It is a well known principle that parents are the primary educators of their children. A school education is only one of many ways that young people grow and progress. Children start to learn well before they begin school and all through their school life they continue to learn and develop through experiences and relationships in the home. Parents are significant in this learning journey by providing opportunities that connect learning at school with home and the wider community.

Schools promote parent engagement as the development of positive and genuine partnerships that links families, school and the community with the goal of highlighting the benefits of parents engaging in their children’s learning. As education is then taken beyond the school environment, this partnership creates conditions in which young people learn more effectively. Parent engagement is different to parent involvement as engagement supports and emphasises a parent’s contribution to learning whilst involvement in schooling has a community and social purpose.

Research has shown that a major factor for a positive change in a student’s academic achievement is the engagement of parents in learning outcomes in the home. Some areas that are positively affected include:

- higher grades and test scores,
- enrolment in higher level programs and advanced classes,
- higher successful completion of classes,
- lower drop-out rates,
- higher graduation rates, and
- a greater likelihood of commencing postsecondary education.

Moreover, parental engagement also has a positive effect on student development including:

- more regular school attendance,
- better social skills,
- improved behaviour,
- better adaptation to school,
- increased social capital,
- a greater sense of personal competence and efficacy for learning,
- greater engagement in school work, and
- a stronger belief in the importance of education.

Parent engagement has the greatest impact when all contributors to a student’s development ensure that there is a focus on linking the behaviours of families, teachers and students to learning and learning outcomes. Also there needs to be a clear understanding of the roles of parents and teachers in learning and that there are positive relations between the school and families.


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EVENTS:

APRIL
25th
- ANZAC Day-School Office Closed
27th
- Careers Expo excursion Yr.11
28th
- Year 7 Reflection Day
- SCSA Badminton Div 2 MSAC

MAY
3rd
- Open Morning
4th
- St Vinnies De Paul Conference Abbottsford Convent (10 Students/Staff)
5th
- Stewardship Council Meeting
6th
- Marian News Published
- Year 7 2017 - Final date for acceptance by parents of offers made
- Mother’s Day Breakfast 7:30am - 8:30am

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

At Marian there are many opportunities for parents to move beyond involvement and more towards engagement. The recent opening of Parent Engage, the parent portal within the SEQTA Learning Management System, gives unprecedented access to a wide range of information in relation to student learning, courses, assessment, and homework. Parents are able to sit with their daughters and share in the experience of learning, ask questions, identify possible courses of action and provide feedback as to the achievement of goals. If any parent has not been able to access the portal or has not provided their email address please contact the College. Feedback from parents who have gone online and navigated Parent Engage has been very positive especially in painting a clearer picture of what their daughters are doing at school.

Another opportunity for engagement occurred this week with the Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews which were very well attended. We were heartened with the visible display of parents actively participating in their daughter’s education and acknowledging their role in providing activities and experiences at home that will complement the Marian learning and teaching program.

Finally, the College provides opportunities for parents to also identify ways to support their daughter’s development through the wellbeing program. For example on the 7th September the College presents Maggie Hamilton, who will provide parents with the chance to reflect on the development of the relationship with their adolescent daughters. A positive approach to wellbeing will also be witnessed in positive student’s learning outcomes.

Whilst we will always promote parent involvement in school life we highly encourage parent participation in learning. We look forward to further developing the partnership with all our parents as we aim to provide the best learning experience for all students in our care.

Rita Grima and Raymond Pisani - Co-Principals

Faith and Mission

PRAYER FROM ST FRANCIS

St Francis’ prayer for peace instructs each of us on how we should act towards one another. It is a prayer that was part of our Marian College Anzac Service on Friday morning. War is happening around the world and has challenged Australians for much of its history. We are also challenged to strive to be better than we were, to find the best in every situation and in every person. In this Year of Mercy, let us be people that show mercy to others in all our actions. Is it easy? No! But is it worthwhile and it will bring about a better world; the answer is yes! We must all take up the challenge to do what we can to make this world, this College a better place.

“O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek, to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.”

On Thursday the 21st of April the Year 8 students had their Reflection Day. They had the opportunity to share in a liturgy experience that challenged them to reflect on ways that they could make a difference, the students then wrote their challenge onto a piece of material and each of these pieces of material were sewn together and used as decoration and a reminder of how to be for the rest of the year. It is for all of us to make the choice to be better people. The students went on to engage in presentations and activities which challenged them socially, physically and spiritually.

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

Student Wellbeing

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Now that we are two weeks into term 2 we remind all students that we are now in full school winter uniform and that means the wearing of the winter skirt, white shirt and school tie. We will continue to work with our homeroom/mentor teachers and Year Level Leaders regarding the length of some of the skirts. All students were given a letter in the first week of school in regards to this issue. We thank all of our families for their support with this part of our school profile.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AND LAMP BEARERS

Our school leaders, the Student Representative Council and Lamp Bearers, have continued the process of working on our overall Behaviour Management Plan and looking at relaunching this by the end of Term 2. Alongside our School Charter these two documents form the basis of how we proceed with any behavioural concerns or issues. More information will be presented in upcoming issues of the Marian News.

STUDENT LEADERS FORMATION DAY

With respect to the work of our Student Leaders and the Behaviour Management Plan we have postponed our annual student Leaders Formation Day till a date to be decided in May. The focus of the day will be the Behavioural Management Plan for students.

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

PARENT-TEACHER- STUDENT INTERVIEWS
Thank you to all of the families who attended our Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews this week. It was wonderful to see so many parents and students discussing learning at Marian College.

ENGAGE PARENT PORTAL
The Engage Parent Portal is now open and we are very pleased to see that so many parents have set up their usernames and log-ins and have been accessing the Engage Portal on a regular basis. With access to coursework, assessment results and feedback on an ongoing basis, parents no longer have to wait for the end of semester report to see evidence of results and progress. This portal now enables parents to become truly engaged in their daughter’s learning.

According to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (2014):

> Reporting to parents and families commonly occurs twice per year in a formal written statement from the school. Involving parents and families in the learning process, by providing them with more frequent feedback about their child’s learning progress and strategies they may use to assist their child improve, has been shown to be effective in improving student achievement.

We encourage all parents to log-on to Engage on a regular basis and to review results, feedback and student reflection. Ask your daughter questions about her learning, for example; what she did well, what she wants to achieve and what strategies she needs to put in place to improve next time.

A key to facilitating positive change in a child’s academic attainment is the engagement of parents in learning outcomes in the home (Alliance for Children & Youth for the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau, 2012).

We envisage that an increasing amount of information will become available on the portal as we progress through this term.

Thank you to those parents and students who attended our first SEQTA Engage Parent Information Evening this week. To continue to support parents with the effective use of this valuable tool, we will be running further workshops next week and, based on demand, we may offer an additional evening session soon. The dates and times for the scheduled sessions next week are:

- **Wednesday** 27 April 11.30 am
- **Thursday** 28 April 10.30 am

Bookings for these sessions should be made via this link: https://www.trybooking.com/KUQU

If you have not received an email with details on setting up your account, please contact the College. Also, if you have not yet provided your email address, we request that you do so, as this is the simplest and most effective way to provision your access to the portal.

NAPLAN
The MySchool website has recently updated its information regarding all schools in Australia. As part of this update, NAPLAN (National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy) data has been added from the 2015 cohort of students in Years 7 and 9 at Marian College. While NAPLAN data is only indicative of 3 days of testing in May and is not indicative of student performance over a year, it does serve as a useful gauge of year level equivalent performance and student progress over time. Marian College has again shown strong relative growth rates. Research indicates that NAPLAN Reading and Numeracy scores are significant indicators of future VCE success and we are pleased to report that our relative growth rate clearly exceeds that of other schools with similar starting scores and similar students in both Reading and Numeracy.

For more detailed graphical accounts, we encourage you to view the MySchool website’s student gains graphs at [https://www.myschool.edu.au/](https://www.myschool.edu.au/)

This year’s NAPLAN tests, for Year 7 and 9 students, are fast approaching and will be held on 10, 11 and 12 May. Letters and other information will be sent home next week. To assist students, we have placed a range of NAPLAN practice materials on the NAPLAN Portal Page on SEQTA.

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

CAREERS & PATHWAYS PROGRAM – PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CAREERS DAY PRESENTATIONS Wed 22nd or Thurs 23rd June

We are seeking parent volunteers who would be willing to speak to the girls in year 10 about either of the following:

- Your career and the path that you have followed to get there.
- If you are a small business owner you could talk to our students about what you look for when you are employing staff.
- You may know of any other industry professionals from the area who would like to participate.

For further details and to volunteer for this event please email jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au
Dear Parents,

Marian College are fundraising with SilkRoc Soy Candles to raise money for the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Fund.

SilkRoc is making it easy for us to raise funds with their beautifully scented Soy Candles and Room Sprays. SilkRoc has 12 delightful scents to choose from which are sure to fill your home with a beautiful aroma. They are also a great gift idea.

How does the fundraiser work?

We will sell the SilkRoc Metro candle, which comes individually boxed, at a price of $23.00 each, the small candle for $12, the SilkRoc 200ml room spray for $17 and Melts at a price of $7.50 each. Benefits from each candle and room spray sold will go towards the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Fund.

The Fragrances available are:

- Vanilla-Creamy vanilla
- Sweet Candy - A very sweet floral
- Oriental Bloom - Fresh floral petals with a hint of vanilla
- Summer Fresh - Summer stone fruits infused with spearmint
- Citrus Berry - Citrus fruits combined with berries
- Magnolia - Soft floral notes
- Cinnamon Spice - Strong spiced pear with vanilla and cinnamon
- Mexican Passion - Lemon, lime, orange and passionfruit
- Miami Sunset - Vanilla with coconut and lime
- Oriental Tea - Jasmine, green tea and lemongrass
- Jaffa - Vanilla mixed with orange
- Lemon Beaus - Vanilla, lemon and brown sugar

Ordering is easy:

1. Simply place your order and pay for the quantity of candles, melts or room sprays you require through Marian College.
2. SilkRoc will deliver to Marian College directly.

You can order as many as you like! Delivery will be within 2-3 weeks from your order being placed.

If you’re unsure which scent to choose, the SilkRoc Metro candle and room spray will be displayed with all available fragrances for you to try and choose your desired fragrance in the VCAL room.

Order Form Return Date:
Please return attached order form and payment to the VCAL girls at Marian College. Orders can be placed at any time during the term.

Any enquiries can be directed to Mary Sanelli on 0408 122 292 or Geraldine Ramondetta on 0412 867 064

Regards

VCAL Girls

Marian College, Sunshine
### SilkRoc Order Form:

**Student Name:**

**Homeroom:**

**Contact Number:**

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<th>FRAGRANCE</th>
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<th>Number of ROOM SPRAYS</th>
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- No. of Candles Large: X $23.00 Each
- No. of Candles Small: X $12.00 Each
- No. of Room Sprays: X $17.00 Each
- No. of Melts: X $7.50 Each

**TOTAL OWING:** $
As part of VCAL, we have organised a project for applied learning. Our project this year involves 6 VCAL girls who are striving to receive an intermediate certificate in personal development. Together with our teachers we have established a no dig garden, which consists of 5 garden beds and a trailer. We have approached Bunnings for assistance with the planting and have received donations which has been kindly appreciated. Our aim is to produce an active workable garden which will allow many students to be involved in a sustainable garden. Girls are currently working on improving the entrance area to the garden and drawing up plans to make the water tanks a feature that represents Marian College sustainability. We would be appreciative of any support from anyone in the wider community who can contribute to the no dig garden.

Samantha Coleiro - VCAL Student

Design, Art & Technology

EXPLORING MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES IN VCE

A showcase of year 11 Studio Arts portraits is now on display, welcoming visitors to the Design Warehouse. During the course of their Unit 1 Studio Arts studies, students explored a variety of materials and techniques to create six cropped portraits. The process began by researching artists who work in these particular mediums. From this exploration students were able to draw inspiration from practising artists and incorporate exciting styles and techniques into their own art making. The girls worked from six original photographs, recreating each using a variety of materials. The mediums explored include, watercolour, white conte, oil pastels, biro, mixed media and digital manipulation. The individual portraits now hang as a fluid collaboration in the exhibition space of the design warehouse.

Brigid Whelan - Design, Art & Technology Teacher
Science

BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE – YEAR 10 SCIENCE

The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge is a competition for high school students in Year 10 to assist them in learning about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, and find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

On Wednesday, 16th of March as part of Brain Awareness Week (March 14th -20th), Mrs Sharma’s class participated in round 1 of the competition. Leading up to this round, the students were studying the book “Neuroscience: Science of the Brain. An Introduction for Young Students,” authored by the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) and European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB). They then had to complete a 45 minute on-line quiz to determine their knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the brain. Those students who perform well, will then be invited to round 2, the State Finals. We wish the Year 10 students all the best with the competition. Dr Familari and I are working together to enhance our student’s understanding in this area.

PROFESSOR BUNSEN- YEAR 7 SCIENCE

On Tuesday 15th of March, all Year 7 students participated in the fun and engaging program delivered by Professor Bunsen. The program is designed to assist students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning model based on real-world applications.

The students were excited and amazed with what they saw at the live show; learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, understanding the kinetic model of boiling and how gases form, seeing the remarkable pressure that gases can exert and watching fun and explosive chemical changes, just to name a few.

The Professor Bunsen show is another example of the STEM professionals that Marian College is exploring this year.

Suzanne Matejin - Learning Leader
Performing Arts

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS

Welcome to Term 2!

Instrumental lessons have started again, and we have lessons available in singing, piano (contemporary and classical) guitar and violin. Lessons can be commenced at any time during the school year. See the image for details. You can contact Swee Smart at Creative Music directly, or Mari Eleanor at the College with any queries and expression of interest in enrolment forms.

Ensemble rehearsals have also recommenced after a break to settle in during the first week. Students are preparing performances for a range of concerts that will take place in May and June. Details are as follows:

Performing Arts Schools Matinee - performances especially for local school primary students in Grades 5 and 6 as well as some senior members of our community. Wednesday 25th May 11am-12noon

Performing Arts Showcases - performances by students involved in co-curricular lessons and ensembles. Thursday 26th May, 7-8.30pm

Senior Performing Arts Showcase - performances by senior students (Years 10-12) in the classroom program.

Learn music here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, violin, singing, bass guitar, here at Marian College.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give students an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from $17.60 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2016.

Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2333

Community News

Combined Reunion

for Marlan College students who graduated in the years


Saturday 10th September 1-4pm
Marian College

enter at gate 3

Enquiries & RSVP: 9363 1711
jheaney@marlansw.catholic.edu.au
Marian College

VET HOSPITALITY SHOWCASE DINNER

19th May
26th May
&
2nd June
6.30 pm – 9pm

4 Course Meal
$25 per person*

*Family discount available

Bookings 9363 1711
11 April 2016

Dear Members of the Marian College Community

As you are aware, the Kildare Education Ministries Board Ltd, conducted an appraisal of your Co-Principals, Ms Rita Grima and Mr Ray Pisani on the 3-4 March 2016. On behalf of the panel, I wish to thank all those who participated in the interviews for your openness to the process and for the honest and generous feedback that will further assist Ms Grima and Mr Pisani in the next phase of their leadership of your fine College. Further, we would like to thank the broader community for the great sense of welcome that we received over the few days.

We congratulate Ms Grima and Mr Pisani on their successful leadership of the College. The panel was impressed by their ability to not only build an inviting physical environment but also in their ability to build strong and positive relationships and to provide a clear and compelling vision for the future. The Panel experienced a community who is confident in its future, who has a sense of purpose with regard to its innovative learning and teaching agenda, who offers a safe and caring environment for all its members and who is proud of its reputable standing in the community.

Your Co-Principals would be the first to acknowledge all the various teams of people who have made Marian College the successful school it is today and Kildare Education Ministries Board also extends its appreciation for all the work that each and every one of you has done to ensure that Marian is a vibrant and relevant community. None of it is possible without the vision, direction and expertise of the Co-Principals and they have been diligent, strategic, passionate and methodical leaders, focused on ensuring that the students at Marian are afforded the best possible opportunities in order to be successful citizens and morally good people.

This is also to advise that Kildare Education Ministries has approved three weeks Enrichment Leave for Ms Grima from 3-23 September. Enrichment Leave is an entitlement for Principals in Victoria that provides valuable time for renewal. Ms Grima certainly deserves time to recharge her batteries in the Greece and Turkey where she will be following In The Footsteps of St Paul. Mr Pisani has indicated that he will take his Enrichment Leave entitlement at a later date.

Kildare Education Ministries Board feels confident and assured that Marian College is being led by exceptional Co-Principals who are committed to a shared leadership model and who have remained faithful to fundamental core values that define Marian College.

With every blessing for your future endeavours

Michael Doyle
Chair, Kildare Education Ministries Board