From the Co- Principals

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

It was with pleasure that we welcomed back our VCE and VCAL Achievers of 2013 to celebrate the opening College mass with the community. We have been blessed by the presence of Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv who celebrated Mass with us and then joined us for the conferring of awards. It is a privilege to be able to share the achievements of these young women and to join in their excitement as they look forward to the next stage of their life’s journey. We know that the Bridgine values that have been such an integral part of their education here at Marian College will stay with them as they travel their various paths in life.

A special part of the opening mass was the blessing of the Year 12 badges and the pledge that our Year 12 students of 2014 committed to as they complete their final year of secondary education; a pledge to strive to work together, to act constructively and to accept responsibilities as leaders of the College. They should be confident that they have the support of the entire school community in all of their endeavours this year.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

It’s been a wonderful start to the school year. Visitors to the college have particularly noted the orderly learning environment and the engaged learning that is strongly evident is all classrooms across the College. Students are to be congratulated for the way that they have launched themselves into their learning. In particular we would like to acknowledge the work of staff members whose preparation and commitment to their own professional learning powerfully models what it means to be a part of a learning community.

As we resume the partnership with families that is so essential to support students in their studies we would like to share with you excerpts from a recent article describing ways that parents can support their daughter’s education:

To ensure that our children receive the best education we have to offer, we as parents have some obligations to our kids and to educators.

Here are three points to consider:

1. Become Educated About Education

First, we all must do everything we can to become knowledgeable about the decisions that are being made about how we educate our kids. This requires all of us to understand the real issues and to be critical consumers of the information presented on all sides. There is a vast array of opinions about what should and should not be done in schools and understanding the basic principles of all these positions will help all of us move forward. Seeking a variety of viewpoints will not only educate you about what the conversations are in Education, but more importantly, you will show yourself as a critical consumer, an active participant, and life-long learner. These attributes are essential to ensuring a successful life for our kids. So, not only are you able to make more informed decisions about your child’s education, but you also make yourself a role model for your kids. What parent wouldn’t like for our kids to see us in that light?

2. Forget Your Student Experience

Think about your school experience. Was it good? Difficult? Pleasurable? Good at math? Awful at history? Your answer to these questions greatly determines how you view education, and even more urgently, how your children perceive it as well.

The interesting dilemma regarding education is that we have all experienced it. We were all students and have had a set of experiences that have shaped our schema about teaching and learning. This fact could be one of the greatest barriers to innovation in education. This paradox of “we have all experienced it, but none of us really know it” is difficult for each of us as parents to set aside.

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EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

3rd

• Yr 7 IncursionCSIRO
• JDF Seminar

4th

• Open Morning
• Shrove Tuesday
• Yr 7 IncursionCSIRO
• Tuning into Teens Evening 7pm-9pm
• JDF Seminar

5th

• Ash Wednesday
• DE Excursion Yr 8
• Ian Potter
• SCSA Tennis Carnival

6th

• Year 7 2015 Enrolment Interviews
• Investiture Assembly

7th

• Marian News: Issue 3
• Marian Swimming Carnival
From the Co-Principals (cont.)

As teachers, principals, schools and districts attempt to remake how we educate students, I encourage you to resist the temptation to pass your experiences onto your child. Allow for better and new experiences to enter into our classrooms and schools. Would you ask for the same medicines and procedures from the doctor that were available for your parents? Your grandparents?

3. Work with Your Teaching Professionals
The science of educating our young people has led to many innovations. New technologies have allowed for more diverse experiences. I’m not suggesting parents should not question and be advocates for their children, but what I am suggesting is that the course of action that will yield the best results is to work hand-in-hand with the professionals.

Teacher, principals, school support staff, interventionists, and on and on, work tirelessly to achieve the best possible outcome for every student. The relationship that exists between education professionals and parents can sometimes be counterproductive to the positive outcomes we all seek for our students. But, when parents understand the complexities of teaching and learning, set aside the paradigm of our own student experience, we can attempt to work together as a community, a village, to educate the children in our schools. It’s through cooperation, instead of hostility that will allow for more students to access the education they deserve to reach the future that they all desire.


Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals

From Faith and Mission

Change can be challenging, however with help and support any transition can be made easier and satisfying. As a new staff member at Marian College I am finding my transition into this new College Community quite rewarding. I hope Year 7 students are experiencing the same pleasing and challenging experience with the guidance and support of their mentors and homeroom teachers.

The College theme for 2014 is “be the change you wish to see in the world.” We encourage students see a world that can be fair and just, to encourage them to see themselves as a dynamic force with a capacity to act in a way that will bring about this vision in their world. It may require an openness to challenge but ultimately it requires the desire for improvement in our world. Jesus, whilst preaching to a large crowd, provided us with an excellent example of the power of change. He talked about loving all people, even your enemies. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matt 5:43-48)

This week we celebrated the Opening Mass for 2014. It was an opportunity to formally commence the year. The Reverend Bishop Vincent Long celebrated the Mass, which emphasised the empowering actions of the Spirit of God. His Homily focussed on the students, learning and the opportunities that are freely available in Australia although not so readily available in other countries. The Liturgy Group Members were very able in helping to highlight the major elements of the Liturgy, making the occasion a truly spiritual event.

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

In our last edition of Marian News, you would have read about some of the wonderful achievements of our Year 12 cohort of 2013. It was fantastic to celebrate our VCE high achievers and to hear some tips from these students, as well as their plans for future study. We are very pleased with the gains that we have achieved in our VCE results and ATAR scores.

Presently we are recognizing our current high academic achievers through Academic Excellence Certificates, awarded at Year Level Assemblies. Academic Excellence Awards, for students in Years 7 – 10, are calculated based upon achievement across all assessment tasks in all subjects studied and reported upon in Semester 2, 2013. Students who were in Year 11 are eligible for an Academic Excellence Certificate if they achieved an “A” average in four or more subjects. Accelerated Unit 3/4 Studies are also considered in the calculation of these awards.

Further recognition of academic excellence and effort will be implemented throughout 2014. After Interim Reports, those students with exemplary “learning behaviours” will be recognized with a letter from the Co-Principals. Based on the Semester 1 Reports, Academic Excellence Certificates will again be presented. In addition, those students with excellent effort and behavior, who have not met the criteria for an Academic Excellence Award, will also be recognized.

At Marian College, we are firmly focused on continuous academic improvement and providing our students with the best possible opportunities beyond Marian. Our staff have been involved in professional learning focused on utilising VCE data to drive that improvement and we will continue to investigate and implement strategies to enable us to achieve our goals.

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

From Student Wellbeing

PROCESS FOR STUDENTS BEING SICK

Over the course of the day and the week we may have students who are sick or not feeling well. Our duty of care responsibilities requires us to contact parents/guardians if a student is feeling unwell and is to be sent home. Arrangements will be made with the parent/guardian as to the appropriate and timely collection of the student. Unwell students will not be signed out unless they are collected by a parent/guardian.

Any student who is to attend an appointment and are required to leave school early must bring a note detailing the time of departure. Parents can use either use the note options at the back of the school diary or a write a note. The note is to be presented to the Homeroom Teacher who will fill out a ‘Leaving Early’ form. This form is to be presented to the subject teacher and Student Reception at the time of departure. We trust that this process will ensure that appropriate staff are aware of the student absence and student will depart for their appointment in a timely manner.

Please note that parents/guardians who report to the main office to collect students without prior arrangement will be required to wait until staff have the time to locate the student. At times these requests result in disruptions to the class of the student and should be in emergency situations only.

We thank you in advance for your support with these matters.

STUDENT ELECTION PROCESS

As discussed in the last edition of the Marian, we are currently in the process of electing our class or homeroom representatives – the Student Participation Group members for 2014.

The School Investiture assembly, where the Student Leadership group for 2014 will be presented, will be held on Thursday 6th March between 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Parents are welcome to be present at this assembly and you are asked to contact the school if you intend to attend.

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From Student Wellbeing (cont.)

**PARENT PARKING IN BUS PARKING BAYS**
We need to remind all parents that the Bus Parking Bays are not to be used as student drop off, student pick up or as a waiting area. Some members of our community have reported that they have received traffic infringement notices for parking in these areas. Parents are also reminded that the entrances to the College and St. Pauls Church driveways are also ‘No Standing’ zones.

**STUDENTS WHO USE MYKI CARDS TO TRAVEL ON THE STREET OR MARIAN BUSES**
Students who use the Sunshine Street bus or who catch any one of the Neales Road, Ballarat Road or Fairbairn Road buses that provide service to the school community are advised by the Public Transport Authority that they risk receiving an ‘on the spot’ fine if they attempt to use the bus service without any credit on their MYKI card. We advise all students that they ensure that they always have a MYKI card with credit on the card.

**TAKEAWAY FOOD**
Over the last few weeks we have had increasing incidences of students being brought take-away food for lunch (delivered by friends or a member of the family) or students ordering take-away food to be delivered to the school.

There are several issues we have in relation to this including the security of our staff and students, the time being used by our front reception staff dealing with food deliveries and the health and wellbeing issues surrounding healthy eating.

We will no longer be allowing deliveries of take-away food being brought into the school. Parents are asked not to bring take-away food for lunch for their daughter/s. If your daughter has left her lunch at home we will make provision for her to have lunch from the school canteen. If you need to bring lunch into the school for your daughter we ask that this is a homemade or a healthy option. Alternatively you can drop off money for her and we will ensure that she gets it before lunchtime.

From time to time we do have homeroom or year level gatherings where take-away food such as pizza or fish and chips is used as a point of coming together or celebration. These events are not regular occurrences and are organised by the staff at the College. Individual deliveries of take-away food by parents or the take-away company are becoming more commonplace and it is difficult to monitor these deliveries. We thank you for your support in this matter.

*Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing*

**Second Hand Uniform Shop**

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP IS OPEN:
Tuesday & Wednesday between 9:00am - 3:00pm by appointment. Call Julie Heaney 9363.1711 or jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

**Performing Arts**

Performing Arts is a hive of activity as the new academic year begins. Instrumental teachers have given their workshops, and are enrolling students who would like to learn any of the following instruments: Voice, Classical piano, Contemporary keyboard, Violin, Cello, Drums, as well as Guitars (including electric, acoustic, ukelele) and Bass guitar. We can take enrolments anytime so if you are interested, come to Performing Arts for more information.

All the Ensembles are also starting their rehearsals for the year. We are accepting new members into the following ensembles:
- Vocal Ensemble (Wednesday lunch - focuses on popular music)
- Chamber Choir (focuses on classical choral singing - Wednesday lunch starting March 5)
- Gospel Choir (Tuesday after school)
- String Ensemble (Wednesday lunch and after school)
- Concert Band (Thursday after school starting March 6)
- Junior Rock Band (Monday lunch)
- Intermediate Rock Bands (Thursday lunch)
- Senior Rock Band (Yr 11 - Tuesday lunch)
- Senior Rock Band (Yr 12 - Friday lunch)
- Piano Club (dates set as we go throughout the term)
- Troupe (Monday at lunch - Drama focus)

We are also very excited to be running RE Music for the first time this semester. Students form groups and prepare music with a religious or spiritual focus, in a range of styles. These pieces are then performed in assemblies, liturgies, and family information evenings, helping us experience more deeply the Catholic and social justice focus of the College.

On top of all that, we have had the great pleasure of welcoming the Year 7s into our midst. They are all taking either Music or Drama this semester, and have proven to be an enthusiastic bunch - many are taking instrumental lessons or joining ensembles, as well as showing lots of energy and commitment to their Performing Arts classes.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Mari Eleanor at the College. We are looking forward to an exciting term with the starting of all our new and returning groups and lessons, and getting performance-ready!

*Mari Eleanor - Music and Drama Programs Co-ordinator for Performing Arts*
LOTE

YEAR 7 INDONESIAN

Salam,
The Year 7 Indonesian class has made a good start this year. The girls studied a unit called “Kenalilah Indonesia. This unit enables students to introduce both the language and the culture of Indonesia. It is designed to allow students to gain confidence in using a new language and to be able to introduce themselves and talk about their family in Indonesian. Students are challenged to see just how much they can learn in a short period of time. Why not aim for 50 words by the end of each week and gain geographical information about Indonesia.

Selamat belajar……

Salam - Ibu Trin dan Ibu Veronika

YEAR 7 LOTE - ITALIAN

The transition into Year 7 is the perfect time for second language learning: getting to know your fellow classmates, your teachers and ultimately yourself. In Year 7 Italian, students have been learning about how Italians communicate with each other, and through music, role plays, games, drawing and story writing, are learning incredibly fast and are developing a love for the very distinctive culture! Look out Italy: Marian is coming!

I would like to thank all staff and students for truly making me feel a part of the Marian community.

Michael Buckingham - visiting pre-service teacher from ACU.

Design Education

YEAR 9 TASTERS DESIGN FOR PUBLIC SCULPTURE IN SUNSHINE.

Contemporary sculpture Col Henry was invited to speak to year 9 Tasters students.

The girls participated in a variety of projects designed to show them the process involved in creating public sculptures. The girls were involved in coming up with design ideas for Public Sculptures in Sunshine.

Creative ideas and lots of imagination was involved in brainstorming designs. The girls were excited about the idea of their artwork being made in to Public Sculptures.

Nella Zagarella - Design Education Teacher