



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last Sunday begins a special time of year for us. It is the season of Advent, that period of waiting before Christmas. In order to help each of us prepare our own hearts for the birth of Christ, we stop and reflect on the year that has been, and wait with anticipation of what is to come. We light an advent candle, a small dim light against a world that often seems forbidding and dark. But we light it because we are a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of Christ. So we pray:

*Lord God,
I sense your power, your might and I stand in awe before you. As we begin this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in my fear and sorrow, in our anticipation and in our joy. May this Advent be a time of love, reflection and hope. Amen*

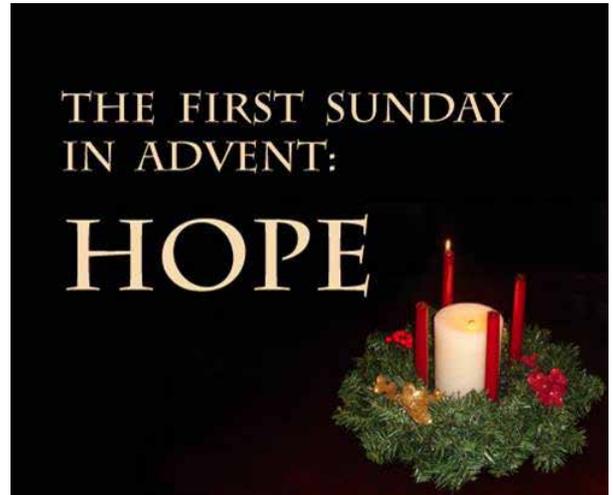
CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

The extensive capital works program at the College this year included the establishment of the administration wing in Term 1 with the completion of Stage 2 in the next few weeks before Christmas. Visitors to the College in recent times will have noticed the entrance to the College on Victoria Avenue has experienced a significant aesthetic 'make over' with a front fence that encloses a play area in front of the Mary MacKillop chapel. Although physically completed in 2015, the chapel has now been adorned with three significant icons: St Mary MacKillop, The Holy Family and St Marcellin Champagnat.

The separation of the College reception from student services has allowed for a more efficient manner in assisting students, parents and College visitors with their needs. The College boardroom and nearby meeting room have been in regular use for meetings with students, parents, staff, various committees and professional teams. These spaces are a wonderful addition to the functioning of the administration wing.

The Stage 2 project has not been without its challenges, with limited access from the La Valla side of the site to the TAS building and Champagnat Village via what has been affectionately dubbed 'The Green Mile'. However, as with the Stage 1 works students and staff have adapted very well to the changing physical environment. The College vision for learning 'Aspire to be Inspired' continues to play an important role in the building process. In Stage 2 the following facilities are provided; Science, General Learning Areas (classrooms), Staff Common/Study, Creative Arts and Drama (to be completed during 2017). Specialist learning spaces and breakout areas have been realised in Stage 2 and will also be part of the Stage 3 building.

Stage 3 gets underway in earnest when the College closes this year. What is now known as the Art/ Music building will be demolished over the Christmas break. This stage will bring the La Valla Centre and the Stage 2 building together. The Stage 3 building will be at the heart of the capital works on the College site. Once completed the College will have what the Architect refers to a continuous 'learning street' through the spine of all the buildings until you reach the TAS facilities. The full scope of works for Stage 3 includes; Music, Dance, Theatre, Commercial Kitchen, General Learning Areas and Cafeteria – estimated completion end of 2017. Stage 4 initial planning is now underway to examine the remaining facilities (including expansion of TAS and a large multi-purpose gathering space) that are needed for the site. This is an exciting time for the College as we continue to plan and bring to fruition the Master Plan that provides state of the art facilities for our 21st century learners – your sons and daughters.



Mr Ray Martin - Principal

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FROM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Here we are at the conclusion of Semester 2 and as we approach the break from the routines of school life, we should take the time to reflect on the lessons learnt, the targets set, the opportunities enjoyed and the potential of the future. We understand how difficult it can be encouraging our children to study or do any work during the holidays, however there are some things that all students could do.

Every student has to study English so that means every student will have to read some prescribed texts – especially Year 11 and Year 12. The holidays are the best time to get through these readings because you can take your time and choose to read at any time of the day. If you dislike reading then unfortunately this will feel like studying but the upside is you can read through one chapter a day and still be on top of things. Encourage your children to read each day – even for 20 minutes. They can read novels, plays, newspapers, comics – it all counts and can be quite enjoyable.

Who would have thought watching movies could be counted as studying? Well it can be. First, there’s always a movie or television series you have to watch for English. Even if it’s boring, invite some friends over to watch it with you and it won’t seem so bad. Secondly, movies make for excellent secondary texts for senior study. Watching an age appropriate movie can be academically productive and can provoke conversation about the characters, themes, plot etc.

Another important note for Year 11 and 12 is that the holidays are a good time to get your notes in order. This is a valuable time to reinforce great study habits in preparation for the HSC courses.

Scientific studies have proven that our minds are more alert in the morning so why not take full advantage and encourage our children to do a math problem at breakfast. It’s more productive than watching TV or hitting up the Internet and although one problem a day doesn’t seem like much when you do the math it works out to 7 problems a week which is equivalent to one study session.

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA AUTHORITY (ACMA)

Students are always reminded of the importance and ways on how to stay safe online as well as the possible consequences of making poor online choices that could lead to a negative digital footprint. Some questions that students were left to think about included: Do I need to change my passwords? Do I need to block or remove people that I don’t directly know from my social media sites? Have I checked my settings on my mobile device? Do I need to check my privacy settings? How am I representing myself online and what are the future implications? As parents we need to be fully aware of what our children are doing online. We recommend that all parents visit the ACMA website <http://www.acma.gov.au/> which offers a huge array of important information and advice.

When placing anything on the internet always remember the THINK principle. T stands for, is what is posted truthful? H stands for, is it hurtful? If it is don’t post it. I stands for is it inspiring? N stands for, is it needed and finally K stands for is it kind? If what you are posting or sending doesn’t meet these criteria then don’t send it. I hope the holiday period is a time for renewal for all. All students are encouraged to do something special for their family - help clean up, some chores around the house, helping a relative.

Be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer Romans 12:12

A reminder to all, that our Christmas Liturgy and Awards Ceremony will be held on Monday 12 December at Hurstville Civic Centre. This is a compulsory school event and all students are to wear full College uniform. Year 10 will be receiving their school reports. This will be the last day for Years 10 and 11.

Year 7 – 9 picnic day will be held at Shelly Beach Cronulla on Tuesday 13 December. This is also a compulsory event for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. All students will receive their school reports at the conclusion of the day. Parent/Teacher interviews for Semester 2 will be held on Wednesday 14 December for Years 7 – 11. Bookings may be made via the Parent Portal.

A letter has been sent home with your son/daughter with more details of the above end of year events. Please ensure you read this and return the relevant permission slips on Monday 5 December.

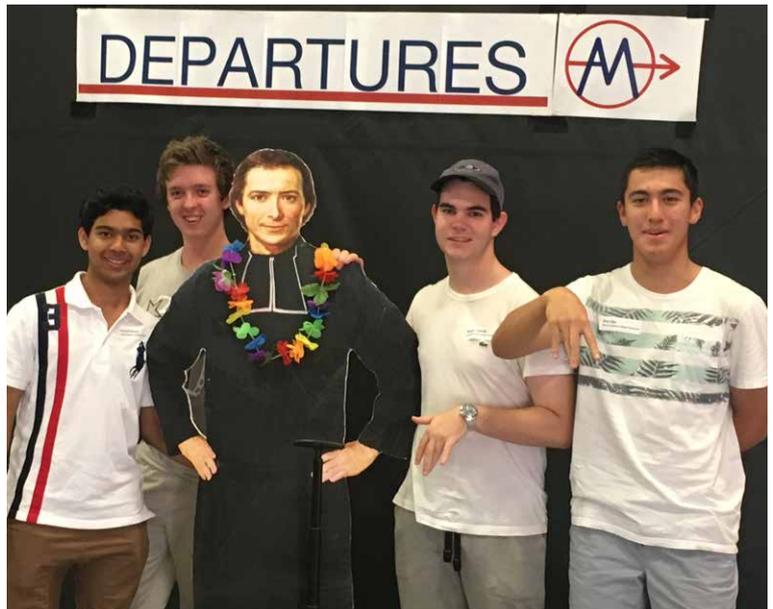
Mrs Carmelina Eussen

2017 DATES			
Mon 12 Dec	Advent Liturgy/Awards Assembly Hurstville Civic Centre 11:30am	Mon 23 Jan	College Office Opens
Mon 12 Dec	Year 10 Reports Distributed Last Day Year 10 & Year 11	Mon 30 Jan	Year 7 Commence Term 1 9am - 1pm Full College Summer Uniform
Tues 13 Dec	Year 7-9 Picnic Day Year 7-9 Reports Distributed Last Day Years 7 - 9	Tues 31 Jan	Years 8 - 12 Commence Term 1 Full College Summer Uniform
Wed 14 Dec	Optional Parent/Teacher Interviews Years 7-11. Online Bookings now open.	Wed 8 Feb	College Swimming Carnivals Years 7-9 Roselands Pool Years 9-12 Enfield Pool

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

On Friday the 25th of November the Marist family joined together at the Youth Super Connect night at Eastwood. Mr Donohue, Blayne Cannon, Elroy D'Souza, James Curran and I were all filled with anticipation of what was to come on this spectacular night. The night centred on Marist charitable and outreach organisations with the main focus on student immersions to India, Cambodia and the Northern Territory of Australia. These immersions were insightful and enlightening as issues were brought up that were unimaginable in our everyday lives. We also heard an inspirational speech by Australia's youngest Marist Brother, Brother Jack, who challenged us to continue to live out the good news of Jesus Christ and to make his message known and loved. Overall it was a truly rewarding night and we look forward to participating in Marist youth events in the future.

Don Qiu (Year 12)



GIRLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The start of a new initiative this year has been to instigate a Girls' Leadership program for our Year 8 girls in preparation for Year 9 and beyond. These girls are preparing to be amongst the first truly coeducational leadership teams of MCCP. The three week, after-school course, which includes a hand-in task seeks to explore women in leadership, current discrepancies and identifying and developing essential leadership qualities. The participating students will be awarded Certificates of Completion.

Mrs Angela D'Angelo
Director of Transition



YEAR 10 TRANSITION WEEK

Monday 5th to Friday 9th December

As we approach the end of the year, and in preparation for their senior years, Year 10 students will be participating in a 'Transition Week'. This week will help them prepare for Year 11. A range of activities have been organised including: English literacy skills, Banking literacy skills, a visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum as part of SOR, a visit to Lakemba Mosque as part of SOR and a picnic day which will include a reflection walk, a swim and a picnic to celebrate their achievements of 2016. Students have been issued with the full program timetable, the outline is as follows:

Monday 5th December:	English and Bank literacy
Tuesday 6th December:	Excursion to Sydney Jewish Museum
Wednesday 7th December:	English and Bank literacy
Thursday 8th December:	Excursion to Lakemba Mosque. Students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm.
Friday 9th December:	Picnic Day, Reflection walk and swim at Cronulla Beach
Monday 12th December:	Liturgy and Awards Ceremony and distribution of Reports. Students will be dismissed from school at approximately 2pm.

Please note: Students are expected to arrive each day in full College summer uniform.

Ms Anne Collins
Acting Year 10 Leader of Wellbeing

STEM PROGRAM

Since the beginning of Term 4, a dedicated group of students in Years 8 - 11 have been gathering once a week to participate in STEM activities. STEM education is a curriculum based idea that encompasses four disciplines - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - which are specifically related to the real world. The idea behind STEM curriculum is to teach students to be creative and critical thinkers, so that they become the next generation of leaders, innovators and problem solvers.

The STEM group are currently participating in the Cuberider program. This is a program designed for students to learn specific STEM skills by completing a number of modules. The aim is to design and code for an experiment which will be sent via a shuttle to the International Space Station. When the experiment is on the ISS, students will be given a timeslot in which to conduct the experiment in order to gather data.

So far this term we have completed two of the nine modules. We have discussed many different areas including the history of the space race, what is needed to build a colony on Mars and the issues associated with living in space, the different roles of those involved with launches, and of course rocket science. Over the past two weeks, students have worked together in small groups to build and launch a water rocket. Whilst there were many failed attempts during the first week, I am pleased to say that a week of troubleshooting led to many very successful launches this week. It's by doing fun, collaborative activities like this that enable the students to learn the necessary knowledge and skills that will be critical in the years to come.

Moving forward with the project, I am looking forward to learning to code with the students in Term 1 next year!

Ms Rachel Thompson - Science Coordinator

SCC TOUCH FOOTBALL

Round 5: MCCP 2 vs Holy Spirit 3

Round 6: MCCP 4 vs Casimir 1

Round 7: MCCP 3 vs Bethany 3

Semi-Finals: MCCP 2 vs MSJ 6

Tries awarded in these rounds: Laura (1), Selena (3), Katie (1), Melissa (3), Demi (1), Alicia (2)

What a great end to the season! In Round 7, we realised we had a good chance at making the semi-finals if we could hold Bethany to a draw, or win the game. So, the girls took to the field with a great amount of determination. The majority of the game was locked in a draw until the last 5 minutes of the second half when Bethany scored. However, with a minute to spare, Melissa charged through to even up the score and to bag us a place in the semis.

The semi-final was a really tough match given that MSJ had significantly beaten us in an early round. However, the Penshurst girls are not a group of students that give in easily, and the game they played was outstanding. Our defence was so great that, at half time, we were locked in a draw. Soon after the second half began, MSJ scored a try, which we matched quickly. It was only in the last 10 minutes of the match that MSJ started to pull away to win the game by 4 tries.

The team should be extremely proud of themselves. Not only for their competitive nature on the field, but also for the sportsmanship they exhibited each week. It was a pleasure coaching them this season, and they will definitely be a force to reckon with in the future.

Ms Rachel Thompson - Coach

