

# MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



## NEWSLETTER

Number 3  
February 22nd 2012

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

"You just need to get with it". This was the emphatic conclusion of the parents of a boy at MCR after we had detailed to them the information the Police had brought to us about the boy's behaviour in a public place. "Chill", the boy's parent continued, "he's just being a typical teenager." Myself and Mr Salisbury were gobsmacked. He wasn't a typical teenager, he was an undisciplined, insolent, selfish boy on the way to becoming a criminal. Fortunately, this lad is not a typical Marcellin boy, nor are his parents typical Marcellin parents.

To this day, I do not believe the boy has seen the error of his ways. On his parents' insistence it seems it was just bad luck he got caught that day. "Everybody does it, he was just unlucky", was the conclusion of his parents. Sure, from time to time, good boys from good families do the wrong thing but this is a case of misguided parenting. This boy was 'covered for', unnecessarily protected from his behaviour and indulged - and he is the worse for it.

Earlier this year a retired Supreme Court Judge, Judge Nader concluded that new judges were getting too soft on criminals and juvenile offenders in particular. I don't know if that is the case but his comments did prompt me to wonder whether we as educators and parents have got too soft when it comes to educating and raising young people. My inclination is that we have. We give them too much, too soon, and excuse too much, too readily.

I Googled 'are we too soft on kids' the other day and was directed to a site in the USA where I came across the following in relation to how to best raise kids:

*As parents we're always second guessing ourselves. I definitely think it's consistency, not the severity of the punishment, that makes a difference. I've seen a lot of parents go from completely tolerant, to over the top severe (ie ... taking away every imaginable privilege) in a matter of minutes. That's why a consistent plan needs to be in place, one that you can act on consistently no matter what mood you're in or level of patience you have at the moment. By the way, I think it's always better to err on the side of 'softness' rather than 'strictness'.<sup>1</sup>*

I concur wholeheartedly with the counsel regarding consistency - sound advice. But I'm not sure about 'softness' over 'strictness'. Understanding - yes, empathy

- yes, even warmth. But these things do not negate the value of 'strictness'. By this I mean uncompromising standards built on the principle of mutual respect. And particularly with young people we need to be strict about it and we need to be strict, consistently. The same website quoted above went on to say:

*Increased living standards and less time at home mean that many parents aren't exercising proper discipline over their children. If we give our children what they want and let them behave how they wish they may well become grown-ups who will find it hard to function politely and properly. It can lead to arrogance and greed and no work ethic - not a winning combination in anyone!<sup>2</sup>*



Supreme Court Judge John Nader QC

Strong words, but I think it's good advice. In recent years much of the advice around raising teenagers has to do with building resilience, as if resilience was a new requirement of a brave new world. I think our preoccupation with building resilience has to do with the fact that we have, in our softness, over a number of decades, educated young people 'out' of resilience. Older

generations were hardier, less indulgent and bounced back from trials more readily. Yes, such generations lacked warmth and spontaneity, and we are all the better for having embraced these qualities, but we'd do well to learn something of their resilience. A quality borne of consistent discipline that was less about indulgence and excuses and more about hard 'yakka' and common courtesies.

We will build resilience in our boys when:

- We don't take complete responsibility for the problems boys create
- We don't let them give in too easily
- We don't give them too much choice and
- We don't preserve them from challenges that can help them grow.

Let's build resilience through discipline.

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall, FMS  
Headmaster

<sup>1</sup><http://www.talkingteenage.com/discussion-board/post/1373265>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/family/144525/Are-you-too-soft-on-your-kids->

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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



Left to right: Tom Perrin (Year 9 2011), Benjamin Davis (Year 8 2011) and William Mison (Year 7 2011) Sportsmen of the Year for 2011



Jackson Giles, Year 10  
Won the U15 Boys Division of the Wahu Surfer Groms Competition Mammoth Series



Andrew Norton  
Year 12, 2011

Andrew was awarded the St Hillier's Scholarship to attend the UNSW and play for Randwick Rugby Club in 2012



Linus Gibson  
Year 10

Linus obtained a position with the Sydney Youth Orchestra Sinfonietta 2012

## CONGRATULATIONS

In the NSW Junior Athletics Championships, Joshua and Luke Dever had great results, the best of which include the following:  
Joshua: U16 3000m 1st place in a time of 9:18.93 (PB) and U16 1500m 1st place in a time of 4:13.51 (PB).  
Luke: U16 2000m Steeplechase 1st place in a time of 6:34.66 (PB) and Heat 1st place in a comfortable 2:06.74.  
The boys both qualified to compete for NSW at the Australian Junior Championships on 14–18 March.

## MEET AND GREET

A threatening sky loomed on Friday afternoon as preparations were set in place for our annual Meet and Greet. After a very brave call to go ahead with the function in our outdoor venue, the evening evolved as a joyous celebration of the many wonderful things already achieved here at the College in just a few short weeks. Parents and staff mingled in a friendly, casual setting, as they were served food by our current Year 12 leaders. Our bar was staffed by a generous group of ex-students who completed their RSA courses here at the College last year. Our thanks to Nicholas Saady, Thomas Stirling, Benjamin Stepkovich, John Murdaca and Joshua Romeo for volunteering their time to this enjoyable event. We also enjoyed the varied repertoire of our talented musicians, under the guidance of Mr Kostovski and Ms DeFrancesco, who kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening.



## PARENTS IN TOUCH

On Wednesday 15th February almost 100 parents met for the first Parents in Touch of the year. The first part of the evening saw the election of the P & F committee for 2012. Many thanks to the following parents who have been appointed to these positions; President: Nick Malcolm, Vice President: Marian Romeo, Secretary: Kim Said, and Committee members: Lourdes Agbayani, Marita Barron, Christine Foote, Voula Kapsimallis, Kristina Karasulas, Zora Kralievic, Del Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly, Wendy Law, Lizzie Milligan, Louise Petersen, David Power, Cordelia Roswell and Helen Torok. Thank you to Mrs Lisa Stirling and the 2011 P & F for your generous support of the College.



2012 P & F Committee

The other part of the evening featured presentations from the College Executive. These presentations outlined the future directions for MCR in 2012, with a particular focus on M-Learning. Br David spoke of the wonderful partnership that exists among our College community and encouraged parents to trust that the staff at MCR are working hard to give the boys the best opportunities for them to develop as fine young men. It was a very informative and well attended evening. I encourage all parents to consider attending a Parents in Touch at some stage during the year, they are held once per term.

*Mr Brian Vane-Tempest, Director of Development & Communications*

## TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Friday 24th February    | • Inaugural Mass 9.30am. All parents and friends are welcome. Please come along. |
| Wednesday 29th February | • Marcellin Open Day afternoon 3-6pm. Years 7 and 11 to attend.                  |
| Monday 5th March        | • Year 12 Exams commence. Concludes on Wednesday 14th March.                     |
| Wednesday 14th March    | • Year 7 Parent Feedback Meeting.  |

## RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER

The College will no longer be printing hard copies of the newsletter. Newsletters will now be sent to parents via the email address they have previously provided the College. There will be a limited number of newsletters printed at reception. Copies of current and previous newsletters are also available on the College website [www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au)

## SCHOOL FEES

School fees have been posted or emailed to parents. If you didn't receive your fee statement please contact the College.

## VACCINATION PROGRAM - YEAR 7 AND 10 STUDENTS

A team of specially trained Registered Nurses will be visiting the school on Monday 12th March for the National Adolescent Vaccination program for Year 7 and 10 students. This program will ensure that students in Year 7 are offered protection against Hepatitis B/Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Whooping Cough)/Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Year 10 students are offered protection against Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis. It is very important for any child who receives the first dose of Hepatitis B vaccine to receive the second dose in order to complete the course. There will be a second visit on Monday 13th August. Year 7 students will be offered catch ups for Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis and Varicella and Year 10 students will be offered catch ups for Diphtheria/Tetanus and Pertussis at the second visit. A consent form will be sent home with your son.

*Mr Jacob Gibbons, Year 7 Coordinator and Mrs Patricia Kratochvil, Year 10 Coordinator*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH PROGRAM

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a self-development program for all young people. The Award is non-competitive and encourages young people to set and achieve goals at a level appropriate to their needs. There are four sections that must be completed for a young person to qualify for an award: Community Service, Skills, Recreation, and Adventurous Journey. These sections provide an opportunity for students to acquire and develop skills, initiative and self esteem which will help them to become more confident members of the community. The scheme has three award levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Students who are aged 14 years and older are eligible to start the Bronze Award. For students starting the Bronze Award the cost of the program is \$80 which covers registration to the Online Record Book (ORB) where the students log their hours in each section, as well as all certificates, badges, insurance and administration (until the participant's 25th birthday). We hope your son will take advantage of the opportunity to join this internationally recognised program. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at school on 9398 6355 or via email at [cheriachanv@marcellin.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cheriachanv@marcellin.nsw.edu.au)

*Mr Vasant Cheriachan, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*

## HEADMASTER'S ASSEMBLY - 2011 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS AND SEMESTER 2 2011 ACADEMIC AWARDS

On Friday 10th February the high achievers of Year 12 2011 returned to the College for the Headmaster's Assembly where they received certificates for Outstanding Achievement. Congratulations! Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP, and the Hon. Greg Smith, Attorney General, attended the assembly. They presented Semester 2 2011 Academic Awards to Years 7, 8 and 9 students.

## HSC RESULTS 2004 - 2011

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Band 6 & E4	38	92	66	108	104	109	135	105
Band 5	133	193	174	224	172	253	269	266
Total Band 5 & 6	171	285	240	332	276	362	404	371
Above State average	12	22	18	21	19	25	25	23
Below State average	14	5	9	6	9	4	3	3



Mr Bruce Notley-Smith, The Hon. Greg Smith and Br David



2011 Year 12 High Achievers

# SPORT AND NEWS

In what has been an interrupted start to this year's representative sports, we have finally managed to play two consecutive rounds. Last week we made up the Round 3 washed out match against Lewisham. All teams performed well and we came away with some excellent results winning 10 of the 12 games. The teams have all qualified for the Semi Finals this week. The First XI Cricket will play at Kensington Oval and the Under 14s and Under 16s will play at Heffron Park. The Touch will be at Marcellin Fields, the Basketball will play at Bankstown Basketball Stadium and the Squash will be at Matraville Squash Centre. We wish the boys and their coaches the best of luck in their Semi Finals this week. The Finals will be played on Thursday 1st March.

The Swimming team continues to train strongly each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and will compete in Marist College North Shore's invitational carnival next Tuesday 28th February. The competition begins at 7:30pm and parents are welcome to attend. This will be a warm up to the MCC Carnival which will be held at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush on Thursday 15th March beginning at 4pm. A preliminary Cross Country team was chosen last week and coaches are now conducting run offs to finalise the team. The squad will compete at King George Park, Rozelle on Thursday 8th March.

The Internal Sports program is in full swing now and boys in Years 7 to 10 will continue to play selected sports every Thursday until the end of this term. Years 7 and 8 will return to Heffron Park this week and will remain at this venue up until mid March. They will then move to their usual sports ground at Coral Sea Park. Years 9 and 10 will continue to use Pioneer Park for the next two weeks.

At assembly last Thursday, I spoke to boys in Years 7 to 10 about the need for them to be wearing sunscreen and a cap whenever they are outdoors. This message applies to all boys and I'd like to see them wearing their College cap at assembly as well. We try to move the boys off to sport as quickly as possible each Thursday, but while boys are sitting around, they still need to be sun smart. Every boy must also have their house coloured T-shirt for sport each week.

## MCC SUMMER SEASON - ROUND 3

Basketball	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Lewisham	Lewisham	Lewisham	Lewisham
	Result	W: 36-24	W: 36-29	L: 17-30	W: 47-20
	Player of Match	Joshua Wilson	Jack Ringwood	Michael Jenkins	Alexander Drury

Cricket	Team	A Grade	Under 16s	Under 14s
	Opposition	Lewisham	Lewisham	Lewisham
	Result	W: 7/118 to 10/62	W: 10/128 to 9/91	W: 2/137 to 7/65
	Player of Match	Jack Erickson	Nikolas Tsoukalas	Anthony Halikas

Squash	Opposition	Result
	Lewisham	W: 1073 to 748
	Player of Match	Christopher Goutama

Touch Football	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Lewisham	Lewisham	Lewisham	Lewisham
	Result	W: 4-3	L: 1-6	W: 9-2	W: 8-6
	Player of Match	Blake Hurley	Zachary Bataille	Joshua Natoli	Jai McGrath



## MCC SUMMER SEASON - ROUND 7

Basketball	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Wahroonga	Wahroonga	Wahroonga	Wahroonga
	Result	L: 29-34	W: 36-32	W: 43-12	W: 74-7
	Player of Match	Jonni Mei-Edwards	Matthew Tan	Sean O'Byrne	Alexander Drury

Cricket	Team	A Grade	Under 16s	Under 14s
	Opposition	Wahroonga	Wahroonga	Wahroonga
	Result	W: 8/90-5/85	L: 7/108 to 5/116	W: 4/102 to 10/24
	Player of Match	Matthew Buxton	Ryan Danne	Anthony Halikas

Squash	Opposition	Result
	Wahroonga	W: 1058 to 729
	Player of Match	Elvin Wong

Touch Football	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Wahroonga	Wahroonga	Wahroonga	Wahroonga
	Result	BYE	BYE	W: 14-3	W: 26-0
	Player of Match			Jaiden Brown	Kurtis Preece



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Community Feedback requested from Randwick Council:** To create an additional Alcohol Free Zone at Alison Rd between Avoca St and Belmore Rd, Belmore Rd-Waratah Ave to Alison Rd, both sides of road and footpath. More information is available at [www.randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au) in the 'Have my say', community consultation section.

*Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator*