From the Co-Principals

Each term the College organises a school assembly that attempts to capture recent events of the preceding weeks. The assembly is a showcase of the many activities that highlight the days in the life of a student at Marian College. Thursday’s assembly was quite inspiring in the diversity of opportunities that students and staff have experienced over this winter period.

As is tradition the assembly was formally opened with the entrance of the Lamp of Learning and the College Banner by the Lamp Bearers and the singing of the school song by the Performing Arts ensemble. The school Liturgy Team then led the community through a reflection that focused on the theme for the year, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” As well as prayers and a scripture reading the prayer service included a presentation by Year 10 students on the need for a better understanding for those who need our help and support.

After the liturgy, Mr. Familari, one of Assistant to the Co-Principals – Learning and Teaching, presented a series of photos of the learning that was happening at the College during Period 4 on a Friday afternoon. This presentation showcased students and staff engaged in learning, using a variety of resources and tools and displaying the vast range of activities on offer. We then recognised the achievement of one of our VCAL students, Zena El-Alo, who completed a Catholic Education Office Applied Learning program to a very high standard.

Presentations for high achievement were also made to students in the areas of Science, Languages other than English and Design Education. Students were recognised for their efforts in competitions that measured their performance against other students in the state. As well as the academic areas, the student population congratulated the champions in the field of sport especially the high performing athletes at the recent Athletics Sports Day. A rousing cheer was heard when Kildare House was proclaimed the winning team of the day.

Year 9 students spoke confidently about the enjoyment they had on the City Experience. More photos illustrated the great times shared with good friends and the independence they enjoyed in participating in activities that tested their attitudes, skills, logic and energy.

The student audience also enjoyed two stirring musical performances. Prashanti, a member of the Senior Music class, warmed up for her upcoming VCAA music examination by blasting out a rendition of “Someone Like You”. Not long after, the Gospel Choir, including an emotional group of Year 12 students, captivated all with a heartfelt version of “Stand”, performed recently at the CEO Melbourne Time to Shine concert.

Finally, student leadership was also on show at this assembly. The leaders of the Marian Leos reflected on the many causes that they had assisted over the course of the year and the community was astounded to hear that their fundraising efforts has generated over $5000 of funds. All four of the Year 12 College Leaders spoke about their journey from nervous Year 7 students to a confident and tight-knit group of Year 12’s. They also commented about the lasting legacy that the connection to a school like Marian has given them. A legacy filled with commitment to a cause, an understanding of the other, and a loyalty to those around you.

It is hard to believe that all this happens within a time frame of just over one hour. The school assembly, which is totally student led, exemplifies the many gifts and talents that students confidently build when given the opportunity. It takes a great deal of courage to stand in front of 800 students and staff and speak about experiences, learnings and achievements. However, at the end of the assembly we all walk away and marvel at what we have seen and heard and are grateful to be inspired by all that is achieved by the Brigidine community that is Marian College.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals
Faith and Mission

Another busy term draws to a close. It has been a term focused on justice, which epitomises the teaching of the Brigidine Sisters. This term saw the College celebrate its origins, with St Brigid and Bishop Daniel Delany, in the Brigidine Celebration Day. We had the opportunity to participate in activities that have raised funds to help many in the community. It is an apt time to thank the students for their efforts. Bishop Daniel Delany once said ‘From every seed sown and cultivated by pure love we shall be sure to reap a harvest of endless glory.’ The students at Marian College are truly cultivating their harvest in their actions.

Pope Francis was recently talking of students and young people and he said “It takes a village to raise a child. It’s in school where one learns truth, good and beauty. The three, and most important languages learned in school... the language of the mind, the language of the heart, and the language of the hands. All in harmony. In other words, think of what you feel and do; listen to what you think and what you do; and do well what you think and do. The three languages, in harmony and together.”

At Marian College our students are thinking, feeling and doing with their efforts to raise funds, awareness and actions for the vulnerable within our community.

Last Saturday the Gospel singers from Marian College participated in the Catholic Education Office’s Gala Performance called ‘A Time to Shine’. It was amazing to see and appreciate the gifts and talents in the various Catholic Colleges. Our Gospel Singers joined with other students from other Colleges to exhibit their talents and it was a spectacular performance. The number of people that attended the two sessions was indicative of the quality of the show. In order to reach such a high standard it required a large commitment from students and Mr Michael Cooper in attending many rehearsals. Well done!

May all the staff and students at Marian College have an enjoyable and restful break over the holidays. May God protect and guide you all throughout the next two weeks.

Mary-Lou Towns - Assistant to the Co-Principal - Faith and Mission

Student Wellbeing

REMEMBER ABOUT UNIFORM CHANGES

A reminder to all families and students – the beginning of Term 4 – Tuesday 7th October requires all students to return to their summer uniforms.

This includes their summer dress, school jumper and the blazer as the most outer garment. Students need to return to long white socks.

NEW SPORTS TOP ON DISPLAY IN THE FOYER OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

An example of the new Sports top (new blue option with red and white piping on the collar and the house colour of each student embroidered on the side opposite the school emblem) is now on display in the school foyer. The new excursion bag is also on display and is now available from the uniform shop.

This new sports top will be compulsory for the new Year 7’s in 2015. It will be an optional item for all students in Years 8-12. Please note that, from 2015, if your daughter at requires a new sports top the only option available will be the new version.

The new sports top addresses some of the concerns brought to us by both the students and parents in the last couple of years and reinforces the importance of our House System as part of our school leadership program.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SELECTION OF THE LAMP BEARERS FOR 2015

On Monday 15th September we began the process of selection of our Lamp Bearers for 2015. Fifteen impressive young woman from our Year 11 cohort spent the day at the Kilbride Centre in Albert Park.

Along with Ms.Grima and Mr.Pisani we explored the qualities of leadership and what the group would hope to achieve when they become the most senior leaders of the school in 2015.

The next stage of the process involves identifying those students that will go on to be interviewed for our Lamp Bearers and Student Representative Council positions for 2015.

This year both the Year 11 cohort and all of the staff having the opportunity to cast a vote in the election process for Lamp Bearer.

This voting process will also be included at all year levels next year for other student leadership positions. This change has been developed by the Student Leaders over the last couple of years and will now come to fruition in 2015.

FEEDBACK FROM THE BULLYING AND HARASSMENT SURVEY

Over 700 students were surveyed by the Student Participation Group in Term 3 on issues in relation to Bullying and Harassment.

A summary of the key points of the survey can be found below:

• Some students across the year levels have experienced some form of bullying this year.
• More students at each year level were prepared to indicate that they had witnessed bullying of others.
• Social media in all forms such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc were identified as ways that students are bullied.
• Students identified different times and places where bullying had been observed.
• Students indicated that bullying takes place at all year levels.

This is important data for school leaders that we will be using with all students and staff in Term 4.

Surveys such as this one support us to continue to ensure that we are addressing issues of concern for all students. We know that this is a safe and secure place for students to learn and this requires ongoing monitoring and the provision of proactive programs that communicate a ‘no-tolerance’ policy where bullying is involved.

We look forward to bringing you more information about this survey in Term 4.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing
Learning and Teaching

NAPLAN 2014

We have recently received the 2014 NAPLAN results. Individual student reports have been mailed to students in Years 7 and 9. These reports provide information about student achievement in aspects of literacy and numeracy in relation to the national and state averages and also national minimum standards. They also provide some information about skills that students have typically demonstrated at each level.

For the College the Year 7 NAPLAN tests are an invaluable source of data. The tests are conducted in May, just three months after students commence at the College. Therefore, to an extent, the results offer us a snapshot of the skills with which students are coming to the College.

The Year 9 NAPLAN results also offer an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of our programs. This is particularly demonstrated through the Relative Growth Report. This report displays the average improvement of our students compared with average improvement of students in Victoria over the two years since the previous tests were completed. We are very pleased to report that measured growth or improvement of our Year 9 students, since Year 7, has exceeded that of the state. This means that we have fewer students showing low growth and more students showing high growth than the state average.

For example, the Relative Growth Report data for the Numeracy and Reading Tests are displayed in the table and graph below:

Ongoing assessment of student progress is an integral part of the learning and teaching program at Marian College. The information provided by the NAPLAN adds to that which is already provided by the College throughout the yearly cycle of assessment and reporting. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs at the College and assist with achieving improved learning outcomes for all students.

YEAR 9 INFORMATION EVENING AND ELECTIVE SELECTIONS 2015

Year 9s will select their “Tasters” (elective) subjects early in Term 4. In the first week of next term there will be an assembly for the current Year 8 students providing information about the choices available. On Thursday, 9 October, there will be a Year 9 2015 Parent Information Evening and letters of invitation will be mailed over the holidays. This information evening will provide parents with an overview of the Year 9 Program at Marian College, including the elective or “Tasters” subjects. Students will then select their subjects for Year 9, using the online subject selection module, Web Preferences. Students will receive an email with their username and password to log-in. Online Web Preferences will remain open until 3.00 pm on Thursday 16 October and students will not be able to enter information after this time. They must also submit the signed print-out of their selection receipt to the collection box outside the Teaching and Learning Office by 9.00 am on Friday 17 October.

For further information, the Year 9 Handbook is available on the College website (Learning and Teaching Year 9).

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

LOTE

In previous issues of the Marian News we had informed you that one of our Year 10 students, Sarah De Fazio, had placed second in the Dante Alighieri’s Poetry Recitation Competition. Sarah was invited, along with her family, to attend a special presentation night at Melbourne University. She and a number of other students in the various age groups were recognised for their efforts. On the night she received a commemorative plaque and a copy of Dante Alighieri’s Divina Commedia, in Italian of course. On behalf of Marian College, I would like to congratulate Sarah on this incredible achievement and also thank her for her positive influence on the study of Italian at Marian, even if she at times provides too much assistance to those girls who ask her to proofread their work. Ti perdonoiam…e auguri.

Anna Ciccone - Italian Teacher - Learning Leader
As we near the end of term, we have many things to celebrate in Performing Arts!

1. CEO Performing Arts Gala ‘Shine’ - Saturday 13th September at the Palais Theatre Congratulations to our Gospel Choir ‘United’ and Mr Cooper for their performances in ‘Shine’. It was a spectacular show - look out for the Ch 7 TV screening over the Summer, and in the meantime DVD’s can be ordered through Performing Arts. We especially thank the parents of the students involved for their support of the girls during the intensive rehearsal period!

2. VCE Music Performance - Unit 4 students are gearing up for their exams next term. They presented their programmes on Thursday 18th September in the Performing Arts Senior Showcase. If you missed out, they will present them again on Thursday 16th October from 7pm, along with the VCE Drama performances. The concert is free and everyone is welcome!

3. New Ensembles - We are delighted to add a Dance Club to our list of ensembles, giving more students an opportunity to participate in co-curricular performance activities. Thanks to Ms Egan for mentoring the dancers, and to the leaders themselves for their initiative and for working with new students as they join. We are also excited by the student-run Music Theatre Club, which is preparing its first pieces for performance early next term. Thanks to Alana Moretti and Prashanti Middling, VCE Music students, for running the Club.

4. Music in Community - Marian College Performing Arts ensembles perform together every assembly, leading the College community in the school song, and now in sung responses when we have Mass. They have been featured in the local medial on several occasions, and performed for local community groups. Currently all the Performing Arts students are working together to prepare a farewell song to the Year 12 students as they prepare to say good-bye to their school days!

And finally we would like to thank the Music RE students, who have continued to provide reflective music for the College’s various reflection days.

We wish all Performing Arts students a happy and restful holiday, and thank staff and parents for their support of the students in their lessons and ensembles!

*Mari Eleanor - Music and Drama Co-Curricular Programs Co-ordinator*
**Community News**

**COMBINED REUNION 22ND NOVEMBER 2014**

Marian College will be hosting a combined reunion for former students who graduated in the years 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004. We encourage you to attend this event which will involve a viewing of the art exhibition, a tour of the College and afternoon tea. Please spread the word and share this information via your face book pages and network of friends. For further information and to RSVP call the school on 9363 1711 or email jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

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**Parent Education Program: Alcohol & Drug issues - Paul Dillon**

**Wednesday 8th October 7-8:30pm**

Paul Dillon has been working in the area of drug education for the past 25 years. Through his own business Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) he has been contracted by many organisations to give regular updates on current trends. He has also worked with many school communities to ensure that they have access to good quality information and best practice drug education. He has also written a bestselling book for parents titled “Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs” released in 2009.

Many parents access information on drugs from inappropriate sources such as the media and as a result there is a great deal of mythology around drugs and their use. This presentation will attempt to give accurate, up-to-date information on current trends in drug use in Australia. The area of drugs is one in which many parents do not feel well-equipped to discuss with their teenagers, with a recent survey suggesting that over 50% of Australian parents have never discussed the topic of drugs with their children. This presentation aims to empower parents with some basic information about current trends in alcohol and other drugs as well as provide up-to-date research on best practice parenting in this area.

*Bookings essential: 9363 1711 - Marian College 196 Glengala Rd West Sunshine*

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**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop (at Marian College) will ONLY be OPEN on FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER during the TERM 3 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS between 10.00am - 1.30pm

ALTERNATIVELY YOU COULD VISIT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING UNIFORM STORE LOCATIONS:

**NOONE IMAGEWEAR TRADING HOURS**

Mon - Fri : 9am to 5.30pm Sat: 9am to 1pm
543 Keilor Road, Niddrie VIC 3042
Phone: 03 9379 5037 Fax : 03 9379 8446 Email : niddrie@noone.com.au

**RUSHFORDS TRADING HOURS**

Mon - Fri : 9am to 5.30pm Sat: 9am to 1pm
Shop 3 - 5, Watton Arcade, 28 Watton St, Werribee
Phone: 03 9741 3211 Fax : 03 9741 3155 Email : rushfords@noone.com.au
MARIAN COLLEGE – SUNSHINE WEST

STUDENT CALCULATOR ORDERS

PORTAL OPEN FOR ORDERS BETWEEN
6TH OCTOBER 2014 – 16TH NOVEMBER 2014

*RE-OPENING 1ST DECEMBER 2014 – 15TH JANUARY 2015
*ANY LATE ORDERS WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL $14.95 DELIVERY FEE

STEP 1: GO TO www.abacuscalculators.com.au (*NOTE WEBSITE IS NOT IPAD COMPATIBLE)

STEP 2: ENTER YOUR SCHOOL ID CODE ON THE HOME PAGE TO LOG IN: MARIANSUN
(YOU MUST DO THIS FIRST TO AVOID DELIVERY FEE, PLEASE DO NOT SEARCH THE PRODUCT)

STEP 3: SELECT PRODUCTS NEEDED;
TINSPIRECX CAS $185.00inc GST
PADDED CASE $5.50inc GST
TI WALL CHARGER ADAPTOR $10.00inc GST
TI RECHARGEABLE BATTERY $16.50inc GST

STEP 4:
CALCULATORS DELIVERED TO SCHOOL FOR DISTRIBUTION WEEK BEGINNING 24TH NOVEMBER 2014
*2ND DELIVERY START OF TERM 1 2015

CALL 1800 998 424 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES

PLEASE SEE CONDITIONS BELOW:
• ALL CALCULATORS ARE COVERED BY A 2-YEAR REPAIR/REPLACEMENT WARRANTY. *ADDITIONAL WARRANTY IS OFFERED BY TEXAS INSTRUMENTS; PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON FRONT OF PACKAGING.

• WARRANTY: PLEASE KEEP A RECEIPT COPY AS PROOF OF PURCHASE. THE STUDENT’S NAME WILL ALSO BE REGISTERED AT ABACUS.

• COMPANY POLICY: NO REFUNDS GIVEN ON INCORRECT PURCHASE

• PLEASE NOTE ONCE THE PORTAL EXPIRES YOU WILL NEED TO ORDER DIRECTLY FROM OUR WEBSITE AND PAY A DELIVERY FEE OF $14.95inc (SENT VIA TOLL PRIORITY COURIERS)