From the Co-Principals

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We offer a very special welcome to all of our New Year 7 students and the other new students who have commenced with us in 2014. We are confident that the Marian Community will extend its circle of welcome and friendship to them.

We also warmly welcome all of the new staff members who have joined Marian. We know that their contribution to the life and learning of this community will bring energy and vitality to the work that we share.

A new year is all about new beginnings. New beginnings bring us hope and opportunity. For some a new year is a clean slate, a chance to start over with a fresh outlook and a different horizon before us. For others it is about making the most of the work behind us, forging ahead and building on the foundations we have already established.

Whatever path we have journeyed along, all of us have hopes and dreams about what we want from 2014. We can share these dreams or keep them in our hearts, but unless we actively work towards achieving them, they then will never become a reality. The students at Marian have the best resources available to help them achieve their goals. The staff members here are ready to support, encourage, enthuse and cajole to help students achieve their best. Their message to students will be “Always expect the best from yourself and the rest will follow.”

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

As we have wandered around the College this week we have noticed that many homerooms have started thinking about this year’s theme, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” As we reflect on this theme we think about what it really means for our own lives and for the world.

If we change ourselves we will change our world. If we change how we think then we will change how we feel and what actions we take. And so the world around us will change. Not only because we are now viewing our environment through new lenses of thoughts and emotions but also because the change within can allow us to take action in ways we wouldn’t have – or maybe even have thought about – while entrenched in old patterns. Gandhi elaborates by saying “As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world as in being able to remake ourselves.”

There is one change that we think we can make to our little piece of the world here at Marian College. During recess and lunchtimes this week we have walked around the school yard and picked up rubbish – fruit cores, plastic wrapping, containers, paper bags, plastic cutlery, drink containers, the list is endless. Why?

Inspired by the new TV ads “Random Acts of Tidiness” we challenge all in this community to adopt the mission of the Keep Australia Beautiful Initiative, which is “A litter free and sustainable Australia.” We hope that we can change ourselves by adopting Random Acts of Tidiness, and in doing so hold our school up as a model of what a litter free and sustainable Australia could be like. We don’t think it’s that difficult but the state of the

PRAYER:

Theme: “Be the Change you wish to see in the world”

Loving God, we pray for your blessing upon each of us. May we approach the beginning of the school year as a new start. Help us form friendships with those who enable us to become better persons. Friendships will enable each and everyone one of us to shine. Help us develop our faith so that we possess courage and confidence to develop the gifts we have been blessed with. Help us to be compassionate and loving people so that the world may know your love and healing power, O God. May we be people of change, working to bring justice and equality into the world. Lord we desire to live in a just world.

AMEN

EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

11th
• Tuning into Teens
  Evening 7pm-9pm

13th
• Prospective Enrolment Information Session
  7pm

18th
• Absentee photo catch up - Staff & Students
• Tuning into Teens
  Evening 7pm-9pm

19th
• Opening School Mass and 2013 Academic Achievement Awards
  Assembly- Parents and Past Students Welcome

20th
• Parent Teacher Interviews 2pm - 8pm

21st
• International Mother Language Day
• Marian News: Issue 2

25th
• Year 7 Reflection Day
• Yr 8 Science Incursion “Thinking Scientifically”
• Tuning into Teens
  Evening 7pm - 9pm

26th - 28th
• Yr 7 Camp

28th
• All Year 7 2015 Applications Close
From the Co-Principals (cont.)

school yard and sometimes our classrooms tells us otherwise. If each individual takes responsibility for their own rubbish, imagine what we can achieve as a community. This is the challenge we offer you – change your attitude, thinking and behaviour about your rubbish and let’s see how that might impact on our part of the world.

The following quote inspired some discussion recently and really made us think:

“Infuse your life with action. Don’t wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honour them, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen.”

Let’s harness the energy, excitement and enthusiasm that have characterised the return to school this week, to be transformative people in our communities as we live out our theme “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Let’s all work together to make 2014 a great, clean and sustainable year.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals

From Faith and Mission

FEAST DAY OF ST BRIGID
February the 1st is the Feast Day of St. Brigid. May we pause and remember a most amazing woman known and loved for her teaching, actions and life. She lived almost fifteen hundred years ago yet, what a profound effect she has had.

BRIGID’S CROSS
Brigid’s symbol is the cross made from rushes. As the shamrock is associated with St Patrick, this simple cross is associated with Brigid. Woven by her from the green rushes that formed the ‘carpet’ on the floor of a Chieftain’s house as he lay dying, she explained the life and death of Jesus. When he listened to her story, he asked to be baptised before he died. The tradition of weaving the Brigid’s cross is carried on throughout Ireland and in other parts of the world.

According to tradition a new cross is woven each Saint Brigid’s Day on the 1st February. The old one is burned to protect the house from fire, although customs vary. Some believe that keeping a cross in the rafters preserves the house from fire and disease. In Brigid’s time, most of the houses were straw thatch and wood roofs. The cross is also placed under the barn eves or in the cow byre to protect the animals.

Brigidine Sisters use the cross as their emblem.

BLESSING PRAYER OF ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE AND FOR THE HANGING OF HER CROSS
May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell
bless every fireside, every wall and floor;
bless every heart that beats beneath its roof;
and every tongue and mind for evermore;
bless every hand that toils to bring joy
and every foot that walks its portals through.
This is my wish today, my constant prayer
may Brigid bless the house that shelters you.

Trad Prayer of Blessing

Mary-Louise Towns - Assistant to the Co-Principals, Faith and Mission

Staff News

STAFF NEWS:
We welcome all staff who are new to the school:
Ms. Mary-Lou Towns (Assistant to the Co-Principals – Faith & Mission, Religious Education & Psychology)
Ms. Kylie James (Resource Centre)
Mrs. Kelly Deliopoulos (Year 7 Homeroom & Design Education)

WE ALSO WELCOME BACK STAFF RETURNING:
Ms. Patty Navarro (School Counsellor)
Ms. Rhonwen Binney (Year 7 Homeroom, Science & Mathematics)
Ms. Mandy Borg (Year 7 Homeroom, Yr 7 English, Yr 7 Humanities & Yr 7 Religious Education)
Ms. Abigail Egan (Year 9 Homeroom, Yr 9 Themes, Yr 10 English, Yr 8 Literacy and Year 11 Psychology)

We trust that their new or continued Marian and Brigidine experience will be an enjoyable and fruitful one.
From Learning and Teaching

TEACHING AND LEARNING
The College is very proud of our 2013 VCE results which saw 29% of our students receiving an ATAR score above 80, compared to the Victorian average of 20%. This enabled our students to gain entry into a wide range of courses of their choice, with 75% of students receiving their first preference. Our median study score of 30 placed us as one of the top performing Colleges in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, which builds on our past successes.

The College has been working hard over the years to continue to build a culture of academic excellence. To this end, we have updated our Student Achievement and Consolidation Policy to ensure the highest Academic Standards are met. The main change to this policy will be that all students meet particular expectations of what should be achieved at each year level from year 7 to 10. The Student Achievement and Consolidation Policy aims to provide a guide for the satisfactory completion of each year level. It will also become a factor for consideration for the subject selection processes for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

A change you will see in the Semester reports will be the addition of an S/N result for each assessment task and an overall S/N result for each subject in year 7 to 10, which will mirror the process at VCE.

This policy will encourage academic excellence and help to ensure your daughter puts her best effort into all of her work. In keeping with the strong pastoral support provided by the College, students will be monitored closely by homeroom and subject teachers to ensure that support and intervention occur as early as possible if submission of work issues emerge. Please contact Paul Familari or Jane Goddard if you have any issues regarding this policy.

ICT UPDATE
In 2014, the College introduced e-books for most subjects from years 7 to 10. One of the main aims of this initiative was the increase student engagement and learning. Information and Communication Technology is an increasingly important part of our lives and in particular, for our students who are quite computer literate. The Jacaranda e-textbooks offer the opportunity for students to participate in on-line learning programs in Science and Mathematics, and have interactive functions such as podcasts, you-tube clips, powerpoints and webpages embedded into the resources. This provides a rich learning experience for our students and ensures connection to our 1:1 laptop program. A key benefit of the e-textbooks is that they are current in their content and align with the Australian curriculum. An additional benefit of the program is the fact that students do not need to carry a heavy bag of textbooks to and from the College.

Paul Familari & Jane Goddard - Assistants to the Co-Principals - Learning and Teaching

From Student Wellbeing

WELCOME BACK
As we start a new school year it is an opportunity to try new things, meet new people and set new goals for school and other aspects of your life.

For many of us we start each year with new year’s resolutions and, usually, by about the 6th January we have moved on to a new one.

For our new Year 7’s – it is time for a new start again and perhaps to a place where they do not know anyone. Some girls in other levels will be experiencing the same thing.

For our Year 12’s the new year is about working even harder than previous years as they can see the light at the end of the tunnel – the end of Secondary School.

Whatever Year Level your daughter is in, they all have the opportunity to start afresh, begin again and try something new.

In 2014, I look forward to working with the expanded Student Leadership group and exploring ways that the Student Leadership Model can work more effectively into the future.

I know the Year Level Leaders and I look forward to further developing the Pastoral Care program from Years 7-12 and making it an enjoyable and worthwhile part of their curriculum – being relevant and real for the world our girls live in.

I will keep you updated over the course of the year on the progress of both areas in my blogs for the Marian News.

THANKYOU TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS
With the start to new year it presents challenges for families with new uniforms, new books and ever growing children who only yesterday had seemed to fit into their shoes but now their feet have grown again.

Thank-you to all of our families who have supported the school uniform expectations and have made our role at school so much easier where we can focus on improving student outcomes.

WELCOME ESPECIALLY TO THE YEAR 7’S
On the first school day we held a mini school assembly with the sole purpose of welcoming our newest members of our community – our Year 7’s. This Assembly also gave us the opportunity to recognise the Feast of Saint Brigid – a very important person to the Marian and Brigidine Community.

We look forward to our Opening School Mass on the 19th February where we officially open the school year. We will also welcome back members of our Year 12 Class of 2013 and recognise the achievements of many of these girls in their final year at Marian.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing
Year 7

WELCOME MARIAN COLLEGE
The Year 7 team is delighted to welcome students and parents and we hope you will find 2014 a most rewarding and exciting year.

We have been very pleased with our start to the year. The Year 7 girls are in the process of understanding Marian College and the routine of the daily timetable. This week the students have been participating in a special transition timetable allowing them to explore the school and make many new connections. All students have been part of ‘Orientation Week’ and each curriculum area has been running special activities to allow the students to feel well organised for the start of the school year. Our advice to the girls is to continue to centre on making lots of new friends, do your best to understand how Marian operates and never hesitate to ask questions when unsure.

REMINDERS
Reflection Day for Year 7 students – 25th February
Camp – all year 7 students will attend a camp at Phillip Island Adventure Resort on the 26th – 28th February.

2015 AND BEYOND ENROLMENTS PARENT INFORMATION EVENING 13TH FEBRUARY
Parents are warmly invited to attend our forthcoming Information Evening for future enrolments at Marian College.

This evening begins in the Marian College auditorium at 7.00pm.

Jenny-May Wilson - Year 7 Year Level Leader

Performing Arts

WELCOME BACK!
Performing Arts is looking forward to a great year in 2014. We welcome back all our Ensemble students from Choir, Gospel Choir/United, Concert Band, String Ensemble, Piano Club, the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Rock Bands, and our (Drama) Troupe. Our instrumental lessons program, run by Creative Music in Schools, has already started lessons for enrolled students in voice, piano, guitars including bass and ukelele, strings, and drums. We are also planning our Matinee Schools Concert, where students perform to students from primary schools, as well as our various Performance Evenings throughout the year.

We are excited to be debuting a new series of Performance Evenings in 2014. Many students do great performance work in our Drama and Music classes, but unless they are in senior year levels, they haven’t generally had the opportunity to perform in a more formal setting for family and friends using our terrific Auditorium facilities. This year we are looking at running performance evenings for all levels of the College - Junior, Intermediate and Senior - each semester, with variations to accommodate the classes that are running. Students from Music, Drama and Media classes will have the opportunity to perform or present at one of these evenings. More information will be made available as the semester progresses.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE COLLEGE?
Is your daughter in Year 7 and interested in learning an instrument or joining a musical or dramatic ensemble? The Daily Bulletin, read out in Homeroom and also available on Moodle, is the best way to keep up to date with notices about meetings that are called. These meetings are important to attend, as relevant information is given, questions can be asked, and enrolments/rehearsal times are organised with staff. There are also noticeboards up in the Performing Arts corridor with reminders about meetings, instrumental lesson timetables, sign-up sheets for workshops, and so on.

Information about the Instrumental lessons program run by Creative Music in Schools will be given to all Year 7 students in their Music/Drama classes in the first full week of school. The teachers - Erika, Michelle, Naty and Savanna will run workshops in Week 2 so that students have the opportunity to find out how the lessons work, meet the teachers, meet other students already having lessons, collect enrolment forms, and even have a go on the instruments. The Performing Arts staff are available at other times to answer any queries from students or families, and Creative Music can also be contacted directly.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
Students are always welcome to the Performing Arts Office to ask any questions. The office is open at lunchtimes for students to book rehearsal rooms. Any of the staff can help. Students can also ask their Music and Drama teachers in class time. Parents are welcome to contact the College.

We’re looking forward to everything that this year will bring. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with any questions, and remember to keep an out eye for the Bulletin, and also to regularly check the notice boards in the Performing Arts Corridor.

Mari Eleanor - Music and Drama Programs Co-ordinator for Performing Arts
From the Office

**SCHOOL FEES FOR 2014**

School fees, Bus fees for Term 1, VET Fees and the cost of the Digital Resources will be processed next week and Statements posted out to families by Friday 14 February.

Those families with balances remaining from 2013 are reminded to make the required payments or contact the office to make a suitable payment plan.

You are reminded that if you have a son studying at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, you are eligible for a discount on your daughter’s School Fees at Marian College. You need to contact the office with documentary proof of the attendance of a son at Caroline Chisholm in 2014. Note: the discount does not apply to daughter’s studying at Caroline Chisholm.

**EMA IN 2014**

EMA is available to eligible families in 2014 although it has been announced that it will not continue after this year.

The EMA rates of payment are:

- $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

The completed EMA form needs to be handed into the Marian College Office by Friday 28 February 2014 for processing of the first payment.

Families are requested to sign over their EMA entitlement to the College. This amount will be used to reduce the balance of fees owed.

The 2014 form provides a place on the form to authorise this nomination to Marian College.

To enable the College to receive the EMA funding and reduce your fee balance, you are requested to tick the middle box on the EMA form ( √ Direct Deposit to School) and leave the Bank Account details section blank.

The EMA form can be downloaded from our College website. Otherwise, an EMA form can be collected from the Office.

*Michael Baddeley - Business Manager*

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**Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?**

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
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You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Jasmine Duong, your local Saver Plus Worker:

(03) 9312 0932 / 0419 607 295
or jasmine.duong@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across Brimbank by The Smith Family.

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