

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



NEWSLETTER

Number 3
February 23rd 2011

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

I get as many compliments about our boys travelling to and from school as I do complaints – boys stepping aside to allow people to pass on the pavements, boys assisting elderly people onto buses, boys wearing their uniform impeccably. In fact, literally during the writing of this editorial our receptionist has come in to see me with notes of a phone call from someone who called the College about our boys on the 316 bus last Thursday: “very polite, conduct was excellent, there were a lot of them and they were a credit to the school.” I am heartened by the good conduct of the MCR boys; they are a tribute to their parents and our fine College.

Last week, though, I was troubled by two complaints. One related to two boys who harassed and intimidated an elderly lady on a bus and another was about a senior boy who turned to a girl in a queue in a shop and snarled, “You state school #####!” At this stage we’ve tracked down and punished the two from the bus incident and, as difficult as it is, we’re doing our ‘darndest’ to find the senior boy. As you can imagine, for all sorts of reasons, I was troubled by both incidents. As I tried to make sense of this deeply disrespectful behaviour I mused that in both instances the victim was female. I wonder if any of the boys in these incidents would have behaved in this way to other boys or men.

On 8th March we celebrate *International Women’s Day*. We don’t celebrate *International Men’s Day*, and perhaps we should, but *International Women’s Day* exists because in many ways too many societies in the world – even our own at times – are characterised by patriarchal mindsets and practices that see women treated as lesser citizens than men. In a country like our own, where the city mayor, the State Premier, the State Governor, the Prime Minister, and the Governor General are all women you could be forgiven for wondering what I’m on about, but attitudes run deep and I think we still have some way to go in imbedding in our cultural mindset an abiding respect for women.

Unfortunately many religions and churches do not help, and the Catholic Church in particular has a long way to go in this regard. We remain misogynistic, patriarchal, and anachronistic in our attitude to women, continuing to exclude them from the places where the most significant decisions are made, despite the fact that much of the

pastoral activity of the church depends on them. Our Church is male dominated with far too few opportunities for women to inform and shape what we believe and what we do. This is not to say that some of our bishops have not done great work in trying to redress this issue, and continue to do so, but in my opinion too few people have been doing too little, for too long - and I’m not just talking about bishops here, I’m referring to anyone who has the capacity to influence the place and profile of women in the church. Until we correct this grave omission God’s mission will never be fully realised in our world.



Much of our Church literature, including our liturgical texts, fails to use sufficiently inclusive language – that is, it is almost always male. We do well to take counsel from our sacred scriptures. “The very first verse of the Bible speaks of God whose presence is manifest in a creative spirit (the feminine Hebrew noun – *ruah*) hovering over the chaos waters. As the story of salvation history begins to unfold, moreover, God is revealed to Moses as a God who is *merciful* and *gracious* (Ex 34:6). Here, it is essential to realise the English word *merciful* translates the Hebrew term related to *rhem* – meaning *womb*.

This fundamental affirmation about the character of God highlights God’s motherly compassion, God’s womb love.”¹

It is no accident that the Book of Sirach, a book of the Bible that sits in the section between the Law and the Prophets and speaks to us about *wisdom*, describes wisdom by attributing the female gender. Wisdom is not my smart or savvy thought – it is not something of human making – wisdom is of God. “It is God who created her (wisdom); God saw her and took her measure; God poured her out upon all God’s works, upon all the living according to God’s gift; God lavished her upon those who love God.” (Sir 1:9-10). Wisdom does not reside exclusively with women, but it can only be found among those who are truly open to listening to the voice of God. And we cannot hear God from a purely male point of view.

As we approach *International Women’s Day* let us be mindful of the need to be more inclusive of women and more respectful of their dignity and the place they must play in realising God’s reign among us.

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall, FMS
Headmaster

¹ Barbara Bowe, *Biblical Foundations of Spirituality: Touching a Finger to the Flame* (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers: Oxford UK, 2003), 29-30.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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



Joshua Dever, Year 8
Finished 3rd in the NSW Junior Athletics Championships U16 800m. Qualified for the NSW team in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships



Luke Dever, Year 8
Finished 4th in the NSW Junior Athletics Championships U16 800m. Qualified for the NSW team in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships



Lucas Toms, Charlie Nye, Trent Rutherford and Cormac Guthrie Year 7
The U12 Swimming Relay team broke the school record by more than 2 seconds at 2:20.92



Christian Lozada, Year 12
Won a Gold medal in the 400m, a Silver medal in the 400m Hurdles. Qualified for the NSW team in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships



Matthew Waller, Year 10
Received a Certificate of High Achievement in the Young Scientist Awards. Matthew also received an Academic Excellence Award for Semester II Year 9 2010



Thomas McCusker Year 8
Headmaster's Award for Semester II Year 7 2010



Cameron Wells Year 9
Headmaster's Award for Semester II Year 8 2010



Benjamin Liew Year 10
Headmaster's Award for Semester II Year 9 2010



Daniel Brito Year 8
Academic Excellence Award for Semester II Year 7 2010



Nicholas Roper Year 9
Academic Excellence Award for Semester II Year 8 2010



Liam Petersen Year 10
Received a Certificate of Commendation in the Young Scientist Awards

THANK YOU PARENTS

It was very heartening to see more than 120 parents at the Parents in Touch evening. Br David launched the Marcellin Strategic Plan 'Onwards & Upwards' on this evening. To access a copy of the Plan go to the College website, click on the 'Our School' tab, then the heading 'Annual Reports', and click on the 'Onwards & Upwards' link.

Also a big thank you to parents who prepared and helped out at the Marcellin Swimming Carnival. It was a fantastic day.

RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER

Please note that a hard copy of the newsletter will be sent home only to those that have indicated as per 2010. Parents wishing to change their arrangements to receive the newsletter via email or hard copy are to contact Mrs Marlene Smith in the College office on 9398 6355.

TERM 1 CALENDAR EVENTS

Friday 25th February

- Inaugural Mass 9.30 am. All parents and friends are welcome. Please come along.

Friday 25th February

- Meet and Greet Cocktail Evening 6 - 8 pm.

Wednesday 2nd March

- Open Afternoon 3 - 6 pm.

Thursday 3rd March

- MCC Swimming Carnival.

Monday 7th March

- Year 12 Exams - conclude 16th March.

Wednesday 16th March

- Year 7 Parent Feedback Meeting.

Friday 8th April

- Term 1 concludes.

SCHOOL FEES

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

NOTICES AND NEWS

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

The Young Scientist Awards is a competition offering outstanding Science students the opportunity to submit scientific investigations they have conducted by themselves to be judged by educators and scientists at a State level. Two current Year 10 students, Liam Petersen and Matthew Waller, each submitted scientific investigations last year. Both of these students had already been successful with their investigations, having been presented with a Silver CREST Award from the CSIRO. Liam's investigation tested the effectiveness of lubrication on bicycle hubs whilst Matthew examined the effectiveness of different liquids on sporting performance. Both students spent countless hours conducting their own experiments, analysing their results and producing a scientific report. Each of these students is to be congratulated on their outstanding projects and their commitment and perseverance to the process. Liam has been awarded with a Certificate of Commendation whilst Matthew has received a Certificate of High Achievement.

Miss Rachel Thompson, Science Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH PROGRAM

The Duke of Edinburgh's 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 thompsonr@marcellin.nsw.edu.au

Miss Rachel Thompson, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

HEADMASTER'S ASSEMBLY - 2010 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS

On Friday 11th February the high achievers of Year 12 2010 returned to the College for the Headmaster's Assembly where they received their certificates for Outstanding Achievement. Congratulations!



2010 Year 12

HSC RESULTS 2003 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Band 6 & E4	50	38	92	66	108	104	109	135
Band 5	157	133	193	174	224	172	253	269
Total Band 5 & 6	207	171	285	240	332	276	362	404
Above State average	16	12	22	18	21	19	25	25
Below State average	11	14	5	9	6	9	4	3

HSC RANKINGS (SMH) 2006 - 2010

80th in 2010 (approximately 720 high schools in the state), 98th in 2009, 100th in 2008, 78th in 2007, and 108th in 2006.



Br David, Jack Slattery and Mrs Vicki Lavorato
Headmaster's Assembly

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

The National School Chaplaincy Program Discussion Paper has been released. Responses to the Paper are now invited, with a closing date of 18 March 2011. The Paper can be accessed via the Australian Government Department's website: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/nationalschoolchaplaincyprogram/Pages/home.aspx#nationalconsultation>

SPORT AND NEWS

Marcellin College has qualified in the U14, U15, B Grade, A Grade Touch Football, Squash, U14, U16, First XI Cricket, U14 and U15 Basketball for this Thursday's grand finals. We wish the boys and coaches the best of luck and hope they can return with their respective trophies. I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of our A and B Grade Basketball teams and their coaches Ms Dove and Ms Thompson. Thank you to Mr Lobo and Mr Shields who are in charge of running the Basketball and Touch Football competitions each week. We thank Mr Ferguson for the terrific condition the Touch Football Marcellin Fields are kept in. The preliminary Cross Country team competed last week and the final team has now been chosen and announced. Training will commence next Tuesday. The Swimming team competed in Marist North Shore's Invitational Carnival on Tuesday in preparation for the MCC Swimming Carnival commencing 3pm next Thursday 3rd March at Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre, Homebush. Parents are welcome to attend. The swimmers are keen to continue Marcellin's outstanding record of winning the Aggregate trophy 27 out of the last 28 years. We wish the swimmers and coaches Ms Evans, Mr Leary and Mr MacNamara the best of luck.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL AGE CHAMPIONS



Phil Trupke, Year 7
2011 U12 Marcellin
Swimming Champion



Benjamin Gordon, Year 8
2011 U13 Marcellin
Swimming Champion



Ben Davis and Huon
Fairbairn, Year 8
2011 Equal U14 Marcellin
Swimming Champions



Luke Irvine, Year 10
2011 U15 Marcellin
Swimming Champion



Ben Thornton, Year 10
2011 U16 Marcellin
Swimming Champion



Alex Engel, Year 12
2011 Opens Marcellin
Swimming Champion

MCC SUMMER SEASON - ROUND 6

Basketball	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Pagewood	Pagewood	Pagewood	Pagewood
	Result	W: 65-27	W: 36-28	W: 43-13	W: 24-15
	Player of Match	Thomas Payten	Anthony Chovan	Fraser Graham	Luke McKaig

Cricket	Team	A Grade	Under 16s	Under 14s
	Opposition	Pagewood	Pagewood	Pagewood
	Result	W: 3/220 to 10/12	W: 7/136 to 10/78	W: 2/85 to 10/78
	Player of Match	Nicholas Saady	Nikolas Tsoukalas	Cameron Murray

Squash	Opposition	Result
	Pagewood	L: 833 to 886
	Player of Match	James Del Marmol

Touch Football	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Pagewood	Pagewood	Pagewood	Pagewood
	Result	W: 7-1	W: 6-2	W: 4-3	W: 8-2
	Player of Match	Brayden Sorge	Fergus Whitney Jay Barron	Tom Perrin	Thomas Wong

MCC SUMMER SEASON - ROUND 7

Basketball	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Ashfield	Ashfield	Ashfield	Ashfield
	Result	L: 26-31	L: 33-40	W: 80-6	W: 37-28
	Player of Match	Jonni Mei Edwards	Mason Jones	Joshua Wilson	Luke Dever

Cricket	Team	A Grade	Under 16s	Under 14s
	Opposition	BYE	Ashfield	Ashfield
	Result		W: 3/165 to 10/26	W: 6/191 to 10/23
	Player of Match		Matthew Buxton	Thomas McCusker

Squash	Opposition	Result
	Ashfield	W: 1064 to 667
	Player of Match	Luke Gander

Touch Football	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14
	Opposition	Ashfield	Ashfield	Ashfield	Ashfield
	Result	W: 14-1	W: 9-4	W: 9-3	W: 14-0
	Player of Match	Thomas Cogin Andrew Norton	Thomas Stirling	Adam Shean Tom Perrin	Jarrold Wachman



Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator