When we look back at the educational symbols of yesteryear, the blackboard, textbooks and gestetner machine we can measure how far the nature of schooling has come. The introduction of smart boards, e-books and tablets has coincided with the changing purpose of schooling. In the past the general purpose was for educated adults to impart knowledge to the young. In the 21st Century this is too shallow and the youth of today have to be encouraged to think wider and even more globally. We need to provide opportunities for students to be imaginative and creative thinkers, enabled to communicate in a variety of means and able to adapt and thrive in a variety of environments.

Whilst our School Improvement Plan has a major focus on what happens in the classrooms on the Marian College site we also endeavour to extend the boundary much further into both a local and global sphere. Over the recent school holidays two groups of students and staff had the opportunity to leave the comforts of home and family behind and embark on an experience that developed independence, relationships and knowledge.

Firstly, 8 students along with Ms. Gaudiano and Mrs Stafford joined students and staff from Simmons College on a 21 day cultural and language immersion to Italy. As well as travelling the length of the country the students enjoyed a homestay program with families of Liceo Classico Paritario “Dante Alighieri” in Rimini. With the opportunity to practice speaking Italian in its natural setting the girls were able to witness the fruits of all their efforts in the many in-school classes they have attended. Moreover, they were immersed in the culture and history of this Mediterranean country.

Secondly, 30 students and 4 staff travelled by coach to Central Australia, facing up to unpredictable weather, marvelling at the beauty of the land and connecting with the indigenous community. The nine day tour exposes students to experiences and challenges most, if not all, have never encountered. This immersion experience also has a cultural focus emphasised with a visit to Uluru, contact with the local Catholic Care and connecting with an aboriginal school at Alice Springs.

Being a Catholic community both experiences closely connected with a spiritual focus. Naturally, the major cities in Italy hold a special place for us as Catholics. Whether it be the Papal connection in Rome, the spirituality of Assisi or the religious art found across the land, the travellers were able to delve deeper into places and pieces of history that were previously just stories. For those who stood on the sacred land in Central Australia and allowed their hearts and heads to become in tune with Aboriginal spirituality came away uplifted by the experience. Whilst not engaging in a traditional pilgrimage, both trips provided a means for the girls and staff to reflect on their own faith and their own purpose in contributing to a Catholic community.

Schooling and education has changed and opportunities like these provide a vehicle for students to link their life at Marian with additional meaningful life experiences and memories that they will treasure well into the future. We acknowledge all the staff who travelled with the girls and thank them for their selflessness, care and guidance in making the trips a wonderful success. Thank you to:

Italy Immersion Trip: Ms Donna Guadiano and Mrs Jenny Stafford. Thanks also to Ms Anna Ciccone and Ms. Kerrie Williams for their overall organisation of the trip.

Central Australia Immersion Trip: Mr Dan Mogg, Ms Sharon Hayes, Ms Laura Giles and Ms Kerrie Williams.

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

Strength is important when we take on something new or when we attempt to push against the tide of complacency. For students working on their final weeks of VCE units it is a time to find that inner strength and keep going, find the sense of renewal. The prayer on the front page is one that will provide that strength and guidance to keep on with the important study and preparation for exams or the completion of modules.

Strength and Kindness is our motto at Marian College. We encourage the students to develop this in all of their interactions and within themselves to be strong in all situations. However, do so with kindness to yourself and to the community. So be strong and kind to yourself!!

Term 4 is a busy term. Year 12 students are moving towards exams or finishing their courses and looking towards the future. St Vincent de Paul Group is looking towards finalising Thursday lunch sales with the sale of ice-cream cups. Leadership for Vinnies positions will be finalised in the first three weeks of Term 4. The LEO’s group has finalised their positions for 2016. It has been an amazing year for the various groups: JDF to educate the community, and Vinnies and LEO’s helping to fundraise for the less fortunate in our community. Thank you for your abilities to act out the values of our College.

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

**Learning and Teaching**

In the first week of the holidays, many VCE teachers held revision lectures in their respective subjects for Year 12 students. In the second week of the holidays, the College conducted an extensive practice examination program where students had an opportunity to experience examinations under VCAA conditions. Students will receive important feedback on how they performed and also will be given strategies for improvement. During this time students were also completing Media and Studio Art folios at the College.

Year 12 students have now started on a comprehensive revision program for the end of year examinations. This is an important time for the students and the focus should be on their learning, not the end of year celebrations. This revision will provide students with an excellent opportunity to assess where there are gaps in their learning and where they should spend revision time focussing on these areas for improvement.

**REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

As we have communicated previously, we are no longer issuing the Marian College Interim Reports. As a consequence, it is essential that all parents regularly check student progress and feedback on SEQTA Engage. This information will be far more informative for both parents and students.

Unfortunately, we still have some parents who have not set up their SEQTA Engage accounts. This week we have re-sent emails, providing a link enabling account set-up, to all families who have not yet done so. It is essential that you do set-up your account now. In addition to ongoing feedback on school-based assessment tasks, the Year 12 Practice examination results are presently being added to SEQTA. The formal end-of-semester reports will also only be published via SEQTA.

**YEAR 9 2017**

The current Year 8s have now commenced the process of selecting their Year 9 “Tasters” (elective) subjects for next year. A Tasters Information Assembly was held on Wednesday 5 October and this was followed later in the evening by a Year 9 2017 Parent Information Session. We would like to thank all of those families who attended.

The Web Preferences Online Portal is now open for Tasters selections and will close on Thursday 13 October. Web Preferences Receipts must also be printed, signed by a parent or guardian and submitted by Friday 14 October.

**PAT TESTING**

This year Marian College has been selected to participate in the Visible Learning Plus Project, supported by Catholic Education Melbourne. This exciting three year project is based on comprehensive research and focuses on the use of high impact strategies in the teaching and learning process to maximise student progress.

As a part of this project, to ensure that we are able to accurately measure and support student progress over time, we are administering ACER (Australian Council of Educational Research) Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) in Mathematics and Reading Comprehension to all students in Years 7 to 9.

These tests are designed to provide objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about their students’ skills and understandings in key areas. At the centre of each PAT test is a proficiency scale, providing a range of data on student performance, making the PAT tests ideal for understanding students’ current strengths and weaknesses, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time.

These tests will complement the range of evidence and data that we already use, assisting us as we aim to continuously improve our practice and the progress of every Marian student.

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

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING
As we approach the second week of this term we head towards our annual Awards Evening that will be held on Thursday 13th October.

This evening has been moved a week earlier to ensure that all our graduating class of 2016 is present on the evening and that we can celebrate their achievements over the last six years.

On this Awards Night we will acknowledge over 130 students for their work ethic and achievements for the year. They will have the opportunity to do this with their parents as we celebrate as a whole community.

We look forward to sharing the names of our award winners and the highlights of the evening with our community in the next edition of the Marian.

PROCESS OF ELECTION OF OUR NEW LAMP BEARERS FOR 2017
As we approach Year 12 Celebration Day for 2016 where we say good bye to our graduating class we are now entering the final stages of selection of our Lamp Bearers for 2017.

All of the eligible students who have completed their leadership booklet have been given the opportunity to submit a written application to the Co-Principals by the end of this week.

From there a number of students will then be interviewed by the Co-Principals and then all of the staff and Year 11 students will be surveyed as to their choice for the roles in 2017.

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

Science
As part of the Science and LOTE program, the year 7 students went on an Aquarium excursion at the end of Term 3. Students learnt about the different food chains and food webs that existed in the sea. They also learnt about the adaptations organisms have to survive. It was an educational and fun experience for all and students were able to see many sea animals.

"I liked seeing how all the animals worked and used different features to keep themselves alive and also protect themselves" – Jayla Kenna

"At the aquarium excursion, I liked seeing the penguins. I learnt about how they adapted and interacted with each other. It was interesting to know that their fur helps them stay warm in water" - Ramisha Rehan

"My favourite thing at the aquarium was when we got to touch the starfish and shark eggs. It was great that we could interact with the creatures" - Jemima Browne

"I liked seeing Dory! It was so cute. It was fascinating to learn that it changes a bright blue to scare off its predators” – Kassie Chu

"The aquarium was great because it was good opportunity to see each animal individually in its habitat. It was good learning about sea animals I've never seen before like the Leopard Ray” – Georgia Khalifeh

Vivian Duong - Science Teacher
Accessing Your Fee Account Balance and Transaction History Online

Rather than waiting for Statements to be mailed out, you can now check your current fees account balance and review your more recent history of payments and charges via the Synergetic Parent Portal (accessed via the Marian Website home page and then selecting Parent Access and then selecting Parent Account Transaction History).

To access this financial detail through the Synergetic portal, you will need to use the same ID and password that you recently used to book Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Once in the Portal, you select the FINANCE tab. You will then be able to see your current balance (shown as Overall Balance).

If you then select the Transaction History tab, you will see a list of transactions for this year and last year up to a maximum of 20 financial transactions whether they are payments by you (listed as receipts) or charges by the School (Fees, Discounts, Buses, VET, Laptop repairs etc). You can even check for transactions in a particular month during this year and last year.

At this stage, you can not view copies of your past Statements although we are working on this becoming available in the future.

Michael Baddeley - Business Manager
Performing Arts

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 children 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 4, 2016.

Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2333 or email swee@creativemusic.com.au

www.creativemusic.com.au

VCAL

Marian Coffee Shop

From 27th April
Every Wednesday this term
Time: 9am to 10am
Cost: $5.00
Location: Marian College
Order through School Office.

Drop your kids off and come in for a cuppa.

COFFEE AVAILABLE
- Latte
- Hot chocolate
- Double blacks
- Mocha
- 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!
Resource Centre

Term 3 in the Resource Centre was a time of celebration, in particular, Book Week which celebrated “Australia – Story Country” in honour of our wonderful Australian writers and books, and the Premier’s Reading Challenge Lunch which celebrated the efforts of the Marian girls who completed the Challenge.

The Resource Centre physically reflected this year’s Book Week theme with nooks transformed to an Australian Campsite and an Australian Beach, both great places to relax and read a book. In wide reading classes students wrote their book recommendations on gum leaves to adorn our special Book Tree. We launched Book Week with the Year 7 and 8 Parade. All sorts of book characters took part including Sherlock Holmes, who strongly resembled a school principal and Alice in Wonderland and Cruella De Vil’s Dalmatian who could have been Year Level Leaders. Congratulations to Himaja Wijesenghe, Katherine Gatchkevitch, Lauren Camilleri and Seda Ceylan for winning the best dressed characters.

Book Week lunchtimes were very busy. The annual Book Week trivia quiz was very exciting with eager participants from Year 7 to Year 12. It was a close finish with the Year 8 team of Jenny Pham, Sarah Kleiner, Lisa Vella, Alyssa Van and Tuong Võ Huynh beating the VCE team by answering the Bonus question correctly. The Treasure Hunt was very popular with many girls hunting for clues and collecting treasure as they searched the Resource Centre. Senior girls showed off their knowledge of books in the Who wants to be a Millionaire game with Brodie Tedesco of Senior Brennan, the winner, unfortunately she didn’t quite win a million dollars. Many girls got creative making beautiful book marks and origami and participating in the Anime drawing and Colouring competitions.

We had visits from both authors and illustrators. Nova Weetman, author of The Secrets We Keep, spoke to Year 7 about her work as a writer. The girls were particularly interested in her experience as a script writer for Neighbours. Gabrielle Williams, author of YA Fiction including her latest novel The Guy, the Girl, the Artist and the Ex, ran workshops for some Year 9 and Year 10 groups encouraging budding writers and spent lunchtime chatting to the Book Club members. Indigenous storyteller, Aunty Faye, enthralled many girls with her stories of Dreamtime. Illustrator Marc McBride, spent two days in the Design Education Department creating wonderful dragons and demonstrating his techniques to many classes. Come visit the Resource Centre to see some of his creations.

Congratulations to the many girls from Year 7 to Year 10 who successfully completed The Premier’s Reading Challenge. Their passion for reading and books is fantastic. This year’s most popular books include Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, The Selection series and once again the entire Harry Potter series including Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. The Challengers enjoyed a well-deserved pizza lunch and received book prizes for their efforts. Congratulations to Albetel Haiilu of Year 7, Pranaati Kannan of Year 8, Aria Cassar of Year 9 and Parminder Kaur of Year 10 for reading the most books at their year level.

The Resource Centre team advocate these simple words by Dr. Seuss about the importance of reading,

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Sharon Hayes - Resource Centre Manager