From the Co-Principals

A brand new year can start with many emotions – excitement, anticipation, or nervousness just to name a few. It is most important, no matter what emotion we have, to resolve that this is a new year and we can either move on, building from the successes of 2015, or leave behind negative feelings of the previous year, looking forward with positivity and hope. That is, we all have an opportunity to start afresh. We must have a positive outlook, be confident in our abilities and be proud of the school community that we are part of. Live up to the core value “Welcoming all, especially the most vulnerable” through actions of friendliness, generosity and genuine examples of service. It has been wonderful to welcome our new students at all levels and also new staff. We pray that they experience the true meaning of life in a Kildare Ministries school in the Brigidine Tradition. Let us all give each member of our community the gift of time and strive to develop life-giving relationships.

Displaying a positive attitude throughout the school year will demonstrate a desire to achieve success for all. This also points to the way we treat each other. Our aim should be to treat everyone fairly, with respect and dignity – like we would want to be treated. Be open to new relationships and experiences and that includes new friendships. School is all about learning. Part of what we learn is how to get along with different personalities and characters, and that’s really what life requires us to do. Growing up sometimes means that we have different interests than we did before, and that means that we are moving on with our lives, growing in different directions and enabling new connections and friendships.

We encourage all students to take the opportunity to be involved in the many groups, activities and events that are part of a vibrant Marian community. Student involvement in the co-curricula program develops leadership, teamwork, social awareness and citizenship. It also assists in maintaining a student voice in the decision making avenues of the College.

The College has made great strides in developing the learning and teaching program and staff are providing learning experiences that are authentic and relevant. Students, too, must play their part by employing the right level of dedication, co-operation and appropriate study habits. One important quality to perfect is “listening” as it provides clarity as to direction and progress. Listening to teachers, other student’s contributions and parents will do much to strengthen understanding and continuous learning improvement. As a school we will always encourage a focus on “study” as an important element in constructing an appropriate pathway for future growth. Students need to decide right from the outset that they will put some effort into it. Furthermore, study does not necessarily imply that it is an individual pursuit and there is much to gain by working in partnerships or groups. A positive outlook, shared by students, school staff and parents, is the best thing that can inspire the Marian College students to keep performing well at school and willing to tackle their academic goals.

Finally, as we take our first steps into this school year, let us reflect on how we may make a contribution to personally respond to the school theme, inspired by Pope Francis:

“A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

Mercy and compassion are integral traits to heal wrongs, alleviate suffering and create a better world for all of God’s creatures. May we, throughout 2016, listening to the plight of the vulnerable and take action to eliminate their vulnerability. May we recognise the humanness of all those we encounter, recognise their qualities, accept their imperfections and offer a compassionate and merciful heart in the spirit of the Gospel message of Jesus.

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

On the 10th of February we reflected on Ash Wednesday. It marks the first day of the season of Lent, which takes place 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Catholics/Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Each Year level had a liturgy in the morning homeroom session. During the Ash Wednesday liturgy, ashes were lightly applied in the sign of the cross onto the foreheads of the students and staff.

Lent is a time to seriously reflect on the need to be better people. At the end of Lent Jesus’ crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, always the Friday just before Easter. On Easter Sunday Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is believed that Jesus was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross.

Next week we will celebrate the School Year Opening Mass with Father Luza from St Paul’s Church Sunshine West. We will be highlighting our theme ‘A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just.’ Pope Francis.

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

Year 8

ASH WEDNESDAY @ YEAR 8

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten season, a period of 40 days focused on spiritual purification and repentance. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of the distribution of ashes upon the foreheads of Christians.

Students at Marian College, particularly at Year 8, participated in homeroom liturgies to mark the day. The atmosphere was quietly reverend, while students either received the ashes or a blessing from their homeroom teacher.

The ashes are meant to remind the students about human mortality, while also showing the individual’s desire for repentance, as well as a reminder to reflect on their life of service to others in the form of good deeds.

Anna Ciccone - Learning Leader

JDF

The Justice and Democracy Group are already busy preparing to celebrate the annual Cultural and Diversity Evening which will be held Monday 21 March. Harmony Day is on the same day and it is an excellent opportunity to appreciate the rich cultural diversity of backgrounds of the students we have here at Marian. This will involve dancing, singing and some sharing of food. Tickets will go on sale shortly, so watch this space.

The JDF leaders and senior students are looking forward to attending a two day justice and democracy seminar with other Brigidine schools on 9 and 10 March. This will be an opportunity for our students to learn about what other schools are doing to promote awareness of social justice issues and in previous years have found it to be a very rewarding experience.

The JDF group have been discussing the issues we would like to raise the Marian communities awareness of this year. While we will be responding to events that come up in our community other issues the girls have expressed interest in responding to include refugees, domestic violence and homelessness.

The staff here at Marian have also responded to the High Court’s decision to send the children back to Nauru by adding our voices to the movement demanding the 267 refugees from Nauru be allowed to stay in Australia. Interested staff were involved in a photo and held signs which read “Let them stay- education not detention”. This photo was then posted on the following website <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/letthemstay>. Have a look at the website and add your voice to the movement.

Our student leaders Tacchia Strafonda and Tam To, with the support of the senior students of the JDF group hope to continue the great work of the JDF by developing awareness and understanding in the Marian community of social justice issues.

Ms Scott
Learning and Teaching

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Next week we will celebrate our VCE high achievers at the Opening School Mass and, on the first school day at our whole school assembly for 2016, we celebrated our present high academic achievers.

Academic Excellence Awards were calculated for students from Years 7 to 11 in 2015. These awards recognize all round academic achievement and, for Years 7 to 10, were calculated based on all assessment tasks reported upon in all subjects studied in Semester 2, 2015. Year 11s required 4 or more ‘A’ averages in Year 11 subjects studied or 3 Year 11 subjects, with an above average VCE Unit 3/4 study score.

Congratulations to all of these students. Of course there are many students who have just missed out on receiving an award and who have displayed excellent work habits. Further recognition of students will take place during the year. At this time, we encourage all students to ensure that they set their individual goals for this semester and year. Success for each student should be measured by progress towards appropriate individual goals. At Marian College we are firmly focused on providing opportunities for success for every student.

PARENT INFORMATION AND MEET-THE-TEACHER EVENINGS
To assist in setting all students up for a successful 2016, we invite all parents and students to attend our forthcoming Parent Information and Meet-the-Teacher Evenings. These will provide an opportunity for you to hear from Year Level Leaders and other speakers, and to meet your daughter’s Homeroom or Mentor Teachers.

The Year 10, 11, 12 evening, on Monday, 15 February, will commence at 6.00 pm. The Year 7, 8, 9 Parent Evening is on Wednesday, 17 February, also at 6.00 pm.

These evenings will enable you to learn more about the year ahead for your daughter so that we can work together to support her. For VCE students, the presentation will cover rules and expectations, as well providing advice on supporting your daughter in these final years of her schooling. The evenings will also provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions and receive feedback in a small group or individually.

To ensure that we continue to provide the best possible opportunities for all of our students, it is essential to work together with families to support our students. We strongly recommend that all parents and students attend the relevant evening. Details have been mailed to all families. You should also have received an SMS with a link to the detailed letter. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your daughter’s year ahead.

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

Careers

WELCOME BACK TO 2016 FROM THE CAREERS CENTRE
2015 was a big year in Careers and we are looking forward to an even bigger 2016.

Late last year we received some great news that two of our Year 10 high achieving students were recipients of the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars program run through Melbourne University.

This program allows students access to VCE lectures at Melbourne University and a pathway to gain entry into Melbourne University in the future. We congratulate Chloe-Rose Anastasio and Gizel Ruiz not only on their academic success but also on their co-curricular efforts that led to their acceptance.

I would like to remind all students that we have a Careers Portal page on SEQTA. This page contains the weekly careers newsletter, information on important upcoming events and any other relevant notices on work experience and tertiary education.

All Year 10 students are required to complete at least one week of work experience this year. The College approved dates for work experience this year are the 18th - 22nd of July. To ensure students get the most out of their work experience we ask that they are currently seeking placement now and hand in the paperwork as soon as possible.

For year 10-12 there will be a major emphasis on developing post school plans. To develop these I encourage you to consider many of the following activities:

- Attending tertiary and vocational institution open days
- Undertaking work experience
- Volunteering for a leadership position at school or in the community
- Undertaking community service
- Playing sport or engaging in hobbies
- Reading through university and TAFE course guides, and exploring the myfuture website
- Completing a vocational assessment
- Speaking to past students of the College who are studying, training or working in an area you are interested in (e.g., building, law)
- Meeting with me for a career counselling interview.

I look forward to work with the Marian students over the course of the year.

Lauren Marett - Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator
Student Wellbeing

UNIFORM UPDATE TO PARENTS
As we now approach the end of our second week of term 1 we would like to thank our parents that have supported our process of seeking consistency in relation to the length of our student's summer dress.

Many students have been followed up by their homeroom/mentor teachers and Year Level Leaders and a number of students sadly have received letters for parents/guardians indicating that they need to address the length of their dress by Monday 15th February.

We will continue this process of following students up in relation to uniform issues as we are seeking CONSISTENCY for our students, our parents and our community.

BUS MEETING
Earlier this week we held a bus meeting with all of our students who access our Marian bus service when travelling to and from school. Each student at the meeting was given a set of expectations in relation to bus behaviour and it was discussed what some of the consequences of inappropriate behaviour are.

We ask that all of our parents familiarise themselves with these expectations and discuss with their daughter’s the importance of the service that is offered by the school in relation to transport and that with appropriate behaviour everyone travels to and from school safely.

CONCERNS OVER DISMISSAL AND MORNING ARRIVAL
Many of our staff that are on supervision duty in the morning and afternoon are concerned by the number of students that are just crossing Glengala Road and not using the crossing. On some occasions we have noticed that parents support students crossing this way by standing on the other side of the road and calling them across.

Any student caught crossing the road in this way will be followed up and, if necessary, detentions will be issued. The crossing is there to protect you and make coming and going to school safe for all.

YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP RETREAT
On Thursday 4th and Friday 5th of February, Mr. Pisani, Mrs. Stafford – our Year 12 Level Leader and myself spent our time with 20 students from the Year 12 cohort who had completed their leadership booklet and taken part in the leadership day at the end of last year.

Our time together was spent developing both individual and group goals for the Year 7-12 leadership team to work on over the course of this year.

We had many team activities and we worked to develop public speaking skills and an understanding of how to run an effective meeting.

The goals will be further developed next week with our Student Representative Council from Years 8-12 and introduced to all of our Student Leaders on our Formation Day on the 10th March.

Part of our School Improvement Plan is to continue to develop Student Leadership and give our student leaders a more positive and active voice in the decision making process of the school. We look forward to keeping you informed of our process throughout the year.

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

DRUMMOND STREET SERVICES
Drummond Street Services in Brimbank is offering a FREE 4 week group called ‘Parenting Children Who Worry Too Much’ on the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March 2016. Please see the attached flyer and kindly distribute to your networks.

This group aims to help parents who have children who are anxious or worry too much. We will be giving some great strategies and psycho-education around anxiety. There will also be emotional support for participants through encouragement, interactions, normalisation and supportive facilitators who are mental health professionals working with children and families in the West. Often these groups are a stepping stone to accessing or participating in further community support and we are mindful of this and hope to provide a positive and motivating experience to all our participants.

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or comments should you need to.

Kind Regards
Paula Taylor - Child and Family Practitioner
0418 749 096
ITALIAN

Buongiorno a tutti! Eccoci per un altro anno d’Italiano! (Hello everyone! Here we are for another year of Italian!)

Year 7 Italian has started very enthusiastically. In our first weeks together, we have been getting to know each other. It has been fantastico hearing our students introducing themselves to us in Italian, Buongiorno Professoressa Fabbian/Scott/Toto. Mi chiamo......” (Good day teacher ..... My name is.....). How magnifico our students accents are already. Useful classroom expressions have been part of the classroom, as well, including: Mi scusi (excuse me), Grazie (thank you) and Prego (you’re welcome).

In addition, we have been looking at a celebration that is currently occurring in all the Italian regions, that being Il Carnevale. We watched some Youtube clips that demonstrated the pomp and ceremony that goes along this extravagant celebration. A fun mask making lesson culminated this cultural expose for the students.

Alla prossima... (until the next time....)

Professoressa Joan Fabbian
Italian teacher

INDONESIAN

Salam dari kelas 7,

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 have a simple conversation with fellow student in Indonesian. Selamat belajar……!!!

Salam - Ibu Trina dan Ibu Veronika

Science

YEAR 8 FRANCES - LEARNING HOW TO USE THE MICROSCOPES

I enjoyed using the microscopes as it was interesting to see simple everyday material through a different lens. Thania (8F)

I found using the microscopes very fascinating and it was fun to examine different types of things such as sugar and hair and I now know how to use a microscope. Danielle (8F)

In today’s science lesson I used a microscope for the first time. At first it was confusing and difficult but by the end of the lesson I successfully used the microscope for the set task. Jessica Spiteri (8F)

I found the microscope a little challenging to use at first but once I got used to it I found it quite interesting. It was good to see how small particles looked close up. Anushka Jerry Andrews (8F)

At first using the microscope was a little hard, but it’s was fun when I understood how to use it. Siang (8F)

Summary- today was really fun learning about the microscopes. Sarina (8F)

Today was an interesting class because I have never used a microscope. For my first try I really enjoyed looking at the different specimens. Yosan (8F)

During today’s class I enjoyed observing different types of materials under the microscope. I found it interesting using different parts of the microscope and learning about how they work. Lauren Camilleri (8F)

I enjoyed using the light microscope and looking at little things up closely. I never knew that using the light microscope would be so fun. Judy (8F)

“The microscope was difficult to use at first, however over time, it became easier to see different specimens. It was fun and cool to use the microscope. It was interesting to see the different cells within each item.” -Lina Vo (8F)

I really liked this experiment and was really shocked looking at some things through the microscope and I found this experiment very easy. (8F)

Mrs Binney (Science Teacher)
Design, Art & Technology

The Design, Art and Technology department would like to welcome students and families to a new year in the Design Warehouse. A special and warm welcome to the year 7 students who embark on their secondary school journey. We have a busy and creative year ahead and exciting programs across all year levels.

Year 7 students will be introduced to drawing techniques, still life, analysis of art and artistic practices. We will take students on a wonderful and creative path to broaden their art knowledge and build on their imaginations. To assist us with this introduction, year 7 students will be taken to the National Gallery of Victoria for a visual and cultural experience that links to the arts curriculum of exploring and responding to art. The National Gallery of Victoria showcases world famous art works and has free entry for children if parents wish to visit during the year.

The National Gallery of Victoria provides students with the great opportunity for stimulating discussion whilst they view a variety of artworks. Currently on exhibition are the art works of Andy Warhol and Ai Wei Wei. They are the two most prominent artists of the 20th and 21st century whose art works have inspired generations of budding artists. Senior students will have the pleasure to view the exhibition which will be of immense benefit as they embark on their final year of study.

As we begin the New Year we ask that all students come prepared to art class with their art kits. If parents have any queries or concerns please contact the School and speak to Kathy the Art technician who is always happy to help families with any questions. The art kits are available online at www.ateilerart.com.au and small purchases can also be made through the art team.

Danielle Wallwork - Design, Art & Technology teacher

Performing Arts

MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS

Happy New Year and Kung Hee Fat Choy! We hope you had a wonderful holiday time.

The co-curricular program here at Marian is springing into life along with the new year. Our instrumental teachers are beginning their work, and soon the Year 7 students will have an opportunity to find out more about the Instrumental lessons program as well as the wide range of ensembles on offer in Music, Drama and Dance. Ensembles are taking new members and are starting rehearsals. The Liturgy Ensemble, with all new members after we farewelled our Year 12s at the end of last year, are getting ready for the Opening Mass next week.

If you or your daughter have any questions about instrumental lessons (including singing) or co-curricular programs in the Performing Arts, please contact me at the College, or email meleanor@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

Mari Eleanor - Music and Drama Programs Co-ordinator
Parent Information

Sunshine Heights Junior Soccer Club
Serving the local Community since 1955.
We offer fun soccer programs for girls from 5 up to 12 years old
All Girls welcome

Training is at Castley Reserve,
cnr Glengala Rd & Pellow St, West Sunshine.
Every Tuesday & Thursday at 6pm.

*Girls especially needed for our Under 12 Girls’ Team. No experience necessary.

Dear Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PASS ON TO PARENTS

Please find below some important information regarding Victoria’s student and concession travel ticketing arrangements for 2016, which will be of interest to your school community. We encourage you to make this information available by inclusion in your school newsletter or intranet page.

Proof of concession entitlement

All students aged 17 years and over, or those requiring a half yearly or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), are required to obtain a 2016 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Application details and a copy of this year’s form are contained within this letter. It is important to note that school issued student identification cards are not accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport.

2016 Victorian Student Pass

The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trains, tram and buses, all regional bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria. The Victorian Student Pass is issued on a myki.

2016 Regional Transit Student Passes

Regional Transit Student Passes provide travel for students on buses in the Ballarat, Bellarine and Bendiigo Transit System and limited V/Line rail services in some central areas. The Regional Transit Student Pass is issued on a concession myki. Regional Transit Student Passes for Southwest Transit, Geelong Transit and Portland Transit will continue to be issued as paper passes.

How to apply for a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card and/or a Student Pass

The 2016 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass Application Form (enclosed) can be obtained from:

- metropolitan premium train stations
- PTV Hub (Southern Cross Station, Geelong, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo & Ballarat)
- V/Line staffed stations and ticket agents
- PTV Call Centre by calling 1800 800 007
- online at ptv.vic.gov.au.

Students wishing to purchase a Half Yearly ($265.00) or Yearly ($446.00) Victorian Student Pass will be required to obtain a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card, regardless of age, as proof of their concession entitlement. The standard $3 fee applies. Students can have their 2016 Yearly or Half Yearly Victorian Student Pass loaded to their existing myki card at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled V/Line staffed station or from a PTV Hub (located at Docklands, Geelong or Bendigo). If the student does not already have a myki, the Student Pass will be loaded onto a new myki. This myki will be issued on the spot with the myki card fee waived.

Students 16 years and under, who do not wish to purchase a Student Pass are not required to obtain a VPT Student Concession Card but can still get a child myki for concession travel by visiting a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, a myki retailer, visiting ptv.vic.gov.au, or calling 1800 800 007. A $3 card fee applies.

Students 17 years and over, who require a VPT Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement can obtain a VPT Student Concession Card and apply for a free concession myki (if required) at the same time. Students will need to complete the enclosed form and lodge it at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, the PTV Hub at Southern Cross Station or the PTV Hub at 750 Collins St, Docklands. They will then be issued with their 2016 VPT Student Concession Card (52 fee applies) and a free concession myki (if required). Those students who already have a concession myki can continue to use it and only need to renew their concession entitlement by completing the 2016 VPT Student Concession Card form.

Registration

Registration is optional for students that hold a student pass. It is, however, strongly recommended that students register their myki online at ptv.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 800 007. Benefits of registering a myki include:

- The balance on the myki is protected if it is reported lost or stolen
- Option to manage myki with an online account
- Option of auto top up for ‘lost and found’ convenience

If a myki is not registered, there is no way for a student to recover the value held on the card in the event it is lost or stolen.

Further information specific to student travel arrangements under myki can be obtained by visiting ptv.vic.gov.au and going to the student area under the Tickets > Concession > Students on the website. For information about non-myki Regional Transit Student Passes, visit http://vtr.vic.gov.au/tickets/regional-travel under the section ‘Student concessions’.

I would be grateful if you could share this information with your staff and students.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Alan Fedla
Director, Customer Experience
Public Transport Victoria