FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to students, staff and parents/guardians for the 2017 school year and especially to every new student and family to the College and to our fourteen new staff members. Our Year 7 students are settling into high school with energy and passion. Their enthusiasm at this week’s swimming carnival already demonstrates how they are immersing themselves into the life of the school. The College’s Stage 2 building project is complete and the students and staff have been using these new facilities since the commencement of the school year. The art and science learning spaces are first-class and will provide enormous opportunities for the girls and boys at this College to foster a love of deep learning and engage in critical and creative thinking; two of the cornerstones in our Vision for Learning – Aspire to be Inspired.

As you are aware last year’s Year 12 cohort achieved very good results in the 2016 Higher School Certificate. In a new initiative Sydney Catholic Schools is acknowledging those students who achieved 1st place in a HSC subject from its secondary schools. Four students at Marist Penshurst were award recipients. They are: Jacky (Yisheng) He – Physics and Studies of Religion I, Ruben Roy – Information and Processes Technology, Scott Britcher – Information and Processes Technology and Dimitar Gliguroski - Engineering Studies. Congratulations to these students.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has illustrated to all in our community the importance of ensuring allegations of abuse against children and young people are heard, reported, and acted upon appropriately.

Sadly, in the late 1970s and 1980s when Marist College was under the governance of the Marist Brothers, there was a history of a small number of teachers abusing male students.

Over the coming weeks when the Catholic Church in Australia continues to be examined in further detail during the Royal Commission, we realise that some alleged victims of historical child sexual abuse may be present outside Marist College with placards referring to previous historical abuse. As a Catholic community, together we recognise that alleged victims display emotion in various ways, and so we request your patience and understanding if this occurs.

Included in this Newsletter is a letter from the Most Reverend Anthony Fischer, Archbishop of Sydney regarding the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission.

Mr Ray Martin
College Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome back to 2017. I am delighted to be joining the Marist community here at Penshurst. For the past two years I have been the Acting Religious Education Coordinator at St Ursula’s College Kingsgrove and prior to that I was part of the Trinity Catholic College Auburn community. I feel very privileged to be part of this exceptional Catholic learning community and I am looking forward to working with the students, parents, staff and parishes as the Religious Education Coordinator.

The Marist theme for 2017 is Awaken. The theme reminds us that “like all disciples of the Risen Christ – we are called to be people of the dawn. Indeed, to be prophets of dawn. It prompts us to look beyond the horizon, to imagine new possibilities, to have the liberty to build new paradigms”. This is very fitting as we celebrate the bicentennial year of the Marists and look forward to the future with hope.

In last weekend’s Gospel Jesus said to his disciples “You are the salt of the earth…..You are the light of the world”. Pope Francis reflects on the meaning of this passage for us as Christians today and sets us a challenge for our daily life.

“We need saints without a veil or cassock. We need saints who wear jeans and sneakers. We need saints who go to the movies, listen to music and hang out with friends. We need saints committed to the poor and the necessary social changes. We need saints who drink Coke and eat hot dogs, who surf the internet and listen to their ipods. We need saints who passionately love the Eucharist and who are not ashamed to drink a soda or eat pizza on weekends with friends. We need saints who like movies, the theater, music, dance, sports. We need saints who are social, open, normal, friendly, happy and who are good companions. We need saints who are in the world and know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane. We need Saints”. (Pope Francis, 2013).

Mrs Melissa Vassallo - Religious Education Coordinator
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences on February 6, 2017.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this tragedy has occurred.

Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, ‘it is a sin that shames us’.

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue and to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children.

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, ‘find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated’.

Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LTh BTheol DPhil
Archbishop of Sydney
2017 NEW COLLEGE STAFF

Chris Morris
Acting Assistant Principal

Melissa Vassallo
Religious Education Coordinator

Tony Nader
HSIE Coordinator

Mark Barnes
Mathematics Teacher

Alyssa Harvey
Mathematics Teacher

Jennifer Hopkins
English Teacher

Barbara James
English Teacher

Jessica Khalaf
Science Teacher

Paola Laurenzi
Art Teacher

Anna Le
Mathematics Teacher

Rosemary Rizk
TAS Teacher

Marthese Miller
Curriculum & Admin Secretary

Lina Pilarinos
Interim P.A. to the Principal

Silvana Vidiac
Learning Support Officer
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Parents/Carers,

It is indeed my pleasure and privilege to be joining the Marist Catholic College Penshurst community as Acting Assistant Principal for 2017. Having worked closely with Mr Martin, the Senior Leadership Team and the staff over the past 4 years in my capacity as a Leader of Learning for Sydney Catholic Schools, I have personally witnessed the professionalism, care and the efforts staff employ to ensure each and every student achieves their personal best. This has only been reaffirmed over the past two weeks during my time at the College as Assistant Principal.

In addressing our Year 7 students and their families, our newest members of the community, I spoke of the hope and trust families must have in the College in entrusting us with the education of their most prized possession; their child. The Holy Father, Pope Francis recently tweeted this beautiful quote from Isaiah 41:10 “Be not afraid, for I am with you”. He added “Let us communicate hope and trust in our time”.

New beginnings can be somewhat ‘uncomfortable’ and often characterised by levels of nervousness and anxiety. This faith and learning community is committed to instilling a strong sense of hope in our students and a trust in the College staff to work in partnership with you, our parents/carers in the holistic development of your child.

APP - Awareness, Punctuality and Presentation

Students have returned to the College with an understanding of the clear expectations with respect to behaviour, uniform and punctuality. In reviewing the various policy documents pertaining to student behaviour and attendance, I have devised an acronym that will serve as a accessible reminder throughout the academic year; APP.

A - Awareness - awareness of self, others and our environment. When one is aware of their surroundings, consideration and respect guides our actions.

P - Presentation - when students arrive at school in full school uniform with impeccable grooming, this conveys a message to the community that Marist Catholic College Penshurst is a learning community that is professional and one that they are proud of.

P - Punctuality - a skill that is required well beyond school. Arriving at school and each lesson on time demonstrates a preparedness to maximise every minute of every lesson of every day.

Daily Procedures and Opening Times

Students are actively supervised in the College grounds between the hours of 8:15am and 8:40am. A warning bell is sounded at 8:40am indicating to students the need to move to Pastoral Care class. At this time, the front and rear gates of the College will be locked. Any student not in PC Class ready for the roll to be marked at 8:45am will be deemed late, and as such must enter via the main student entrance where they will be directed to student services to obtain a late slip.

Parents/carers are advised that unless students are engaged in early morning timetabled lessons or co-curricular classes, students are not supervised before 8:15am. This is of particular importance as the College is in the midst of demolition work occurring near the admin block.

Absence Procedure

If your son/daughter is unable to attend school on a given day, we ask that you phone the College to notify of their absence before 8.45am. You can contact the College on Ph: 9579 6188 and select the menu option for Student Absences. You may then leave a message with your child’s name, PC class and a brief description of why they are unable to attend school. You can also use this facility to report that your child will be late to school. Your assistance in phoning the College is greatly appreciated.

SMS notifications will be sent out to you if your child is absent from PC with no explanation given.

Absences for 1 or more days, for holidays, non-school sporting events or any other reasons, requires, by law an ‘Application for Extended Leave’ form to be completed and approved by the College Principal prior to the leave being taken. These forms can be obtained from Students Services or downloaded from the College website.

Thanks

May I extend a sense of gratitude and well wishes to Mrs Carmelina Eussen for her work as Assistant Principal (2012-2016) as she undertakes new beginnings at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield. Mrs Eussen has provided me with a wealth of knowledge and resources to ensure a smooth transition into the role this year.

Mr Chris Morris - Acting Assistant Principal
YEAR 10 STUDY SKILLS EVENING

On Monday night the school welcomed the Year 10 grade of 2017 and their parents to the College library to hear and be a part of Dr Prue Salter’s Study Skills Workshop. This night marked for many students the realisation that they are now in senior school and that this is the year that they need to get themselves and their study routine organised. This fits very well with our theme for 2017 – NO EXCUSES, which is based on the scripture passage from St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians “when I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside childish ways”. Working with this idea of growing up, making the tough decisions and not giving in to excuses, the students of Year 10 will lay down a foundation from which they can successfully launch themselves into either the workforce or their HSC journey.

The practical advice, routines and plans that Dr Prue Salter delivered gave not only the students but also their parents, great insight into what each student is currently doing, what they need to do and how they can do it. This is of particular importance as we move towards the Target Setting process, with the targets for 2017 being finalised in the Target Setting interviews in Week 7. Students will be able to incorporate a number of study strategies that will enable them to achieve their subject specific goals as they move towards subject selection for Year 11 and 12.

The main areas covered with Year 10 were setting up an effective study space at home, managing resources for school (both paper and digital), working effectively in the evenings and dealing with distractions, managing time efficiently, planning for assessments, making brain-friendly study notes on a regular basis and using a wide variety of active study techniques to suit individual learning styles. Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with students and discuss the main areas identified where changes need to be made. Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/.

I would like to thank all the students and their parents for joining us for this night and for the way the student body have started the school year – in particular the uniform has been of the highest standard and I congratulate the young men of Year 10 on the pride they have shown in the senior uniform. I look forward to a year of no excuses with Year 10 and making an effective partnership between students, their families and Marist Catholic College.

Mr Jon Cullerton – Leader of Wellbeing Year 10

HOMEWORK CLUB BEGINS FOR 2017

The Library at Marist Catholic College Penshurst is a flexible learning space where staff and students meet to collaborate in order to enrich the learning experience for our students. Our Homework Club is a perfect example where young people have the opportunity to seek advice and guidance in their everyday learning. 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... All students are encouraged to attend Homework Club on a regular basis allowing the establishment of successful study habits for personal academic success.

Students are to sign in and out of Homework Club digitally at the library desk each afternoon. Homework Club takes place in the library where students work individually under the supervision of staff.

Hours:  Monday & Tuesday 3pm-4pm  Wednesday 3pm-5pm

Ms Rebecca Nolan - Librarian / Literacy Teacher
MCCP SWIMMING CARNIVALS

Our College Swimming Carnival this year was split with a Year 7-9 carnival being held at Roselands Aquatic Centre and a Year 10-12 at Enfield Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to Salvius, captained by Thomas Hui, who led his team to victory with 1428 points, pipping More by one point. Leopold came third on 1246 points, with Dunstan fourth.

At both Carnivals, the Year 12 leaders did a great job organising their houses, team relays and lifting the College spirit. The cheering and participation, especially at the Year 7-9 carnival, was outstanding.

There were a few records broken on the day:
- Natalie Lo U13 Female 100m and 50m Freestyle
- Elizabeth Wastie U12 Female 50m Butterfly and Backstroke
- Rachel Rice U13 Female 50m Butterfly
- Georgia Felici U14 Female 50m Breaststroke
- Matilda Karatas U13 Female 50m Breaststroke
- Tyler Hull U16 Male 50m Freestyle
- Stephen Deng 17+ Male 50m Breaststroke

Under 15 Females swam for the first time and records were set by:
- Katie Schwarzel 100m and 50m Freestyle, and 50m Butterfly
- Alicia Langley 50m Backstroke
- Sophie Luo 50m Breaststroke

Well done to all these swimmers!
MCCP SWIMMING CARNIVALS

Congratulations to the following Age Champions:

Under 12 Male  Oliver Lien
Under 12 Female Elizabeth Wastie
Under 13 Male  Ethan Asyncion
Under 13 Female Natalie Lo
Under 14 Male  Jayden Maakaroun
Under 14 Female Georgia Felici
Under 15 Male  Mitchell King
Under 15 Female Katie Schwarzel
Under 16 Tyler Hull
Under 17+ Stephen Deng

It was a great day at both venues despite the wet weather and I’d like to thank all students for their cooperation. Thanks to Mr. Marty Shipley who managed the Year 10-12 carnival and a huge thanks to all the staff for their efforts on the day.

Mr Paul Burg - Director of Sport

CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

The physical transformation of the College site continues in keeping with the timeline of the Master Plan. During the summer break Stage 2 was furnished with all learning spaces ready for day 1 lessons. This stage of the works known as the ‘C building’ has 10 general purpose learning areas, 4 Science labs and an Art area on level 2 with a digital media studio. The staff has now settled into their new home on level 3.

Demolition of the old Art/Music building is almost complete and will be the next construction site – Stage 3. This stage joins the C building to the library. When completed (in readiness for the 2018 school year), this stage of the works will provide a dance studio, music tuition rooms, cafeteria, hospitality kitchen, theatre, drama studio and additional classrooms. This is an exciting time for the College as we realise the development of these first class learning facilities.

The College is grateful to Sydney Catholic Schools for their ongoing commitment to this project and to all parties involved in bringing to fruition the Master Plan.

Mr Brian Vane-Tempest - Director of Strategic Planning & Communication
## SPORT ROSTER - TERM 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>TRAVEL</th>
<th>DISMISSAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBSA Cricket</td>
<td>Home game Junior: Olds Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>3.30pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBSA Basketball</td>
<td>Hurstville Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>3.30pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC Volleyball</td>
<td>Mount St. Joseph, Milperra</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>3.30pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC AFL</td>
<td>Kelso Park North, Milperra</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>3.30pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 11 Gym</td>
<td>Hurstville Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 11 Soccer/Touch Football</td>
<td>Penshurst Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 M/F Get Active</td>
<td>Hurstville Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 M/F Watersports</td>
<td>Hurstville Aquatic Centre</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9 Female Netball</td>
<td>Penhurst Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 M/F Frisbee</td>
<td>Renown Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 10 Tennis</td>
<td>Roberts Rd Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9 M/F Tennis</td>
<td>Illawarra Tennis Rockdale</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9 M/F Basketball</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 Male Park Soccer</td>
<td>Gifford Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 M/F Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>AMF Bowling Sylvania</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 9/10 Male Gym</td>
<td>Punchys Gym Oatley</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9 Female Yogo/Fit</td>
<td>Punchys Gym Oatley</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs 8/9/10 M/F Indoor Sports</td>
<td>Sportsworld Indoor Peakhurst</td>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Sport</td>
<td>Olds Park</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 12 Study</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2.20pm at school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Students travelling to internal sport by bus, must return to school by bus and be dismissed from school at 2.20pm.

Appointments are not to be made during Thursday Sport time.

## CBSA / SCC SPORT RESULTS

### CBSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASKETBALL</th>
<th>RND</th>
<th>OPPOSITION</th>
<th>WIN/LOSS</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St Mary’s Cathedral College</td>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>14-53</td>
<td>Ms Anna Le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERMEDIATE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St Mary’s Cathedral College</td>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>14-47</td>
<td>Mr Michael Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>St Mary’s Cathedral College</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>37-36</td>
<td>Ms Rachel Thompson</td>
</tr>
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### CRICKET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RND</th>
<th>OPPOSITION</th>
<th>WIN/LOSS</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR</td>
<td>Casimir Catholic College</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>MCCP Casmir 1/53</td>
<td>Mr Jon Cullerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERMEDIATE</td>
<td>Casimir Catholic College</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>MCCP Marrickville 10/37</td>
<td>Mr Michael Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR</td>
<td>Casimir Catholic College</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>MCCP Casmir 2/40</td>
<td>Mr Michael Falzon</td>
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### SCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLLEYBALL</th>
<th>RND</th>
<th>OPPOSITION</th>
<th>WIN/LOSS</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>All Saints Liverpool</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>2 Sets to 0 25-12, 25-18</td>
<td>Ms Analise Emmerick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERMEDIATE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>All Saints Liverpool</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>2 Sets to 1 18-25, 25-14, 15-13</td>
<td>Mrs Sandra Neilson</td>
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### AFL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RND</th>
<th>OPPOSITION</th>
<th>WIN/LOSS</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR</td>
<td>Holy Spirit Lakemba</td>
<td>Win</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Mrs Louise Lynch</td>
</tr>
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