From the Co-Principals

CATHOLIC SECONDARY PRINCIPALS’ CONFERENCE

Over the term break we attended the CaSPA (Catholic Secondary Principals Australia) Conference along with other principals from across Australia and New Zealand.

This conference is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in our Catholic story and to understand the demands and challenges of living this story authentically as a leader of a Faith community. When we engage with others who are committed to the same vocation we learn, and learn again, about the different ways of bringing the story of our Catholic tradition to life for our communities.

We were privileged to listen to and interact with quality national and international speakers. We were challenged to connect intimately with the scriptures on a personal level, to understand the perspective of the writers in their historical contexts, and to re-imagine and re-interpret the scriptures for ourselves and for our communities.

Of particular note was the message shared with us by Fr Ron Rolheiser, whose writings we have shared with you previously in the Marian News. Fr Ron centred his conference reflections on the theme “Keeping a mellow heart in a bitter time”. He acknowledged our very real human struggle with bitterness, cynicism, anger, polarisation, demonisation and hardness; especially in the current global climate. He challenged us to think of these struggles as our wrestling with God – the inner most parts of ourselves that harden our hearts and tune God out of our lives. He believes our current human story, if we let it, can become characterised by:

1. Operating out of a “big-heart” and a “big-mind” be generous, understanding, forgiving.
2. Persevere in charity and never grow weary of doing what is right, and then do it again and again – and let this be characterised by the values of graciousness, charity and respect.
3. Operate out of love and compassion – never out of ideology.
4. Welcome the stranger because this is learning to see God’s revelation in the other.
5. Pray affectively and inside the flames – prayer is our seeking to connect with God; to “hear” God calling out to us in love.
6. Stay in prayer until the heart mellows – never do anything with a hard heart.

So we are back to our wrestle with God, to let these commandments for our age win out over the apathy and anger. As human beings we are flawed and we will not always allow God to emerge victorious from our struggles, but therein lies the true beauty of our faith – we are loved by God regardless and always will be.

PRAYER:

PRAYER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

O God you are a God of justice, mercy and compassion. Support us your servants of the poor, as we endeavour to bring your love and compassion to people who are homeless and in need of your love.

We pray that we will see you, our all-loving God in each homeless person we encounter and in our service for those in need. May we do all in our power to support each person reach their potential, so they experience the fullness of life.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

MARIAN COLLEGE CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Within the next week all community members will be able to access the key elements of our Child Protection Program via the Marian College website. The link will be found under the Student wellbeing Tab, Child Protection Program. In due course this will also be available via the SEQTA Engage parent portal.

Please take the time to read through the policies that inform our work in this area. Here at Marian we have always placed a high priority on Child Safety and the new standards are a natural extension of our ongoing work in this area.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our Child Protection Program please do not hesitate to contact one of us or Kerrie Williams at the College.

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

To help those in need is one of our most basic actions. At a Catholic College, we encourage our community to see in all people, the face of Christ. With our Kildare Ministries values and our desire to support the ethos of our foundresses, St Brigid and Nano Nagle, we look for ways in which we can be people of strength and kindness. It is in the acts of service that it is clearly evident. Our Justice Groups work hard to ensure that this is occurring. Whether it is with a sausage sizzle or donut drive, the money raised helps someone in need in our community. The St Vincent de Paul Group runs a hot drink service every Thursday lunchtime for students to buy an inexpensive hot chocolate or chai tea using fair trade products.

On Friday night 16 students and 2 staff will be sleeping at the College with the intention of raising funds for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. All the students are required to get a minimum of $30 dollars sponsorship money. Marg Fyfe a guest speaker from Caritas will speak to the girls about the realities for some people in Australia and in the World. She will also indicate what projects are currently funded. The St Vincent de Paul Group will be having a casual clothes day on Friday the 5th of August to encourage all students and staff to support this cause with a gold coin, an item of winter clothing or a blanket. ‘A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just’. Pope Francis. We are always encouraging the students to aim for a better and more just world.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, Marian Staff will be attending a two day in-service to take time to reflect on themselves and their ability to deal with the challenges as educators. They will also have the opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for the College Tradition; with St Brigid, Bishop Daniel Delany, the Brigidine Congregation, Nano Nagle and the Presentation Congregation. This will lead into a session on ‘Mercy’ and the challenges it has for the individual in the modern world.

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

Student Wellbeing

PARENT FORUM EVENING

You will notice in the Marian News we are advertising our Parent Forum guest speaker for this year – Maggie Hamilton who will focus on ‘What is happening to our girls.’ The date for the forum is:

Wednesday 7th September – 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

Maggie is an expert and researcher into the patterns of behaviour in relation to girls and how our adolescents of today are very different to the ones of previous generations. She also discusses the influences that are impacting on their lives. We consider this an amazing opportunity for our parent community to gain insight into the world of their daughter’s. We look forward to you joining us for this very special event.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PARENTS OF OUR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Parents of our Year 11 students may have become aware in recent times that their daughters are talking about an upcoming formal. Please note that this formal is NOT a Marian endorsed event and that no Marian staff will be in attendance on the evening to supervise.

We will send out a letter in the next week, and place on our website, more information in relation to this event.

Any parents who require further clarification are free to contact either Sarah Toto – Year 11 Co-ordinator or myself on the school number.

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

From the Office

Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd August – Student free days. School Office closed.

Parents/Guardians please note that Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd August are Professional Learning Days and students are not required to attend school. The School Office will be closed.
Learning and Teaching

PATHWAYS EXPO AND SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESSES
It was wonderful to see so many students and their parents at our recent Pathways Expo and Subject Selection Information Evening, making the most of the information available, from Marian College staff and university representatives.

Online Web Preferences, for submitting subject choices, opens on 5 August for our current Year 10 and 11 students and the following week for our Year 9 students. Acceleration applications close on Monday 1 August and late applications will not be considered. All acceleration applications will be reviewed and decisions will be made based on the selection criteria. Once decisions are finalised, letters will be mailed advising of approval or otherwise.

For some students, the VCAL pathway is the most suitable choice. Some students have submitted a VCAL Expression of Interest Forms and others have been recommended by teachers. These students and their parents will be sent a letter soon about the VCAL Program and the procedure for entry into VCAL for 2017.

PARENT - TEACHER - STUDENT INTERVIEWS
The Parent - Teacher - Student Interviews to be held on 11 August will provide an opportunity for you to talk with your daughter and her subject teachers about her learning. These conversations should provide valuable feedback on areas of strength and areas where improvements can be made, to maximize your daughter’s progress. For students in Years 9, 10 and 11, the interviews also provide an opportunity to discuss subject selection for 2017.

You should receive a letter about these interviews early next week, outlining the booking procedure through the online Synergetic Parent Portal (not SEQTA). Log-in details will be included in the letter. The interviews will be take place from 2.00 – 8.00 pm in the Agnes Lyng Building and Catherine Kelly Language Centre. We encourage all parents and their daughters to participate in these interviews and we look forward to seeing you there.

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

Careers
Activity in the Careers office is in full swing at the moment. With Year 10 students having just completed their pathways week and work experience placements I now look forward to working with the Year 12 students with their VTAC and direct applications which open on August 1st. It is very important that all Year 12 students attend all pastoral sessions in August to go through this entire process. I strongly advise all senior students to attend University Open Days and keep exploring all their options.

YEAR 10 STUDENT REFLECTION
In the last week of Term 2, the Year 10 students were fortunate enough to participate in Careers Week. Throughout the week, several guest speakers and activities were organized to open the eyes of the Year 10 students, giving us the opportunity to expand our knowledge on the pathways available in our future. We were not only informed about careers but we were also taught the different ways we could reach our preferred destination. We were taught how to overcome interviews, get into University or TAFE courses and how to make our own decisions based on what we would like to do. The students enjoyed the activities as well, laughing and smiling, having fun while also striving to get the most out of the workshops provided to us. It was a good way to end the term and a great way to get the Year 10 girls thinking about what we would like to pursue in the future. We thank all the teachers who helped make this week possible as well as the Hospitality Department who also cooked us a wonderful lunch on the Thursday. It can be confidently said that Careers Week was a success and we look forward to more opportunities in the future.

Breaze Cremona, 10 Ruth

Lauren Marett - Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator

Performing Arts
All lessons and ensembles have now started for the term. We are preparing for the Mass as part of the Brigidine Celebration Day, and ensembles are beginning to work toward a range of lunchtime concerts that will take place later this term and into term 4.

We wish everyone a happy term of music-making and enjoying!

Mari Eleanor - Performing Arts Co-Curricular Programs
BRAIN BEE STATE FINALS 2016

The Brain Bee Challenge was held at the University of Melbourne – at the Brain Centre on the 13th of July. Marian College had five students make it to the State Finals. The day began with Mr Adam Bandt MP, Federal Member for Melbourne, officially opening the competition. The day was then filled with a busy schedule including inspirational speeches by female scientists; Professor Kathryn North (Director at Murdoch Children’s Hospital Research Institute) and Dr Christine Nguyen (a neuroscientist at The University of Melbourne) who both gave us an insight of their careers. Various schools from all over the Victoria arrived and soon the challenge began. We were instructed to answer numerous questions based on the brain, which wasn’t our strength so it was quite a challenge. Unfortunately, we didn’t make it to the next round however it was a thrill to watch an intense round between other students and schools in the final. An event we were most eager to attend was the Anatomy Museum, which was an extraordinary experience. To be able to physically see the internal part of the human body was truly amazing. Overall, I had a great time despite Melbourne’s weather.

Tina Nguyen 10 Catherine

As we made our way to Melbourne University, I could see everyone’s determined faces and I started to feel quite nervous. Many of them revising over notes, trying to cram in some last minute studying. Although I didn’t do as well as I hoped, I still had an amazing experience and it was nice to be surrounded by people who were so energetic and passionate about neuroscience. My favourite part of the day was when we got to have a tour of the Anatomy Museum. I was very intrigued by the whole process of preserving human tissue. Neuroscience is very interesting and one thing that I learnt about it was that you need to have a lot of patience in this career. I would like to thank my peers and teachers, Mrs Matejin and Mrs Carfora for a great day.

Nga Nguyen – 10 David

Suzanne Matejin - Learning Leader

LOTE

ITALIAN

As you know, all Year 9 students at Marian College will soon be making their subject selections for 2017. To assist the Year 9 LOTE students with this task, they all met in the Language Centre at Marian College last Friday morning to hear some guest speakers talk about how they have benefited from studying and speaking other languages.

Mrs Joan Fabbian, Italian teacher, spoke about the benefits of studying a LOTE then introduced the guests.

First to speak was Mrs Marafioti who was born in Italy and is an Engineer, then former students who are now studying at university, Gemma Tuddenham (Lamp Bearer in 2015), Margaret Yeboah and Alanah Moretti who all studied a LOTE to Year 12, spoke of their positive experiences. Then Yelen, who is an exchange student in Year 10 at Marian, told us she is from French West Indies and stunned us all as she speaks 4 languages! The forum was concluded by Giusy, our Italian Language Assistant who inspired the students with the real life opportunities that have resulted from her LOTE studies.

After the forum, the reflections of two students were sought.

Opinion 1: The reason why I will continue studying my LOTE is because it will benefit me when travelling to that country and finding a job. Speaking another language is a great skill and I’ve also gained a greater understanding of their culture. This is sure to help me with future job prospects.

Opinion 2: I have chosen to continue to study my LOTE to year 12. I’ve found it has already enhanced my literary skills in English as it makes me reflect on my sentence structure and grammar. Also, obtaining the extra ATAR just for studying LOTE will assist me to gain entry to my selected university course.

Arrivederci and salam hangat

From the Marian College LOTE Team

Marian News
Marian Coffee Shop

From 27th April
Every Wednesday this term
Time: 9am to 10am
Cost: $3.50
Location: Marian College
Enter through Front Office
Drop your kids off and come in for a cuppa

COFFEE AVAILABLE
- Latte’s
- Hot chocolate
- Double blacks
- Mochas
- Long black’s
- Short black’s
- Cappuccino’s
- Macchiato’s
- Piccolo latte
- Flat white
- Also will be tea & herbal tea

Look forward to seeing you there

Community News

Combined Reunion

for Marian 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
What is Happening to Our Girls

presented by Maggie Hamilton author of ‘What’s happening to our Girls” and “What’s Happening to Our Boys?’

This forum examines:

- What makes this generation different from their parents.
- The impact of marketing campaigns on self-esteem and body image
- Why depression & eating disorders are on the rise
- Why and how girls lead secret lives

Wednesday 7th September 7:00-8:30pm
Marian College
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: 9363 1711
For Parents and Daughters