Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

Ronald Rolheiser is a spiritual writer of some note and one of my favourite authors. In his book ‘The Holy Longing’ he devotes one section to the question ‘So why go to church?’ He presents nine reasons which were both interesting and thought provoking. I particularly liked his seventh point which I present below.

“I go to church because I realize the impotence of my individuality, the limits of my private self. Alone, standing apart from community, I am no more powerful than my own personality and charisma, which, in a world of six billion, will not make much of a difference. When I watch the news at night and see all that is still needed in our world, I go to bed somewhat depressed, painfully aware of my own powerlessness to change anything. That depression is well founded. Alone, I am pretty powerless, able to make a splash, but not a difference. A very large group of people watching the news together could change the world. The church is that group of persons. As a world organisation - with a heart for justice, peace, and the poor - it is far from perfect, but it is the best of a bad lot and it offers positive hope. The first thing I should do, if I hope to help to bring about some justice and peace on this planet, is to begin to dream with others within a world wide body of persons committed to the same dream. If I hope to do that I should go to church”.

I often encounter parents in our enrolment interviews who say they have not had their son baptized because “they are leaving the decision up to him”. I must admit to not being convinced about such an argument and basically see it as a bit of a cop-out. How many parents don’t guide their young child into the correct foods to eat for a healthy lifestyle, steer them away from fires or dangerous items, teach them to swim before entering the pool or teach them the road rules before driving a car? The list could go on and on. Why then are we not comfortable teaching our boys about their faith, laying the foundations for them on which they can build their future lives? It is a question worth considering and one I often feel like asking in my interviews. In short, I believe we should lay the foundations of faith for our boys from the outset. As they grow and mature they then have an informed mind to choose the path they wish to follow. I certainly feel this is a more beneficial approach to take than sitting back and letting our young just drift along.

Rolheiser presents a realistic viewpoint of the scenario we encounter in our church. It is not a glossy out of touch portrayal of our church. It does present the ups and downs of a group of people who often falter along the way but who in the main have good intentions and much goodwill. Our Liturgies, prayers, retreats and community outreach at Marcellin expose our boys to the spiritual side which is essential in my opinion for a balanced and fulfilling life. These events will challenge at times and raise with them issues that need to be discussed and reflected upon. Taking some time for prayer and participating in the life of our local church is one step to bringing the spirit alive in our lives. I would encourage you to come along to our next youth mass at OLSH church, (Sunday evenings at 6pm). Keep an eye out in our newsletters for details of our next youth mass. It would be great if you could come along to join us.

With best wishes

Br Bill Sullivan, fms
Headmaster
FROM THE HEADMASTER

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

Maxwell Wilson
Year 7
NSW CCC Athletics
3rd Under 13 1500m

Benjamin Gordon
Year 7
NSW CCC Athletics
1st Under 13 Hurdles

James Moran
Year 10
NSW CCC Athletics
2nd Under 16 Hurdles

Samuel Disalvo
Year 8
Maroubra Swimming
1st 100m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke

Samuel Green
Year 8
Maroubra Swimming
2nd 100m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke

Mitchell Dugdale
Year 8
Maroubra Swimming
3rd 100m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke

TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday 24th September
• Year 12 Graduation - TERM 3 concludes

Thursday 25th & Friday 26th September
• The College office is closed

Monday 13th October
• TERM 4 commences at 8:40am

Wednesday 22nd October
• Special Parents in Touch evening at 7:30pm

Monday 27th October
• Finance & Advisory Council meeting

Wednesday 29th October
• Year 11 Preliminary Prizegiving 7:30pm
  This is a compulsory event for Year 11, The College leaders will be announced on this night.

Monday 10th November
• Year 10 School Certificate exams commence

Friday 14th November
• Walkathon - more details to follow about this special event

HOLIDAYS TERM 4
School concludes for Years 7/8/9 boys on Friday 12th December.
Year 10 boys conclude for the year on Monday 1st December after their prizegiving. Their prizegiving is at 9:30am
Formal lessons conclude for Year 11 on Wednesday 10th November. Parents should note that Thursday 11th November is an assessment day for Year 11. Please do not request earlier finishes for your son. Boys are already finishing one week prior to the CEO advertised conclusion date. I expect that all boys will be present up to and including the dates listed above. Thanks in advance for your support with this.

ABSENTEEISM
Parents are reminded to call the College absentee number 9398 8009 not the College office, when your son is absent.

LOST PROPERTY
There is a significant amount of lost property in the College office. Boys are asked to check before the school holidays.
NOTICES AND NEWS

2008 AMSA ORATORY COMPETITION

The public speaking program for the College year ended with the AMSA Oratory Competition on Friday 5th September. The competition was held at Cerdon College at Merrylands. This year St Patrick's Marist College Dundas won the competition. The students competed against 14 Marist Colleges within their year group divisions with an additional impromptu division. Marcellin College won the Year 7 division with Luke Dooner’s speech on ‘Behind Closed Doors’ which reflected on the boundaries and obstacles people face and how they overcome them. Christopher Edwards came second in the Year 9 division with a thought provoking speech on ‘Looking Sideways’.

All the boys showed great determination, bravery and excellent oratory skills throughout this competition and their achievements are an attribute to their dedication and passion for public speaking. I would like to thank Br Joachim for his passion, advice and guidance to the students, his help is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the Year 11 supporters who provided the boys with encouragement during the evening’s events. The night would not have taken place without the support of staff, parents and Ms Parish who volunteered her time as an adjudicator.

Ms Hayley Marsden, Marist Oratory Coordinator

MARIST ORATORY TEAM

Seated from left to right;  
Year 7: Luke Dooner (Awarded 1st place)  
Year 8: Christopher Yong  
Year 9: Christopher Edwards (Awarded 2nd place)  
Standing from left to right;  
Senior: John Harding – Easson  
Impromptu: Thomas Bracken  
Year 10: Matthew Edwards

RICK PENDLETON - PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALS & WORLD RECORDS

Marcellin Ex-student Rick Pendleton (1997-2003) has won the Gold medal for the 200m Individual Medley in world record time at the Beijing Paralympics. Rick who has been training for 11 years, is also a member of the winning Medley relay team that won in world record time. It is an outstanding achievement for Rick and the College congratulates him on this tremendous feat. Rick will visit the College next term for a special assembly where he will show the boys his hard earned medals.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS - MARCELLIN & BRIGIDINE

The Marcellin Social Justice team, together with the Brigidine group, have continued to join forces to make a difference in our world. In late August, twelve of our boys from the College went to Brigidine College to help the girls make FairTrade chocolate. This was a follow up to our FairTrade breakfast meeting at Brigidine in Term 2.

Marcellin boys are happy to support a cause that hopes to bring justice to the cocoa producing countries who still suffer under slavery and child labour.

Last Saturday, eight of our potential College leaders for 2009 generously gave up their day to again work with Brigidine on a St. Vincent de Paul Society initiative called ‘Buddies Day’. This is a special day out for primary aged children who may come from troubled family backgrounds. Thanks to all boys who participated in these worthwhile events and also to Mr Zilich and the Brigidine girls for hosting. Ms Barnsley, Social Justice Coordinator

PHILIPPINES IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

During the term 3 holidays six Year 11 students, Ms Thompson and Mr Finneran will travel to the Philippines for the first Marcellin immersion experience. The boys will visit rural communities and also the Kuya Centre for street children in Manila run by Br Paul Murphy. This centre was the recipient of the College Lenten appeal this year. The purpose of the cross cultural 14 day trip is for the students to gain experience and an understanding of the issues of injustice and inequality that face people in their lives.

The boys going on the trip are from left to right; James Ambrose, Zach Johnson, John Hannan, Adam Vella, Paul Jewiss, Andrew Goodieson

Mr John Finneran, Religious Education Coordinator
NEWS AND SPORT

MCC RUGBY GRAND FINALS

Our Rugby boys have performed well all year and their hard work paid off on Thursday by winning both the Under 13’s and Under 15’s premierships. Many thanks to the coaches, Mr McBride, Mr Farrugia and Mr Boys for their time and effort this year. I know our boys have appreciated the knowledge these coaches have imparted on them.

In two hard fought games, both teams maintained their concentration throughout to become deserved premiers.

The results of the games are detailed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Player of the Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 13</td>
<td>v Kogarah</td>
<td>Won 12-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>v Pagewood</td>
<td>Won 17-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NSWCCC ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Friday 12th September, thirteen boys represented the MCC at the NSWCCC Athletics carnival. All competitors performed well. The highlights of the day were; a Gold Medal to Ben Gordon in the Under 13’s 90m Hurdles, James Moran winning Silver in the Under 16’s 110m Hurdles and Max Wilson claiming Bronze in the Under 13’s 1500m. Congratulations to all boys who competed and best of luck to Max and Ben at the NSW All Schools Championships held at Homebush on the 25th to the 28th September.

WAYS youth services will be conducting free parenting workshops weekly on Monday evenings from 13th October between 6:00pm - 8:00pm, 1/755 Anzac Parade Maroubra. For more information contact Terri or Warren on 9365 2500.

MCC VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our Under 15 and Opens Volleyball teams who competed at Homebush on Thursday 18th September. Although both teams did not qualify for the semi finals, all games were very close and the Opens team lost out on a spot in the semi finals by one point in a count back. A big thanks to all the boys for their efforts over the last six weeks and also to their coaches Ms Murphy and Mr Proctor for their passion and enthusiasm for the game. Their hard work and extra sessions helped in keeping Marcellin competitive yet again. Thanks to all boys and coaches from all teams this year on our outstanding efforts and achievements. We now focus on our Summer sports.  

Mr Robert Capizzi, Sports Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Friday 21st November - Marcellin Parents & Friends end of year night out with rock band Mental as Anything. Tickets will go on sale in term 4 so keep your eyes on your email and College newsletter for more information.
- WAYS youth services will be conducting free parenting workshops weekly on Monday evenings from 13th October between 6:00pm - 8:00pm, 1/755 Anzac Parade Maroubra. For more information contact Terri or Warren on 9365 2500.