From the Co-Principals

**YEAR 12 GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

We celebrated a very special night on Monday November 23rd as we formally farewelled our 2015 Year 12 students. Fr Jude Pirtotta led the community in a meaningful and engaging ceremony as we gave thanks to all those who have travelled the journey with our students and once more connected to the Brigidine Core Values that have sustained and informed thoughts and actions for the past six years. Below is an excerpt from the Co-Principals’ address that formally opened the evening.

It’s safe to say that there are a lot of very happy people in this room today – and rightly so. Tonight’s celebration marks a rite of passage as you formally conclude 13 years of compulsory education. As you move forward into your futures it is worth spending some time reflecting on the notion of happiness, not the fleeting type of ‘it passes soon’ happiness, but the feeling of living a fulfilled and satisfied life.

For 15 years now in Australia there has been a body of research called the Wellbeing Index carried out by Deakin University. After years of surveys and data collection the researchers believe they have found what they call the “golden triangle of happiness”. The lead professor claims that for people to maintain a positive sense of wellbeing they need three core elements in their life: Relationships, Financial Control, Sense of Purpose.

We all know and understand the value of relationships in our lives and the research confirms that being part of an intimate relationship is the most vital component of wellbeing. The relationship doesn’t have to be a romantic one but closeness and support is the key. Good close relationships with someone you can share your thoughts, secrets, hopes, dreams and fears with, who will remind you that you are loved and valued, provide a critical resource to defend against life’s challenges. We hope that your time at Marian has taught you the value of these relationships – that they need to be nurtured and protected and that your contribution to a relationship can make a real difference in the life of another person.

As adults working with young people, the staff at Marian know that they have the greatest influence on the learning and wellbeing of a young person when they work on building strong and life-giving relationships. Take this with you as you move from here – strong relationships are good for you and what you contribute to a relationship has the potential to contribute to the wellbeing of others.

The second element of the golden triangle is Financial Control – up to a certain household income level wellbeing rises, past this point there is no relationship. But the relationship between income and wellbeing is not so simple. The impact of money on wellbeing lies in its capacity to alleviate stress, that is, when people feel they are in control of their finances. It’s not about how much you are able to make, it’s how you choose what you can do with it that really matters.

The third element of the golden triangle is Sense of Purpose – it is imperative for personal wellbeing and happiness to be doing something that provides meaning in life. This will be different for everyone, but pursuing something in life that gives you a sense of purpose and responsibility is one of the keys to happiness.

As people formed in the Catholic tradition our sense of purpose is often found in the service of others. A story comes to mind here:

A group of 50 people was attending a seminar. Suddenly the speaker stopped and decided to do a group activity. He gave each person a balloon, on which they were asked to write their name. Then all the balloons were collected and put in another room. Now these delegates were let in that room and asked to find the balloon which had their name written on it, within 3 minutes. Everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with one another, pushing around others and there was utter chaos. At the end of three minutes no one could find their own balloon. Next each person was asked to randomly collect a balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it. Within three minutes everyone had their own balloon.

continued....
From the Co- Principals (continued)

The speaker began—Exactly this is happening in our lives. Everyone is frantically looking for happiness all around, not knowing where it is. Our happiness lies in the happiness of other people. Give them their happiness and you will get your own. And this is the purpose of human life.

As you venture out into the world, seeking those things which give you happiness never forget that it is the people who journey with you that give your life meaning and that true purpose and meaning are more often than not found in who we are, what we do and what we give to others.

I'll leave you with this quote from F. Scott Fitzgerald:
“It was only a sunny smile, and little it cost in the giving, but like morning light it scattered the night and made the day worth living.”

MERRY CHRISTMAS
As this is the last Marian News for the year we would like to take this opportunity to offer our gratitude to all those who have made this such a very special year:

• To all the staff members at the College – for their dedication, commitment, hard-work and enduring love and concern for their students.
• To all of the students – for your laughter, energy, passion and enthusiasm; and for all of those times you tested us and reminded us about what it means to be Catholic educators.
• To our families – for your support of the College and the programs we have in place to improve the educational offerings we are able to offer.
• To the countless partners we have in supporting and nurturing the learning and wellbeing of our young women.

We wish you all of the blessings this Holy Season has to offer. May the peace of the new born Christ be present in your hearts and in your homes.

God bless

Raymond Pisani & Rita Gima - Co- Principals

Learning and Teaching

YEAR 9 EXAMINATIONS
Congratulations to the Year 9 students who sat their first formal examinations at Marian College last week. Staff members commended the students on their behaviour and responsible approach to these examinations. Many students’ conscientious efforts were rewarded with very good results. However, for some, a more consistent approach to regular revision and study will need to be developed to ensure improved results in the future. Overall though, these examinations have provided valuable preparation for these students as they progress into the senior years of their schooling at Marian College.

SEMESTER REPORTS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
With examinations completed and junior students finishing off their last assessment tasks for the year, staff are finalising the Semester 2 Reports. These will be available for students in Years 7 to 11 on the Parent Portal accessed via the College website on Monday 7 December. They will also be available via Student Coneqt on SEQTA.

Take the time to read over these reports carefully and discuss them with your daughter. This information should be used to recognise achievement, identify areas for improvement and to set goals for 2016.

Please note that further detail in relation to your daughter’s progress and achievement is available on Student Coneqt on SEQTA and on Parent Coneqt for those families involved in the trial of the SEQTA Parent Portal. As we progress through 2016, this new parent portal will become available for all parents, providing more timely and ongoing feedback in relation to your daughter’s progress and achievement.

We will also use the information in the Semester 2 Reports to identify students who have excelled academically. Academic Excellence Certificates will be presented at the beginning of 2016, based on performance across all assessment tasks reported upon.

Jane Goddard & Paul Familari - Assistant to the Co- Principals - Learning and Teaching
Student Wellbeing

ELECTRONIC DIARY
Over the last couple of years the school has made some significant changes in relation to our systems of communication and how we work as a whole community.

In 2015 the decision was made to introduce a new reporting, assessment and reporting, and wellbeing package in the form of SEQTA.

Consequently we began the process of phasing out the hardcopy diary system that we have been using. We started this process knowing that, in time, SEQTA would provide all of the components the hard copy had facilitated in the past. In 2015, only our Years 8-10 students were provided with the hard copy diary. In 2016 it has been determined that we will not provide any student with a hard copy of the diary.

We encourage all students who feel that they need a hard copy of a diary to make their own arrangements in relation to this over the school holidays.

ELECTION OF STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2016
As the school year draws to a close we are within the process of electing and selecting our student leaders – Student Representative Council and House Captains for 2016.

Students from Years 10 and 11 that finished this week have given speeches and voted for their representatives in 2016 and Years 7-9 will complete this process over the next week.

Student leadership within our community is important and vital to our continuous growth as can be seen by the contribution students have made to recent improvements or changes.

We look forward to announcing all of these leaders to you at the beginning of next year after the election of another significant role, the Student Participation Group.

It is appropriate at this time to wish all of our students and families a very safe and restful Christmas holiday. May we all remember the light that is so central to our lives as Christians, that light that shines each and every day, but most brightly at this time of the year, is the light that changed our lives forever.

May that light shine on you and your family this holiday season.

Kerrie Williams - Student Wellbeing Co-Ordinator

LOTE

INDONESIAN
Salam dari kelas 9.
This is our last year studying Indonesian as a LOTE subject. We are proud to say that we have enjoyed this year learning about different topics such as writing postcards, understanding and being able to translate paragraphs of texts and have a deeper understanding of Indonesia and their traditions and cultures. Both our Indonesian teachers Ibu Trina and Ibu Veronica have taught us to their best abilities to ensure that we have understood what we are learning. In class we use a variety of ways to present our understanding of Indonesia, for example, making brochures, powerpoints and presenting in Indonesian. This year has been a pleasant year with both our Indonesian teachers although it is our last year we would not forget what they have taught us throughout the past three years.

Yours sincerely,
Natasa (9 Matthew) and Larissa (9 Joan)

Office

HOW TO ORDER SCHOOL PHOTOS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY.
Pre payment order forms will be handed to all students on photo day.

There are two methods available when ordering photos.

1. Complete the pre-payment order form - include payment and arrange for it to be collected by our photographers when they return to the school on Friday 5th February.

2. Wait till Friday 5th February for images to go up ON-LINE. Use the log on code given to students on photo day to VIEW and CHOOSE the image/s preferred and place your order for a ‘set’ pack or create a package to suit.

You have 14 days after photo day to place your order on-line. Orders up until this time will be printed and delivered via the school … a postage fee will be added to orders after this deadline for photos to be posted to home address.

AUSSIE SCHOOL PHOTOS
The Arts

PERFORMING ARTS

We can NOT believe how fast this year has gone. As it draws to an end we reflect on the year that has been, with all its fun, rehearsals, and concerts, as well as the learning that is part of making great music, drama and dance happen. Last week we performed our second semester showcase concerts, adding the debut of our new Junior Dance Troupe to the performances of music lesson students, rock bands and instrumental groups. The girls have worked with staff and independently, and we thank them all. We said good bye to a group of dedicated Year 12 students who have been involved in Performing Arts from Year 7 in both the classroom program and the co-curricular program. While we are sad to see them go we are thankful for all they have contributed during their time with us and the chance to watch them develop their skills and confidence. We are excited for the time ahead as they take the next step in their lives. Finally, we wish all our staff, students and families a very happy holiday season. You’ll need it for the exciting year that awaits us in 2016!

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

DESIGN EDUCATION

CATHOLIC VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following year 10 students for being selected to exhibit at the 2016 Catholic Visual Arts Exhibition.

Humaira Nawas for her digital double exposure photograph called ‘Lucidity’. This photographic artwork represents purity and freedom.

Jessica Meegama for her digital double exposure photograph called ‘jubilant’. This photographic artwork represents how happiness and laughter can get you through tough times.

Ms Nella Zagarella - Year 10 Photography Teacher

As 2016 comes to a close, we can reflect back on a busy and successful year in the new Design Warehouse. The innovative, modern facility is an outstanding new environment for our students to foster their creativity. Student artwork was showcased during the 2015 ‘Current’ Art Exhibition that was formally opened on Wednesday the 18th of November. Monica Caceres, a former Art Student, opened the evening with an inspiring speech about her exciting journey since graduating. We wish her great success with her future endeavours as a filmmaker.

The Art Exhibition, proudly sponsored by Atelier Art, was a visual delight showcasing artworks by students from all Year levels. The Art Faculty work tirelessly to provide engaging programs that inspire and nurture the imagination of students. From the moment they commence Visual Arts & Technology classes in Year 7, students begin their journey learning an array of techniques using varying methods and materials. The art exhibition is an important event celebrating the richness and diversity of our school art community.

As the art technician in the Design Warehouse, I provide materials, resources and support to both staff and students. It’s a pleasure to watch students grow over the years and embrace their creativity and passion for the Arts. It is vital we celebrate and nurture artistic abilities and encourage students to develop further through our pedagogy. Each student has the capability to express themselves and with a new, state of the art facility, they are given every opportunity to find inspiration and self-confidence through the teachings and practice of art. The Art Faculty are to be applauded for their warm and welcoming approach and their dedication to students and their learning needs.

On behalf of the Art faculty I would like to extend warm wishes to students and families for the festive season and may you have a well-deserved rest over the summer holidays. To those students who graduate and fly the art nest, we wish you success and happiness in your journey ahead.

Kathy Jurcic - Art Technician

Marian News

A Community growing in Faith & Love • Serving Others • Striving to Achieve • Thinking for the Future
Science

SCIENCE CLUB

VICTORIAN CRYSTAL GROWING COMPETITION 2015

This year Marian College had six teams entered in the Victorian Crystal Growing Competition. Using Alum to make their crystals, the girls were extremely eager and excited when just after one week they saw some amazing results. The girls then spent the next ten weeks taking photographs, measuring and monitoring their crystals, and recording all results in a log book. At the end of Term 3, all logbooks were sent in for judging to the Royal Australian Chemical Institute of Victoria. Unfortunately, this year none of our crystals made it into the finals, however we were extremely proud of each and every member of Science Club for their time, dedication and enthusiasm they demonstrated throughout the competition. We look forward to entering the competition again next year.

I would also like to thank Mrs Carfora for her time and dedication with assisting us throughout the year, in particular with the Crystal competition.

Congratulations to the following participants:

Alana Taylor        Amy Tran        Awainoor Rekhi
Caroline Nguyen     Courtney Casey   Evian Pham
Idiana Hatzkortzian Jade Tran        Jenny Quach
Jessica Dang        Jessica Di Mieri  Julie Nguyen
Katina Nguyen       Kezia Williams   Mary Tran
Meena Pachincharla  Nour Olliak      Phuong To
Selina Nguyen       Teresa Phan      Thao Tran
Tina Nguyen         Tran Vu          Yashi Dao

Suzanne Matejin - Science Teacher