Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

What makes a good school?

When Brother Bill asked me to write an article for the Newsletter I thought I would take the opportunity to reflect on my first impressions of our College. I felt that it was important, while still new to Marcellin and filled with impressions that are fresh, to take time to share with our community an outside perspective of the school.

Last year, after I knew I was coming to Marcellin, I tried to find out as much as I could about my new school. The common response from anyone I spoke to was that Marcellin was a good school. Well, what makes a school a 'good school'? Is it a high academic standard or as John Howard suggests, one which imparts values? Is it a school where participation and recognition of that participation, is seen as a priority? Is it a school with a strong spirit? Is it a school with a friendly environment? Is it well resourced? Is it welcoming and inviting? Is it run by a leadership which can clearly articulate a culture to all stakeholders – students, staff and parents. Does it have strong parent support? My response to all of these benchmark questions after a term is a clear positive - Marcellin College Randwick is a very good school!

The teaching and learning at Marcellin is first rate. Results speak for themselves. The calm, quiet learning environment is unique and from my experience, not present in a lot of boy’s schools.

The spirit that was displayed at the swimming carnivals by both the boys and the staff was exceptional. At the MCC carnival, we definitely didn’t have the most talented squad, yet we won every significant trophy. I believe that it was an inherent school spirit which brought home that result.

Marcellin has nine new staff members this year and all of us experienced a very warm initiation. The boys were particularly friendly, always offering a greeting and quite often inquiring as to how we were settling in. I found that this was no accident - for the last couple of years there has been a strong push in the school community for staff and students to greet each other. Likewise, this year the emphasis is on respect for each other. Strong cultures are difficult to establish in schools – in some cases it takes generations to establish value traditions. Marcellin College Randwick has a culture which is entwined in religious and value tradition, supported by an enthusiastic staff and parent body and one that is consciously being developed by a diligent leadership.

Whilst I sing our praises, it does not mean that we can afford to rest on our laurels. A good school is definitely one which is continually reflecting, evaluating and striving to improve. We will use the “boys’ education” input of last Term as a springboard to further improve practice. However, as a newcomer to Marcellin, I realise our first priority is to make sure that we maintain our present high standards.

God bless

Les Salisbury
Deputy Headmaster
Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!

Will Kemp  
Year 10  
Singer/Yeo Rookie of the Year, Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation & Senior First Aid Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Ben Waller  
Year 11  
Most Outstanding Junior (Ronny James Trophy), Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, ARC Instructor, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Chris Millist  
Year 11  
Most Improved Junior (Bob Handfield Trophy) Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Sean Harris  
Year 11  
Junior Patrol Service Award, Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Brad Allen  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, ARC Instructor, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Karl Brown  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Aodhan Docherty  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Bronze Instructor, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Chris Van Egmond  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Nicholas Legge-Wilkinson  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation, Senior First Aid & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Joshua Friedmann  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation & Defibrillation Certificates, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Sebastien Fijac  
Year 10  
Bronze Medallion, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Daniel Lavery  
Year 11  
Bronze Medallion, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Kris Papadatos  
Year 10  
Bronze Medallion, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club

Leon Ow  
Year 10  
Bronze Medallion, Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club
From the Headmaster

My thanks to all parents, friends, staff and students for the excellent effort with the College raffle. We raised over $34000 this year which is a fantastic result. Proceeds this year have been allocated to the upgrade of technology in the Vaughan centre (just completed!) and the purchase of technology (data projectors/computers) for use in classrooms. I very much appreciate your generous support of the College raffle. The winners are listed below:

1st prize Maria Pose, Lakemba
2nd prize Julian De Francesco, Year 10
3rd prize John Shelley, Coogee

Congratulations also to the students who sold the most tickets: 1st prize Nick Reilly Year 10
Equal 2nd prize to Ben Stepkovich and Ben Dowdle. Year 7. Congratulations to all our winners!

Marcellin College Front Office

By the close of last term all 113 Primary Schools and 17 Secondary Schools of the CEO were fully converted to SAS2000, leaving a remaining 19 Secondary Schools, including Marcellin College, to be trained and converted this term. This involves Office staff attending training days at the CEO. Parents are asked to keep payments, enquiries and communications with the Office to a minimum on the following days as staffing will be minimal.

Tuesday 13th June Wednesday 14th June Friday 16th June Monday 19th June

We would also request parents’ patience over the next few weeks as a new system is sure to always have a few hiccups as everyone becomes familiar and experienced with the new procedures. The final results will see an improved, streamlined system that will benefit students, staff and parents. With thanks for your assistance over these next few weeks.

From the Bursar

A fortnightly amount is being deposited into Marcellin College’s account from the Police Credit Union. It is presumed that this is payment for school fees for a student; however the College is not aware of what student this money needs to be debited against. If you have arranged for a transfer of payment from a Police Credit Union bank account to the School fees and not advised the College, please contact Mrs Elliot immediately on 9398 6355.

Marcellin College Front Office

On Sunday 21st May 2006, 62 Marcellin Mothers (including a few friends) gathered at the College on a very cool morning to make the 2nd Annual bus trip to the Marist Brothers Mittagong property “The Hermitage”. The two school buses were required this year ably driven by Br Bill Sullivan and Br Bill Selden. Accompanied by Br Joachim, conversation levels reached new heights during the 90 minutes of travel. Upon arrival at The Hermitage, morning tea was waiting after which the Brothers escorted us on a tour of the Vineyard and surrounding properties. The sun shone gloriously as we tasted the new wines being produced and then feasted on a lunch prepared especially for us. After leaving the property, we journeyed along to Berrima for the opportunity to visit the wonderful jewellery and craft stores and their exhibits as well as enjoy one of the lovely coffee shops or the local tavern. Many thanks to the Brothers for their continued support of the parents of Marcellin College and for providing these opportunities to be part of the Marcellin Community. Mrs Anne Lee

Marcellin Mothers Trip

On the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of June, 18 students and 3 teachers participated in an overnight expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We started off at Blackheath train station and walked down to Govett’s Leap, encountering huge chunks of snow on the road. From Govett’s Leap we walked to Evan’s Lookout, stopping to have lunch overlooking a breathtaking view.

After a steep descent from Evan’s Lookout, and a lost track here and there, we reached Junction Rock three hours later. From there it was a 4km hike to our campsite, Acacia Flats. When we arrived we had to set up tents and cook our dinner using the trangias. An early rise on Sunday morning saw us break camp, and set off for Junction Rock again. Taking a different path back to Govett’s Leap, we meandered through a saddle until we reached one of our hardest encounters – a steep, slippery stair climb up the side of Govett’s Leap. After a very tiring trek up the stairs we finally made it to the top and started hiking our way back to the train station. Many sighs of relief were breathed as we reached the train one hour earlier than planned.

Endless thanks go to Ms Thompson, Ms Barnsley and Mr Leary who accompanied us on our camp. Special thanks go to Ms Barnsley for leading the charge back up Govett’s Leap, constantly raising our moods, spirit and courage.

Tom Holland, Year 10

Duke of Edinburgh

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On Thursday 25th May Yr 7 competed in various games with the students from Marist Kogarah in which has become the annual Yr 7 Marist Challenge. All boys in Year 7 were involved in games of Soccer, Touch, Bocce, Dodgeball, Cricket or European Handball. All boys competed with vigour and enjoyed the challenge of meeting another school. At the conclusion of the activities the scores were locked at 22 all. A fitting result for such an exciting afternoon. A thank you to Mr. Davidson, the Yr 7 teachers and the Yr 11 students who assisted on the day.

Year 8 competed in a gala afternoon for their sporting program last week. The afternoon activities included a pass the ball competition, soccer shoot out, and vortex throwing challenge to name a few. All boys are to be congratulated for displaying enthusiasm and excellent behaviour on the day. Congratulations go to the boys from the CHAMPAGNAT house who were the winners on the day. The final scores were as follows: Champagnat 124, Ignatius 108, Fallon 64 and Anselm 55

Congratulations to the following students for their selection in Representative teams:

- Laurent Lahey in the Opens NSW CCC Basketball team to compete in the NSW All Schools competition on Monday 5th June.
- Tim Bennett (U/16) and Chris Thanos, Sam Bartlett, Michael Holten, Greg Brincat, Ben Dunn and Johnny Lam (Opens) in the MCC Rugby Union teams to compete in the CCC Championship on the 6th and 7th June.
- Adam Laughlan Bowlby, Laurent Lahey, Chris Thanos, Jay Ramsden, Macleay Lewis, Mitchell Links, Kris Papadatos, Emmanuel Giuffre, Matt Cogin, Pat Disalvo, Mat Malone, James Hamilton, Sean Wilson, Christian Lozada for their selection in the MCC Cross Country team to compete in the CCC Championships on Friday 16th June at Eastern Creek.

On the 3rd May 2006, 236 students from Years 7-10, along with 1.7 million other students from around the world, participated in the UNSW Science Competition. Students from Marcellin achieved many pleasing results, most notably Christopher Manouvrier (Year 8) received a High Distinction, placing him in the top 1% of entrants. The following table shows just how successful the College was in the competition compared to all other participants in NSW and the ACT.

80 students achieved a Credit, placing them in the top 30% of participants while a further 28 students achieved a Distinction. This means that 46% of Marcellin students were placed in the top 30% of the Competition. Special mention to Year 9, where 36 of the 59 participants (61%) were placed in the top 30%. This is a very pleasing result for the College and a tribute to all involved. Finally, I would like to thank both Ms Williams and Ms Thompson for running the event while I was away on leave.

Craig Haran, Science Coordinator

Reminder: The College Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday 19th June at ES Marks Field. All parents and friends are invited to support on the day.