratulations must go to the following students who broke some long standing records on the day.

Firstly Jack Emery was able to repeat last years performance and set a new record of 27.79s for the U/16 50m Butterfly. An excellent reward for the consistent hard work Jack puts into his swimming.

The second record went to the 4 boys from the Ignatius house who convincingly changed the record books in the U/15 4x50m Freestyle relay. The team members were Jack Nicholls, Jackson Raymond, Nick Kondilios, and Pat Renford. Further exceptional efforts came from our age champions for each age group. There were many close tussles throughout the day and none closer then our two veteran swimmers in Matthew Johnstone and Harrison Ginis who have dominated their age groups throughout their 6 years at Marcellin. Matthew was able to prevail by a mere 2 points. The full list of winners is printed below.

The now traditional demonstration of House spirit in the Cheer Off and Colour Spirit Display added much colour, excitement and humour to the day. All points go the 2006 Spirit Cup with the Champagnat house gaining valuable points in winning both events. Who will ever forget Riley Flanagan’s dance of sorts plus backflip during the Champagnat war cries. Full credit must go to the four House Captains in Stuart Bainbridge, Wiki Baker, Zein Saliba, and Greg Brincat whose initiative and energies were infectious for their teams.

Finally a thank you to all staff, Mr Dave Ferguson and the Class Mothers for all their time and efforts in assisting with smooth running of the carnival.

**Left (from top):**
- Greg Brincat, Captain of Ignatius, receives the trophy from Br Bill.
- Open Age Champions
- Under 16 Age Champions

**Right (from top):**
- Under 15 Age Champions
- Under 14 Age Champions
- Under 13 Age Champions

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<tr>
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<td>Matthew Johnstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Harrison Ginis</td>
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