**From the Co-Principals**

**YEAR 9 UNPLUGGED**

On Friday 6th of November the students at Year 9 travelled to Healesville to visit a fully operational farm as part of their fortnightly Unplugged Day. On this day they discovered how to pick, peel and preserve fruit, enjoyed riding in a tractor, and learnt how to propagate plants. For most of the girls the excursion was a first experience of life on the land. In fact, many said that they never had the opportunity to spend time in their own garden. The visit to the farm connected with the learning program that they have been studying back at Marian.

This activity highlighted the value of the Year 9 program where the deliberate connection between theory and practice is clearly evident. Over the year the students have experienced numerous activities, both in school or out on the road, that have given them opportunities to extend their critical thinking abilities. It has been heartening to receive feedback about the level of independence that the girls have developed as they have had to use knowledge gained in the classroom in the pursuit of solving real world problems or investigating current societal issues. This approach to learning holds all Year 9 girls in good stead as they move towards the senior years of schooling.

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**

Recently Pope Francis said, “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. … At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. … The motto for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.”

The Jubilee of Mercy will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on 8 December 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council) and concludes when he closes that same door on 20 November 2016. A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and to offer love and forgiveness instead.

Pope Francis’ invitation to a Year of Mercy provides us with an opportunity to reflect on God’s mercy and how we are witnesses of His compassion to those in our lives and communities. In the Gospels there are many parables of mercy where the right response to those in need often comes with a surprising twist. In the parable of the Good Samaritan it is the supposed enemy of the man who was assaulted who shows mercy and comes to his aid. In this year and beyond, may we be the face of compassion to those who are vulnerable and require a living expression of a merciful Jesus.

**PRAYER -**

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs,’ Give us the spirit of poverty and humility.

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.’ Give us a heart that is humble and true.

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are they who hunger and thirst for justice; they shall have their fill.’ Give us souls that thirst for justice.

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.’ Open our hearts with love for our brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.’ Enlighten our eyes with your splendour.

Jord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest too are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.’ Make us people of peace and joy.

Lord Jesus, you said, ‘Blest are those persecuted for righteousness’ sake; the reign of God is theirs.’ Make us strong in standing for what is right. Amen

-Raymond Pisani & Rita Gima - Co-Principals

**EVENTS:**

**NOVEMBER**

16th
- Yr 10/11 Exams
- VCAA Written Exam Unit 4

17th
- Orientation 2016
- VCAA Written Exam Unit 4

18th
- Orientation 2016
- VCAA Written Exam Unit 4
- Yr 8 Drug & Alcohol Safety Incursion
- Marian College Art & Design Exhibition Opening 6.30pm-7.30pm followed by Performing Arts 7.30pm-8.30pm

19th
- Orientation 2016
- VCAA Written Exam Unit 4
- Performing Arts Co-Curricula Concert 7.00pm-8.30pm

20th
- Orientation 2016
- VCAA Written Exam Unit 4
- Art Exhibition: Daily Viewing 9.30am -2.30pm - Register your visit at the office

21st
- Marian Reunion 1pm-4pm

23rd
- Orientation 2016
- Year 12 Mass & Graduation Dinner

24th
- Orientation 2016

25th
- Yr 10/11 Final Day

26th
- Stewardship Council Meeting

26th
- Marian News: Issue 19
Faith and Mission

JDF

On the 23rd October representatives of the of the Justice and Democracy Forum (JDF) walked in the shoes of a refugee when they gathered with JDF groups from Kildare Ministries at Sea of the Sea College. On arrival they were ordered into lines, not allowed to speak and given a number as the enactment took place. Star of the Sea drama students took control, gave orders, separated families (schools) and generally frustrated their journey as would be the case for most refugees, especially those coming by boat.

The education continued for a good part of the day as students learnt about conditions in refugee camps, from Nauru, Manus Island, Christmas Island and detention centres in Australia. There was the opportunity to write slogans in support of refugees on the basketball courts and then time to listen to a young Iranian woman from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Dandenong, experience of detention. The students who participated agreed that the exercise was enlightening and gave them a more in depth appreciation of the demoralising, frustrating and degrading effect of detention on people seeking asylum in Australia. They left committed to do what they could to raise awareness back at school and to speak out against the callous and unjust treatment of those seeking a safe haven here.

At the last meeting for the year the JDF members elected our leaders for 2016. Congratulations go to Tacchia Strafonda and Tam Ho.

Dianne Reynolds - Justice and Democracy Forum Co-Ordinator

Learning and Teaching

YEAR 9 EXAMINATIONS

The Year 9 students will sit their first formal examinations in the Marian College Examination Centre on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 November. All students have been provided with a letter for parents that includes the timetable, as well as some general examination protocols.

These examinations are very important for the Year 9 students, assisting their preparation for the senior years of their schooling.

YEAR 11 AND 12 ORIENTATION

The Year 10 and 11 Examinations conclude on Monday 16 November. We are pleased to report that the majority of students have approached these important assessment tasks with a conscientious, positive attitude, to date.

On Tuesday 17 November, students begin their Orientation Program, commencing classes for their 2016 subjects. Students are scheduled to attend three or four classes for each of their 2016 studies. The program concludes on Monday 20 November. It is essential that students attend all of their timetabled classes and complete all set holiday homework to enable them to commence 2016 prepared to meet the challenges of their VCE studies successfully. We also take this opportunity to remind students and parents of the 90 percent attendance requirements for VCE which includes attendance at all orientation classes. Our current Year 9 students, who have enrolled in an acceleration study in 2016, also attend the VCE Unit 1 orientation classes, except on 18 and 19 November, when they will be completing their Year 9 examinations.

There will also be a separate VCAL Orientation Program for all students enrolled in the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) for 2016.

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

VCE

VCAA EXAMS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Students studying Unit 3/4 studies have examinations to complete in October and November.

For students completing Language and Performing Arts Subjects:
- VCAA Oral and Performance exams from Monday 5 October to 1 November

For all Students completing Unit 3/4 Sequences:
- VCAA End of Year Examinations from Monday 28 October to Wednesday 18 November.

The timetables for all these exams can be found on the VCAA Website: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/exams/timetable.aspx

All students completing a Unit 3/4 Sequence have been given:
* an individual timetable specifying the date, time and place of each exam;
* a copy of the VCE Exam Navigator 2015 - detailing the examination rules, approved materials and exam timetable.

The VCE Exam Navigator can also be found on the VCAA Website: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vcaanavigator_web.pdf

We wish all our students well as they prepare for their exams.

Anne Daunt - VCE Coordinator
Learning and Teaching

At Marian College we are constantly improving our processes to achieve the best outcomes for our families and students. In 2016 we are going more electronic with our communications, to significantly reduce administrative overheads for teachers and to make it easier to communicate with you. This will give teachers more time to focus on the number one priority, your daughter’s learning needs.

We have elected to use Signmee communications management system to handle school/parent communications.

Signmee is a web based system (accessed on the Internet in a web browser such as Chrome or FireFox), and works in a similar manner to email. It will also work on a smartphone with internet access.

With Signmee, Parents/Guardians have a personal Signmee account. This personal account is linked to the school account. Parents/Guardians will receive and respond to school communications from within their email account.

Some of the benefits of Signmee will be to:

- Give teachers more teaching time by removing most administration activities (i.e. distributing and collecting and collating consent forms)
- Remove student responsibility for communication transfer (via their school bag)
- Make signing, responding and paying a very simple task for parents – anytime, anywhere, any electronic device with web access
- Reduce paper and printer toner use
- Improve communication channels
- Improve response rates with electronic alerts and reminders
- Make it easier to give permission for school excursions and events

SETTING UP SIGNMEE

We are in the process of setting up our School Signmee account. To assist us, we require Parent/Guardian email addresses. These email addresses will be used to send a connection invitation to you. It is important that you have a valid email address that you provide to the College. If you do not have a valid email address the College will assist you in setting up an email account. You do not need to have a personal computer to use this system. Signmee will work with your smartphone as long as you have access to the internet on the smartphone.

IS MY INFORMATION SAFE IN SIGNMEE?

Signmee takes the security of your information very seriously with SSL encryption to protect all data transfers, and a host of measures to prevent data attacks and loss. It is important that you take security as seriously, by using a strong and secure password to protect your Signmee account.

DO I NEED TO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS TO USE SIGNMEE?

You need an email address to set up a Signmee account. Once set up, your email will be used to alert you to any new communications in your Signmee account.

WHEN DO I SET UP MY ACCOUNT?

When you receive a form from the school, you will be prompted to register for an account when you first try to complete the form.

DO WE BOTH NEED A SIGNMEE ACCOUNT, OR CAN WE HAVE ONE PER FAMILY?

It is recommended that all parents/guardians set up a personal Signmee account and connect to the school. When a communication is sent, both parents will be able to view and respond if necessary. In most instances, only one response is required (e.g. excursion consent signature). When one parent responds the other parent will see that the communication is flagged as ‘complete’, and has a status of “read only”.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS WHEN WE MOVE ON TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?

Your Signmee account stays with you forever. You will always have access to all the communications you have received and responded to. When you leave our school we will remove you from our contacts.

I HAVE THREE CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL. DO I NEED THREE DIFFERENT SIGNMEE ACCOUNTS?

No. The beauty of Signmee is that one parents account can be linked to the school for multiple children. All communications in Signmee have a “for” column. This allows you to see who the communication is linked to. Better still, your Signmee account can be connected to other organizations or schools.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME?

You can use any smart phone with Internet connection to access Signmee. If you do not have access to any device, you can contact the office to discuss.

WILL I ALWAYS RECEIVE AN SMS ALERT?

SMS notifications are controlled by the school. Some Signmee agreements require urgent attention. In such cases, we will use the SMS alert option to notify you to access your Signmee account. For less urgent communications, we may simply use the email alert facility only.

IS A SIGNATURE IN SIGNMEE CONSIDERED THE SAME AS A WRITTEN SIGNATURE?

Yes. Signmee makes you identify yourself, and is set up with a private key (password) for signing, which is legally binding based on the Electronic Transactions Act 1999.

You should have received a letter which explains the program and asks for a current email address. If is very important that this letter is returned by Monday 16 November. We believe that the Signmee process will further support our communication procedures. Please contact Mr. Paul Familari if you require any further information.

Mr. Paul Familari - Assistant to the Co-Principals - Learning and Teaching
Student Wellbeing

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS – SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO SIEM REAP CAMBODIA IN 2016

In 2016 there will be a Service Learning trip to Siem Reap in Cambodia on offer to our Year 11 and 12 students. The learning experience for this trip will be based around personal growth, experiencing Asian culture, expanding social justice understanding and community living. The trip will take place for 1 week from the 7th July – 15th July mostly in the school holidays. Students will admire Angkor Wat and stay in a town called Siem Reap. Students will work with a local community participating in AID projects ranging from a house build project to teaching school children. Cambodia is one of the safest and most welcoming countries in the world.

WHY SIEM REAP CAMBODIA?

Students will be participate in a structured service learning immersion project. According to the United Nations 2014 report, poverty continues to fall in Cambodia, however, there are almost 3 million poor people and over 8.1 million people who are near poor. About 90% of these people live in the country side with poor access to healthcare, clean water and education. The World Bank estimates suggest that Cambodia achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty in 2009. However, the vast majority of families who escaped poverty were only able to do so by a small margin, thus the significant share of near poor. Human development, particularly in the areas of health and education, remains an important development priority for Cambodia. Accommodation will be at a hotel called Rithy Rhine in Siem Reap township. Students will commute each day to work with the community which is based 15 minutes outside of the town.

Activities on the trip:
• Watching or participating in a dawn alms ceremony with the saffron robed monks
• Meeting and interacting with local people in a respectful and meaningful way, community immersion and service learning.
• Contributing to a real project that is maintained and supported long term- participating in the bottle build project, teaching and working at a local community school, house build project
• Sharing experiences and learning with the people in a local village
• Wandering through a deserted Ta Prohm Temple and visiting Angkor Wat – a UNESCO world heritage listed site
• Undertaking the Amazing Race through the Siem Reap town and surrounding country side
• Visiting surrounding villages of Siem Reap and working in a community on various service projects.

Your daughter can apply for a place on this trip by filling in an application form and returning it to Ms Williams or Ms Wilson. A parent information session will be held at the College on the 30th November at 6.30pm.

If you have any questions regarding the experience please call Ms. Jenny-May Wilson or Ms. Kerrie Williams at the school.

Jenny-May Wilson and Kerrie Williams

Community News

Combined Reunion
for Marian College students who graduated in the years 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005
Saturday 21st November 1-4pm
Marian College
Enquiries & RSVP: 9363 1711
jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

Lions Club of Sunshine Presents
Gala Dinner
November 20, 2015
7pm to 11.30pm
Club Italia
159-159 Furlong Rd
Sunshine Nth
Contact: Lorraine Dean 0419535134
Lemil Faatua 0420655459

$70   $70
All profits go to our Samoan Kindergarten Project.
Three Course Meal
and includes Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks
Raffle, DJ and Cultural Presentation
PERFORMING ARTS

In the midst of all the exams and preparation for end of semester we hear - Christmas carols! Performing Arts students (and anyone else who would like to join us) are meeting every Tuesday at lunch to prepare carols for the Junior End of Year Mass, and to have a sing and some fun.

We’re also gearing up for two concerts next week, where students in the co-curricular program get to play their favorite pieces from the semester’s rehearsals. We’ll have the new Junior Dance Troupe performing for the first time, all our rock bands (including the Year 12s coming back to play us goodbye), and the Concert Band. We will also have the instrumental teachers with their individual students and ensembles, including Vocal Ensemble, String Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble.

These concerts are free and everyone is welcome:
Wednesday 18th November, 7.30-8.30pm (following on from the Marian College 2015 Art and Design Exhibition Opening), and
Thursday 19th November, 7-8.30pm.

These nights are a great opportunity to celebrate the girls’ hard work over the semester, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Co-curricular Co-Captains
Megan Ellis and Tiana Fitzgibbon

Mari Eleanor - Co-ordinator, Music and Drama Co-Curricular Programs

Marian College 2015 Art and Design Exhibition
Opening night: Wednesday 18th November 6.00 - 7.30pm
Followed by the Annual Music Concert 7.30 - 9.30pm
RSVP: 196 Glengala Road, West Sunshine
www.mariansw.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 9363 1711

Invite design by Christina Tran
ITALIAN
Ciao a tutti!

In Year 9 Italian the students have been busy this term learning about fairytale. The students have enjoyed reading different fairytale such as Il Cappuccetto Rosso (Red Riding Hood) which they enthusiastically performed and Cenerentola (Cinderella). The girls have learnt about the different types of language that is commonly used in fairytale. This includes the use of present, past and imperfect tense verbs.

The students are creating their own fairytale to present to primary school students from Our Lady Of Immaculate. The students at Our Lady’s study Italian as well, so our girls are looking forward to the visit and having an opportunity to show off their creativity and what they have learnt in Italian this year.

This will lead into our final week where we explore some of the Christmas traditions celebrated in Italy. We have a number of Year 9’s continuing their study of Italian in Year 10 and some of these girls will be participating in the trip to Italy next year. Sono fortunate!

Good luck to all of our students moving into Year 10, I’m sure they will look back fondly on their study of Italian and have an appreciation of another culture and way of life.

Buona Fortuna!

Signora Scott

INDONESIAN
Selamat datang kelas 9 ke Bali!
Our year 9s have been researching tourism in Bali.

Students have created a Bali tourist brochure in Indonesian. Students included traditional cultural activities as well as non-cultural activities. They were required to research various types of accommodation available in Bali as well as places of interest. In addition students have had to use their imagination and creativity to design their Bali Tourist brochure. Students are now aware of the interesting things to see and do using a variety of grammatical structures involving a variety of conjunctions and phrases related to tourism in Bali.

Congratulations to the following Year 9 Indonesian students who have achieved above 3000 points with Education Perfect:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Nguyen</td>
<td>32170</td>
<td>Phuong Nguyen</td>
<td>7108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalia De Jesus Cham</td>
<td>16764</td>
<td>Zi Tan</td>
<td>6777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surinder Kaur</td>
<td>3207</td>
<td>Anh Nguyen</td>
<td>3146</td>
</tr>
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Salam

Veronika Petanic and Ibu Trina