

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



NEWSLETTER

Number 20
November 30th 2011

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of Marcellin,

Moshing. My *Australian Oxford Dictionary* defines it this way: "Dancing to rock music in a violent manner involving colliding with others and head banging." It is a word that only came into use in the late 1980s and has featured in headlines in our own country following some serious accidents at Australia Day concerts. As far as I can understand, generally speaking, moshing is not the past-time of intentionally violent people. There was moshing at our Year 10 Formal last week and security guards kept a close eye on things to make sure nothing got out of hand. The on-line *Urban* dictionary, in describing moshing makes this point: "When people mosh they often knock into other people and move their head in time to the music." In the main, most people involved in moshing are there just to have fun, things only go wrong when people take too many **risks**, and then come to seriously **regret** the outcome of the inevitable accident.



Risk and regret – these two words were the theme of my address at a recent Headmaster's Assembly, and then again at the Year 10 Prizegiving on Monday. Risk, and increasing risk to be more specific, is the lot of the teenager. Risk is not necessarily a bad thing. A life lived without risk is a life not lived at all – in fact, risk is an inevitability of life. Risk is only bad when we take a chance that, in all probability, exposes us to danger that will cause harm. Such risks lead to regret, and in the words of the famous Frank Sinatra song, *My Way*, it is better to come to the end of our life and be able to proclaim: "Regrets, I've had a few; too few to mention." Our job as parents and educators is to help boys carefully calculate risk and make decisions that will help avoid regret.

Regret is different to hindsight. Hindsight is about wishing we had the knowledge, and even wisdom, that we realise after an event and would perhaps have chosen differently had we known. Regret is knowing we made the wrong choice and at the time, could have chosen otherwise. The story of most people's lives contains volumes of books listing decisions where hindsight might have meant a turn for the better, what we need to help our boys realise is that regrets should be few, but that doesn't eliminate the need to take risks.

While I appreciate the sentiments Frank Sinatra has about regret there is another verse in his infamous song that I do not agree with:

I planned each charted course;
Each careful step along the byway,
And more, much more than this,
I did it my way.

While good planning will help life work out in line with our goals and aspirations, and even avoid regrets, we are foolish to think we are completely in charge of our own destiny. Life is just not like that. Hence the resonance with our experience of the often used pearl of wisdom: *The best laid plans of mice and men* . . . This line was made famous by John Steinbeck's novel, *Of Mice and Men* – a line Steinbeck gleaned from the 1795 poem of English poet, Robert Burns:

But little Mouse, you are not alone,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes of mice and men
Go often askew,
And leave us nothing but grief and pain,
For promised joy!

This 200 year old wisdom reminds us that life is made up of unforeseen challenges, and even disappointments. How well we deal with our disappointments has a lot to do with whether they emerged from regret or hindsight. Disappointments borne of regret are usually hard to get over; we carry them for a long time and they run the risk of becoming burdens that skew our view of the world.

A Christian view of the world is that God has only good dreams and good plans for us; our job is to avoid regrets and make choices out of the opportunities and challenges that are thrown our way.

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!



Sam Jones
Year 12

Nominated for possible inclusion in DesignTECH 2012 for outstanding Major Project



Ruben Sondjaja
Year 11

Will receive a NSWCCC Blue Award for excellence in sporting achievement in Golf



Andrew Mendis
Year 7

Gained a High Distinction (top 1% of the state) in the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians



Nicholas Haritsos
Year 12

Nominated for possible inclusion in InTECH 2012 the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Projects designed by HSC Industrial Technology students



Peter Ambados
Year 12



Thomas Cogin
Year 12

CONGRATULATIONS

Year 9 students Zachary Bataille and Blake Sangster were selected into the Roosters Harold Matthews Squad out of hundreds of other boys. They are two of a handful of boys from the Eastern Suburbs.

Year 8 students Daniel Brito, Noah Simpkins and Jarrad Largent received a 'Highly Commended' for their work in the International Science Poetry competition.

YEAR 8 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXAMINATION

On the 12th October, Year 8 students completed the annual Sydney Archdiocese's Religious Education Exam. This exam assesses the skills and knowledge of the students in the following areas; Scripture and Jesus; Church and Community; God, Religion and Life; Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments; and Morality and Justice. These are all areas of study encountered in Years 7 and 8. The students performed well with their collective scores indicating an above average result within the Sydney region. Within the Year 8 cohort; six students were awarded High Distinctions, placing them in the top 5% of the Sydney region, forty eight students received Distinctions and an overwhelming eighty three students received a Credit grade. The students will be receiving their certificates and results in their religion classes during the week.

The following students who received High Distinctions will receive their certificates at the next Headmaster's assembly and are to be congratulated on their stellar performance: Lucas Bollard, Donnchadh Considine, Anthony La Rosa, George Sfinas, Cameron Siminsky and John Thornton.

Mrs Hayley Spencer, Assistant Religious Education Coordinator

WALKATHON

As a reward for the fine effort with Walkathon (\$50,251 so far) there will be no classes for boys on Friday 2nd December.

LOST PROPERTY

There are currently many items of lost property at reception. Please claim your lost property before the end of term.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees were sent out last week. Please advise the office if you have not received your account. Early payment would be appreciated.

STUDENT VERIFICATION REPORT

Student verification reports were sent out last week. It is very important that you make the necessary changes with regard to the administration page. Also, you need to indicate how many children you have attending Catholic schools so that the correct fee billing will occur in 2012. Please ensure that you return these forms via post or with your son to the front office whether there are changes or not.

TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Friday 9th December | • Year 11 Speech day. Year 11 last day for 2011. |
| Monday 12th December | • Last day of classes for Years 7, 8 and 9. |
| Tuesday 13th December | • Picnic day. Years 7, 8 and 9 last day for 2011. |
| Thursday 15th December | • Parent Feedback Day 1pm-6pm. Please make appointments with your son's subject teacher. |
| Tuesday 20th December | • College office closes at 3pm. |

NOTICES AND NEWS

VET CONSTRUCTION

Over the past few months the VET Construction class at Marcellin and I have been involved in a community partnership with the Prince of Wales Hospital's Spinal Unit and Bunning's Warehouse. The purpose was to build a storage cabinet, giving the Spinal Unit some more storage for their outdoor gardening equipment.

The VET Construction class at Marcellin has worked diligently on the construction of the cabinet as part of the Certificate II in Construction Pathways course. Bunning's at Randwick supplied the College with all the materials. Construction of the cabinet started on the 18th July and was completed on 1st September 2011. Upon completion of the project we organised our visit to the hospital unit on 31st October 2011. On arrival we met with David Huynh, the Senior Clinical Engineer. David thanked us for our hard work and was very grateful for the outcome of the project. After talking to David we walked to the Spinal Unit in the hospital, located on the second floor.

On the way, we walked past many patients who were in wheelchairs as they have bad spinal injuries. Later in the day we met Julieanne Hibers, the Diversity Health Coordinator, who also thanked us. Julieanne was very impressed with our work and positive attitude. She then gave us the opportunity of helping them with a few other minor projects including: painting pots, reconstructing and painting chairs, and bunting flags. At the end of the excursion, Julieanne and David both thanked us again and said that they really appreciated our help. Walking back out to the exit, saying goodbye to the patients, we walked away with the feeling of achievement and belonging. I went home that night knowing that I had done a little bit to help a great cause.

Nicholas Nabhan, VET Construction Student



James McKaig and Ronny Gorial painting exterior of benches



Ethan Natoli painting pots



Alec McLoughlin and Jackson Swiney bunting flags



Jackson Swiney, Jarrod Sorley & Alec McLoughlin repainting the cabinet

SOCIAL JUSTICE - CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is going well and the response has been generous. Let's make a big effort in this last week so that other families can enjoy Christmas. The last day of collection will be Friday 2nd December. Students are asked to take your gift or food donations to your homerooms where student leaders will collect them each morning.

Mr Damian Chase, Year 11 Coordinator

NEWS AND SPORT

YEAR 10 FORMAL

On Friday 18th November Year 10 held their annual semi formal at the Round House, NSW University. This night was a culmination of a rewarding year for Marcellin Year 10 students. After participation in events such as the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, College events, sporting commitments and the academic rigours of the School Certificate, it was a nice way for the boys to enjoy themselves.

Two hundred and eighty five guests attended the evening, which included dancing, and all were in high-spirits. The boys displayed gentlemanly behaviour and respect by introducing their dates to many of the staff who attended. Their behaviour was impeccable and it was a pleasure to chaperone these fine young gentlemen. I wish to extend to all boys of Year 10 a thank you for your behaviour on the night. I wish you all the best for the choices that you will make for your futures whether it be further education or joining the workforce.

Mr Jacob Gibbons, Year 10 Coordinator



PARENTS IN TOUCH

On Wednesday 23rd November the College hosted a Special Parents in Touch, the 'Cybersafety and Police Forum'. Inspector Paul Pisanos, Senior Constable Rachel Delucyk from Maroubra Police and Marcellin Deputy Headmaster Mr Les Salisbury gave presentations. The evening was very well attended and parents had the opportunity to ask questions of the panel. I'd like to thank all the parents who attended and encourage all parents to consider coming along to a Parents in Touch evening in the future.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest, Director of Development & Communications

SPORTS

Unfortunately the weather has interrupted the first five rounds of the summer season with two wash outs already. The first wash out, Round 3 v Lewisham, will be replayed in the spare round set down for Thursday 16th February, however the fixture against North Shore is now abandoned. Every team is well placed at the end of Round 5 and we will recommence the competition on the first Thursday back next year, 2nd February. This will be Round 6 v Kogarah and these will be home games. Training will begin on the first day back at school, Tuesday 31st January. Thank you to all the boys for their dedication and hard work in upholding the fine reputation Marcellin College has in the sporting arena. Thank you also to the coaches. The boys' excellent results would not have been achieved without the support and guidance of their coaches. The relationships formed by staff and students goes a long way to making our school successful. During the year we have entered a number of competitions outside of the normal MCC sports. We were successful in the AFL, the Basketball teams were semi finalists in the NSWCCC competition at Penrith and the A Grade Rugby League finished in the top 8 of the inaugural CCC Cup competition. Last Friday evening, a group of Year 9 and 10 boys competed in the South East Junior Water Polo competition. This is a competition which runs every Friday night in Term 1 and 4. I am pleased to say that the boys beat Reddam College 7 to 4 in the final. This team has now won 4 Gold medals and one Bronze in the five times they have entered the competition. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done.

Finally, thank you to the many parents who come and watch their sons compete each week. The teams have travelled far and wide this year and the fact that parents take time out of their busy schedules is much appreciated by the boys and their coaches. I wish everyone a safe and fun-filled holiday and my hope is that the boys recharge their batteries and return next year ready to resume their competitions.

Mr Robert Capizzi, Sport Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

Canteen Helpers: Volunteers are needed to help in the College canteen. Parents and grandparents are welcome. If you are able to help please contact Mrs Debra Moore at the College on 0438040087.