FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Palm Sunday this week sees the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the Catholic liturgical calendar. No other Sunday in the liturgical year reflects such dramatic contrast as Palm Sunday. What begins with songs of triumph quickly shifts into remembrance of the Lord’s Passion. His royal entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem was also an entrance into mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection. As we enter this holiest of weeks with Christ, may our participation in each solemn liturgy draw us into deeper union with him and with one another. Our College encourages our students and their families to get involved in their local parish activities during Holy Week. Please see the end of this newsletter for our parish timetables.

I would like to thank all parents and guardians for participating in Target Setting interviews with their child earlier this week. Your support and encouragement of your child is invaluable.

Open Day last Wednesday had many prospective, current and past families visit our College to admire the progress and changes taking place. Thank you to all staff and students who worked so hard running demonstrations and welcoming and guiding visitors through our school. Open Day is also a good reminder to our current student’s families who have a sibling starting in 2018 to complete an enrolment application and return it to the College no later than 22nd July 2016. Enrolment applications can be picked up from the College office.

Mr Ray Martin
Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The ‘Aspire to be...’ Program was introduced into the College in 2015 as part of our ‘Vision for Learning’. This year we have further enhanced and developed the process. The focus of this program is Target Setting which allows students to choose where they want to go in school and what they want to achieve. By knowing what they want to achieve, they know what they have to concentrate on and improve. Goal and target setting gives students long-term vision and short-term motivation. Having sharp, clearly defined goals, which students can measure, will allow them to take pride in accomplishing their targets. They can see clear forward progress in what might have seemed a long drawn out process.

By setting goals and targets students can:
• improve their academic performance
• increase their motivation to achieve
• increase pride and satisfaction in performance
• improve their self-confidence

As you are all aware, the ‘Aspire to be...’ Program involves parents, teachers and students working together in guiding students to reflect on their learning, develop strategies and set targets to improve their academic performance. The process will continue throughout the school year.

Thank you for attending the compulsory target setting meetings with your child to reflect on their learning and discuss strategies they will apply to achieve set targets in 2016. This opportunity to speak with your child’s Pastoral Care teacher about the Target Setting process and discuss how we will work together to ensure your child gets the most out of the process throughout the year is most valuable.

To continue to work with your child we ask that you take the time every week to:
• sign the diary
• reflect on the initial targets set and how he/she plans to work towards them.

Kind Regards
Mrs Carmelina Eussen

PROJECT COMPASSION 7-3

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 29th - Thurs 31st Mar</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 29th March - Fri 8th Apr</td>
<td>Year 12 Exam Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8th April</td>
<td>End of Term 1 Mufti Day $2 donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26th April</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences Full Winter Uniform</td>
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RE NEWS

Thank you to Fr Paul Smithers from Regina Coeli Parish at Beverly Hills for leading our Wednesday Morning mass in Week 6.

It was brilliant to see so many faces in the Mary MacKillop Chapel.

PHILIPPINES IMMERSION 2015

A letter to Marist Youth Community Mt Druitt from our Philippines Immersion group of 2015.

’refering to Brother Justin and Brother Michael late last year and earlier this year, we feel privileged that you have asked for our help with one of your first initiatives in this newly formed community. Sadly, we are unable to come and provide physical help for this family in Mount Druitt but will instead like to offer a contribution of $750 towards the completion of the project.

This money comes from the group of 7 boys who travelled to the Philippines last year. Tom, Scott, James, Ben, Ryan and James would like to donate this money on behalf of the school in order to show how we are dedicated to helping support this project. This is also a way of demonstrating our commitment to developing a relationship between our school community and your Marist Youth Community. We hope this is the first of many.’

Many Thanks,
James Robson - Year 12

HOLY THURSDAY

On Thursday of Week 8, we will be having a Holy Thursday Liturgy in the school yard. We encourage students in Year 9-12 to bring and wear their school hat for this liturgy. For Year 7 and 8 it is compulsory to wear their hats every day.

MUFTI DAY

On Friday of Week 10, there will be a mufti day and we are asking for a gold coin donation that will be donated to the Caritas Project Compassion appeal. Thank you for your continued support.

Please continue to keep Br. Tony Butler and Archbishop Fisher in your prayers who are both recovering from illness.

ST DECLAN’S PARISH CENTENARY

Marist Catholic College Penshurst’s staff were invited to attend St Declan’s Parish Centenary on Saturday the 6th of March. It was a brilliant event, highlighting the great achievements of the parish and its connections to the region over the last 100 years. The Marist community is so blessed to have such a wonderful parish so close to the College. If you would like to see more photos from the night and a fantastic Video for the Centenary Celebration please visit The Parish’s website: http://www.stdeclanspenshurst.org/#!

Mr Declan Donohue
Religious Education Coordinator
LIBRARY NEWS

LITERACY

Literacy at Marist Catholic College Penshurst is a Whole School Approach. Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. All teachers across all key learning areas seek to embed literacy strategies to enhance student performance so they can achieve their personal best.

In our everyday classrooms students studying English, Maths, Science, HSIE, Art or PD/H/PE, being able to read and write at the appropriate level is fundamental to gaining a deeper understanding of the subject matter at hand. Quite literally, a student’s reading and writing skills are portals to and catalysts for whole worlds of learning. For all of us, regardless of our classroom content or the age of our students, providing targeted reading and writing instruction when students’ skills are lagging and continued instruction when students are achieving is paramount to their success in school and in life.

In Week 6 this term Year 9 participated in a Writing Day to enrich and deepen their creative writing. Students worked with a team of English teachers to improve grammar, develop the use of language techniques in creative writing, and become confident writing in narrative form.

There is also some wonderful work being done in 7.1 English so far this term. Students have been involved in persuasive writing workshops which challenged their writing skills to embed and implement language devices to persuade. Students revised persuasive language features, high modality words, and how to use emotive language to develop empathy within the reader. We were impressed with the standard of writing and 7.1’s ability to engage an audience.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Monday 3pm - 4pm  Tuesday 3pm - 4pm  Wednesday 3pm - 6pm

Homework Club is in full swing with over 200 students attending Wednesday 2nd March. 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

CLANCY AWARDS

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Clancy Awards.

‘Futuristic Coastal Cityscape’ by Daniel Krivacic

‘Infrastructure through a Lens’, by Thomas Behrend
PUBLIC SPEAKING

CSDA Public Speaking - Zone Final

The Round 2 Zone Finals of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition took place on Friday 4th March. Seven of our speakers in Years 7-12 made it through from the first round, and competed at Aquinas Catholic College, Menai. The Zone Finals see successful students from Round 1 compete against strong speakers from other schools in their geographical zone. All seven MCCP students spoke with eloquence, and impressed their audiences, which included Mrs Carmelina Eussen and Mr Mohammad Akkawy. The effort that the speakers put in between Round 1 and Round 2 was evident in their increased confidence and polished deliveries. It is often difficult for adjudicators to make a decision about which students should progress to the next round, something which Mr Steven Skoflic and Ms Lisa Farrelly know first hand as they both adjudicated on the night. Despite the tough competition, Charlotte Bulmer (Year 7) and Ryan Morgan (Year 12) were successful and progressed to the Final Round.

CSDA Public Speaking - Final

Last Friday, was the Final Round of the CSDA Public Speaking Competition. The evening was hosted by St Gregory’s College, Campbelltown, with the best 12 speakers of each division coming together and speaking in front of a panel of adjudicators and large audience. The competition this year boasted over a thousand entrants from all over Sydney, and it is quite an achievement to get two students through to this round.

Charlotte Bulmer competed in the Year 7 division. Her topic was ‘The Sound of Music’, and she took a unique, fresh approach to the topic by weaving references from the iconic film together with pearls of wisdom about contemporary life and our preoccupation with materialism. She engaged her audience through her humour, eye contact and tone of sincerity. She was clearly a crowd favourite judging by the laughs and atmosphere in the audience.

Ryan Morgan competed in the Senior division, with the topic ‘Remember’. Ryan used his experiences from the Philippines Immersion Trip last year, including the infamous conjunctivitis ‘epidemic’, as the basis of his speech. He shared three lessons he learnt from these experiences, and together with his natural charisma, managed to inspire and motivate his audience to be agents of change in our society.

Both our speakers were insightful, humorous and captivating. All who were present would agree that MCCP’s speakers were highlights of their respective divisions. They certainly did themselves and the College proud through their speeches and their achievement in making it through to the Final Round. Given the nature of adjudicating, there is always a level of subjectivity, and unfortunately neither of our public speakers were awarded a place in the final results. Nevertheless, congratulations are in order for Charlotte and Ryan on their incredible achievement and their high spirits.

A big thank you: to Mrs Eussen, Ms Farrelly and Mr Skoflic for attending the evening and for their support of our public speakers throughout the competition.

Miss Analise Emmerick
English Teacher

Brother Tony

My sincere thanks for the wonderful support and prayers I have received from staff and students. My grateful thanks to all the Year 12 students for the gift of their special year jersey - I will treasure it!

I deeply regret I have not been able to be with Year 12 for my ‘Hoped For’ lessons, nor will I be able to attend their retreat next term. I had so looked forward to it. I hope to visit on several occasions next term, but I am not likely to return to the College until Term 3.

I deeply miss all you students and the staff.

With Sincere Thanks
Br Tony Butler
FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Year 11 Biology and Year 11 Senior Science Ecosystem Fieldstudy

On the 7th of March, two of the Year 11 Science classes (Biology, Senior Science) went to Botany Bay, to conduct a scientific field study on the Bonna Point ecosystem. It was an enjoyable day as we conducted experiments in different formats of the environment. One of our field studies required us to walk into the ocean and catch different types of sea creatures. There was such a variety of different sea life including: Pygmy squids, Eels, Stingrays, Weedfish, Pipefish just to name a few! Our guide offered us different types of portable tanks so we could further understand and analyse the circumstances of the creatures we had caught. Another interesting part about the day was venturing around and beneath the canopy of the mangroves, which was home to many different species of crabs, we even got to pick them up. The field trip also involved a much more technical side, which involved measuring the light, water temperature, pH and the salinity, in smaller areas in the ecosystem such as sand dunes, mangroves, and even an estuary. Overall, all the students participated and represented the College well.

Stephen Deng - Year 11

Year 12 Senior Science - Museum of Human Disease at University of NSW

On Friday the 11th of March, the Year 12 Senior Science classes, under the guidance of Mrs Weeks and Mrs Walker, attended an excursion to the University of New South Wales Museum of Human Disease as a part of our current topic ‘Medical Technology - Bionics’. On arrival to the campus, we were to meet at the library lawn for a briefing of the general course of the day before heading into the museum. Once in the museum we were warmly welcomed by the staff and ushered into a lecture hall where for an hour we would be given information on the museum and shown specimens of diseased organs. The first was of a cancerous liver as a result of excessive alcohol consumption, as diagnosed by Lachlan Wilson aka ‘Doc Lach’. We then were shown a plaque ridden aorta. This particular specimen was interesting as the man who donated it once he passed on was a regular smoker from age 13, yet had perfect lungs, ran 5 km everyday and ate a healthy diet. However as a result of his smoking, he began to lose feeling in his lower limbs due to excessive plaque build up in his abdominal aorta.

After this hour had passed, we were taken into the museum to participate in a socrative quiz on the different specimens on display. There was a wide range from cancerous legs to brains that had undergone a stroke, there was also a number of artificial implants and limbs on display, including pacemakers, prosthetic legs and cochlear implants. Following the quiz, we re-entered the lecture room to observe a number of artificial joints / implants and the methods which they were implanted. The joints / implants we observed were, artificial ball and socket joints (hips), Pacemakers (regulate heart beat), Cochlear implants (allows for hearing) and a hinge joint (knee). This concluded our lecture and tour of the museum which led us to lunch. All in all it was a very enjoyable and educational day. A big thank you to Mrs Weeks, Mrs Walker and Ms Thompson for organising the excursion and their work before and on the day.

Michael Harb - Year 12
CBSA SPORT

SENIOR BASKETBALL

ROUND 5: Penshurst 35 were defeated by Revesby 50

The game against Revesby proved to be the fierce competition we thought it would, with the final score not quite reflecting the closeness of the match. From the outset the Penshurst team were fierce and uncompromising in their defence, yet were cool, calm and collected with their offence. It was for this reason that we took the early lead and held onto it for the first half. In defence, the Penshurst boys constantly hustled each and every player, making sure that Revesby’s big men could not get an easy shot. Initially, we were out matching Revesby on both offensive and defensive boards due to sheer tenacity and great positioning.

It was in the second half that our offence began to slip a little and Revesby took the advantage and started to pull away. All in all though, this game proved just how strong and competitive a team we have become, and has given the students the impetus they need to get through the rounds in order to take on Revesby again in the finals. Definitely their best match yet!

Players of the match: Pat Allison and Elijah Assaly

ROUND 6: Penshurst 33 were defeated by Five Dock 39

This week was yet another tough match in the competition and unfortunately resulted in a loss, but the team went down fighting to the end. The students hustled well on defence with good, consistent rebounds, however our shooting percentage was not great this week and ended up being our achilles heel. It was, however, during the last 3 minutes of the game, with Five Dock in foul trouble that the match got exciting. We began a full court press with the intent of stopping the opposition from scoring. We were able to draw some fouls taking us to the free throw line, and pulled back a little on Five Dock’s lead. We also managed to slow down the game with smart foul play but unfortunately left our run a little too late.

Given that the competition is really tight with multiple teams on 2 losses, it is crucial that we win our next match against St Mary’s to ensure a place in the finals. I have absolute faith that whatever the outcome is, the Senior students will have put in 100% effort as that is how they tackle every game that they play.

Ms Rachel Thompson
Coach

SCC SPORT

AFL

Year 7 & 8 Girls AFL Team

As we head into the pointy end of the season, I can happily say with confidence that Marist Catholic College girls can play AFL. Throughout the season I have seen the girls grow and develop from strength to strength in their skills and knowledge of the game. We have successfully won our last two games against St Charbel’s Punchbowl and Holy Spirit Lakemba. From taking a mark to kicking a goal all the girls are getting involved in every aspect of the game.

Zoe Pitkethly scored an amazing 4 goals last week, which could not have happened without the terrific assists of Tianna Kinezos.

We were lucky enough to have the Greater Western Sydney Giants at our games a few weeks ago, where Abbie Hayes was chosen as Best and Fairest by the GWS players and was given a signed ball by all the players. Sophie Higgs was photographed during the game and made her debut in the Bankstown Canterbury Torch paper. It has been a great first season for the AFL girls and hopefully with a couple more wins we will make it into the finals.

Mrs Louise Lynch
AFL Coach
## Easter Mass Times

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<tr>
<th>ST DECLAN’S PARISH PENShurst</th>
<th>OUR LADY OF FATIMA PEAKHurst</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Thursday</strong> 24 March</td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong> 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Good Friday</strong> 25 March</td>
<td><strong>Stations of the Cross</strong> 10am</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Followed by First Rite of Reconciliation</strong> 3pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Passion of the Lord</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Followed by First Rite of Reconciliation</strong> 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Saturday</strong> 26 March</td>
<td><strong>Easter Vigil Mass (No Reconciliation at 5pm)</strong> 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong> 27 March</td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong> 7, 9am, 11am 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Monday</strong> 28 March</td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong> 9.15am</td>
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<th>ST JOSEPH’S OATLEY</th>
<th>ST JOSEPH’S RIVERWOOD</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Mass of the Lord’s Super</strong> 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Saturday</strong> 26 March</td>
<td><strong>Easter Vigil Mass (No Reconciliation at 5pm)</strong> 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong> 27 March</td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong> 7.30am, 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<th>MATER DEI BLAKEHURST</th>
<th>ST RAPHAEL’S SOUTH HURSTVILLE</th>
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## Careers Update

**HSC Holiday Programs**

There are a number of HSC Preparation courses offered in the upcoming holidays. These programs often provide valuable resources and study tools.

The following websites are worth considering:

- University of Sydney HSC Preparation Courses [https://cce.sydney.edu.au/courses/education/hsc](https://cce.sydney.edu.au/courses/education/hsc)

**Year 10 Subject Selection and Information Evening UNSW**

UNSW offer an information evening to students in Year 10 who may be interested in attending university in two years time. The evening provides useful information about Year 11 subject selection, and future university study. More information can be found at the following website:


Mrs Jenny Guy
Careers Advisor