

# MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



## NEWSLETTER

Number 9  
June 1st 2011

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

My friend had gone off to the toilet and so I was sitting at the restaurant table on my own. At times like this I often check messages or emails on my phone but on Sunday the battery was dead. I sat staring into the distance, daydreaming, immersed in my own thoughts until someone at the adjacent table knocked over a glass of water. My antenna was now tuned to the conversation they were having. I tried to pretend I wasn't listening but the topic had me hanging on every word.

"Everyone else's mother would," moaned the teenage boy who had his back to me.

"Well I'm not everyone's mother - I'm your mother Max - and you're going to school."

"Even Tom's mother covers for him when he doesn't want to go and you're always telling me I should be more like Tom!"

"Zip it. The answer is 'No.' You're going even if you're the only one there!"

My friend came back to the table and I missed the remainder of the wrestle.

On the plane home to Sydney that afternoon I re-read an article that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 23rd May 2011 entitled, "Too hard? Hand it to the teachers." (page 15, author, Ainslie MacGibbon). After I read the article I decided I liked Max's mother and I felt somewhat satisfied that many of the parents at Marcellin College were just like her. The friend I was travelling with - also

a school principal - told a somewhat different story. She concurred with a sentence in the article that quoted the Headmaster of The King's School: "There is no doubt there is a rise in lazy parenting, absentee parenting and dysfunctional parenting, which results in schools being required to take over more parenting duties than ever before." Strong words. And while I don't come across many lazy, absentee, or dysfunctional parents there are some I feel could be more like Max's Mum.

Take for instance lateness and absenteeism from school. I'm proud to say that MCR is the best school I have ever been in for 'on-time-arrival' and minimal absences from school but there has been a niggling increase in the number of parents covering for their boys; the call to school when he just doesn't feel like coming, or an assignment wasn't finished on the weekend, or a planned long weekend that we just didn't want to tell the school about. None of these are acceptable reasons to be away and if a boy doesn't learn during his school years to turn up every day and to be transparently honest about his absences he runs the risk of never learning this lesson.

A relatively young teacher quoted in the Herald article said: "Some parents I deal with now are amazing but many are in denial if their child has done the wrong thing. Some even feel they have to make it up to the child

somehow because they've gone through a traumatic experience." Once again, that's not been the bulk of my experience at MCR but we have had more instances than I'd like to see of parents trying to 'water-down' the wrongs their boys have done. In my experience the best lesson a boy can learn is to cop the full consequences for his mistakes and use this as an opportunity to decide not to do it again. I have little time for the parent who wants justice for everyone else, but mercy for their own son; punishment for other wrongdoers, but leniency when their own boy errs.

On the issue of challenging inappropriate behaviour among adolescents, Dr Anne McMaugh of the School of Education at Macquarie University, says: "Although some

parents face real challenges that impact on their capacity to carry out their responsibilities, myriad studies suggest many other parents who are capable of doing more may not be pulling their weight in taking responsibility for their child's wellbeing and supporting teacher authority." When a parent chooses to indulge the boy and baulk school authority it is, in the end, the boy who suffers. Indulged boys, often turn into unreasonable adolescents, who often turn into very dissatisfied adults. And parents who get into the indulgence cycle early find it difficult to break out of it, thus

finding themselves defending their sons even though, deep down, they know they're on the wrong track.

My encounter with the bulk of parents at MCR is nothing less than engaging and encouraging. I find them to be people who are fine role models for their sons, as well as being people keen to promote and transmit the values that both their family and the College upholds. But we are educating and parenting in an era when indulgence, selfishness and individuality have never been more predominant in young people. The challenge for parents and educators is to hold fast to what are sometimes seen as old-fashioned values, despite the resistance from demanding teenagers. It is unlikely they will be marred for life by a bit of tough love, and more likely they will be resilient, respectful, upright young men - in the words of our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat - "good Christians and good citizens."

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall FMS  
Headmaster



# FROM THE HEADMASTER

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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



**Phillip Trupke and Trent Rutherford**  
Year 7



**Benjamin Gordon, Huon Fairbairn, Jake Irvine, Luke McKaig**  
Year 8



**Jarrod Wachman and Shaun Northey**  
Year 9

Outstanding performances at the NSWCCC Swimming carnival and qualified for the NSW All Schools championships

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**Samuel Disalvo Year 11**  
**and Alexander Engel Year 12**  
Outstanding performances in the NSWCCC Swimming carnival and qualified for the NSW All Schools championships



**Anthony Chovan**  
Year 10  
Anthony had the Highest Assists in the JAAM Basketball finals



**Luke Irvine and Benjamin Thornton**  
Year 10  
Outstanding performances in the NSWCCC Swimming carnival and qualified for the NSW All Schools championships. Benjamin also competed with Distinction in the Australian SLS championships and the Australian Age Swimming championships



**Corey Jones**  
Year 10  
Cory had the Highest Steals and was the Most Valued Player in the JAAM Basketball finals



**Ruben Sondjaja**  
Year 11  
Ruben won the NSW All Schools championships and the Golf NSW School Boys championships with a score of 67 to win by 3 shots

## HSC 2010 ATAR RESULTS

In an earlier edition of the newsletter we acknowledged students that received an ATAR over 90. Since the publication of this list we have received information about another student who received an ATAR over 90. Congratulations to Jack McAnespie for his result in the 2010 HSC.

## TERM 2 CALENDAR EVENTS

- Friday 3rd June** • Headmaster's Assembly. Champagnat Awards.
- Monday 6th June** • School Photo Day. Boys are to be in full College uniform. Boys who are purchasing photos are to bring their money in the envelope provided on photo day. No money is to be given to reception.
- Friday 10th June** • Champagnat Mass - Champagnat Day Activities.
- Monday 13th June** • Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.
- Tuesday 14th June** • Year 7, 8 and 9 Exams commence. Conclude Friday 17th June.
- Wednesday 22nd June** • Year 10 and 11 Parent Teacher Evening - 3.30pm - 8.15pm.

## MUSIC CONCERT



### MID YEAR MUSIC CONCERT

**Wednesday 29th June**  
**6pm - 7.30pm**  
**Marist Centre**



**Entry: gold coin donation which will go towards keeping our Music Ensembles Program free for all participants.**

# NOTICES AND NEWS

## MARIST ASIA PACIFIC SOLIDARITY (MAPS)

Mr Paul Leary, Ms Jenny Dove and Mr Matthew Slattery recently attended the Solidarity Marist Style Conference at the La Valla Centre in Brisbane. This event captured a new direction and vision for what Marists seek to live out in terms of solidarity in our own communities and the Asia Pacific region. The Marist approach to solidarity involves sharing and experiencing rather than charity. The theme for the 2011 MAPS Campaign 'I See You' highlights the shared identity of Marists in the region. Much of the \$19,500 that was collected in the Lenten Appeal will go to MAPS Projects in places like the Solomon Islands and Bougainville that empower those communities and build partnerships with Marists in Australia. At Marcellin the boys are given the opportunity to experience solidarity in many ways. For instance the Year 11 Outreach Program and Ministry Week, including an immersion, are a real and meaningful way for the boys to live in the shoes of another. The College community in partnership with Marists throughout the region will continue to develop a culture of solidarity that reflects and regenerates the spirit of Marcellin Champagnat.

*Mr Paul Leary, Social Justice Coordinator*

## PARENT AND SON MASS

On Wednesday 11th May the Year 8 students led our Eucharistic celebration at OLSH Randwick for the annual Parent and Son Mass. Boys and families across every year group were well represented and enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and share supper following mass. A particular highlight of the evening was the song, *Don't Dream It's Over*, performed by Year 8 and dedicated to the parents, god parents, grandparents and carers who honoured us by attending. A special thank you to Fr Joshua for presiding and to Mr Kostovski who arranged and led the choir and musicians.

*Mr Anthony Boys, Religious Education Coordinator*



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On the 7th and 8th of May, fourteen keen Year 9 students and two teachers participated in an overnight expedition for the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. On Saturday morning we met at Central Station where we hopped on a train to Blackheath for the start of the trek. From Govett's Leap we encountered a steep descent, cautiously stepping over slippery stairs and rocks, encountering the odd puddle of mud, and traversing beneath waterfalls. Leeches were on the mind so we were ready for the attack, however we were pleasantly surprised not to encounter any. We reached Junction Rock a few hours later, and from there it was a 4km hike to our campsite, Acacia Flats. Upon arrival, the students set up their tents, conducted an exploration of Blue Gum Forest and started cooking dinner using the Trangias. An early rise on Sunday morning saw us break camp, and set off for home along Perry's track. This section was graded as hard, mainly due its precipitous nature as we hiked our way back up to the top of the ridge. A great track from Pulpit Rock back to Govett's Leap saw us encountering magnificent views of the Blue Mountains. The final hurdle was the trek back to Blackheath where many sighs of relief were breathed as we reached the train station at the exact time that the train arrived. I'd like to commend the students on a fantastic trip, where the going was tough at times but their spirits never faltered, and also for the many photo 'ops' they provided us! I'd also like to thank Ms Peta Bourke for kindly giving up her weekend to accompany us on the trip.

*Miss Rachel Thompson, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*



## CHESS

Chess has started again this Term with two teams representing Marcellin. The Senior team had a fantastic win against Sydney Technical College, with Garath Turner's surprise comeback from a certain defeat, a shock to his opponent. The Senior team had a few losses against Sydney Grammar and Cranbrook in the first week, with Matthew Kelly battling it out for close to an hour. The Intermediate team played a great game against JJ Cahill, Cameron Wells being 'Man of the Match' with his crushing victory. Good luck this week boys as we head over to Ascham and Waverley.

*Ms Melissa Gerke, Chess Coordinator*

## YEAR 12 PHYSICS EXCURSION

On Friday 20th May Year 12 Physics students attended the Kickstart workshop at the School of Physics located at The University of Sydney. This workshop is designed to further develop the students' understanding of the many concepts taught in HSC Physics. Under the guidance of undergraduates, the students manipulated equipment not found in the average school laboratory. They recreated Hertz's experiments with radio waves, used liquid nitrogen to cool down a superconductor and levitated a magnet on top of the superconductor, observed applications of semiconductors including light emitting diodes (LEDs), studied the Michelson-Morley apparatus used to measure the apparent aether, and many other activities. The workshop was well received by the students and hopefully it has opened their eyes to the possibility of a career in Physics.

*Miss Rachel Thompson, Science Coordinator and Mr Ben Proctor, Teacher*



## UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS - YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS

**Australian Catholic University (ACU)** - North Sydney Campus - 3rd September; Strathfield Campus - 10th September

**Macquarie University (MQ)** - 10th September

**University of New South Wales (UNSW)** - 3rd September. Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra - 27th August

**University of Sydney (SYDNEY)** - 27th August

**University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)** - Broadway Campus - 27th August, UTS Information Evening, Kuring-gai Campus - 17th August

**University of Western Sydney (UWS)** - Parramatta Campus - 28th August

*Mr Ben Proctor, VET and Careers Coordinator*

# SPORT AND NEWS

## SPORT

It was a mixed round of results last week in the Rugby League and Soccer against Kogarah, however, with two rounds to go before semi finals, our teams are still well placed to finish in the top four. This week we play Pagewood followed by Ashfield in Round 7. Last week the Combined MCC Soccer and Rugby League teams competed at the NSW-CCC carnival. These teams are selected from the eight MCC schools. Congratulations to the Soccer team for finishing first and the Rugby League team for finishing second. Well done to Marcellin students Marko Bozic and Brayden Sorge in the Soccer and Aaron Gray in the Rugby League, on being selected in the Combined Catholic Colleges team for their respective sports.

I'd also like to congratulate Benjamin Thornton for being selected in the NSW Swimming team that will compete at the Australian All Schools championships in July. He has been selected to swim the 200m and 400m Freestyle as well as the Medley Relay. In the last newsletter, I wrote about the MCC Rugby Union teams that competed at Hawkesbury. Following on from that carnival, Luke Dooner in the U16s, and Denver Burns and Andrew Norton in the U18s, were selected in the Combined Catholic Colleges' teams. It is an achievement to be selected in the Combined MCC teams, but to go on to the next level is a fantastic effort. Well done to all our CCC and NSW representatives and we wish them the best of luck in their upcoming competitions.

## MCC WINTER SPORTS - ROUND 4 RESULTS

Soccer	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13	
	Opposition	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	
	Result	W: 2-5	L: 1-2	W: 5-0	L: 4-0	D: 1-1	
	Player of Match	James Hamilton	Keiran Sultana	Adrian Lara	Michael Polieri, Nicholas Begaud	James Katakouzinou	

  

Rugby League	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13 D1	Under 13 D2A	Under 13 D2B
	Opposition	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Kogarah	Lewisham
	Result	W: 16-6	L: 6-10	L: 0-1	L: 22-26	W: 44-10	L: 20-22	L: 6-16
	Player of Match	Cheyne Whitelaw	Jake Richards	Joshua Potts	Joshua Ricamara	Tristan Case	Jack Thornton	Lucas Toms

## MCC WINTER SPORTS - ROUND 5 RESULTS

Soccer	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13	
	Opposition	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	BYE	Bankstown	
	Result	D: 1-1	W: 7-0	W: 3-0		W: 10-0	
	Player of Match	Seamus Dowd	Michael Donohue	Adrian Lara		Pearse Dolan	

  

Rugby League	Team	A Grade	B Grade	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13 D1	Under 13 D2A	Under 13 D2B
	Opposition	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	Bankstown	MCR Div 2b	MCR Div 2a
	Result	W: 46-0	W: 54-6	W: 50-4	W: 50-0	W: 46-4	W: 28-10	L: 10-28
	Player of Match	Alexander Sorge	Nicholas Ostrovsky	Joshua Potts	Nat Butcher	Jai McGrath	Mark Dungca	Michael Smith



A Grade Rugby League - Round 5



B Grade Rugby League - Round 5

*Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Welcoming People With Disabilities:** This event will focus on nurturing and supporting your child's faith, and on how the Church can encourage and celebrate the participation and spirituality of children with a disability. Tuesday 7th June from 7pm-8.30pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Kingsgrove. To book email [mary.joseph@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:mary.joseph@sydneycatholic.org) or phone 9390 5283.