We finish this editorial with the blessing that staff received for their work on January 30 and we offer this blessing to you.

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This year is a very significant year in the life of the College. In 2017 we celebrate a great milestone – 60 years of education in the Brigidine Tradition. Our theme for the year, “Serving with Strength and Kindness for 60 years” tries to capture the selfless service, the generosity of spirit and the open-hearted welcome that has characterised the education that has been offered to the young women of the western suburbs of Melbourne since 1957.

From a single portable classroom, 20 students and two teachers, we have grown to a staff of over 100, enjoying the use of state-of-the-art facilities, serving over 800 students. As a community strong in its Catholic foundation we know that we strengthen our identity as a Catholic people when we live the challenge of Jesus to realise the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth. We are a multi-faith and multi-cultural community and recognise the strength that diversity brings to our communities and how much we have to learn from and contribute to one other.

We look forward to celebrating this special year with you as Parents/Guardians of the girls. Our Opening School Mass will be held on March 7 at St Leopold Church, Cnr. Fitzgerald Rd & Whitesides Avenue, Sunshine West at 9:45am followed by Morning Tea and we warmly welcome you to attend.

KILDARE MINISTRIES VALUES
As a Brigidine School since our inception in 1957 we have aimed to live as a Catholic community inspired by the lives of Jesus, St Brigid of Kildare and Bishop Daniel Delany. Since 1995 the Brigidine Core Values have underpinned and informed our work at the College. Since 2014 Marian College has been a Kildare Ministries school in the Brigidine Tradition. Kildare Ministries is the Catholic Church, or Canonical Authority, responsible for Marian College. We are now one of ten schools and two community

works operating within Kildare Ministries and as a member of this community we share a set of values, developed by the

Trustees of Kildare Ministries, that we aspire to give expression to in our daily lives at the College.

We now acknowledge and own the Kildare Ministries Values, recognising that they have emerged from and are informed by the Brigidine Core Values, all of which find their root, meaning and strength in the scriptures of our Catholic Christian Heritage.

Upon the return of all staff this year on January 30, we made a commitment to the Kildare Ministries Values and were commissioned and blessed in our work by Brigid Arthur, a Brigidine Sister, Past Principal of Marian College and Trustee of Kildare Ministries.

As a staff in a Kildare Ministries School in the Brigidine Tradition, we have been instrumental in drawing on our Brigidine heritage and tradition to give our work at Marian College meaning and shape. In the same way, our life at the College contributes to building the Kildare Ministries tradition; who we are as Marian College, Sunshine West gives life and expression to Kildare Ministries.

We finish this editorial with the blessing that staff received for their work on January 30 and we offer this blessing to you.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus,
We ask for Your help as we begin this new academic year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus we ask you to inspire us to do our best this year! Amen!

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

It is the start of another school year and the start of a new journey for me as well. I, Leo McInerney, have the privilege of sharing this journey with the Marian community and being a leader in the area of Faith and Mission. I have many years of teaching and leadership experience behind me with all of it being in the West and North of Melbourne. I now look forward to serving the families of Marian College.

At our Welcome and Awards Assembly last week our students were introduced to our theme for 2017, ‘Serving with Strength and Kindness for 60 years.’ Yes, Marian College has been serving the local community for 60 years and we continue to walk in the footsteps of people like Saint Brigid, Bishop Daniel Delaney, Nano Nagle and Mary MacKillop who welcomed and recognised the right of all people regardless of race, religion or colour. (Not sure if Donald Trump is on our mailing list!)

February the 1st was the Feast Day of Saint Brigid the patron of the Brigidines. Brigid was a woman who spent a lifetime working to improve the lives of the people she came in contact with. Her life influenced many people in Ireland to work with the aims of: justice, hospitality, compassion, healer, peace, prayer and inspiration. May her life continue to inspire the community at Marian College.

Leo Mc Inerney - Assistant to the Co-Principals - Faith and Mission

Learning and Teaching

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Last week we celebrated academic achievement at Marian College at our whole-school Academic Assembly. Our 2016 VCE high achievers were recognized and the students enjoyed hearing the insights and advice provided by Jessica Truong, our College Dux, 2016. Our 2016 VCAL Excellence Award recipient, Renae Cauchi, also reflected on her Marian journey and the skills and success that she had developed through the applied learning pathway.

Academic Excellence Awards were also presented to students from Years 7 to 11 in 2016. These awards recognise 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, 2016. Year 11s required 4 or more ‘A’ averages in Year 11 subjects studied or 2 to 3 Year 11 subjects, with above average VCE Unit 3/4 study scores.

Congratulations to all of the students who were presented at our assembly for excellence. Of course, the real measure of success is the progress or growth of each student over the year. Our aim is to enable every student to achieve at least a year’s worth of progress for a year of schooling. At this time, we encourage all students to ensure that they set their individual goals for this semester and year. At Marian College we are focused on providing opportunities for success for every student.

PARENT INFORMATION AND MEET-THE-TEACHER EVENINGS

We invite all parents and students to attend our forthcoming Parent Information and Meet-the-Teacher Evenings. These are designed to assist in setting all students up for a successful 2017 and provide an opportunity for you to hear from Year Level Leaders and other speakers. You will also be able to meet your daughter’s Homeroom or Mentor Teachers.

The Year 10, 11, 12 Evening, on Monday, 13 February, will commence at 6.00 pm. The Year 7, 8, 9 Parent Evening is on Wednesday, 15 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 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 outlined in a letter given to all students. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your daughter’s year ahead.

Jane Goddard - Assistant to the Co-Principals - Learning and Teaching
INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW ROLE
As we begin the new year – 2017, Marian is a place where we are always evolving and putting the needs of our students first and foremost in regard to our wellbeing area.

Over the course of 2016, and in planning for 2017 consultation was held in relation to the support for both my role as Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing and the Year Level Leaders. Consequently, a new leadership position has been developed called the Director of Students.

We are pleased to announce the appointment to this position is Mrs. Jennifer Stafford who has been a Year Level Leader at all levels of the school and brings a wealth of experience to this role.

As a new role it will evolve over the course of the year but we are most pleased to acknowledge that the wellbeing needs of our students are important and as a school we have placed additional resources into supporting the work of our Homeroom Teachers, Year Level Leaders and myself.

UNIFORM UPDATE
Thank-you to all of our families who have supported us in the transition back to school at the beginning of 2017. In co-operation with all of you, the start of the year has gone smoothly and while we continue to follow up with a small number of students with respect to dress length and additional jewellery most students have been able to meet the expectations that we have for uniform very easily.

We will continue to keep you updated about our work in this area.

INVESTITURE ASSEMBLY AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP
We are planning for our annual Investiture Assembly to be held on Thursday 23rd February where we acknowledge those students who have committed themselves to take on a leadership role in 2017.

Our New Year 7’s will be introduced to their leadership roles in the next week and they will also be acknowledged at our assembly.

All parents are welcome and invited to attend the Assembly. Please contact the Front Office if you would like to attend.

IMMUNISATION PROGRAM
Planning is also well in hand for the annual immunisation program co-ordinated with Brimbank Council. We were delighted to be visited by a representative of the Council who acknowledged the College on ensuring that at least 95% of immunisation cards have been returned. In supporting the program we have received a cheque for $200 dollars which will be donated to the Cambodian Immersion Trip.

We thank the Year 7 team and Robyn Brian, our Daily Organiser, for their efforts in making this possible.

Kerrie Williams - Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing
SELINA TSENG NAMED YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Brimbank young citizen of the year Selina Tsang started volunteering as a year 9 student at Sunshine West’s Marian College.

“I wasn’t really in a good place personally, and I found getting into the community gave me a lot back,” Ms Tsang said.

Now 18, Ms Tsang has just finished her VCE, and has volunteered with many groups since 2013. But it has never felt like a burden.

“Helping others makes me feel good,” she said. “At the end of the day, you can step out of it and know that you have changed someone’s week.

“It doesn’t have to be their whole life, but a week or a month of help can make a difference.

“Something like food donations could make such a huge difference to someone’s life, so that’s what I find most rewarding.”

Ms Tsang has worked with Sunshine Lions Club at many events, raising more than $8000 for charities as varied as the Leukemia Foundation, RSPCA, Beyond Blue and Australian Red Cross, among others.

She also took part in a service trip to Vietnam through her role as co-president of the Marian Leo’s Club, building houses for a village near Mekong.

“That trip was pretty close to my heart,” she said. “It really showed me how people who have nothing have a lot to give.”

Ms Tsang plans to join the Brimbank Leo Club this year, before hopefully moving into the Sunshine Lions Club in the future.

Article Courtesy of Star Weekly

MARIAN COLLEGE

invites you to attend our

60th Anniversary Celebration Mass

on Tuesday 7th March 2017

at St Leopold Church

Cnr. Fitzgerald Rd & Whitesides Avenue, Sunshine West

at 9:45am followed by Morning Tea

Please RSVP Michelle Grech on 9363 1711 or email: mgrech@mariansw.catholic.edu.au by Wednesday 22nd February 2017

60 Years of Catholic Girls’ Education
Performing Arts

MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS

Welcome to 2017!

Term 1 has started with music instrumental lessons already in full swing. Manuel and Anna are teaching piano, bass guitar, singing and cello. Are you keen for your daughter to learn a different instrument? Just ask and we will check on the availability of other instruments. Creative Music have places available for new students. For more information and enrolment forms please see Ms Mari Eleanor in the Performing Arts Office.

The Performing Arts Co-Curricular Program is also getting up and running for the year. Some rehearsals have started already, and the rest will start over the next couple of weeks. We are still finalising which bands and ensembles are running, but last year we were able to offer Year 7 Vocal Ensemble, Gospel Choir, Vocal Ensemble (for students in Years 8 and up), Guitar Ensemble, Keyboard Ensemble, Piano Club, Liturgy Ensemble, Concert Band, Junior and Senior String Ensembles, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Rock Bands, and Drama Troupe.

As usual, any member of a band or ensemble sings in the Full Choir at assemblies, liturgies and masses, to support the whole College in congregational singing.

As well as getting everything up and running our main focus is the Mass marking Marian College’s 60th Anniversary! We are looking forward to taking the time to celebrate the College’s history and achievements, and those people who made it happen.

If you have any queries in relation to the instrumental lessons or the co-curricular program please contact Mari Eleanor at the College by phone or email at meleanor@mariansw.catholic.edu.au

Mari Eleanor - Music and Drama Programs Co-ordinator

LOTE

INDONESIAN
Selamat Datang!

All students have settled in and have begun to develop their skills in Indonesian. Students will be involved in various language activities including speaking, listening, reading and writing. Some of the Indonesian classes will be going on an outing, some will experience Indonesian cinema at school, some classes will have the opportunity to try different Indonesian foods/fruits.

Students are encouraged to utilise interactive language websites such as languages online to develop their vocabulary.

All students will enjoy the variety of activities within the school during LOTE week in term 2.

Selamat Belajar!