Dear Families

Welcome to the 2014 school year. I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as Principal at Marymount College. Without a doubt, the College lives up to its reputation as a place of belonging. I have been made to feel very welcome by staff, students and the parents/carers I have had the opportunity to meet to date.

Originally from the South East of South Australia I come to Marymount College deeply committed to Catholic education, girls’ education, Middle Schooling, learning and wellbeing. Most recently as Principal at Mary MacKillop Memorial School in Penola, I was honoured to learn firsthand, of the life and work of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and to live this essence of Catholic Education up close and personal each day. My national and international expertise in educational leadership and consultancy will also continue to build on the outstanding achievements and legacy of the previous Principal, Mrs Mary Camilleri. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr Greg Parker for his contributions to the College during 2013.

Over the past few weeks I have had the privilege of working alongside a highly skilled team of professionals and observed thoughtful, thorough and meticulous preparations of learning, wellbeing and environments. This has ensured a strong and focused beginning for your daughter and her 2014 year of learning.

This year, we welcome new staff Terri Woodlock (Year Seven Maths, History, Geography and Year Nine PE) and Vaniece Kelly-Howe (Year Nine English and Maths) to the College. We welcome returning staff from leave Christina Jonas and Maria Formichella.

Welcome to our Year Six students. I wish them all the very best as they begin their middle years of schooling with us. To all new students, boarders and returning families, may this year be one of fulfilment, desire and success. Our theme this year is Compassion – Listen with the ear of your heart. In many ways, Pope Francis visibly plays out for us...
what compassion demands of us as human and spiritual beings. I encourage all our girls to unravel the beauty and complexity of this theme for themselves, in their day to day learning and in their daily encounters. Listening to the quiet voice of God in our hearts, invites us to listen with love. This is beautifully represented in the Chinese translation of the word ‘listen’. The ideograph represents ears, eyes, hearts and a reverence for the speaker. Compassion offers each of us the challenge and the opportunity of faith being lived and profoundly experienced.

I look forward to meeting you at the various school and community events particularly throughout these first few weeks of the year.

God Bless

Sara Scungio
Principal

Upcoming RE Dates this Term

Friday 7 February..............Year Nine Reflection Day at various local centres
Wed 12 - Fri 14 February....Year Eight Reflection Days
Thursday 20 February.......Opening of School Year Mass at 9:00am
Wednesday 5 March.........Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00am

Welcome

Welcome all to our 2014 school year, especially all those new to our Marymount community. Hoping all have returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm and the students are settling in well to new beginnings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, and clarification, about any aspect of your child’s spiritual development or any support I may give you as parents with the religious dimension of our school. I look forward to seeing you soon at the upcoming events and can be contacted by phone or E-mail below.

Our overarching school focus for 2014 is COMPASSION – listen with the ear of your heart. This year we will discuss and explore what this means and what this might look like for ourselves, our community and in our lives.

What is compassion? What does to truly listen mean?

Sacraments

The parish will provide me with information for those who have made their reconciliation who may be ready to celebrate Eucharist and Confirmation in 2014 and I will distribute this as soon as possible. If you have not yet registered your interest or do not receive information in the next couple of weeks please contact me. The reconciliation preparation will occur later in the year.

Joan Chittister says “We must now surrender to the obligation to understand and to care. We must surrender ourselves to becoming conscious, thinking members of the human race.”

Have a great fortnight!

Christina Jonas
APRIM (Assistant Principal Religious Identity & Mission)
8179 4409
cjonas@mc.catholic.edu.au
Welcome back to everyone to the 2014 school year and in particular a special welcome to new families and students. It was good to see so many parents/carers and family members at the beginning of the year assembly.

Overall the girls are settling in well to their new classes. As the girls adjust to a new class and begin to make new friends it is timely to remember that it can take a while for some girls to settle into this new situation. This time of the year provides a valuable time for the girls to develop their skills of resilience. Some things to remember in these early weeks include:

- Remaining connected to others in their life - family, friends and also getting to know new people and talking to them and allowing others to help them as needed.
- Remembering not to 'give up' - things do get easier.
- Recognising that change is a part of life and it is normal to feel unsettled when you feel comfortable with something, then it all changes.
- Trusting yourself to develop your skills of problem solving and communication and then trusting your ability to use these skills.
- Having practice in thinking positive thoughts and remain hopeful that you will get through challenges that may come change.

Medical Information at School

We are currently ensuring we have all the details at school necessary to support the health care needs of the girls. I draw your attention to the following extract from the Parent/Carer handbook:

*Analgesics and other medication which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription should also be prescribed* if a staff member is asked to supervise their use. It should be noted that analgesics can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury and should not, therefore be used by the College as a standard first aid strategy. Staff will accept and agree to supervise only medication that has been prescribed by a doctor for the individual student for the period of time specified. This ensures the medication is medically warranted. **ALL Medications must be supplied in their original container clearly labelled by the dispensing pharmacy with written instructions from the parents, carer or doctor. These instructions must match those printed on the product packaging.**

You must inform the school of all medical conditions that your daughter may have. Medical management plans will be put into place for those girls needing treatment other than first aid.

In the event that your daughter’s medical situation may have changed over the holiday period, please advise the school and provide an updated medical management plan from the doctor as appropriate. Thanks to those families who have returned medical information. It is important we have up to date information and medication at school. If your daughter requires a medical management plan and we do not have one at school, you will receive a letter shortly regarding this and a copy of the form that needs to be completed by the doctor.
School Uniform

It has been good to see the girls back at school ready to begin the new year and wearing the Marymount uniform with pride. I encourage you to check the diary with your daughter, which provides specific details relating to all aspects of the school uniform, if you have any queries.

I would like to draw your attention to the wearing of sandshoes at school as part of the school uniform. These shoes must be **predominately white with white laces**. Whilst the bright coloured sandshoes are currently fashionable these are not to be worn to school. All students and families sign an agreement to support our school’s uniform policy and I draw your attention to this when you are purchasing shoes with your daughter.

Canteen Information

In the instance that a girl forgets to bring her lunch/recess to school, we will provide some food to ensure that they are not hungry. The process for this involves the student advising their Base Group teacher in the morning and they will notify the canteen. Girls will be provided with the choice of a cheese or vegemite sandwich/roll and a piece of fruit for recess. No other options will be available. Families will then receive a docket from the canteen to indicate money owed to the canteen. Thank you for your support of these new procedures, which in part aim to reduce outstanding monies that have been incurred from the canteen.

Leone Coorey
Deputy Principal
deleone@mc.catholic.edu.au

FINANCE/BOOKROOM CHANGES

From 2014, the Bookroom has been closed to students (before/after school and recess time) for the purchase of books, stationery items etc. All stationery items required by your daughter during the year will need to be purchased from outside stationery suppliers. The Finance Office will still be open to parents to come and pay fees and for finance queries, as usual.

Towards the end of each semester where some students have exceeded the print balance provided, students will need to ask their teacher to arrange for their printing balance to be increased and the cost will be charged to your account accordingly. We envisage this will only be applicable for a very small number of students each semester.

Thank you for your assistance with this change.

Coralie Bandiera, Finance Office
8179 4405  chandier@mc.catholic.edu.au

Alison Boyce, Finance Office
8179 4410  aboyce@mc.catholic.edu.au

YEAR LEVEL PARENT CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

We thank our year level Parent Class Representative volunteers for offering to represent the base groups as our parent contacts.

We are finalising this information and will be in contact soon. We will ask representatives to identify themselves at the Welcome Evening on invitation of team leader, ask you to sign in and wear an identifying label so parents have a face to a name. If you are interested but have not yet expressed interest, please contact your base group teacher or Christina Jonas.
As part of the Student Support Team we work with students in a supportive role to help them develop their social and emotional wellbeing and personal growth. We endeavour to work very closely with both parents and teachers. We believe that the most important things that we can do as partners in your child’s education is to communicate and collaborate with each other fully. By working together we can create a consistent structure of support and guidance around your child to help them achieve personal success with strategies that strengthen and build resilience, organisation, confidence, persistence and relationship skills.

Program Achieve and Bounce Back develop these skills in our students by helping them rise above and sail through life’s challenges. Together we can remind your daughter that:

**B** ad times don’t last. Things always get better. Stay optimistic.

**O** ther people can help if you talk to them. Get a reality check.

**U** nhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset.

**N** obody is perfect – not you and not others.

**C** oncentrate on the good bits, no matter how small, and use laughter.

**E** verybody experiences sadness, hurt, failure, rejection and setbacks sometimes, not just you. It’s a normal part of life. Try not to personalise them.

**B** lame fairly. How much of what happened was due to you, how much was due to others, and how much was due to bad luck or circumstances?

**A** ccept the things you can’t change, but try to change what you can first.

**C** atastrophising exaggerates worries. Don’t believe the worst possible picture.

**K** eep things in perspective. A distressing situation is usually only part of your life.

You know your daughter very well and have an understanding of their life and experiences outside school and the school has an understanding of their learning and development at school.

Quite often when we can piece together and share information we create a more comprehensive and clearer perspective of situations. So please communicate any concerns firstly with your daughter’s teacher. When necessary, please contact the Year Level Leader of Student Learning and Wellbeing or a member of the school counselling team: Carmel Briggs (Chaplain Tue, Wed, Thu), Lyn Heuzenroeder (Counsellor Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri) or Kelly Pritchard (Counsellor Tue, Fri). The team is available to provide counselling support for your daughter’s wellbeing.

Please click here for the Marymount Matters Counselling Service brochure - information for parents and carers.

Carmel Briggs, Chaplain  
8298 2388 cbriggs@mc.catholic.edu.au

Lyn Heuzenroeder, Counsellor  
8179 4411 lheuzenroeder@mc.catholic.edu.au

Kelly Pritchard, Counsellor  
8179 4411 kpritchard@mc.catholic.edu.au

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**A Senses Poem**

by Latarvia, Year Seven

Sadness is the colour of a murky, dreary blue day.
The taste of bitter herbs that has sat in a bag then was forgotten for a long time.
It smells like thick, foggy smoke from an old abandoned factory that has been undisturbed for years.
It feels like lightning cracking through the sky and thunder roaring in your heart when you are walking a lonely road to go home.
Seems like an old, ruined forest that you were walking through with only your shadow to accompany you.
Sounds like tears shedding as someone hurt your feelings and never said sorry and you didn’t know what to do.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2014

Tuition Fees are due in three instalments - due 31 March, 13 June and 5 September 2014. Fees can be paid by cash, cheque, EFTPOS (Visa or Mastercard), B-Pay, direct debit or via Centre link deductions. Any parent/carer who would like to pay fees via regular direct debit from their bank account or credit card are advised to contact the Finance Office to arrange. All parent/caregivers are reminded that it is a contractual obligation that forms part of your enrolment at the College that fees are paid within the terms of our fees policy. Fee statements will be sent to each family at the commencement of each term (week two).

Early Payment Discount

Parent/Caregivers are reminded that a further discount of 5% will be applied to the net tuition fee payable (tuition fee less family discount) after payment of all fees, if paid upfront in full by the 31st March each year.

School Card for 2014

School Card application forms are available from the Finance Office for parents / carers who need to apply. This needs to be re-applied for on an annual basis. Eligibility criteria for 2014 is as follows:

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<th>No. of Dependent Children</th>
<th>2012/13 Annual Limit</th>
<th>2012/13 Average Weekly Income Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$35,477</td>
<td>$683</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$39,349</td>
<td>$759</td>
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The School Card Scheme is administered by the State Government to provide financial assistance towards the cost of education for full time students of lower income families. Any parent/carer who would like more information about the scheme can contact the Finance Office at the College or the School Card section on 1800 672 758 (freecall) to discuss or visit the link below:


Fee Remission

Parents/caregivers experiencing financial difficulties in meeting their fee obligations can apply for fee remission. Application forms for fee remission are available from the Finance Office. We assure parents/caregivers that all details provided will be kept strictly confidential. Fee assistance needs to be applied for on an annual basis, so if necessary you will need to apply for assistance each year if required.

Cordie Baudiera, Finance Office  
8179 4405  chandiera@mc.catholic.edu.au
Alison Boyce, Finance Office  
8179 4410  aboyce@mc.catholic.edu.au

YEAR NINE DRAMA PRODUCTION

The Production will be on Tuesday 1 July and Wednesday 2 July in the Polding Centre. Rhyme-O-Mania... the pre-production, audition and rehearsal processes begin today (Tuesday 4 February). It’s an exciting time for all involved. Specifics about content etc. will be revealed at a later date.

Garry Martin  
Drama Teacher
MARYMOUNT 1:1 IPAD PROGRAM

As we embark on a new year in ICT at Marymount, we likewise embark on the exciting second rollout of the Marymount iPad program as built on the success of the pilot in 2013. In 2014, the program now encompasses both Year Seven and Year Eight classes with 233 students involved.

Throughout this week, the iPad Launch Evenings will take place for all Year Seven and new Year Eight families in the Polding Centre. At this event, students attending with Parents/Carers are walked through some background information about the program, take time to look at the Program User Agreement and set their devices up to connect to the wireless network. Students also receive their app download codes to get them completely underway. For some very excited students, this is the night they receive and unbox their new iPad!

Staff Professional Learning

On Tuesday 28 January, all Marymount staff participated in a full-day Professional Learning based around the iPad program. Beginning with concept building around the use of the device, staff looked at how iPads formed part of a student’s ‘toolkit’ of creative and practical resources. This included a walk-through of all the apps as accessible by students.

Working in small teams, all staff engaged in a variety of practical activities that took them around Brighton Jetty and the Esplanade. The tasks embraced the creative nature of the device and encouraged teams to approach open-ended problems using the same apps and tools as the students have access to. To end the day, teams shared their learning moments and discoveries and of course their creative finished products.

Like last year (when content is sufficient), a blog will be established to share the many exciting teaching and learning moments that engage students in the program. Watch this space!

I look forward to seeing the many exciting ways our students/your daughters: Create, Collaborate, Curate, Critically think, Communicate and Self-Manage their learning throughout the year ahead.

Matt Richards
Leader of Learning
8179 4413
mrichards@mc.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

The services and events contained in this bulletin are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Families need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children.

Morphettville Park Netball Club

Netballers wanted! Experienced and beginners welcome. For further information, please contact Brenda on 0413 285 393 or via brenda@thepromoplace.com.au

Intersport Global

Register now for the International Netball Festival being held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, next Easter holidays, 18 April 2014. For further information, email Jane jane@intersportglobal.com or to register http://www.intersportglobal.com/user/register.