



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life and there is no more appropriate way to commence the school year than with a Mass and it was a most reverent and moving celebration. Thank you to Father John Crothers and Father Paul Smithers for celebrating this Mass for us today and to Brother Robert O'Connor from the Marist Life Formation Team for assisting with our presentations. This gathering is so important to our community as we celebrate being a Year 7 to 12 College for the first time, continuing our journey towards coeducation for all secondary years and the badging of our 2016 College Leaders. Congratulations to each young person who has accepted the ministry of leadership and special congratulations to Ryan Morgan, our College Vice Captain and Sam Mattheos, our College Captain.

Today the College commenced a new tradition of presenting a gift to our Year 12 students to acknowledge and celebrate their role as the senior leaders. This special tie, which can be worn proudly each day, will become a memento that each student can keep to remember their time at Marist Catholic College, Penshurst. Inscribed on the tie is XII 2016, the year this person was a Year 12 student, the College Crest and the interwoven "A" and "M" - the Marist Symbol - Ave Maria (Hail Mary) which highlights the place that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has in the life of this College. We also continued the tradition of presenting our Year 7 students and staff new to the College with a Marist Pin which also includes the Marist Ave Maria symbol and a globe of the earth indicating that each person is a member of the worldwide Marist community as well as our local Marist school.

In my short time at the school, I have been impressed by the commitment of our teachers and support staff to a Marist spirituality that stems from Saint Marcellin Champagnat and the early community of Brothers, as a way of bringing the gospel to life. Having Mary, the Mother of God, as a role model assists our staff to become open to God's spirit in their life and respond by finding ways to bring the Good News to young people. Their way of knowing and relating to God continues to be shaped, defined and energized by Marist values & characteristics.

Pope Francis on the 8th of December last year called the Church to a special Jubilee Year of Mercy through to November 20th, 2016 to focus on the boundless nature of God's mercy. A Jubilee Year is a special year celebrated by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. Most Jubilees have focused on calling pilgrims to Rome to receive such pardon by walking through a special holy door at a papal basilica. Pope Francis has widely expanded this Jubilee, asking that dioceses throughout the world open their own holy door at a cathedral or other church to expand the practice globally. Pope Francis sees the Jubilee for the entire world, not just for Rome.

For our College, as well as Catholics around the world, the Jubilee Year of Mercy is the opportunity for each of us to "open wide" the doors of our hearts to forgive others. Pope Francis says that mercy and forgiveness must not remain beautiful words, but must be realised in daily life through our thoughts, words and actions. He also says that loving and forgiving are the concrete and visible signs that the faith has transformed our hearts and allows us to express in ourselves the same life of God. Pope Francis has certainly provided each and every one of us a challenge.

In this Year of Mercy, Mrs Eussen beautifully expressed that as a Marist family we have always been called to be caring and compassionate towards all those in our school and in the wider community. In striving for this goal we must place our trust in God as we strive to work towards our motto "To Know and to Love".

Finally I would like to thank all in the community for the welcome that I have enjoyed since joining Marist Catholic College. It is a community with energy and zeal who has placed great trust and faith in Sydney Catholic Schools to undertake the enormous educational change required to transform Marist Catholic College Penshurst from a Year 7 to 10 boys school to a Year to 12 coeducational College and I hope that I can contribute to the realisation of these dreams.

**Mr Ray Martin**  
Principal

### PLEASE JOIN IN OUR PRAYERS. . .

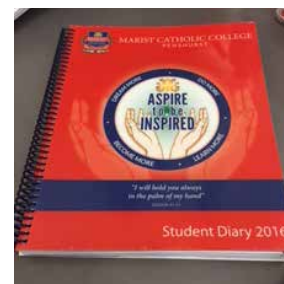
*Father in heaven, grant Archbishop Fisher and Brother Tony comfort in their suffering. Give them courage when afraid, patience when afflicted, hope when dejected, and when alone assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

We ask that you keep Archbishop Fisher and Brother Tony, who are both ill in hospital, in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### USING THE COLLEGE DIARY

The College diary is a tool for learning and a tool for organisation. Being organised means planning well and being successful. All students have been given a College diary which needs to be at school each day. The College diary is a place for all students to record their daily activities, set Homework/study, project and assessment work. It is also an effective form of communication between parents and teachers regarding your son or daughter. The College diary is divided up into Terms, Ministry, Wellbeing, Aspire to Be... section, Learning and Co-curricular.



The school diary is important in the following ways

- (i) School diary is helpful to everyone: parents, teachers and students.
- (ii) Parents can know various activities of the school, their children's progress, merits/demerits, homework given, what to bring to school.
- (iii) The diary is helpful to a teacher. He/she can know the progress of students and bring it to the notice of parents. Teachers will ask students to note homework in their diary.
- (v) Pupils get an opportunity to learn to fix priorities depending on amount of work. They can note down homework in the diary. They learn how to maintain a diary. They can learn various prayers in the diary as well.
- (vi) From the diary, you can learn about the rules and expectations of the school.
- (vii) School diary is useful to one and all in a school and also to others outside the school.

The Staff at MCCP are committed to ensuring that all students are effective learners. In keeping with this philosophy, effective organisation and communication between home and school are essential. Education is a partnership between parents and teachers working cooperatively towards the same goals for the welfare of the child. This partnership will be strong and successful when channels of communication are open between home and school. We ask that all parents/guardians take the time to read the College diary and hence be familiar with the vision and operations of the College.

Parents, please check your child's diary weekly and sign each week in the allocated space. Pastoral Care Teachers will also be monitoring diaries on a weekly basis. For more information about the College diary please refer to Page 119 of the MCCP diary.

**Mrs Carmelina Eussen**  
Assistant Principal

### Parents & Friends

Parents and Friends of the College are invited to attend our first P & F meeting on Wednesday 2 March at 6:30pm in the La Valla Centre. Parents new to the College are very welcome to attend. At this meeting the College will present the Annual Plan for 2016, a building update and we will visit the new admin building. Please RSVP if you are attending the P & F meeting on Wednesday 2 March to: [brian.vanetempest@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:brian.vanetempest@syd.catholic.edu.au)

### Penshurst Parents

The 'Penshurst Parents' evenings that were initiated in 2015 will continue this year. Penshurst Parents is a forum for partnership, communication and information between the school and home and are adult only events. These evenings are held once per term and involve informing and engaging parents on a range of educational topics. The first Penshurst Parents for 2016 will be held in Term 2. I invite parents to email suggested topics for these evenings to me. I look forward to continuing the partnership between home and the College in 2016.

**Mr Brian Vane-Tempest**  
Director of Strategic Planning & Communication

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Tues 23rd Feb**

Year 7 Laptop Collection

**Wed 2nd March**

P & F Meeting 6.30pm

**Tues 8th March**

Year 8 Reflection Day

**Wed 9th March**

College Open Day 3pm - 7pm

**Mon 14th - Tues 15th March**

Year 7 - 12 Target Setting  
Interviews

**Tues 29th - Thurs 31st March**

Year 7 Camp

**Tues 29th March - Fri 8th April**

Year 12 Examination Block

**Fri 8th April**

End of Term 1

**Tues 26th April**

Term 2 Commences  
Full College Winter Uniform

## SCIENCE NEWS

### The Questacon National Invention Convention

Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to be two of the 25 students selected to attend a 5 day program designed for young and imaginative Australians - the Questacon National Invention Convention.

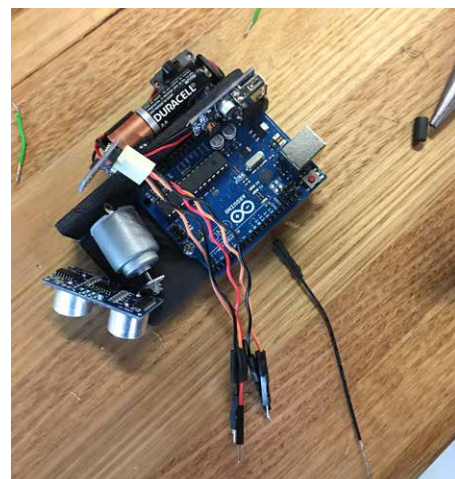
While we were at the Convention, we were faced with a challenge: "To create and design an invention which makes your life or someone else's life easier."

We had 2 days to plan and design our ideas - gathering materials and thoughts, while using various softwares and designing. We then spent the remaining 3 days building our prototype! This was a highlight of the trip. We were able to access robotics, 3D printers, electronics, micro-controllers, CAD, softwares, computers and a large variety of tools to aid us in our creation, as well as help by the Convention team.

We chose to create a device which aids blind people, by alerting them of any possible collisions, at a head height level, where white cane guide sticks would not normally reach. We used various technologies to create our device.

The week wrapped up with a gala dinner, where distinguished guest speakers were present, such as the Minister of Innovation, Roy Wyatt and the Young Australian of the year of 2012. Overall, it was an amazing experience, and we all loved it. Hopefully programs like this will continue to run throughout Australia because... well... it was heaps of fun.

**Zac Pitkethley & Chris Kesoglou**  
**Year 10 Students**



## VET CONSTRUCTION

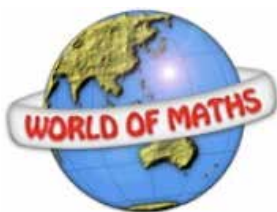
Our year 12 VET Construction students enjoyed a tour of Stage 2 of the College's Construction Program. All students required their White Cards and Personal Protective Equipment to gain access onto the site where they received a full site Safety Induction. Guided by the site foreman, students received an in-depth tour informing them of the many processes and stages of construction, and the often complex and complicated job of coordinating both materials and Trades. Issues of access, weather delays, Building Codes and specifications along with Career path options were clearly set out and discussed. The students were given the opportunity to ask questions, and along with their two previously completed weeks of Work Placement, have been given an authentic insight into an array of trades and opportunities in the Building and Construction Industry. It is our hope that these visits will continue, so the students can witness the progression of the Stage 2 building program. Thank you to Phil Boys from Morabito Construction for his efforts in coordinating and leading our visit.

**Mr John Lloyd**  
**VET Construction Teacher**



## YEAR 8 MATHEMATICS INCURSION

The exciting and educational WORLD OF MATHS will be at Marist Catholic College Peshurst on Tuesday 29th March.



This is an excellent opportunity for year 8 students to participate in solving a variety of problems from large, hands-on displays and puzzles. Problem solving is an important part of all topics throughout the Mathematics' curriculum. All students benefit from this experience as it caters for all ability levels. The displays show some applications of mathematics to real-life situations. The program also shows how maths can be a lot of fun! Students will be involved in the activities for one period of the day. The cost has been included in the term school fees.

**Ms Debbie Wand**  
**Mathematics Teacher**

## STUDY SKILLS

Year 7 to 10 students are involved in workshops to provide them with some of the skills necessary to prepare and organise their studies and assessment tasks. These workshops are provided by Prue Salter and Elevate Education who is a past winner of the Nescafé Big Break Awards in 2002 and publisher of "Science of Student Success". This is a study guide that has sold over 10,000 copies and takes readers into the minds of the top students. This will enable students to get the most out of our Study Skills Program. We want students to improve their marks and believe that using these study skills and techniques will assist in our quest to achieve that. We will be working with Prue Salter and Elevate as they deliver a variety of workshops over your child's entire education. Please encourage your sons and daughters to access Elevate's on-line resources and to use the skills they develop through the program at home.

Our school's subscription details to [www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com) are:      **Username: HSC**      **Password: pacco**

Below are study skills tips for February provided to us by Prue Salter who presented and demonstrated great and useful study techniques to our Year 10 students at the information evening on Tuesday 2nd February.

### STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR FEBRUARY: Coping with Transition

Many students will be experiencing some form of transition this year. Perhaps they have moved from Primary School to Secondary School. Perhaps they are now a senior student. Maybe they are trying a new subject or changing levels within a subject.

With change, can come uncertainty and anxiety. Whenever we are in a new situation, we have a period of time where we are learning and adapting. Below are some tips to help students make their transitions this year as smooth as possible.

- 1. ASK QUESTIONS:** Ask lots and lots of questions. If you are unsure about something, don't sit there in silence, ask a question. If you are uncomfortable asking the teacher directly, then ask a friend or ask the teacher after class. But be aware, there are probably many other students with the same question and they will probably be thankful that someone asks the question they also have!
- 2. FIND A BUDDY:** It is much easier if you have someone to talk to about what you are both experiencing. Someone you can check things with, even just someone to listen to you when you want to moan and groan, or celebrate! You don't have to specifically say 'let's be buddies', but look out for a like-minded person so that you can help each other along the way.
- 3. CONSOLIDATE:** When you are learning new things, or have lots of new information heading your way, it's important to take time to consolidate. This could be explaining what you are learning to someone like your parents, or it could be writing a short list or summary of what you have been told so you don't forget it.
- 4. POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** Your attitude can make a world of difference to the type of experiences you have during any transition. Start noticing your thoughts. Are they negative or positive? You can start to take control and direct the way you think about a situation and this in turn will change how you feel. For example if something goes wrong and you notice you're thinking something like 'what an idiot, I can't believe I did that' immediately catch yourself and say 'that's a bit negative, after all, everyone makes mistakes, at least now I know what I need to do for next time'. Eventually you can start to have a more positive reaction to things, look for the good in situations.
- 5. AIM FOR PERSONAL BEST:** Don't compare yourself to other people. Aim for your own "personal best". Strive to do the best you can, to learn, to grow and develop. We all have different skills and strengths and sometimes these aren't always evident in the school situation. So just focus on being the best student you can be and celebrate all of your strengths and gifts – whether they show up in the school arena or in your outside life.

**Mr Moe Akkawy**

**Director of Pedagogy & Administration**

## Homework Club

Monday 3pm - 4pm

Tuesday 3pm - 4pm

Wednesday 3pm - 6pm

Once again MCCP is running Homework Club for all students at the College. Homework Club is a wonderful endeavour where students have the opportunity to complete homework, assessment work or private study in a quiet supported environment. Staff from a variety of key learning areas, generously volunteer their time after school to answer student class work queries, develop a clear pathway to the completion of an assessment task, review drafts etc. I encourage all students to attend Homework Club on a regular basis allowing the establishment of successful study habits for personal academic success.

Students are to sign into Homework Club at the library desk sign on scanner each afternoon and sign out when they leave. A reminder to students, that they should have pre-organised how they are to get home each afternoon as students are unable to use their mobile phones on College grounds.

**Ms Rebecca Nolan - Teacher Librarian / Literacy**

## MARIST LANE OPENING



Mayor Vince Badalati and Mr Mark Coure unveiling Marist Lane.

On Monday 15 February the lane that borders the Mortdale end of the College site was officially named Marist Lane. Hurstville Mayor Mr Vince Badalati and Member for Oatley Mr Mark Coure unveiled the sign. Mr Coure, an old boy of the College thanked the Council for their support of this community initiative. This is a fitting recognition of the presence that the College has had in this location since 1953. It also marks a permanent reminder to all in the community of the contribution of the Marist Brothers in providing educational opportunities for the young people of this area.



Left to right: Councillor Mr Philip Sansom, Hurstville Mayor Mr Vince Badalati and Member for Oatley Mr Mark Coure

## COLLEGE OPENING MASS



## **CBSA SPORT**

### **BASKETBALL**

#### **Seniors - Round 1**

#### **MCCP 44 defeated Lakemba 42**

**The team: Pat Allison (captain), Elijah Assaly, Dylan Bove, Brian Kong, Nik Pazanin, Don Qui, Jimmy Huang, Lachlan Macks, Stephen Deng and Kenny Pan.**

What a great ending to a tough match!

The team started out well rising to an early lead due to their great defence and movement on the court. However, our lead was quickly gone as Lakemba stepped up, proving to be formidable in their defence, providing an immense amount of pressure which was difficult to break through. For the majority of the match MCCP lagged behind by 11 points, essentially matching point for point without being able to shorten the gap.

During the second half, the MCCP boys started to communicate more effectively on court and became more urgent in their defense. As a result of some great hustling and defensive rebounds, we caught up to Lakemba for the first time. With 12.9 seconds to go MCCP were leading by 3 points until Lakemba evened the game again with a 3-pointer. With only 2 seconds on the clock, Pat threw a massive pass to Nik who was subsequently fouled as he caught the ball and the buzzer rang. It was a cool, calm and collected Nik who stepped up to the free throw line sinking both baskets to snatch the win. Whilst there are some aspects of our game that we need to work on, there is one thing that is certain - this team is a cohesive unit who will definitely prove to be a competitive force this season.

MVP: Pat Allison - 3   Nik Pazanin - 2   Dylan Bove - 1

#### **Seniors - Round 2**

#### **MCCP 30 defeated Punchbowl 16**

Round 2 and another win on the board! The team hit the ground running this week by playing a full court press for the majority of the first half. Each player hustled the ball, not leaving any space for the Punchbowl boys to get through, which led to us either stealing the ball or capitalising on their mistakes. In offence, the ball was moved around quite well, with many drives to the basket where possible. This resulted in quite a number of free throws being awarded, however, not so many of them were successful - an area of our game that we need to improve upon. By the end of the first half, it was clear that we were the dominant team however the scoreboard didn't reflect that dominance clearly enough - we were only leading by 12 points.

During the second half, we dropped back to a zone defence, however the lack of communication on both offence and defence led to silly mistakes being made, and an opportunity for Punchbowl to get in the game. The boys held on to secure the win but there is clearly room for improvement. It was great to see our newer team members stepping up this week with Nik showing strength in the key, Lachlan pulling in rebounds, Stephen continually bouncing back from hits taken from the larger opposition, and the guards providing a lot of pressure at the top of the key.

MVP: Nik Pazanin - 3   Brian Kong - 2   Stephen Deng - 1

#### **Ms Rachel Thompson**

**Coach**

#### **Intermediate - Round 1**

#### **MCCP lost to Holy Spirit Lakemba 33 - 27**

Being the first time to play as a team this year, it was a tough match against Lakemba. Unfortunately MCCP lost. The first half was fantastic with a strong defense. However, as the clock ticked we were not able to maintain the lead. During the second half, the boys were positive and continued to try their best. Although a loss they had a strong spirit and worked well as a team. I am confident that the next time we come across Lakemba we will win.

MVP - Declan Debono

#### **Ms Louise Beard**

**Coach**



## CRICKET

### Opens - Round 1

**MCCP 0/30 defeated Casimir 10/28**

**Batting: Thomas Colonnelli 20, Matt Lakos 10 Bowling: Jarrod Maloney 3/0, Karvan Silva 2/9**

A very comprehensive start to the year. The team was efficient and made light work of their opposition. Apart from a few fielding bloopers, the team worked well and deserved their easy victory.

MVP: 3 - Jarrod Maloney, 2 - Matt Lakos, 1 - Karvan Silva

### Opens - Round 2

**MCCP 2/160 defeated Revesby 10/83**

**Batting: Thomas Colonnelli 47, Josh O ' Shannessy 43, Cooper Cheney 34, Ryan Bujcevski 27**

**Bowling: Nick Bozic 2/0, Brayden Morris 1/1, Ryan Morgan 1/1**

The local derby is meant to be the highlight game of the year. From our point of view we lived up the expectation posting a most respectful 160 runs from our allotted 20 overs. The first 4 batsmen did a splendid job in putting pressure on the Revesby bowlers, draining them of all enthusiasm and this was then reflected in their batting. Apart from some fielding obstacles we settled in to a good line and length with the ball resulting in rapid fire loss of wickets from Revesby allowing the boys of MCCP to secure their second victory.

MVP: 3 - Thomas Colonnelli, 2 - Ryan Morgan, 1 - Nick Bozic

**Mr Michael Falzon**

**Coach**

## SCC SPORT

### AFL

Year 7 & 8 Girls AFL Team, enjoying Q & A with some of the Western Sydney Giants AFL Team. What a great way to finish Thursday Sport!

**Mrs Louise Lynch**

**Coach**



### *Mercy Matters*

The parables of Mercy reveal the nature of God as that of a "Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong." *Misericordiae Vultus*.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:18-20), Jesus uses the image of a father's love to illustrate God's mercy and compassion. Most of us are familiar with this parable, which highlights a 'father's joy' at the return of his 'lost son'. Dutch painter Rembrandt, depicted a 'near blind' father, who despite his poor sight, was able to see into the heart of his son, aware of his child's genuine desire for forgiveness.

The human bond between a parent and child is incredibly strong, sometimes it is beyond words. It can overcome the separation of distance, or of arguments, if we let it!

Do arguments sometimes blind us to the good of others or strain our most important relationships?

We can learn much from the parable of the Prodigal Son. Like the son, may we seek forgiveness when we have acted selfishly or done the wrong thing, and like his father - may we never give up on those we love. May we never tire of showing mercy.



## LENTEN PENANCE

The Jubilee Year of Mercy promises a new experience of God as merciful Father that leads us to practice mercy in our daily lives. But first we must experience *our need for mercy*, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above things, and to love our fellow men and women. This is why the Church's Canon law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the saving love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need.

Jesus began his ministry with the exhortation: “Repent and believe the Gospel” (Mk 1:15). Repentance means rejecting sin and turning back to God. Prayer, self-denial, and works of charity are the concrete expressions of repentance, reminding us of our need for God and alerting us to the needs of others.

Special times of penance help establish the *habit* of penance and unite us to Catholics throughout the universal Church. We are thus reminded of “the social dimension of sin”, both the sinful structures of society and the impact of our individual sins on others. Therefore during Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choices. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

### DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
  - (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
  - (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
  - (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY (10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY) TO THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EXCLUSIVE (24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH). ON GOOD FRIDAY AND, IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL, THE EASTER FAST IS OBSERVED.

### PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, and Trinity Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

St. Mary's Cathedral  
SYDNEY  
1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY