Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

Can you imagine anything more challenging than taking a group of fifty or so 16 to 17 year old boys for a few days of quiet time, reflection and prayer in the country? Yet, the two Year Twelve Retreats held recently at the Marist Brothers’ Hermitage, Mittagong, did just that. But doing without mum’s cooking, TV and one’s own bed (even for two nights) was minor compared with the real challenge of the Retreat.

As a Catholic school for boys in the Marist tradition, Marcellin College takes its mission seriously and faith is central in this tradition. It accepts whatever faith-level the boys bring with them and, without judgement, endeavours to encourage this faith to develop to its full potential, whatever that may be. So, the aim of the Year Twelve Retreat is for the young men to begin to discover the God within - within themselves and within each other. The real challenge of the Retreat, however, begins when the boys come back. As one student put it:

"The greatest value of the Retreat experience was not only to get to know my mates and others in our year better but also to get to know myself better and for me to realise my own qualities."

This, of course, is a lifelong task but a start is made when boys are prepared to look deeper within themselves and within each other. A hymn we often sing says, God is to be found: ‘Not in some heaven light years away but here in this place, the new light is shining.’

Another student summed up his Retreat experience thus:

“As a group I think we have become less fractured, more connected to ourselves and each other."

And on a more practical note, he concludes that:

“Regardless of what students gained from the Retreat spiritually, I think the time spent consolidating friendships will help all the students launch into a year of study feeling ‘more at home’ with themselves and with their peers.”

Extracting a group of 16 to 17 year old boys from their materialistic accoutrements is a challenge but it is worth the effort when there is the possibility for genuine spiritual transformation. Thank you, boys.

With best wishes

Br Joachim Fabbro, fms
from the headmaster

Matthew Malone
Year 8
Matthew was placed 1st in the Regional U13 Javelin

Jackson Barron
Year 8
Jackson was placed 3rd in U14 Surfing at the State Nipper Titles

Trent Maxwell
Year 9
In the State Surf Lifesaving titles he made the U15 Surface Final, Board Rescue Final, Surf Team Final, Board Relay Final and Cameron Relay final.

Jay Barron
Year 7
U12 Silver Medal Board Relay Sydney Branch Championships at Bondi

Jake Nurmi
Year 8
Selected to play for the Sydney Rebels Touch side in the Regional Touch Championships

Matt Evans
Year 8
Selected in Eastern Suburbs and Sydney Regional Touch teams. Also 2nd place in Flags, Sprint Relay Branch Nipper Titles and 6th in Flags, 2nd Sprint Relay in State Nipper Titles

Andrej Bilić
Year 9
Andrej was placed 2nd in the Sprint Relay at the State Nipper Titles

Brett Black
Year 7
U13 Gold Medal in Surfing, Bronze Medal in Relay, Sydney Branch Championships at Bondi

Justin Brook
Year 7
U13 Bronze Medal in Relay, Sydney Branch Championships at Bondi

Scott Walsh
Year 9
In Sydney Branch Championships was placed 9th in Senior Cameron, 4th in Board Relay U19s and 9th in U14 Board

Dane Propoggia
Year 11
In tennis, Dane won the ITF Doubles in Gosford

Emanuel Giuffre
Year 8
Emanuel was placed 12th in Flags at the State Nipper Titles

James Moran
Year 8
James was placed 2nd in the Sprint Relay at the State Nipper Titles

Gage Williamson
Year 8
Selected to play for the Sydney Rebels Touch side in the Regional Touch Championships

Sam Ross
Year 7
U12 Silver Medal Board Relay Sydney Branch Championships at Bondi

Jake Moraghan
Year 8
Selected in Eastern Suburbs and Sydney Regional Touch teams. Also 2nd place in Sprint Relay Branch Nipper Titles and 2nd in Sprint Relay in State Nipper Titles

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements in a number of different fields. Well done!
Our traditional Ash Wednesday Liturgy was held on the first day of Autumn with a continued focus on our themes of compassion and commitment; particularly to those less fortunate than ourselves. As Lent is a time of contemplation and the chance for renewal, our boys were asked to consider how they can have a change of heart and mind in what we do for God, ourselves, others and the earth.

Ms Barnsley spoke to the boys of her experience at the Marist sponsored La Valla school in Cambodia which educates young victims of diseases and land mines and introduced a video presentation about the Cambodian school. This will be a focus for our Lenten Appeal where we hope to raise over $20 000 to help those like the children at La Valla who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Marcellin Oratory held on Tuesday 14th March was a most successful evening. The winners of each division are listed below.

Mr Chris Maoudis, Oratory Co-ordinator

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MCC Cross Country Champions 2006

Photos
Parents wishing to obtain copies of photographs should contact Br Joachim Fabbro at the College on 9398 6355 or email joachim.fabbro@marcellin.nsw.edu.au

AFL Players
Boys interested in playing AFL for the 2006 winter season with East Junior Bulldogs AFL or Maroubra Saints AFL clubs, particularly in the U14s, U15s U16s age groups playing on Sundays please contact: Greg Goodieson President of East’s Bulldogs on mobile: 0419 470529

Trivia Night
St Brigid’s Parish Social Justice Group is holding a Trivia Night to raise funds for refugees from Sierra Leone. It will be held on Saturday 25th March 7.00pm at the Randwick Labor Club, Level 3 and the cost will be $20 per head. Get a table of your friends together to have a fun night for a good cause. Further information and bookings contact Dianne on 9665 0346 or Carol on 9664 9743
MCC Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday evening 8th March the MCR swim team were able to make it four from four. That is they were able to win all four trophies for the fourth year in a row. The boys certainly had an uphill challenge to win all four, but with courage, determination and the precision timing of the coaching maestros in Mr. Capizzi, Mr. Leary, Ms. Evans and Mr.O’Connell the swim team were able to achieve their lofty goal.

The swim team were able to win 17 events on the night and were placed in a further 24 events. The strength of Marcellin swimming can be seen in the relays where we won 7 out of 11 relays with the remaining teams being placed second. The hard work and early mornings certainly paid off with many PB’s being displayed throughout the night.

Special mention must be made of Jack Emery’s incredible efforts to break the U/16 Butterfly (27.25s) and U/16 Freestyle (25.68s) records. Jack now holds an incredible four MCC records. Congratulations Jack. The U/15 Freestyle relay team in Chad Scott, Zac Johnson, Trent Maxwell and Mat Engel wrote their names into the record books in a time of 1.54.07min. A fantastic and dominant effort by this team.

Special mention to David Hutchinson representing the Cerise and Blue for the first time and producing an outstanding performance.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to praise Years 7 and 12 for their vocal and outstanding support throughout the night. I’m sure it provided our swimmers with that extra motivation.

MCC Summer Sports Grand Finals

Marcellin had 5 teams competing in Grand Final teams over three different sports. In a very competitive and hard fought day Randwick were able to prevail in two Grand Finals. Congratulations must go to our U/14 Cricket team and U/14 Touch teams who were able to continue their impressive season to run out victors in their respective competitions, both undefeated.

The U/14 Cricket team set Kogarah an impressive total of 135 with the top scorer being Angus Robson. With some tight bowling by all the bowlers and some solid catching the team were able to restrict Kogarah to 84. It has now been an impressive 18 straight games that the U/14 cricket team has won over the last 2 seasons. Certainly one for the record books.

The U/14 Touch team also met Kogarah and was pitched in a very tight tussle. Both teams went try for try with Randwick breaking clear with 10 minutes to go to win 7-5. The whole team were superb on the day with Mat Evans being the man of the match.

The A Grade cricket went down in a tight affair against Kogarah. Defending a small total they fought bravely right to the end with Kogarah achieving the runs in the penultimate over. The A Grade Basketball unfortunately fell at the last hurdle to a strong Ashfield team 38-45. Despite not being at their best they showed tremendous courage to be in the game up until the final minute. I know they are eagerly awaiting the Marist Carnival now. The U/14 Basketball team were caught on the hop and before they knew it North Shore had scored 14 points. They were always trying to play catch up from there and fought courageously right to the end.

Congratulations to all teams on the efforts they demonstrated throughout the year.

Mr David Forrester, Sports Coordinator