From the Co- Principals

VALE SR CATHERINE KELLY

It is with much sadness that we inform you of the passing of Sr Catherine Kelly csb on the afternoon of 12 March 2015 after a very short illness. Sr Catherine was a past Principal of Marian College from 1974 to 1977 at a time when Catholic schools were run on the dedication and commitment of members of religious orders with very little, if any, government support and funding. It was women such as Sr Catherine whose devotion and perseverance has bequeathed us this very special educational community. In more recent years Sr Catherine co-founded the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project and up until the time of her illness worked tirelessly as a campaigner for the rights of those who are refugees and asylum seekers. She was a woman with a dearly held vision for a compassionate and more socially responsive and inclusive society. She addressed students several times over the past few years at assemblies and retreat days and her commitment, passion and dedication for the rights of the most vulnerable within our community and society was infectious and inspirational.

Our Catherine Kelly Language Centre stands as a lasting tribute to a woman who embodied graciousness, humility and was the very essence of the Brigidine motto Strength and Kindness. We offer our prayers to Sr Catherine’s family and to the Brigidine sisters as they mourn the passing of a cherished sister, aunty and friend.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

A number of students have participated in Catholic Education Week activities this week including the Mass of St Patrick for Schools and Concert, and Young Speakers Colloquium held on Tuesday 17 March 2015.

We are also very proud of the following students whose art works were selected for the Visual Arts Exhibition being held during Catholic Education Week.

- Omjuma Deng – Red Riding Hood – Year 10
- Gizel Ruiz – Masquerade – Year 10
- Sarah De Fazio – Freedom – Year 11
- Fuifuilupe Alone – Fragile – Year 10
- Michaela Thompson – Vertical Waterfall – Year 11

The quality of work on display from students attending Catholic schools across Melbourne is a testament to the excellence of Arts programs within our schools. In the words of the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Mr Stephen Elder, “The artworks are inspiring in their creativity and imagination as well as their quality of execution”. The Exhibition is open during the week between 17 and 22 March at the Catholic Leadership Centre if you are keen to attend.

INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We offer our congratulations to the 22 students who participated in the inter-school swimming carnival. The girls swam very well and achieved several placings. The overwhelming success of the night was the spirit of team-work and shared passion for our school that was expressed by the students and their families. In the words of one parent:

“I just wanted to share with you how wonderful the swimming carnival was on Wednesday night. It was so exciting to be there. It was the first time I have really had a sense of belonging to the Marian community and feeling proud of that. The girls felt a real sense of belonging and the joy on their face was evident. It was lovely to see so many parents, whom were genuinely excited for the girls. Your PE teachers were exemplary. Their authentic support and commitment towards the girls shone through.”

We extend our gratitude to Ms Abbey Webster for her organisation for our participation and the training of students and to Mrs Terri Sulzberger, Ms Jessica Schemioneck and Ms Genevieve O’Keeffe for their support of the girls on the evening.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co- Principals
What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing ‘Hosanna in the highest!’ yet fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who washed his disciples’ feet, the King who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Lord God, as we sing our ‘Hosannas’ today may we remember also that which you were riding toward; the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross. And let us look forward to the joy of Easter Day when you rose from death to reign forever. Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives.

As the term ends we turn towards the biggest event in the Christian/Catholic calendar, with the Easter Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught for only three years. He taught of the Kingdom of God, the importance of living a life based on love and his greatest commandment was to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40) It was a very radical teaching! At least that is how it was seen by some of the people of the day. Loving people can be very confronting for some people, for instance; how can you love Asylum seekers, Jesus would have said, how can you not? Marian College had such a teacher, a voice in the person of Sister Catherine Kelly, a past Principal, friend and mentor. As a Sister of the Brigidine Congregation, she was one of the voices crying out in a silent world for a fair go for these people, who arrived from far away countries, feeling vulnerable, needy, desperate and powerless. They simply want a fresh start in this country, an opportunity many of our forebears also yearned for in previous generations, following upheaval in their country of origin. What would Jesus have said? I imagine it would have been “Love them, support them and care for them.” That is what Sister Catherine did in her life. May she now rest in peace.

Pope Francis in reflecting on the Easter message has this to say; “This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News par excellence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; the whole mission of the Church would lose its impulse, for this is the point from which it first set out and continues to set out ever anew. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

That is why we tell everyone: “Come and see!” In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast…”Come and see!” Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

May your Easter be a Happy and Holy Time, and may your time with family and friends be overflowing with Love and Life.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK
On the 17th of March, students from Marian College attended a Mass at St Patrick Cathedral. This was followed by a concert in Treasury Gardens for the younger students and for the Year 10 students there were guest speakers at the Catholic Leadership Centre. The photo shows the students who attended the celebrations.

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

As part of the Social Justice topic in Religion, students from Year 10 David were able to volunteer either at an Aged Care facility, Primary School or St Vincent de Paul every Thursday for 5 weeks. During our time at St Peter’s Primary school, we got to interact with the students during lunchtime. We played various games, such as Scarecrow Tiggy, Volleyball. What’s the Time Mr Wolf, Piggy In the Middle, Simon Says and many more. The kids were very enthusiastic and it made us feel really rewarded that we put a smile on their faces. We believe that we made the prep’s transition from kindergarten to primary school a lot easier as now they are comfortable to interact with the other students. As our placement concluded, we had become attached to the children and found it difficult to part ways. We were left missing the regular visits that allowed us to contribute to the community.

Written by Imra Banu, Milan Dhungel and Marianthy Halkidis, in 10 David

The first time when I visited the Warnock nursing home the place was a really good clean environment and that is important for the elderly to live comfortably. The smell of the nursing home was not pleasant but it didn’t make me stop going there. The nurses were really nice and made us feel comfortable. I tried my best to be nice and be friends with them. They looked happy when they talked about their children and experiences. I learnt that communicating with elderly people is good for all of us and them. At first I thought it was strange to bring the elderly out to the living room to sit and stare at nothing. But later on I realized that many would never see anything but the four walls of their rooms if they were not brought out into the living room. At least in the living room they can see people come and go as they visit their loved ones. Warnock was an amazing experience and I enjoyed talking to them.

Helen Le 10 David
Learning and Teaching

REPORTING TO PARENTS
Interim Reports will be available on the Parent Portal, accessed via the College Website, on Friday 27 March. These reports will provide a brief snapshot of your daughter’s learning this term. Whilst these reports will indicate that many of our students have applied themselves conscientiously to their studies, for some, the report will signal the need to re-evaluate what has been achieved in Term 1, and to put into place strategies for improvement in Term 2.

A letter including your Parent Portal username and password will be mailed next week. Please note for continuing students this will remain unchanged from last year.

These Interim Reports form only one component of our formal process of reporting to parents throughout the year. They will be complemented by subject-based Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews to be held on 22 April from 2.00 pm until 8.00 pm. You will receive notification when bookings open. All parents should attend these interviews so that you are able to discuss your daughter’s learning in more detail.

The Semester 1 Report, available at the end of Term 2, will then provide more specific information on your daughter’s achievement and progress.

Furthermore, throughout the semester, your daughter will complete a range of assessment tasks in her studies. The rubrics or criteria sheets, used to grade these tasks, provide useful feedback relating to achievement, areas of strength and, most importantly, areas for improvement. Please ask your daughter to share and discuss this valuable feedback with you.

Increasingly, over the year, such information will become available through our new learning management system, SEQTA. In Semester 2, we aim to open the parent portal of SEQTA, known as Coneqt - P. In the meantime, please ask your daughter to show you the information available through the student portal, known as Coneqt – S.

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

Student Wellbeing

STUDENT LEADERS CONVERSATION WITH THE ARCHBISHOP
On Friday 13th March I had the privilege of taking our 4 senior leaders Gemma Tuddenham, Delia Micallef, Alana Moretti and Natalie Saunders to Genazzano College to gather with all other senior student leaders from the Catholic schools around the Archdiocese of Melbourne for a conversation with Archbishop Denis Hart.

Our leaders listened to his introduction and were then able to gather in small groups with other students to discuss and pose questions for the Archbishop in the open forum. Overall our leaders conducted and represented our school in a manner that we should all be very proud of.

STUDENT LEADERS FORMATION DAY
On Tuesday 10th March we held our annual Student Leaders Formation Day involving our SRC, SPG and House Captains as well as Performing Arts and JDF leaders.

The focus of the day was for students to look at the role descriptions for each leadership position and see if they truly represent what is expected of a Marian student in that role.

The second and most exciting part of the day was the collection of ideas and thoughts that were brainstormed about how we can reintroduce and expand our House points system. The plan is to link the points system to such areas as keeping our school yard clean, sustainability and co-curricular activities that develop school and house spirit.

The SRC students will now work on formalising this process over the next couple of meetings and I look forward to giving you updates on our progress in future editions of the Marian.

JAPANESE STUDENTS ARRIVING
On Sunday 22nd March we have 20 Japanese students arriving from our sister school in Japan for a week of family homestay and learning our English language.

We thank all of our families who have kindly opened their homes and hearts to these students.

We will acknowledge all of these families in the next edition of the Marian and give you an overview of their time here with us.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing
On the 23rd and 24th of February six Justice and Democracy students attended the annual Kildare Ministries conference. The theme was ‘Fearless Voices’—where students gained knowledge, formed opinions and prepared to be advocates for those who cannot speak out for themselves. I consider myself privileged to be involved with these girls and the many others who work tirelessly to bring about justice where injustice prevails. Below are some words from the students who attended.

‘Over the course of our two days we have embarked on a journey which has highlighted some of the most critical events in our society. With the help of guest speakers we all learnt of the challenges and difficulties face in our society. The seminar has opened my eyes to the opportunities we have and how we can make a difference in the world one step at a time.’ Tam To

‘We were given the honour of hearing and participating in many thought-provoking activities where we expressed our thoughts and views on current issues. Teenagers within Kildare Ministries from around Australia were encouraged to speak for the vulnerable. The courageous guest speakers opened our eyes to injustices not only in our country, but all around the world; and they instilled in us that our generation is the voice of today for a better tomorrow. I have been encouraged to be a fearless voice and aspire to change the world throughout the course of my lifetime.’ Tacchia Strafonda.

‘I had the great opportunity of going to the JDF camp this year. What I liked about JDF camp was the experience of meeting and working with different people from various countries around the world. This gave me a better understanding of the passion that they hold for a better world and their determination to be the voice for the most vulnerable.’ Bawi Dawt Chin Sawm Hal

‘We learned about being a fearless voice. Before I went to that camp I had no idea about asylum seekers and didn’t know the struggles they had to go through to come to Australia, and how they still suffer in Australia. I now have a better understanding of what social justice is.’ Ni Thlui Cin Tial Zathang

‘I personally loved the seminar as it was a great way to meet new people who, like me, have a passion for justice. My favourite speaker throughout the two days was Sr Brigid Arthur. I admired her strength and courage to stand up and help asylum seekers in detention centres. Overall I had a great time and am lucky to have had this opportunity.’ Olivia-Rose Green

‘The best part of the camp was when we had time to make our art piece within groups. At the end of the second day all groups spoke about their representation of the theme ‘Fearless Voices’ and then schools had the opportunity to pick one to take back to their school….. The foods were amazing.’ Ni Thlui Cin Tial Zathang

Can I also appeal to families to support the Palm Sunday March for Refugees which starts at the State Library at 1.30pm 29th March. (see flyer in this issue)

Diane Reynolds - JDF Coordinator

CAN’T FIND CERTIFIED EASTER EGGS IN YOUR SUPERMARKET?

Did you know that the Easter eggs in Australian Supermarkets might be made with cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been trafficked or forced to work in exploitative conditions? The International Labour Rights Forum (ILRF) estimates that there are 500,000 – 1,500,000 children working in the cocoa sector in West Africa. Supermarkets will place their 2016 Easter orders soon.

ACTION: Join us this Easter and ask Coles and Woolworths to stock more certified Easter chocolate in 2016. Download cards from http://www.stophetraffik.org/au/traffikfree_easter and take them to your local supermarket!
MARCH 29, 1.30PM | PALM SUNDAY RALLY:
Walk for Justice for Refugees
http://rac-vic.org/2015/02/16/palm-sunday-rally-walk-for-justice-for-refugees/

FROM THE WESTERN DEANERY
Western Highway Deanery
Lenten Prayer and Reflection Day
Preparing for Holy Week and for Easter Renewal of Baptismal Promises
You are invited to a time apart from the rush and pressures of everyday life.
Participants will be guided through a day of personal prayer and spiritual reflection as we prepare to celebrate the high point of the Church’s year.
Saturday, March 28th. 10.00 a.m.to 3.00 p.m.
Christ the King Church, Churchill Avenue, Braybrook and garden outside it.
Bring your own lunch and drinks. Cost: donation.
Enquiries/bookings: Deanery.westernhighway@cam.org.au or 9304 2926 Wednesdays between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.
The first rotation for year 9 Tasters has come to an end. All of the students did a fabulous job designing and producing their shorts and in the end all were very different. The student’s personalities really shone through this task, which was great to see. Next term fashion students have the opportunity to further their skills in the subject as ‘fashion club’ will commence. Come and join if you are interested in design, creativity and of course all things fashion! ‘Fashion Runway’ student’s products are now on display in the Design Warehouse!

*Mrs Turra - Design Education teacher*

**MY EXPERIENCE WITH FASHION RUNWAY:**
I started fashion because my mum knows how to sew and when I was little she used to make my clothing. I thought it was so cool that she could make clothing in the comfort of her own home and save some money. This also inspired me to get into fashion designing. When I was little my mum would let me choose the type of material I wanted to use for the clothing she would make me. This helped me find my personal style which is girly with a little bit of edgy and also fashion helps me learn about myself and therefore gives me a way to express myself.

To be honest it took me a while to get into the subject, but once I got to the stage of designing my boxer shorts that’s when I really got into fashion because it allowed me to be creative. I also enjoyed sewing my boxer shorts it allowed me to develop my sewing skills. If I wanted to I could make boxer shorts or a crop top in the comfort of my own home like my mum.

Parminder Kaur.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the student leaders, performing arts students and staff students for getting Term One off to such a great start. We concluded the term with a series of class Music, Drama and Dance performances, and VCE Music students played for diners supporting the Restaurant Night Fundraiser organised by Bianca-Rose Mazzarella. To finish off, our Performing Arts Technical and Production Co-Captains have supported students who will be performing in the Cultural Diversity evening, and we thank in particular Vi Pham, one of last year’s captains, for joining us to train the new Co-Captains in the operation of the Auditorium Bio-Box. It promises to be a terrific evening supported by staff from many cultures and teaching areas in the school - a real community effort!

We hope everyone has a very happy Easter celebration and a safe, restful, fun holiday. In particular, we wish Ms Jenny Tawa all the very best for the maternity leave. She will be very sorely missed, but we know we will see her again!

Term Two is looking very exciting indeed. Concert Band and Gospel Choir are preparing music for the Easter Liturgy in the first week back, and we are organising our involvement in the Catholic Education Office Performing Arts Showcase ‘Shine 2016’. We will also be running a Schools’ Matinee, our Junior and Senior Showcase Evenings, and our Co-Curricular Concerts.

*Happy Holidays!*

*The Performing Arts Team*