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

From the Co-Principals

During 2016 we have been preparing for a review of our Catholic Identity utilising the Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement with the validation day being held on Tuesday the 9th of August. The College was reviewed across 5 quality indicators for Catholic Identity. We provide below key segments of the report and presentation provided to the Validation Panel.

QUALITY INDICATOR: SACRAMENTAL
Marian College embodies a strong Catholic Identity. It is a College with students from a wide variety of nationalities, cultures and religions which actively promotes and celebrates its multi-cultural and multi-faith identity. Whole school Liturgies and Eucharistic Celebrations are celebrated on a number of occasions within the College year and Year Levels liturgies take place within reflection days and Retreats (all year levels).

There is a Liturgy Planning Group that meets fortnightly to plan and develop the liturgies as well as a Student Liturgy Group which has increased in numbers to 26 members in 2016.

Prayer is an important part of life at Marian College. From the initial contact with prospective students and parents, prayer is presented as an integral part of school life. There exists a diverse variety of prayer experiences presented and used with students and staff from formal assembly liturgies through to meditation as well as the daily bulletin prayer to commence each day.

Through the RE Program, Reflection Days and Pastoral Care Days there are opportunities for reflection on the student’s life experience and faith. Year level foci for reflection days include:
Year 7: Connectedness
Year 8: Being merciful and compassionate
Year 9: Self esteem and being positive about themselves and their image
Year 10: Social Justice and the call to help others in the community
Year 11: Marriage and Relationship Education Unit
Year 12: a two day retreat where they work on self, challenges, networking, supporting the community.

QUALITY INDICATOR: LIFE-GIVING
Marian College is directed in all of its endeavours by its Vision and Mission Statement. This guides the planning, policy making and program development across the College. In the College Handbook the Vision and Mission Statement are a focal point with newly inducted teachers directed to these key College Statements.

The Religious Education Program demonstrates academic rigour with a progressive movement from year to year. Students are provided the opportunity to develop an understanding of the Catholic/Christian Story at each year level. In Year 10, there is a strong focus on Social Justice with a compulsory 6 week program for each class participating in one of the following activities: visiting an aged care facility, working with primary aged students or helping at the St Vincent de Paul shop. In Year 11-12 students complete at least three units of VCE RE. There are many opportunities for discussion and dialogue, especially in RAS 2 Ethics undertaken at Year 12 for students not completing a Religious Education sequence, or who have completed the Unit 3-4 sequence in Year 11.

Students are provided with opportunities to grow and develop their leadership skills with opportunities provided for challenge and growth at Marian College. Preparation programs, like the Leadership Certificate for Year 10/11 students, requires completion by students wishing to apply for the position of Lamp Bearer. Student leaders have had the opportunity to contribute authentically to the life of the College. For example, their participation in the development of the Rights and Responsibilities Charter, and this year by reviewing the College Behaviour Expectations document with the Assistant to the Co-Principal - Student Wellbeing.

QUALITY INDICATOR: FAITHFUL
Marian has always promoted the Catholic Identity of the College in its employment practices. In interviews, the Catholic Identity of the College is discussed and an understanding provided to prospective employees of the importance of the Catholic faith to the College’s identity. The staff have a sound formalised program for induction. Staff support the faith life of the College by their positive participation in Faith Development Professional Learning.

continued....
The College has many signs and symbols of the Catholic Identity of the College. It has many Brigidine crosses located around the College, classrooms and Chapel. Statues of Brigid and Mary are located in the main building. Many of the buildings are named in honour of the Sisters that came to this country or taught at the College and are held in high esteem. The Chapel is named after our patron, St Brigid.

There is ongoing encouragement for staff to continue and complete their learning in the understanding of what it means to be a contributing member of a Catholic community.

Marian College encourages the witnessing of the Gospel through networking with the Western Zone Program in the Melbourne Archdiocese and connecting with faith related activities. Each year the student leaders attend the Conversation with the Archbishop. Staff and students are encouraged to make a stand for the vulnerable in the community with banners publicly displayed at the front of the school and participation in Refugee Awareness marches held in the city. Through our participation in the Refugee Support Program the College has been able to run adult English classes on Tuesday evenings to help in the education of the parents of our students.

QUALITY INDICATOR: JUST

At Marian College there are a number of explicit Catholic Social Teaching units. Year 7 students complete a Social Justice Unit that is connected with a broader community issue. Year 9 students undertake a topic called ‘Good and Evil’ that encourages the students to investigate what is good and negative in the world. In Year 10, all the students engage with a social justice topic that encompasses community service. It requires an understanding of the Declaration of Human Rights and what that means in action.

There is a commitment to reconciliation and recognition of the Aboriginal and Torres Islander People. There is the acknowledgement at the beginning of formal gatherings, school assemblies and liturgies and use of the message stick in liturgies is symbolic of our commitment to reconciliation with the indigenous people of this land.

The College has embedded a comprehensive social justice philosophy. It’s supported by staff and students across all areas. It’s present in the desire to support varied social justice initiatives. Regular fund raising is conducted as demonstrated by the following list:

- LEOs – fundraise for BASP and other organisations, they raise approximately $7,000 per year
- St Vincent de Paul - supporting Caritas, Mission Australia, the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal with the annual Sleep in July and the Christmas Appeals of hampers and gifts from homeroom classes in Years 7-9,
- Cancer Appeal, Big Morning Tea, 2016, 2015, 2014, Breakfast for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day (2016),
- Brigidine Asylum Seekers,
- Nepal Disaster Fund (2015),
- VCAL/VET cancer fundraising activities.

Staff also have the option to donate money from their salaries to the Brigidine Education Relief Fund- this money is used to support families struggling with education costs, it is accessed by the College to help families in need of more long-term support (approximately 6 families at Marian College). It has been in existence for approximately 10 years. There is also a Special Fund that staff members can choose to donate to. It helps with uniform, books, Myki cards, shopping vouchers, etc.

Restorative Practice principles underpin the College practices for right relationships. Students encountering behavioural issues are engaged through the process to restore relationships between peers and/or staff. The development of the Respectful Relationships – Behaviour Expectations Policy, is based on the Gospel values of hope, love, care, concern and justice and is holistic in its focus on the development of the whole person.

QUALITY INDICATOR: INCLUSIVE

Marian College operates a non-selective enrolment policy. The College serves a multi-cultural and multi-faith community, and enrolment patterns reflect the nature of the community served. Where demand for enrolment is higher than the number of places available in Year 7 (145) a set criteria is applied.

Marian College has a comprehensive induction and transition process. There are visits from leadership team members and current Marian students who had attended the primary school to the local Catholic feeder schools in the region. Families are encouraged to visit the College and see it in action. There is a monthly Tuesday Open Morning for prospective families conducted by the Co-Principals. There is an evening session at the end of the year and one at the beginning of the year for parents to get some information about the College and ask any questions. There is a formal Enrolment Application and parents and students are invited on a designated afternoon/evening in March to come into the College for an interview with members of the School Leadership Team and other key transition leadership staff.

Marian College invites parents to work with the College in supporting their child’s faith and learning experiences. This invitation is extended to the parents at the presentation in September prior to the students commencing at the College. Parents at Marian College come from a multi-faith background and the Catholic Identity of the College is discussed, with the various religions acknowledged. Parents are invited to Liturgies and Assemblies and these invitations are extended through the fortnightly Marian Newsletter and via SMS.

The learning partnership is seeking to ‘establish an environment that capitalises on our natural tendency for learning and use exemplary teaching practices so that all students can learn effectively and with a sense of purpose’ (Marian Mission Statement). This is further encouraged through the Learning Management System, SEQTA. Parents are able to see their child’s progress, results and teacher feedback and there is also a potential for their child’s reflection.

CONCLUSION

The final review report was much more detailed than the above excerpts and the Validation Panel was most impressed with the quality of the information provided and the overall presentation. We congratulate Mary-Lou Towns and her team on an excellent demonstration of the Catholic Identity of the College.
Faith and Mission

On the Monday the 8th of August the Australian Catholic Church celebrates Mary Mackillop Feast Day. It is a day that we recall an extraordinary individual who in the ordinariness of her life worked to bring about a transformation in the lives of the young Catholic children of Australia. She lived in the 1800’s but her example continues to guide many people today. Mary Mackillop’s actions challenges each one of us to act in a more just and humane manner.

St Vincent de Paul Group has over the last two weeks raised approximately $1300 for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal through a sleep over at the College on Friday the 29th of July and then a Casual Clothes Day on Friday the 5th of August. A special thank you goes to staff who helped support the sleepover; Ms Sulzberger (and I) slept overnight and Ms Rajni Sharma and Ms Susan Scott provided additional support after school and into the evening. The St Vincent de Paul Group works towards acting more justly.

Brigidine Celebration Day is on the 31st of August and many year levels and classes are getting organised for the Big Day of Celebration as we have the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge our founding Congregation in the Brigidine Sisters. Of special note is the preparation with the banners and decorations for the Mass provided by the VCAL students and staff. A wonderful effort!!

The College has recently experienced a whole school review which focussed on its Catholic Identity. Leadership, staff, Stewardship Council and students participated in providing evidence of the catholicity of Marian College. It was a rewarding experience to view, in total, the qualities reviewed: Sacramental, Faith, Life-giving, Just and Inclusive. The College provides many opportunities for growth in faith experience for the students. We are a diverse College that works on ‘welcoming all’ as Jesus welcomed all people he came into contact with in life.

On the 2nd and 3rd of August the staff at Marian College had a two day Retreat. It was an opportunity to talk about “the individual” and their life experiences. We discussed the strategies that are available for supporting people in times of stress. Staff were required to create a symbol that represented who they are, this was engraved on to the strategies that are available for supporting people in times of stress. Staff were required to create a symbol that represented who they are, this was engraved on to a metallic strip that was placed on to a wooden cross and used for the liturgy on the Wednesday. The retreat commenced with the story of Kildare Ministries. We listened to various speakers who spoke about Kildare Ministries - what it is and where it came from. In the afternoon we had Robyn Reynolds OLSH who spoke on the Year of Mercy and made many connections to the College.

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

COLLECTION FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL
It has been a cold Winter, so members of Vinnies at Marian College recently requested students and staff to bring in clothing or give a donation which we would collect and then be handed to St Vincent de Paul Society. Here are two members, Rachel Phan and Aimee Vo, both in Snr Hayden, who were busy visiting home rooms and staff to collect clothing or donations.

To all those who donated, please accept our sincere thanks.

The Vinnies members at Marian College

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 great to see so many parents and students discussing learning, goals, achievement and progress. As we have said before, parent engagement in student learning has a significant positive impact on student success.

SUBJECT SELECTION UPDATE
All of our current Year 10 and 11 students should have now had a personal subject selection mentoring interview with a homeroom or assigned mentor teacher. Year 11 and 12 2017 online subject selection will close on Thursday 18 August. Thank you to the many students who have already submitted their subject selection preferences. It is essential that all students also return a paper copy of their preferences with a parent signature and homeroom teacher or mentor signature.

Subject lists for 2017 will then be formulated and Learning Leaders and their teams will look over student lists for VCE studies.

In some cases, students may not be recommended for certain subjects, as they may not have the skills to succeed in them. We will contact those “not recommended” for subjects and alternative subject counselling will be provided.

Subjects presently in Years 9 and 10 who applied for accelerated studies should receive letters next week notifying them of approval or otherwise for these acceleration options. All applications have been carefully considered against the stipulated criteria and, in some cases, applications have not been approved. Ultimately, the best interests and potential for success of each student are the major considerations. Sometimes, a student may not be ready to accelerate, or may achieve greater success through waiting another year, before embarking on a study. Our current Year 9s are now underway with the process of selecting their subjects for Year 10, 2017 and the online subject preferences will remain open until 25 August.

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

**PARENT FORUM - WELLBEING COMING UP**
On Wednesday 7th September Maggie Hamilton, author and researcher into girls and their development, is coming to speak to the Marian community.

We would like to formally invite all of our parents to this very important opportunity as Maggie has a great insight into the research and factors that are impacting on the development of our adolescent girls.

If you have any queries about this evening please contact either Julie Heaney or myself on the school number.

**PARENT INVITATION**
We are looking to develop a Parent Communication Policy and would like to develop this work with some input from our parent community and hence we invite any member of our parent community who may be interested in supporting us with this process to contact me on the school number.

Those parents will work with our consultant, Dave Vinegrad, an expert on Restorative Relationships. Dave has worked extensively with our staff and myself on previous College processes.

As part of this week’s Marian I would also like to make you aware of two significant events both locally and worldwide that some of our students participated in over the last couple of weeks.

Firstly, Shelby Di Sisto and Naomi Zahra attended the World Youth Day in Poland. Attended by Pope Francis both girls expressed how special the experience was.

Secondly, a number of our students participated in a High School Dance Competition in the Western region They won the award for most entertaining Dance which they had practiced for a number of months in their own time. The school supported them in the preparation of their costumes.

The following girls represented the school:
Smitha Girish-Year 12
Samyuktha Cherukuri- Year 11
Sandali Munasinghe- Year 11
Rupanshi Dhawan- Year 10
Vivian Fleifel- Year 10
Jaspreeet Kaur- Year 11
Tharushi Dandeni Arachchige- Year 11
Aakriti Sharma- Year 12
Ruvinie Pannala- Year 12

We congratulate both Shelby, Naomi and our Dancing girls for the manner in which they represented our school.

**WYD 2016 – KRAKOW POLAND**
On the 22nd of July I set out on a journey not knowing what to expect. A few months prior we took part in an Amazing race in Melbourne so we could meet fellow pilgrims who were taking part in WYD. This was the start of many new friendships I would make throughout my pilgrimage. I had the opportunity to go and see for myself what world youth day was all about. I got to build new relationships with people from all over the world, venture all around the beautiful country of Poland and fully immerse myself into a multitude of cultures. This experience has strengthened both my faith and the ability to build new relationships. Even though there were language barriers at times we were all on the same religious journey and I felt an unspoken connection with everyone to the one god. This opportunity was the experience of a life time that I would highly recommend to any student willing to step outside their comfort zone and take on new life changing experiences. This amazing experience went so fast with many great adventures and both mental and physical strengths being tested. I will hold this life changing experience close to my heart for the rest of my life and will be forever grateful. - Shelby Di Sisto

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

YEAR 8 INDONESIAN

Salam dari kelas 8,

In Year 8 Indonesian, students learned about Pakaian (Clothing) and Bagian Badan (Parts of the Body). This includes: types of clothes, traditional and modern, formal and informal and accessories as worn by Indonesians are the focus. Students investigate and compare the different styles of clothing (traditional Batik) as worn to ceremonies and for traditional dance. Students learn how to describe parts of body in Indonesian.

For their assignment, students have to complete a FASHION PROJECT. It is a popular task as they select images of fashion items of their choice, download them and then add information about each item which is written in Indonesian. The result is an advertising brochure intended to entice the viewer to buy their products.

Salam,
Ibu Trina

Performing Arts

Students are continuing to work in their ensembles and bands, and with their instrumental teachers, preparing pieces for the upcoming Brigidine Day mass and a series of concerts to be held later in the term. Captains, leaders and mentors will be meeting soon to organise these performances.

We have welcomed some new members into the instrumental lessons program and various ensembles, and it’s great to see everyone settling in and enjoying themselves.

Mari Eleanor - Performing Arts Co-Curricular Programs

Year 8

On Friday the 29th of July, the Year 8 students were fortunate enough to be involved in an incursion as part of Maths week at Marian College. The incursion was run by a company called World of Maths and consisted of students participating in various fun Maths activities to help learn Maths concepts through games.

Throughout the session the Year 8 students moved around different stations that were set up with equipment, covering different maths concepts such as space, measurement, number and structure. We used our time and problem solving skills at each station to solve mathematical problems in a fun way.

The incursion was a great success as we were able to use our maths skills in a hands on way and work together to solve the problems.

Dahlia Cremona - Year 8 Student
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@mlansw.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
26 May 2016

Dear Community Colleague

Community information and outreach for the 2016 local council elections

The local council elections will be held in **October 2016**.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is working with various communities to ensure that all Australian citizens over the age of 18 have the opportunity to enrol and exercise their democratic right to vote. The VEC is specifically seeking your assistance in raising awareness of the upcoming local council elections through the display and distribution of materials enclosed in this pack.

In addition, the VEC can also offer your group/organisation an outreach session focussing on enrolling and voting in the local council elections.

Community information kit contents
A number of items have been included with this kit, namely:
- a 2016 local council elections *Enrol to Vote* poster
- *Easy English* guides to voting and the electoral process:
  - Vote in Local Council Postal Elections
  - Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections
- Vote in the Melbourne City Council Postal Elections
- enrolment forms, and a
- resource order form.

Please note that there are several variations of the poster – enrol to vote, postal elections and attendance elections. See the resource order form to obtain further information on the posters and order copies of any of the items above, or other available items.

Community outreach
The VEC’s Community Education Team works with groups in the community who may face barriers to democratic participation. The team provides tailored sessions regarding enrolling and voting to organisations and groups working with people experiencing homelessness, people living with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Please contact the VEC directly on (03) 8620 1100 to book information sessions. The VEC can provide interpreters if required.

Yours sincerely

Warwick Gately, AM
Electoral Commissioner